**2024 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #4**

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > As the calendar turned to March, PGA Tour champions made its way to Tucson, Arizona, for the fourth event of the season. The Cologuard Classic, a new Course, La Paloma Country Club, welcomed the usual high-profile field, including each of the top five players in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. Turns out this man inserted himself into the top five with a Sunday rally in the desert. Joe Durant carved into Stewart Cink’s four shot lead court, sitting for a share of the lead with an eagle on 11 and cruised in the rest of the way, firing a final round, four under 67 and 13 under total to win his fifth career. PGA Tour Champions Title. Joe Duran captures the conquistador Helmet in Tucson. Our Bob Papa and John Cook with more.

VO > Thank you so much, Vince. The 10th playing of the Cologuard Classic. Stewart Cink started the final round with a two-shot lead over Joe Durant and retired Goosen. And Goosen didn't make a run, but others did. Steven Alker, leading in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, plays his second into the par 5 11th. And Steven Alker would go on to make Eagle there and get himself in the contention. John Cook, Jerry Kelly, the tournament ambassador, made a run late. This is birdie over at 15.

VO > Yeah, he had birdied the 15th hole the previous two days with all the people around that green and why not just finish it off with another birdie at the 15th.

VO > Yeah. Kelly almost made Eagle at 16. Kevin Sutherland for birdie at 17 and he pours that in playing for the first time since September and Sutherland gets to 12 under par but Joe Durant pretty steady throughout the course of the day his birdie at the sixth and that would get him to 11 under par and within two of the lead and then Joe Durant would make birdie at the ninth and Stewart Cink would not. So, Joe Durant got it at 12 under par, Durant made bogey at ten, but then at the par 5 11th John this was awesome.

VO > It was just up to the fringe and just let it dribble down into the hole. Beautiful eagle right there at the right time.

VO > And then his winning putt at 18 and he made pars in the final seven holes but 13 under par. Good enough for the victory as Joe Durant picks up his fifth win on the PGA Tour Champions. Stephen Alker maintains the top spot in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. He finishes in a tie with Jerry Kelly and Kevin Sutherland at 11 under par. Marco Dawson and Alex Cejka share fifth at ten under. Let's listen to what the champion had to say after the win.

OC > I tell you what, really put things in perspective, and I'm sorry if I get emotional, but we lost my nephew, Lee Stewart, who was like my little brother last August, the cancer and I was thinking about him all day today and I just want to make him proud.

VO > With that victory. Durant vaults up 19 spots to third in the Charles Schwab Cup standings behind Steven Alker, who tied for second, and Stephen Ames. Ricardo Gonzales and Mark Hensley round out the top five. And tournament host Jerry Kelly jumps into the top ten, also sharing second place.

VO > The Cologuard Classic was the first PGA Tour Champions event for two men from very different paths. Greg Chalmers won the 2016 Barracuda Championship and has competed in 485 PGA Tour events. Ho Sung Choi did not make the cut in his three career PGA Tour events. He does, however, have five international wins. Choi brings an unusual swing and high hopes to PGA Tour champions.

OC VO > Foreign speaking Korean.

VO > Nice, nice, nice. Yes. Nice.

VO > Greg Chalmers earned his way into his first PGA Tour champions event by way of Monday qualifying for the Cologuard Classic. Chalmers nearly had full playing privileges for this year. He finished one shot out of a playoff at PGA Tour Champions Q School last December. Despite his limited opportunities, he hopes to still find a way to compete in many more events this season. No matter his path.

VO OC > To my goal this year, just to do as much Monday qualifying as possible, really, really. Besides my first event on the Champions Tour. So, it's been fun to see everybody and catch up with a lot of people. Everyone seems just happy, so that's been pretty exciting and yeah, so I'm going to chase the Monday qualifying and see if I get some opportunities. I've really worked hard on increasing speed over the last a little bit last few years because I really started to try just so I didn't slow down even further, and I actually picked up some speed. So that's an advantage, but it's only an advantage. I hit it in the fairway so that's nice. I've got, you know, I've got work to do on my iron play and I just want to see if I can play some good golf.

VO > Bigger picture this past weekend, raising awareness of colorectal cancer. Players are keeping the fight against cancer close to their hearts, playing on behalf of a cancer survivor or the memory of someone who lost their life battling the disease. Here is a closer look at one of those stories featuring Markham Rollins, who took on stage four Colon cancer and beat it.

VO OC > It was tough. It took me probably six months to wrap my head around what was going on and a lot of emotion. But I have a great support group around me, family, loved ones, friends who have been nothing but supportive during this entire process. And so far, it's going well. And actually, my last scan showed that the tumor in my colon has disappeared and that I will be seeking surgery on my lungs in the upcoming timeframe.

VO OC > The Cologuard is doing such great work with cancer and preventing cancer. Malcolm is a tough man, you know, it's Scott stage for a year and some of it's in his lung. So, it's not a great diagnosis. But he's he's in great spirit. You know, he's just a hell of a golfer and he's out here playing, you know, and he's it keeps telling me that he's having a great time. That's all we can hope for, you know, for them having a good time and having the courage to keep fighting.

VO > We're having a blast. It's been great to watch Malcolm and the team he's playing with engage with Ernie Els and huge turnout from our family that traveled in and the locals. So, it's awesome.

VO OC > This week's been incredible. Met a lot of amazing people. That the organization this event has just the words don't describe it had a parting quote with Jerry Kelley and got to hang out with him for a while, which was amazing. I'm just really just trying to take it all in.

VO OC > The the struggles that they're going through, what they're having to deal with with later stage colorectal cancer, stage four is very difficult, and they know that, but they're fighting every single day. That's why it's so important that we get the word out. You know, we want to celebrate who's here. We want to celebrate those who we've lost. But most importantly, we want to make sure that everybody knows what's going on so they can get tested early and we can eradicate this disease if we catch it early.

VO > The message is for all of us, approximately 60 million adults in the United States have yet to undergo screening for colon cancer, contributing to the frequent diagnosis of the disease in later stages where treatment options are limited. So please don't wait. Get screened.

VO > Missing from the Cologuard Classic is a past champion and tour legend, the great Bernhard Langer shares with us his steps to recovery from an Achilles tear. Apparently, he is human after all. An update when we return.

VO > World Golf Hall of Fame member Retief Goosen made his first start of the year at the Color Guard classic after competing in the PNC championship in December. Goose took some time off to rest and prepare for the upcoming season, while in his native South Africa, the 55-year-old two-time PGA Tour champions winner managed to mix business with family fun and, yes, some golf as well.

VO OC > I've had a great time back in South Africa. I got there just off that a father son event and had a great Christmas and New Year Day with the family. And then the kids came back to get back into college. And that's when I just decided, you know what? I think I'm ready for some time off. Last year was a little bit of an up and down year for me, and I just felt like now is the time to to take that break and to fly from South Africa to Hawaii It takes 36 hours. And I just I just couldn't get myself to do that. So, I decided to take a good, proper two months off. I played two rounds of golf in two months, and I did everything else but golf, which is great. I caught up with the family back in South Africa, seeing my mom a little bit. It was her birthday and 92nd birthday and it was my 55th birthday. So, we flew to London and had a nice ten days there in London with some buddies there. And so, it was it was a really good trip, I must say, to feel it now, coming back, after such a long layoff and not hitting any balls, your body takes a while to feel that swing again.

VO > Darren Clarke teed it up for the second time this season. His first start was a top ten at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at home. While Ally Clarke tells us what he did between the two events, specifically the time spent with junior golfers in Abaco, who are a part of the Darren Clarke Foundation. Yes, it's DC spreading the golf gospel.

OC VO > And one of the highlights was through my foundation, which is half of it toward breast cancer research and development. And the other half is developing junior golf in Ireland and giving the players an opportunity to spend some time with me and maybe ask some questions. You know, if they're looking to turn pro and maybe help them game a little bit. So, I was fortunate this time that the foundation brought in ten kids, five boys, five girls out to Abaco and we had them there for four days and got to spend a lot of time with them, playing with them and trying to give them a few tips and giving them some advice. And what we saw, which is brilliant. They also managed to have a little bit of down time as well and were in the ocean and messing about and thoroughly enjoying everything that the Abaco Club has to offer. And I played whatever six holes with each group back and forth or whatever. But it's amazing to see the kids how competitive they are. They all wanted to beat me in every hole, both the boys and the girls. But that's brilliant. That's why they're there. They're champions. It's called the Champions Darren Clarke Foundation Champions Weekend, and that's why they're there. And they were all truly world champions.

VO > Learning Center has an update on Bernhard Langer, the 66-year-old and the tour's all time wins leader tore his left Achilles at the beginning of February requiring surgery. He tells us that he is making fast progress in his recovery and has been cleared to walk with a boot on Friday. The boot will be lowered to flat conditions Langer expects to be putting and chipping within the next few weeks. And we certainly wish this golf icon a complete recovery as we look forward to him returning to the tour, he elevated with his remarkable player.

VO > Last weekend also gave us the Arnold Palmer Invitational. Coming up. Players share their favorite stories about the king. And we'll have a word with Steve Stricker, who is hoping to break a record this week at the Players championship. So, stay with us for.

VO > This past week was the 59th playing of the Arnold Palmer Invitational. For years, an opportunity to shine before the king and his court in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Palmer will have left us eight years ago come September, but his impact is everlasting. We asked some men who knew him to share a story about the king.

VO OC > I won the tournament. It was kind of a surprise to everybody, including myself. I finished, you know, finished. And they had to wait for a group. I wasn’t in the last group, and I did the trophy ceremony on 18, and Mr. Palmer was there, handed me the trophy. It's a pretty cool saber. It's a pretty cool deal. And right there on the green, he asked me to play a practice at Augusta in two weeks, you know, two or three weeks, whatever it was on Tuesday, so I’m playing a practice at Augusta, which is pretty wild. Now, I had played a practice round with him at Oakmont in the U.S. Open in his last year, open too. And it's quite the experience. It's one of the great things that has happened in my career. It’s funny a practice round at Augusta's one of great highlights of my career, but we went up to the Champion's locker room afterwards and had a beer and were in. There was just the four of us Woody Austin and Fred Funk and Mr. Palmer, and then Sam Snead was in there. That pretty wild experience.

OC VO > Obviously, winning Mr. Palmer's event was was amazing in 2006, a long time ago, but certainly something I'll never forget. And certainly, cherish shaking his hand at the end of the tournament, having my son Sam and my wife were there and I have a picture of know my youngest really smiling brightly, as was Arnie. So yeah, it's just great. And then the after that was the Champions dinners that we used to have, which was phenomenal, just to sit down and just get a chance to speak one on one with him was, you know, something you'll never forget.

OC VO > He would say to me, he goes, you know, especially early the first couple of years, he goes, Listen, if people are crazy enough to come watch you play golf, which is, you know, a little jabber he’d do. He goes give them something back for the money and look him in the eye, say hello, don't care when it is. You know, it's just you're just playing the game and, you know, obviously you're living, but you're playing a game. They come out to watch you give them something. Where are you from? How you doing? Why you're watching me? Why all these other great players are around? So, it's wrong. You know, I busted up a little bit, but it took me a while to learn to do that. And it was it was hard to do. But, you know, I've also told the story. If you're going to sign an autograph, we've all said it. Make sure you can read it. Otherwise, just put an X.

VO > Now the tour's attention shifts to TPC Sawgrass and the Players Championship last year at 56 years, three months, 16 days, Jerry Kelley broke the record for the oldest player to make the cut in tournament history. With Steve Stricker’s win at the Kaulig Companies Championship last year. He earned his spot into this week's field and the 57-year-old will be looking to one up his good friend Kelly, and perhaps remind him a time or two.

OC VO > It's been a little while since I was able to play in a player's championship. And yeah, it's an exciting time for us. My kids are excited. Nikki's excited. She's gonna caddie. And so, it kind of brings back some old memories of going to the Players championship and yeah, I'm excited to be going back there again. Obviously, I want to play the weekend, but you know, I haven't played against the young guys in quite a while, so I know they're good to. So, it'll be a challenge, but it'll be a fun challenge.

VO > You know, if you play the weekend, you break some other guys, right?

VO OC > Yeah, I know exactly whose record I break. Jerry's, but it's. Yeah, it's, that's on my mind a little bit, but it's really about just trying to play well. Do the things that I know I'm capable of doing, you know, just stay within my abilities and try to do the things that I do well and and rely on those.

VO > From 1997 to 2001, David Duvall won 13 PGA Tour events, including the 1999 Players Championship. Quite a thrill for the Jacksonville, Florida native whose two-stroke win moved him to number one in the Official World Golf ranking. Duvall's winning score of 285 and three Under remains the highest at the stadium course. And here a quarter century later, Duvall looks back on that extremely difficult test.

VO OC > I'm not mistaken. It's the highest winning score that's been posted there at TPC Sawgrass. If I memory serves me 100 percent accurate. I shot a pair of basically a pair of 69 to start the tournament. One behind I think is Joe Ozaki going into Saturday and shot 74 73 on the weekend and one by two. I mean it's just crazy how difficult it was. Finding out coming down the 14th fairway that my dad had won over in Pensacola, you know, and just growing up there, going to the tournament so, so many times and watching the guy’s practice and play, probably play practice rounds. It's just a one’s you dream up, there's, you know, three, four or five things that happened throughout my career that are kind of all on equal, equal footing. And I think, you know, you look at the open, you look at the players, you look at becoming a world number, 99 Ryder Cup, you know, and there's probably probably one or two other things in there that just that really stand out.

VO > Next week, the PGA Tour champions resumes with the Hoag Classic in Newport Beach, California, the fifth of 28 events on PGA Tour champions and a comfort zone for the Big Easy, who has had some past success there. Ernie Els is a two-time winner of the Hoag Classic, both in 2020 and 2023. Ernie finished 16 under in his first victory there and 13 under last season, and SoCal. World Golf Hall of Fame member could be primed for a huge season with that buttery swing that has not changed. And the momentum from a top five finish at the rain shortened Chubb Classic. Els discusses earning hardware at The Hub and why he is so fond of the Golden State, California.

VO OC > It's great going back to California always. I've always loved playing California. It just reminds me of home in Johannesburg, the same kind of topography, same kind of grasses. So, it's great to go back. I've only won three times and I've won twice there, so it's a good, good memories. Last year we played the new design. They open up some fairways. They brought some bunkers into into the fairways, new bunker edges, but for the most part, same routing. But it's a golf course where the longer hitters like it, you know, there's a bit more room off the tee and you can kind of let it go a bit.

VO > And that is our time for this week. So good to see PGA Tour champions back in action and looking forward to more next week in Cali. As always, we thank you for watching. I'm Vince Cellini. So long.