**2024 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #5**

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > Newport Beach, California, bustling over the weekend with a visit from the legends of PGA Tour champions. It was the 28th playing of the Hoag Classic.

OC > Hi again, everyone, and welcome to Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini in the heart of Orange County. And pushing through the month of March with a wonderfully unpredictable season on the over 50 tour. Who seized the moment at Newport Beach Country Club with a recap. Let's go to the men who call the action Bob Papa and World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins.

VO > Thanks, Vince. The 28th playing of the Hoag Classic Newport Beach was thrilling. Padraig Harrington started the final round with a one-shot lead, but Thongchai Jaidee after Harrington made double bogey at the par three fourth, this improbable birdie at the fifth.

VO > Yeah poor tee shot and couldn't get there in two but a wonderful pitch by Jaidee.

VO > Padraig Harrington now bounced back with this second shot into the seventh.

VO > Yeah, tough little shot in here seven great hole location that left front and really well played there by Harrington. Got a tricky little putt, but he would get it to go down to birdie.

VO > Yeah and Jaidee would make bogey at the seventh hole. Jimenez would make birdie. And then at the 12th Harrington rolls this in for birdie to get to 13 under.

VO > Yeah nice read and wonderful pace kept it on line. Good putt by Harrington. Then at 13 Jaidee from all the way across the green.

VO > And Jaidee gets this to drop and that gets him to 13 12 under par and a shot off the lead. Now Harrington, wild tee shot at 16 and needs this for Bogey doesn't get it, so two double bogeys in the final round suddenly he trails Jaidee and Jimenez by a shot. Jimenez makes bogey at 17 and then Harrington rolls this in for birdie.

VO > Yeah, he made putts here all week long. His third birdie on this hole and all the birdie putts were a decent distance. And then at 18 he hit this for the win.

VO > Catches the left edge loops around and drops in Padraig Harrington winds up winning for the seventh time on the PGA tour champions a one-shot victory over Thongchai Jaidee two shots over Jimenez. Let's hear from the champion.

OC VO > I just when I'm overconfident, I'm not I'm not great. I'm not much better when when, when I'm in trouble. That's just my personality. I wish it was different. Sometimes it's nice to win easy. But I knew, you know, even after 16, I knew I was playing well. I knew I was hitting the ball well. I could finish strong.

VO > With the victory. Harrington zooms from 31st to fifth in the Charles Schwab standings. Stephen Ames, fourth place finish at the Hoag Classic moves him closer to overall leader Steven Alker. And with a solo third in Newport Beach, Miguel Angel Jimenez slides into the top ten.

VO > Playing in his third event of the season, Padraig Harrington authored that dramatic finish to win the Hoag Classic. His seventh victory in 37 starts on PGA Tour champions still dividing his time on other tours. Harrington enjoys what the 50 and over circuit provides at this stage of his career. And while a past Charles Schwab Cup Championship winner, Patty is always thinking bigger, that includes the ultimate prize.

OC VO > What's great about a champ is it gives us another chance to relive our glories. So that's really what it is. You know, the tournaments have won as a regular guy. They're real tournaments. You know, as I say, they are, you know, the champions and their Opens in there. And I don't just mean the open. I mean national titles. There's big events that are never going to go away. They're going to be here for hundreds of years and they're what you do. Now that we’re on the champion we come down the stretch under pressure, trying to win a tournament and we get to hit the same shots again. We get to reduce. We might not be quite the same person, but, you know, you try to win it, close the tournament out, you're trying to birdie the last. You're trying to even make a pair to last. You feel anxious, you feel nervous. And if you hit a great shot in front of the crowds, you enjoy it. So, you're re really reliving your past out here. It's a phenomenal opportunity. Just know where else you really get it. No, it's a sport that gives it to you that you can hit golf shots. I feel young again.

VO > Can you see a Schwab Cup on the mantel as well?

OC VO > You know what I would like to see for sure? It's tough. You know, at the very top, you know, there's there's there's some really some good golf being played. So, you know, I think I played 12 times last year. Maybe I need to play a bit more if I'm going to. Yeah, I think I can challenge obviously from 12, but I will have to have a great year. I still have it in the back of my head that I can win a regular tour event. So, you know, I want to play a few of those and that that can be a distraction sometimes even for these events, because sometimes, like I'm playing Houston next week, sometimes I'm maybe looking looking ahead too much. To play your best you got to stay in the moment.

VO > Also in Newport Beach, to the victor go the spoils. Two time Hoag Classic champion Ernie Els had the pleasure of cruising around the area in style, provided an Aston Martin for the week. Years after James Bond had the Aston Martin DB5 as his work vehicle. It was double E seven driving his on-the-job version.

OC VO > This is pretty sweet. Nice. I mean, look at the interior, the bucket seats. You feel it? It's nice and tight. I hear from the Aston Martin people here in Newport Beach. This guy's got 700 horsepower, so you better watch out when you put the foot down. It's nice to be able to drive around in a car like this for the week. It's one of the perks the winner gets, especially on days like this, weeks like this. Come back as a defending champion and, you know, you know, win the tournament and then they look after you like this is pretty, pretty awesome.

VO > Ernie finished tied for 33rd at Newport Beach Country Club and we are quite certain Els was not playing a Penfold Heart golf ball as James Bond did versus Goldfinger in their famous match.

VO > Jim Furyk was back in the mix on PGA Tour champions, making his first start at Newport Beach Country Club. The three-time champion on this tour was coming off a disappointing season in 2023. No victories and just one top ten finish. Clearly, the major champion was not right and dealing with some health issues, he explains.

OC VO > I've been struggling with my back and it's no secret throughout the last year and a half. I have a couple of disc issues. I had a lot of inflammation in my SI joint over the winter, and so trying to figure out, I guess, put the pieces of the puzzle together, trying to figure out what's causing the pain, what's causing my limited range of motion. I'm trying to learn how to manage and get better and kind of take care of myself and work with some doctors and have some injections done and a lot of therapy and physical rehab worked out a lot and trying to get stronger. I don't have a like high aspirations or expectations of myself. It's more about just kind of seeing where my game is and and seeing what I need to go home, work on.

VO > Coming up on Learning Center, we pay a visit to tour veteran Paul Goydos, who opens his home and his heart to us discussing golf and life lessons, his most important trophies, his children and grandchildren. Stay with us.

OC VO > If popular television character Ted Lasso, portrayed by Jason Sudeikis as a guy who goes from coaching college football to English soccer, played on PGA Tour champions, he'd very likely be compared to another player here, Paul Gaydos. Like Lasso, Goydos has often been underestimated, but always it's been about belief with a strong sense of humor and a deep conviction that he's going to make it through in golf and in life. Recently, we paid him a visit.

OC > Paul Goydos.

OC > Hey. Welcome to the crash pad.

OC > Crash Pad, what’s a crash pad?

OC > It's where I live.

OC > Oh, all right.

OC > You'll know. You'll see as you come in that that it's it's not about what's in the house. It's about who's in the house.

OC > Oh, I got it. Okay. Well.

OC > We've got extra couches and chairs and baby stuff.

OC > Nice digs.

OC > And the grandkids. Come on in. Everybody’s in here.

OC > Beautiful.

OC > My daughter, Chelsea.

OC > Hi.

Chris Mazziotti, caddy and chef. They're going to make. They're making dinner, getting ready for dinner.

OC > Wait a minute. I see some little people over here.

OC > We got T. We got the one climbing on the edge of the couch. Lily. Lily, a sit down. That's Lily and Jack my grandkids. They moved in during the pandemic, along with my daughter and her husband.

VO > So, this is the whole play area for the kids?

VO > Yeah. Most people call it like a living room and now have a house and a car and Hot Wheels and TV. And it's just. There's chaos.

So. So what is. What is home? Home? This is your sanctuary. This is your away.

OC VO > I think sanctuary is a again, to me, it's about the people in the house. And right now, that happens to be my my daughter and my two grandkids and her husband.

OC > And so any trophies, hardware that we can see over here?

OC > Yeah, sure. We got this. This is my favorite thing. I brought it out for you guys.

OC > Oh, this is awesome.

OC > So so back in the day, they used to have I don't know what you even call this calligraphy when they had scoreboards, paper scoreboards from tournaments. So, when I shot 59 at John Deere in 2010, the guy cut it off of the wall when the tournament was over and gave it to me, I think Sunday night or something like that. I got to get it mounted. It's only been 14 years. I'm getting.

OC > You’re going to get around to it?

OC > I’m getting around to it.

VO > So you remain the oldest player to shoot 59.

VO OC > As far as I know. Yeah, I think we're up to 12 now that done it and so there's 11 people went to the moon, so I lost that stat. When I did, I was the fourth, I think at that time, you know, four, four people had done it and 11 people have been to the moon. That's my favorite golf stat for me. It's my house is not built for it to be shown to the public. My house is built to me for them to have fun, she's going to fall down and cry. But we got sporadic trophies in here from when I won. And more importantly, that's the way that's Chelsea's wedding. Little photos up there. And I use the trophies to hold the wedding. I mean, all trophies behind that. You know, this is.

OC > Perfect.

OC > 3M. I was up at last win right there, the Hogan tour. I won there in 1992 in Yuma. That's the Long Beach Open.

OC > That’s the Yuma Open.

OC > See the things bent. Long Beach open, I won 91 and we're broke. Wife was eight months pregnant.

OC > And you're you're. You're substitute teaching to help supplement your income right at that time.

OC > Ryder Cup assistant captain. They gave us all of us. I've got more Ryder Cup stuff than I know what to do with. The Schwab Cup that was kind of cool. Nice when that unexpected win. I'm sure all my wins are unexpected. You know, winning. You know, winning. You lose a big deal. I didn't have any satisfying, but winning the first time on the PGA Tour, winning Arnold's event, you know, and having the saber.

OC > Oh, that’s awesome

VO > So.

VO > What was that moment like when Arnold's there at 18 and, you know, you win and you know, he's waiting there for you?

VO OC > It was surreal. I mean, it's funny how it I look at the two things. That was one of the big obviously a big thing and then losing the playoff of the players. Unfortunately, one of the big things was a negative in a sense. And what stands out to me was that from the time I missed the putt to win the players on to the 18 to hitting it in the water in a playoff, I don't remember. I don't remember signing my card, let alone it just happened so fast. I went from this chance to win to pulling number one out of the hat to hit it in the water and over.

VO > So, it's just this is it's a blur.

OC > I've only done it a half a few times. Tiger Woods, it's not a blur. Phil Mickelson, it's not a blur. Jack Nicklaus, it wasn't a blur. They stayed in the moment. They did the right things and they won 60 times. And I won two. I mean, there's a there's reasons for this. And I think one of the things that that again, I get this this attitude of this concept that I'm negative I think a realistic. If anybody here thinks that Tiger Woods isn't more talented than me is insane. Same with Jack Nicklaus or Phil Mickelson. He John Cook, who won 11 times, who plays out of Virginia with me, the difference between winning 11 times and two is much greater than two and zero. I mean, I'm closer to the club champion in Virginia than I am to John Cook. And he won 11 times.

OC > Yeah. Listen, you're talented. Nobody can be not talented and be out there, No question. But how do you look at this sort of journey that you've been on, like your career, being here with a family?

VO OC > I mean, it's professional sports. It's a pretty good life. I don't think we're in a position to complain. You know, And I try very hard not to complain about what I do. I don't like flying, I don't like to travel, but it's every bit as good as everyone thinks it is. And I'm a journeyman. I'm not Tiger Woods.

OC > How'd you let it not overwhelm you? Like, you know, the whole peep guys get caught up in the mental and this and that, and. And you've had, you know, you've had things that you've had to deal with. Yeah. You mentioned the players.

OC > Well, one, it's my job. It's not my life. Now, I'm not very. I don't. I think I have a little bit of that. I am what I my attitude is when I shoot, shoot 65, I'm a happy guy and I shoot 75 I’m breaking and I'm an angry guy. I think that you have to get past that. And I have some of that. And I think that's the competitiveness. I mean, I think the biggest skill to have is I'm competitive and I'm playing a game with a kid. It's not a good thing. But, you know, for what I do for a living, it's a very good thing. You know, the kids and I never let the kids win at Monopoly or life or whatever we played. I'm too competitive. It's nuts.

OC > You've won twice on tour. Each time you came from behind on the last day. Have you ever had the lead after 54?

OC > No. But you know, I've only been on tour for 16 years, so.

OC > How did you sleep last night?

OC > On my back.

OC > I see. I wasn't looking for something quite that specific. Did you sleep well?

OC> Yes.

VO > But I want to go back to the whole using sense of humor as a mechanism for you. And I wonder maybe not in the moment, but how you get through things like the Ally, what happened at Ally last year, which was for you, you're probably thinking in the moment. You probably think it was it had to be surreal for you.

VO > To an extent there was a build up there. I mean, I could see it coming the last 20 years and it finally came at the wrong time, which, you know, that's the nightmare scenario that but I've had struggles with the potter at times for a while now, and I think that's it is what it is. Yeah. But again, it is my job. It's not my you know, it's not like I would be much more upset if Lily fell and broke her arm.

VO > Of course.

VO > And I'm going to be if I'm five putt the 17th hole to lose a tournament. I don't think that a public really understands that. It's just my job.

OC > It's okay.

OC >I think the ironic part, isn't it, that we can get into a little bit if you want to go down the path is that I don't go outside. I play my whole life’s outside.

OC > So you're like that your job is outside, right?

OC > The job is outside. So, I'm the guy who. Who?

OC > How do you not go outside?

OC > Because again, I spent my whole I job, so I don't want to close all the curtains. You know, I don't want not only do I not go outside, I don’t want the outside seeing me. You got the little house outside for the kids. You know, it's funny how my life's come full circle.

OC > You know, you have an amazing life. And and and part of that, Paul, is the fact that you were really able to overcome an immense tragedy. And how much did you know losing not only as a wife, but who eventually passed, but kind of just a crisis of that situation shape you in terms of having two small girls.

OC > Right.

OC > And a job that's so mentally demanding, it could have just sent you completely out.

OC VO > It could have. But I think having perspective helps that. And again, it's my job. It's not my life. My life is is the kids and whatnot. Yeah, it it is it was hard. I mean, I remember the hardest thing I've ever did was telling my kids their mother died that night. That nightmare kind of comes creeps up on me three or four or five times a year. You know, we're just and you get a chill and it's gone. But who they are, when I see the success that my girls have had, it makes me smile because I know who's responsible for most part of that success. Wendy was there from when they were 0 to 16, and that's really when you formulate what kind of an adult you're going to be, and that is 100% on her. And so everything that happens in our house that happens with my kids or happens my grandkids, I can see her. And that gives me comfort.

VO > You know. So, I guess as we as we talk about your life, I mean, what do you think is the the ultimate Paul Goydos summarization?

OC VO > I think they look at me as a as as as a a again, I think that I don't take it as it comes. A guy that got a lot out of what he does, thank God and I hope maximized what he had to offer and what, you know, not everybody can be Tiger Woods. Not everybody can be Jack Nicklaus. Not everybody can be. And I think I was probably as good a Paul Goydos as I was going to be.

VO > All of his life experiences is have shaped who Paul Goydos is today. Goydos celebrates his 60th birthday in June, and he is coming off what is easily his best finish of the season, tying for ninth at the Hoag Classic.

VO > Coming up, Fred Couples knows sizzle and sees it in Scottie Scheffler. Fred on Scheffler’s hot run of late on PGA tour and looking ahead to the masters when learning center returns.

VO > Just over a week ago, Scottie Scheffler successfully defended his players championship title in TPC Sawgrass, his final Round 64 match, Jack Nicklaus, Davis Love III, and Fred Couples for the lowest final round score from a players championship winner. We caught up with Freddie and asked him about his relationship with Scheffler and about the next time the two will compete against each other in next month's Masters Tournament.

VO OC > You actually I've texted him probably 15 times in the last two years after his wins and it's good. You know, with the Ryder Cup you would think or Presidents Cup I'm not really near him that much. So, I just pay attention to him and tap him the butt and say good luck. But I'm usually with, you know, obviously Cantlay and Morikawa and X man. But my relationship is, you know, I have a lot of respect for the way he plays when he's on TV. I like to watch, I like to watch most of them, but I pay attention to them. You know how he strikes it. And we're all talking about his footwork. But I know Randy Smith, his teacher, and I text him maybe once a month to tease him a little bit. But the way he strikes the ball is amazing. So, again my relationship with a lot of guys is just I'm a golfer and I like the way they play. Some of them are much closer to, but I still like to keep in touch with Scottie and tell them how great he is. And it's fun to watch.

VO > How excited are you to get back to Augusta?

VO OC > Last year the weather was so poor, and I know everyone's going to laugh, but it kind of helped me because I could slop it around with the best of them. So, I don't want to see any more rain, but I've got to drive it really, really well. I feel like picked up 8 to 10, 12 yards, which is out of nowhere, so that's going to help me. But you know, last year I putted really, really well. I think if if George was here, my caddie telling you I made everything inside of ten feet. But I'm 64 years old, so I don't go there thinking, you know, hey, yeah, if I play really, really well, I can compete with these guys. I'm competing with a certain number that I need to shoot, and I feel like I can shoot it.

VO > Fred Couples is scheduled to play in this week's Galleri Classic in Rancho Mirage, California. The second playing of the event will make it back-to-back SoCal events. We caught up with the defending champion who was locked in a year ago.

OC > David Toms won the inaugural Galleri Classic with a four-shot win at Mission Hills and Sunday's 65. I'm wondering, was that as stress free, a victory as you had or just to look that way from the outside?

OC VO > Well, I mean, I guess in a way, if you feel good about your game in all facets of your game, then it's a little stress free. But for me, it was just I just played golf that week and I felt like I, you know, off the tee was solid, into the Greens had plenty of opportunities and then putted well. So, when you add it up, I guess, you know, I was a little bit better than the field, but I didn't really pay that much attention to it. It's kind of like when you're in the zone, you can just bottle that and try to get there more often. There's no secret sauce. It's just the fact that, you know, I was playing good in every phase of the game and scoring well. I mean, that's really the key is ultimately your score. But but when you're playing well in all facets, it makes the score a little bit easier.

VO > You open with a 65 closed. With a 65, you led the field in driving accuracy for the week. So, I'm wondering if you could share with us maybe a good way to have a dependable drive under pressure, sort of when you know, tournaments on the line?

OC VO > Well, I think it goes back to, you know, knowing your game, first of all, not trying to do hit a shot that you're not comfortable with, especially under the gun. So, you got to go back to, you know, for me, it's a left to right shot.

VO > All right. So how does that setup?

VO OC > All right. So, I mean, you know, this is a perfect hold to illustrate that. It's a little bit left, right, dogleg left, a dogleg to the right. I'll just pick out a good spot. The main thing is you pick out a start line and then put a good swing on it. So, for me, I'll start it, you know, towards the left, two trees here left side of the fairway and played up in my stance, so I catch it a little bit late, you know, coming more across the ball a little bit and a little hold off fade. So, it should be able to do it.

OC > That's kind of my go to right there.

OC > Beautiful. I go to that over and over.

OC > Exactly. All right.

OC > Thanks, Champ. Appreciate that. Thanks for your time.

VO > And that's our time for this week in Southern California. We thank you for watching. I'm Vince Cellini, and we will see you next time with a brand-new learning center.