**2024 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #23**

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > As courses go. It is one of the jewels of American golf. Iconic Pebble Beach Golf Links posted the 21st edition of the Pure Insurance Championship, impacting First Tee more than amazing scenery. This was about late season competition.

VO > The third to last regular season event played out in Monterey Peninsula, California, and getting to the finish line here for a second time was Paul Broadhurst, a five-shot lead to begin his Sunday dwindling down. Broady made a clutch par putt on the famous 17th to maintain a two-shot lead heading to the last. There, the 59-year-old Englishman made birdie to finish at 14 under par and win the Pure Insurance Championship for a second time. Our John Swantek called it and has more.

VO > Always special to spend the week at Pebble Beach, Vince. Spectacular views, some high caliber caliber golf here at the Pure Insurance Championship as well. Take you through some of the highlights from the final round. Alex Cejka birdied the 18th for the low round of the day. 64.

VO > Yeah and putting some heat on Paul runners who was struggling at the time. So had to hang around and wait after that round.

VO > Cejka posted 11 under. Rocco Mediate was trying to get there if he could birdie the last two holes.

VO > Yeah. Trying to hit a big slinger here. He hits a big draw. Anyway, let's use the slope and bring it down to the hole to about four five feet. What a great play here by Rocco Mediate a lot of character imagination there.

VO > Then three straight birdies down the stretch for Rocco. Vijay Singh trying to apply some early pressure to Broadhurst.

VO > Yeah. This is when the putter was working for Vijay. Nice birdie at six. This gets up at seven. Makes another birdie and looks like he's going to be a factor all the way in. But three putts at eight and a miss six-footer for birdie at nine. And that was the end of Vijay quite honestly.

VO > Broadhurst lead was five to start the round. It was six after that one down at the fourth. But it's never easy especially with a big lead as Paul referenced after the round, Lanny. He had to grind out a couple of classy pars.

VO > Yeah, he was starting to struggle a little bit. Not quite what he wanted. Missed the green wide right here for Chip. Makes it 25-footer for par. Then 17, hit it over the green chip six feet by this one. Had to go down. And it did. Gives him the two-shot lead. Playing 18 makes that walk a lot more comfortable.

VO > A little more breathing room to operate at the last just about 70 yards with a little flick here with his third.

VO > Yeah, really well done there by Broady. Now he's got comfort for sure. all you’ve got to do is trundle this down there. He does and it falls in.

VO > Didn’t need it. But nice to have it when you can birdie 18 to win at Pebble Beach something. Broadhurst is now down twice after winning the Pure Insurance Championship back in 2016. And he's a two-time winner this season. The Englishman by three claims his seventh victory on the Champions Tour. What a performance along the Monterey Peninsula. Let's hear from our champion.

VO > You've had a great career. You've played really difficult golf courses very well. Here, Carnoustie. You've won, you know, all over. Why does your game fit so well around Pebble Beach? I don't know.

OC > I mean, I enjoy playing Pebble Beach. I always I've since I came out and, you know, won the first year in 2016. Spyglass is the one that I struggle on hard. You can't see I couldn't see six and then went out and shot it. I was absolutely amazed. But I can sort of see score and Pebble when you're playing really well. But I can also see you level par and over, you know, it's not that easy. You hit in the wrong places and it's tough. I mean, yesterday I'll just say that really. Well, I did close and my some puts I mean today it was a different story. It was sort of hanging on hit the greens 30ft, two putts get out there and not try and make too many silly errors. So that was a difference.

VO > With the victory, Brodeur sits eighth in the Charles Schwab Cup point standings. The top five remain the same as Ernie Els and Stephen Ames are locked in a fierce battle for the top, and contenders galore all around them, and unpredictable season continues next month in Jacksonville for the Constellation Furyk and friends.

VO > A few days before the Pure Insurance Championship, Richard Green checked one off the bucket list, getting behind the wheel of a Porsche and navigating legendary Laguna Seca Raceway. This road track is nearly two and a quarter miles long, has 11 turns, highlighted by the signature downhill corkscrew turn that drops 59ft from the entrance to the exit, a challenge for even an experienced driver like Green. managing curves like that at top speed was quite the thrill, as out of bounds here is slightly more penal than a wayward golf shot.

OC VO > Yeah, absolutely. And more, you know, just a wonderful experience just to to come around out here and feel the corners, race speed. You know it's really cool and having a great time. Probably you really pointed it out, you know going up the hill over there into the course going and coming down in this last little section here. It's just really exhilarating. You know, there's such an elevation change from the top of the hill where, you know, the cars behaving in a way and then rolls over. Christopher has another way and, you know, you're the car so hooked up with grip. It's amazing.

VO > And speaking of memorable experiences, the Pure Insurance Championship features teams from 48 First Tee chapters across the country, paired with and mentored by PGA Tour Champions players. First Tee players get here based on not only their golfing ability, but quality and integrity of life skills. This past week, two Dallas natives were side by side together, Daniel Ferguson and Justin Leonard, and we tagged along.

OC VO > Just awesome. I mean, I was so excited when I saw my pairing. Just a dream come true to be paired with Justin.

OC VO > To get to, you know, connect with junior players, and see they're just enthusing about the game. But then you come out here and you do it at Pebble Beach.

VO > It’s something else.

OC VO > It just adds another element of awesomeness to it.

OC VO > Oh my gosh, just so incredible to be here. Getting to play with the Pro anywhere is an awesome experience. But at Pebble Beach of all places, just the week of a lifetime. Hopefully I can catch you at some point

VO > Yeah.

VO OC > I may look for a different partner because he keeps it inside of me and that's, it's a little annoying, honestly.

VO OC > When I was at the first national championship at Clemson, they had a top tracer range out there where I could play Pebble Beach virtually. I think my best round on a virtual Pebble Beach was like a 65. So. maybe I can beat that this week.

OC > Sounds good to me.

VO > Coming up, join the one and only Fred Couples for a practice round at Pebble Beach, guiding you tee to green on the stunning par four, 8th hole. It's full-on Freddie.

VO > Pebble beach isn't just a round of golf, it's a life experience. Jutted up against the Pacific coastline and Carmel Bay. It's where scenery meets skill. Host course for a number of major championships. Pebble offers many challenges, including the famous 8th hole, where accuracy is paramount. Legendary course deserves a legendary duo to break down hole number eight. Enter Fred Couples and Jay Haas.

OC > I have no clue. The hole always freaks me out.

VO > Yeah. Talk me through this.

OC > Oh god. Well, I'm going to let Jay hit first so, yeah. I believe I'm going to hit a five wood. And I'm going to, you know, it's it's it's out there. If I don't smash a five when I overcut it, there's room to the right. But Jay, I used to be a rock. I don't see it. But you want to go in between the buildings are the big homes in my opinion right at the dark trees. Don't you want to go?

OC > Yeah, right at the yellow house.

OC > Yeah, yeah. Yes. Correct. That gives you room on both sides. Yes. So, he's he's been here a long time. And you're hitting three wood Jay. The three I. Yeah. You got to get that one to help.

OC > Yeah. That's the thing I was saying, count. It's a little to the right, but it's perfect. Am I say a little five yards. But you got room.

OC > Yeah.

OC > That's ten yards and twenty yards right of Jay.

VO > Still fairway wood.

OC > Yeah. It's so short. Yeah, I got a 5-wood left.

OC > You could almost hit more if we went left.

OC > Yeah.

OC < But then you make the fairway narrower.

OC > If you're coming from another city or state or country to play. You want to play seven because you you just saw it. We all reach the green with wedges. This even for the pros could ruin a good round. I'd rather play seven all day long, but it's an iconic hole. It's unique, but like Sam and Ansley, they have to hit a decent drive. Then they have to play left a ravine and then they just keep going around it. But it's the way the land is and it's probably one of the greatest holes in the world. Wouldn’t you say Jay?

OC > Oh yeah.

OC VO > It's not unfair. But if they move the tees up for them, then they're hitting like nothing to the edge of the water. But it's such a long carry for your second shot, but it's. Well, just take a picture when we get up to the green. It looks like it's a Volkswagen.

VO > Well, you heard the term all the time is visually intimidating. This is number one on that list.

VO OC > Yeah. And I am going to be in the right rough and I'm going to have some serious issues. But I'm going to have to go up and down out of the bunker.

OC > You going left? You're already mapping out your strategy.

OC > Yeah. I'm going left. I’m going left. But jay is correct. Intimidation for any players is a big deal. This is a freak show. This whole. And it's just basically because you're downhill. You're trying to judge a 190 yards shot in the green...See? So, we were way off. Left, they've cut a little bit of a rough here.

OC > They kind of narrowed it a little bit on this.

OC > Yeah, it’s beautiful. There it is. Look. Look at what green.

OC > Did you give me that lie?

OC > No sitting right there. But some guys have all the luck.

OC > That's a song, isn't it?

VO > I don't really know what that's called. It's some famous beach that I've played a hundred times here. And they all Saturday and Friday, they'll be hundreds of dogs and people down there. But.

VO > Does it get better than this?

VO > No maybe warmer. Okay. Maybe warmer. As Sam says, bring your cashmere. I'm like, Sam says 70. Yeah, it's going to blow ten going to you're going to freeze, bring your cashmere.

OC > Have you put any balls down there in that bay?

OC > I’m sure I have mostly over there. But just one of the bigger arguments Joe and I had in the whole U.S. open. I hit it over the bank, and I knew it was too much club. And I told Joe, I'm gonna layup down towards the edge. And we walked up here in the you could see the red flag and he it was a he was a huge player blunder because the caddies know a lot what we're doing. And I kind of argue with them and I hit it down. Beautiful shot in the ravine. Jay, have you ever hit it too far and gone into the ravine by stupidity?

OC > Yeah, maybe once.

OC > Well, I was just telling Al how I did it with Joe once. But.

OC > Pushed it?

OC > No.

OC > You know, you if you went too far right. It's it shortens a little bit on that right side.

OC > Well, this was during the open where the fairway was what 12 yards wide. I piped one and he knew it was too much. We walked up.

VO > I not one from me to you there and couldn't hit the shot starkly. You know my brain would not allow me to get to my left side there.

OC > And going from there, the shot Spieth hit. I'm sure 99.999% of the golfers have never had a shot on a cliff or hitting off of a building that freaks me out too. What Spieth did here was miraculous because you’re a man, that's not where you want to. Even though you're going to do that every time your whole life. You just think you're going to fall into that. But yeah, it's a hell place.

VO > Coming up, learning center continues to rollout. Icons of sport. Countdown to the rocket. Pitching legend Roger Clemens joins us. Still a hard thrower, bringing heat on the course.

VO > Major League Baseball's regular season is coming to a close, and you won't find more loyal fans than those of the Yankees and Red Sox. But what if we could please both rival fan bases? Enter Roger Clemens, one of the finest pitchers in baseball history. Earlier this summer, we chatted up the Rocket in Dallas on his golf game and a goodbye to a friend and team.

OC > Well, so pleased to be sitting beside just one of the greatest pitchers in the history of Major League Baseball. Over 300 wins, 354 In fact, two-time World Series champion and seven Cy Youngs on the mantle at home. That's more than any other pitcher in the history of baseball. The rocket, Roger Clemens good to see.

OC > Good to see you baby. Yes sir.

OC > So, out here playing some golf now. Have you ever been you were so intense on the mound. Have you ever been as locked in here as you were as a pitcher?

OC VO > Well, as I get older, playing these events and its fun playing with the Champion Tour guys because, you know, they were they were the guys I played with all those years at the Bob Hope event and at 18 at Pebble Beach. And so now I get to see him out here a little bit. And, but you're right, I have to, you know, my focus meter pitching is one, one level. It just striking the golf ball right now is a whole nother level. Just just love being out here. And these events are wonderful.

OC > Yeah. Because less is more in this sport. I mean, you can't bear down like you did on the Hill.

OC VO > Yeah that's right. And same thing with me. I was a power pitcher. I wasn't a power thrower. So big difference. I try and tell the young guys or even the major league guys, I'm talking to you. You still have to pitch in. Pitching is like buying a home location, location, location, right? Velocity is maybe second or third. What you need is great if you throw 98. But my boys played professionally, and I tell them all the time, most professional baseball players can put wood on a bullet. And so, the harder you throw, the more mistakes you make and yada yada yada. So, my, my one of my favorite, I think if I have it right, I do a little thing with Jack Nicklaus, the great Jack Nicklaus every year. And I think he had a conversation or two conversations with Ted Williams, and they were trying to say, you know what was hard doing? Ted was like, hey, I got to hit a 95 mile an hour fastball with the round ball with the round bat. And Jack looked at him, said, yeah, but you don't have to hit your foul balls. I do right, or something like that. So, and that's that's definitely the case here.

OC VO > And he didn't have too many of those. So, do you play often with the boys? You have four sons. I mean, you guys played and were those matches, like when y’all get together?

OC VO > Well, these days I only get an invite when they need money, so I know. Hey, dad, do you want to come golf? I know what's going on there because they're all really good. And actually, the miss’s, she's the golfer in the family. She's won ten club championships. I've got zero. So, like you mentioned earlier, all my Cy Youngs are in the attic, and I've got enough crystal to eat M&M’s out of for a lifetime. You know, she's got all this crystal around the house that she's won. But we're a golfing family. We love the game of golf. I always like to play golf on the road. Get to see some great golf courses because I wanted to get out of the hotel room day after I pitched, get up super early, get my roadwork in, and then try and go play 9 or 18, get to the ballpark and do the rest of my work getting ready for my next start so. And it's a great way to see the the country. I mean, you see so many wonderful places I've met more business opportunities through the game of golf than I ever have baseball. So, really love it. May play with him here in this event. Billy Andrade. Billy and and Brad Faxon and Davis love kind of got me started on it. Billy really introduced me to it. He took me to Pebble Beach the first time, and I after three days I had pneumonia just trying to keep the ball in play. But it was that was kind of he kind of jumpstarted me in the game of golf.

OC > So, what are some you mentioned Billy great guy friend of the show. What were some of the other memories? The golf man, where you're some of your favorites?

OC VO > Oh, man, I've got some some hole in one. A hole in one at Cypress Point is a great memory. Playing with David Duvall when he shot 59 with the hope.

VO > Yeah.

VO OC > I was in our group. Was there, Carson Daly and I, Matthew McConaughey was my partner out there once. We won the hotel a couple times, which is very difficult to do with how many teams are out there. Again, just meeting the the different people getting the opportunity to. We were real close with the, with President Bush 41, and getting to play Kennebunkport and different parts, you know, probably a handful, maybe ten times playing with him and Barbara. Just a treat. You know, I need to. My mom said to keep a good journal. I need to start writing this stuff down before I Forget it. But just some great memories playing golf and the people you get to play with.

OC > For all the big moments you had on the mound. And there are a million. Did you ever get nervous putting a peg in the ground and in a celebrity event?

OC > Yeah. It was the first time that Billy Andrade took me to Pebble Beach. I just started, the learning the game. I had the Hogan woods, the persimmon woods with the screw. You know what I tell the boys? You hit that on? The screws are like what? I said, go look in my office. I still I say I've saved him.

OC > That's right.

OC VO > You know, my driver looks like a five wood now or hybrid. And, but anyway, Billy called me and said, hey, I want you to be my partner in the eight year the AT&T Pebble Beach. He goes, what's your handicap? I go, gosh, I don't even have one, Billy. Probably 22, 25. He goes, no, you're not. I go, what are you talking about? I'm I'm at least a 22. He goes, no, you're not. You're an 18. I go, what do you mean? He goes, you're an 18. It's all the way you're going to play. As they say, you're an 18. I said, okay, I'm an 18. And I played about a about a 15-yard fade and almost slice, and I had to start it over some people in the gallery and I got out there, you know, you got, you got five people wide, deep, you know, looking, staring at you. And we grinded it out, man. It was it was a lot of fun, a lot of work. And, but that was nerve racking. Especially when I think on the third hole day, one, I kind of hit one over some guys, and they're down there with their cigars and they're like, rocket, I hope you got your insurance paid up. And I'm like, man, I go over to Billy, I go, hey, if I drill somebody out here, I'm not. You know, he goes, no, no. They look at the back of their ticket. You're fine. Just keep whistling it down there.

OC > Well it's interesting and I sure you cross paths with Tim Wakefield sat where you were sitting last year, and, what a terrible loss. And I know that there's a fraternity involved in Major League Baseball. I just want to know if you had some thoughts about another guy who's, a real Red Sox contributor.

OC VO > Well, wake was my golfing buddy, and he loved the game of golf. Obviously, a great pitcher. When when we first got him, he was a little bit of a nervous wreck. Worried about getting released here, release there. And I said, dude, just relax. You keep doing that knuckleball and you keep you're eating 200 innings for us and you're not going anywhere. But we get out on the course and have a great time. And it's always great to have a team like that. We miss him dearly. There's a handful of us knew a little bit what was going on. We knew what was going on with his wife a little bit, you know, out at Tahoe and it just, just way too quick. I mean, it's shocking, to be honest with you. And, so we miss him, and I'm glad they, did a little thing in Boston as opening day approach this past this, this year. But, yeah, I miss him. He's, you know, I when we sit here and talk about him, I can see his golf swing and how he would lift his club up off the ground to go at the ball. And, but we did. We had some good, fun little gambling matches on the golf course and took on some of our teammates and some of the opposing pitchers, too. So hammered him a little bit.

OC > Yeah. I'm sure you'll be thinking about him out there.

OC > Yeah.

OC > Thanks, Roger.

OC > Yeah. You got it.

OC > Great to see you.

And so, we leave you with perfect pitch. PGA Tour Champions regular season continues to wind down, and we will be here as your guide to postseason. Thanks once again for watching Learning Center I'm Vince Cellini so long.