**2024 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER SHOW #24**

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > PGA Tour Champions rolled into the month of October with a return trip to the great state of Florida. It was the fourth playing of the Constellation Furyk and friends at Timuquana Country Club in Jacksonville.

OC VO > Hello, everyone, and welcome to PGA Tour Champions Learning Center. I'm Vince Cellini. This was the penultimate event on the 2024 schedule, and here we had Presidents Cup pride for the host and lots on the table for the players as the playoffs are looming. So. who stepped up Sunday on Florida's first coast?

VO > A tight leaderboard stayed that way throughout round three. This is Rocco Mediate at the last to win things in regulation but missing the par putt. And we will have bonus golf.

OC > So we're going to play 18 repeatedly

OC > Okay.

OC > Until we have a winner.

VO > Rocco and Bob Estes, who shared the 36-hole lead and are headed to a playoff and back to 18.

VO > Estes seeking his first PGA Tour Champions victory. And on the first playoff hole, he calmly rolls in this putt for par. Clutch. Now it's Rocco's turn on the first playoff hole. And this to answer. And he does to extend to the second playoff hole. Back to 18 we go. Here on the second playoff hole as this the tall Texan just sees this run out of juice. And the result is bogey. Opening the door for Mediate. And Rocco steps up and steps through.

VO > He had to sweat it out and he had to earn it. But Rocco Mediate for the first time in 98 starts and five years, is a winner again on the Champions Tour.

VO > No doubt about this. Rocco Mediate denying Bob Estes well, ending a five-year winless drought, winning for the fifth time on PGA Tour Champions.

OC > He doesn’t like hugging. He's not a hugger. Johnny.

VO > At age 61, Rocco becomes the 14th oldest winner in tour history. For his efforts, no win but the runner up marked Estes sixth top ten of the season. Dangerous Greg Chalmers captures a solo third and in the T-4 group, Scott McCarron, with his best finish of the season. Our John Cook with Rocco's recap.

OC > You said yesterday, after we talked a little bit, that you were just going to go out and do what you needed to do. When did you figure out, where did you have to adjust?

OC > I just kept plot because I had so many long clubs, and I'm not complaining, but that's just the way it is. And I don't know. I got the up and down on nine was silly and that kind of kept me okay. And then we went. I kept going and going. One drive driving good today. Then I came came with a couple with the one on 17. The putt I kind of had a feeling because this hole was just something. I have no idea why he said that, and it went, and it worked, but I'm just keeping it in front of me and just not letting anything get in the way. And you've done it a million times. You know exactly what I'm talking about.

OC > Like I said, your fifth win out here on the PGA Tour Champions, but now you've won in your 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s. How significant is that?

OC > It’s so cool. I said that at the beginning of the year, you know, because it would be nice to do that. And especially me, I mean, it. Oh, I overachieved, I believe myself because I really wasn't that good. But I'm not.

OC > I beg to differ on that.

VO > I'm around a long time and it's fun to be able to do it again. It's especially Jimmy’s time, this golf course, its golf course is pure evil, and we love it in a good way evil. It's it's brutal. So, we I'm shocked. Actually, to tell you the truth.

VO > Schwab Cup standings with one regular season event remaining, Stephen Alker's top ten in Jacksonville places him right behind Ernie Els. Stephen Ames slides down one spot. Rocco is now just outside the top ten at number 13 and Bob Estes inside the top 25 with a runner up.

VO > Golf is a mere distraction following the absolute devastation across America Southeast, brought on by Hurricane Helene and here's where the two worlds meet. John Daly took to social media to announce one of his homes in Clearwater Beach, Florida, had been lost in the category four storm. Jaidee's family and friends in the surrounding area also saw homes destroyed. Daly offered his sympathies and more details in the aftermath

VO OC > As bad. I mean, I feel for everybody. I mean, you know, I'm surprised that there's more people put up. It's sad from said, you know, the ones that we did and it's devastating. The worst I've ever seen and the hope, hope everybody gets safe and gets their homes back. And, you know, hope FEMA does a job and I know, I know DeSantis will. But the heart just goes out to everybody. Where are we gonna have to do about three, three and a half homes. Almost four. By just having gone back in I might have restructured it takes it. I've had been it two years. Get all the stuff in there and then it's all gone…his mom lost her house. Maddie's burned down yesterday morning. And Christie had to get a boat to get to her, so they're all pretty much gone. Well, I'm just glad everybody's healthy. That's main thing. You know, and, you know, you live in Florida. You've got to. You got to understand that's going to happen. But now, I guess I didn't think it'd be this bad, but it's it's, I think it's more thing it's the memories that Mom and Chrissy and Mandy have over the years. That house of the dad. And from all the stuff. I think the memories is what you. What you miss when you lose something like that. More than anything.

VO > No question. John Daly is a survivor in more ways than one, and an entertainer as well. Recently, he tested his comedic chops as he spent part of last month in new Jersey filming scenes for Happy Gilmore two. And while he can't disclose too much information, Daly offered up a little bit of what to expect on the big screen.

VO OC > Oh, been promotion approached about doing Happy Gilmore two. I said, for Adam, you know, probably I'll do a couple things for him, but I'm doing a lot more. I guess I'm going to be living in a garage, and that's about all I can say. We had a blast. I had a blast. I did three days. I'll go back for five the end of October and then go for another 5 or 6 in November. So, it's going to be funny. I'll tell you right now. Get ready to cry, laugh.

VO > Coming up on Learning Center, birthday boy Fred Couples is with us, dialing in his irons there. I mean, rescue clubs on the range. It's often difficult to keep track.

OC > Here we go people. Been talking about my woods. There there they are. Oh, I got so many issues

I have six woods. Driver, three wood, five wood, four rescue, five rescue, six rescue. And I'm loving life.

OC > Here we go, people. Been talking about my woods. There's there's there they are. Oh, I got so many issues.

VO > His lowest iron is a seven. And this past week before the tournament, he hit the range with PGA Tour Champions equipment rep Brian Ratigan. To dial in those old man clubs. It doesn't matter if Fred is using tree branches, it still remains a thing of beauty.

OC> We're going to go through the the old man clubs here because I think it's awesome. No, I, I spectrum I did the grip but like I measured him I just wanted to make sure we had the same there short first standard. But that's what I'm trying to figure out. So, this is five iron, right?

OC > Six.

OC > Six iron, five iron, four or four three hybrid in between.

OC > Right.

OC > Right. And so that's what I'm trying. So, then you go to five.

OC > Five wood, right.

OC > Height wise trajectory wise. Because you have three different shafts in here and nine different. You have to play it again sports that basically. But that's the beauty of it. I mean, I keep getting asked about this and it's like, okay, why?

OC > Well because I don't hit it hard. And that's how I hit it every time.

OC > Because here's the thing. I have guys out here asking me, like shaft wise. And I'm like, well, here's what he's doing.

OC > You know?

OC > That's what I mean. I don't know why you would want. Right. That's way easier to hit. Oh my God. So, then there are an inch difference in length. Just perfect. That's perfect. So.

OC > They could be an eighth an inch long.

OC > You could, you could.

OC > What would that do?

OC > I mean, it's just nothing. You're not going to see it.

OC > What about a quarter of an inch.

OC > You could hit a hair higher, a little farther, maybe a little more spin. The shaft is going to change, but I don't I don't I wouldn't want to change the trajectory.

OC > Is there one that I can get.

OC > Yeah. I would not want to change that trajectory. And instead of hitting 30 or 40 balls with my four, five, and six, I hit 15.

OC> Right?

OC > Because it's a wood.

OC > right.

OC > I don't know how you beat that. I don't know why you'd use a four iron.

OC < Yeah, I'm hitting them all the toe, which is normal.

OC > You do everything so

OC > But I mean, let me hit a couple more. That was a nice flight.

OC > Yeah.

OC > It looks to me like it's further than my normal four iron, but it's not going. Don't don't tell me Davis Love or Harrison Frazier, but for me, I'm 65. I should hit a 22-degree four rescue that's short. If I can get 205 to 208 out of it, that's what I want.

OC > That's where you want it to land.

OC VO > And that's the issue. My five. I can get 185 to 192.

VO > That's perfect. Th’s perfect.

OC > But these woods you know. Yeah, Davis Love has a couple now.

OC > I'm telling you be amazed how many guys are asking me what.

OC > Well, now Sam Reeves changed his life at 90.

OC > Right.

OC > He didn't get him.

OC > Why wouldn't you use him?

OC > There he goes. These are what I had. So, I. You know, I can say this things to him in live to your 90.

OC < I just like change. You got 4 or 5 and six.

OC > It's not old man golf. It's just golf.

VO > We also had a DL 3 siting. Davis Love The third made his third start of the season. So where is he been? It turns out an injury prevented him from competing for the majority of the season.

OC VO > I had some, arthritis, joints, surgery in my thumb and, my thumbs better. The rest of my body's trying to catch up. You know, six months off was a long time, so, getting still got a little swelling in my wrist and, a little rust in my game and my brain. So, two Pro-ams this week and a lot of a lot of rounds at home trying to get ready, but I just got to knock the rust off. I'm catching up with Fred on hybrids. I have one less than Fred as long I stay. One less than, I have a lot of head covers, though, and, it's not going very far, but, you know, you got to start somewhere, so I'm going to try to work my way back.

VO > Much more ahead on Learning Center, including a lively chat with talented Greg Chalmers. He'll charm you with his game and his social media skills. Plus, Boo Weekly is back to nature. Forget about birdies and eagles. He's calling Gators.

VO > Lefty Greg Chalmers was not one of the four Australian players to earn exempt status last December at school, but he has certainly made his mark this season. Chalmers has parlayed Monday qualifying and invites into a Schwab Cup rank inside the top 30. Prior to the constellation, Furyk and friends, he also has four top tens, one of them at a major. I caught up with Charming Chalmers, who brings tons of fun and personality to this tour and to his social media account.

OC > But one of the players putting together a darkhorse campaign here as we hit the playoffs is Greg Chalmers, who at the time of our interview here is inside the top 30. It's been quite a journey for you though this year, right? It hasn't always been easy even to get a chance to to compete.

OC VO > Yeah. Look it started out with no status at all at the start of the year. And I had to, Monday qualify. And I did that I think, three times. And I was fortunate. I think, a couple of those times I converted to, a qualifying opportunity into another tournament through a top ten. And so, I kind of got rolling with some good performance early and then got a little momentum going into the summer. And then I started to get invites to play a little bit, which has been really nice. And I've been able to maintain position and, sort of run a 25th right now and in a good spot coming into the playoffs.

OC > Yeah. But I would imagine, Greg, it's not only just your golf, but it's also your mental aspect of approaching this week to week, right, to get where you are.

OC > Yeah. Look I when I, I bogeyed the last hole to not get my card at Q school and I and I took a quick look at who who gets their card and how they get it each year. And there's always seems to be 1 or 2 people who get it the way I'm doing it now. And so, I thought, well, it's doable. Let's just get after it. And I sort of, to be honest, I'm in front of my timeline. I thought I'd give it a couple of years and see if I can keep chasing it as much as possible and get some kind of status. And I'm in front of that already this year, so I'm looking forward to the rest of this season. And then hopefully, you know, a full schedule next year and get after it.

OC > Right. I was going to say that because here in your initial season, you are ahead of the game. And given your game, don't you feel like this is fertile ground for you? PGA tour champion.

OC VO > Yeah. So, I really, I'm really loving this tour for the opportunity to get to play, you know, in in this age bracket. It's really cool. I love just being competitive. And that's what I feel. I feel like every week, okay. If I play good golf, I'm a chance, to be competitive coming down the stretch. So, I haven't put it all together. Maybe one time this year in the PGA when, Richard Blaine beat me, and I finished third. That was as close as I've come to getting everything right. But when I get everything right, I think I can compete. And. And that gets me going. It gets me excited about playing the game.

OC > Right? Because you're putting is always very strong. So, what is the other aspect of your game that you have to have?

OC VO > So, I've really looked after my length. I mean terms of hitting the half hour hit the ball, probably the longest I've ever been in my career. I tried really hard on speed. I started about five years ago with this window opening when I turned 50, about 45 years old, I thought, I've got to get at least not get slower. And I picked up some yardage and, and it's been very advantageous to be I come out here and play and and have some shorter clubs in the greens and give me some options in the par fives that some other guys may not have. Not everybody, but just some. And and that's been, it's been quite interesting to watch that play out.

OC > If you haven't picked up on it yet. Greg is from Australia, so.

OC > I'm working on my Texas accent Vince. I mean that yea.

OC > It's coming around.

OC > It’s going to be good day y’all. It's going to be messy. It's going to be really messy.

OC > I love that. What is it about? We talked about Q school, about the guys from the Aussies coming in through, Q school, a PGA Tour Champions, and just generally the, the year after year, participation and production from the Australian players. Why is it so special?

OC VO > Yeah, I think in Australia, the game is way more affordable. It's not that country club kind of atmosphere. Like I grew up in a club that was, you know, as a junior member was $150 a year. And it's right on the ocean. It's a beautiful place just like this. And so, there's that aspect of it. It's just it's more affordable for people to get involved. Also, the weather's phenomenal. The golf courses are phenomenal. And and I also think when you have good players like Greg Norman from my era that you can look up to and admire from a performance standpoint, it makes you want to keep, you know, living that dream like Tiger Woods has done for young American players in this generation. So, that piece of it is really cool. And we, I think we feed off each other a little bit. I think when you see someone is successful, like we had four Aussies get through Q school out of the five cards, that made me go, okay, well, I've got to get to work. Even though I didn't get one, you know? So, I think we feed off each other, and it's a lot of fun. We're all friends. It's pretty cool.

OC > I love your attitude. And I love the fact that you're so active on social media. So, yeah.

OC > I get after it on social media.

OC > You absolutely do. So, tell me a little bit about where that started and kind of the feedback that you get about.

OC > Yeah, I get good feedback usually not all.

OC > It's very funny.

OC > Yeah. What I, what I do is I reached an age bracket, Vince, where I care a lot less about what people think. Now, and I don't do any political. I have some rules. I don't do any political posts. I don't do anything that is especially fluffy cat videos. But it's just about my life and what's going on. I try and give an insight into what's going on out here. I try and portray myself as though I'm someone that I'm probably not in some cases, but I enjoy myself. If that makes me chuckle, I'd usually. And usually when I'm bored to, I'm like, let me, let me just put something out there. It's good fun.

OC > It is. And it's very self-deprecating.

OC > Try to be.

OC > It's very fun. Yeah. So, it's it's good stuff. Go to X and and find his account. So, on a serious note, as we end this strategy, as you would head into the postseason here, what's your thoughts?

OC > Yeah, we got a lot of golf. I think one of the things I wasn't ready for, and you can't really be ready for, is just how much golf you play on this tour when it comes to, you know, a couple of pro-ams every week. In some weeks, you might have three of them, particularly if you get an invite like I have. So got a lot of golf. So, most of my stuff at the moment is just around energy conservation, just preparing quickly, efficiently and then getting back and resting. But, I mean, my games in a decent state. It's going to be fun.

OC > Looking forward to it to. A proud Aussie Texan.

OC > Here we go.

OC > All right.

OC > Yeah.

OC > Go get him, Greg.

OC > Thanks, man.

OC > Take care.

VO > And now a little segment we like to call Wild Kingdom with Boo weekly, a renowned outdoorsman who is somewhat of an alligator whisperer.

OC > Hello, over there calling the alligator and.

VO > Actually calling a gator. Why, that's a boo question.

OC > Oh, my God, it's definitely. Yeah. Yeah, I've got a bunch of alligators. I learned that a long time ago from my granddaddy, back where we live at in East Milton over there. And he told us how to call them because when we're walking through the swamp, they're in…break and all the other stuff out there, the Johnson grass and you got to call them because, you know, they have a bed out there and you make that noise. And if you see the weeds move in and you know there's an alligator there. So, that makes you go around that spot and then you just keep doing it to make sure that's where he was. And then you go around him and do it again, see if there's another one around. So, but yeah, my granddaddy taught me how to do that a long time ago.

OC > What is the call? Maybe you.

OC VO > It's just. I mean, I got a dip in right now. I can try to do it. And he'll come. You know, not all of them come, but majority of them come because all it does is make a little baby.

VO > And calling for victory. Rod Pamplin. Sometimes in golf, just being in the right place at the right time can make everything fall into place. For Pamplin, last year's SAS Championship was one of those times. He recorded his second PGA Tour Champions victory in Carey, North Carolina, and while his best finish this year is A23 at the principal charity classic, Pamplin is hoping to rekindle some of those winning vibes.

OC VO > I don't know why I've just been getting slow starts the year. I don't think I do anything different, but it's just the slow starts. Whereas the last six events has been solid. You know, worst case scenario, I think it's top 20. So, it's getting close again. So, whether it's the Bermuda I enjoy more. But that's you know. It's a good time to be playing well, I guess so. Well, any time is a good time to be playing well, but, Yeah, it's, I'm looking forward to the next, next couple of weeks.

VO And that's our time for this edition of PGA Tour Champions Learning Center. Bracing for playoff mode, and we will take you every step of the way. I’m Vince Cellini. Thanks for watching.