**2024 PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS LEARNING CENTER PLAYOFF PREVIEW SPECIAL**

VO > PGA Tour Champions Learning Center.

VO > On a tour played by legends. There is a finish line. Where sits the symbol of excellence and achievement. The Charles Schwab Cup trophy.

OC > Hello, everyone, and welcome to the 2024 Charles Schwab Cup playoffs preview. I'm Vince Cellini. The final piece is now in what has been an exciting and certainly unpredictable season. Three giant steps to the Arizona desert and the ultimate prize on this tour. So, let's break down what's on tap as we map out the road to the Charles Schwab Cup championship.

VO > The journey begins this week in Richmond and the Country Club of Virginia. The Dominion Energy Charity classic hosts the top 72 players in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, an important opening event that will see the field whittled down to 54 by the next tournament, a new event that hits the playoff chase as the Simmons Bank Championship debuts from Pleasant Valley Country Club in Little Rock, bringing change and energy to the postseason journey. As once again players are in survival mode for the final destination. The top 36 meet at the Charles Schwab Cup championship, again taking place in downtown Phoenix at historic Phoenix Country Club. There, a champion will emerge in the event and the overall season. A year ago, we had a playoff. In the opening event, it was Harrison Frazier using this stop in Virginia to earn his first PGA tour champion's victory. The University of Texas product making an eight-foot birdie on the first playoff hole to capture the event and change the trajectory of his career, as well as the tour's postseason.

OC > And we are seeded with the defending champion at the first playoff event, the Dominion Energy Charity classic. Harrison Frazier and I think a good place to start would be your health.

OC > Yeah.

OC > How are you doing? Let's backtrack a little bit and get us up to speed.

OC VO > Sure, sure. Obviously finished, last year, you know, in a very, very positive way and was very happy with my level of play at the beginning of the year, finished second in Hawaii. Felt like all the momentum was in the right direction and had Chubb halfway through it started feeling a little bit of pain in the shoulder. And within 24 hours this arm was totally numb. So, I had, and couldn't move it. And in a lot of pain, they found out that I had ruptured a disc in my neck and C 6 7 and, so we we went through the process, had a disc replacement, and about, eight weeks ago, the feeling came back in the arm and then the strength came back. So, the surgery worked. I'm disciplined enough to do the physical therapy, and I feel good enough that I want to be out here playing.

OC > So, let's go back. And I'm glad you are. It's great to see you back here again. Let's go back to the win. And it wasn't just winning again, but how you did it with the birdie at the last, at Dominion and then won in the playoff to edge Richard Green. What did what did that mean to you. That kind of just maybe reset. Is that a fair word?

OC VO > Yeah. Yeah, I think you know, as golfers, you you always think that you have it inside of you to, to pull it off at the end, right, to, to get that W we, we don't get a lot of opportunities to win. So, and most of the time it doesn't work. But when it does, it's very rewarding and very, you just see encouraging that that makes you realize that everything that you've done, you know, it is coming to fruition and and to keep going and it gives you enough hope and gives you enough encouragement to, to keep working.

OC > And I think to a certain extent, we're all Harrison Frazier. We're looking for a second act or a third act. And what is that like now for you to be right in the midst of this? Yeah. You know, be it, be a winner on PGA Tour Champions headed to the playoffs.

OC VO > Yeah. It's, well, like I like I said, you we we, you know, I thought my career was over eight, nine, ten years ago with back issues, hip issues, everything else and just life getting difficult and with kids and all that stuff. So, you set out on a plan. You have a, you know, you have a timeline, you think it's working, you know, you're on it. It's maybe it's a two-year plan, maybe it's four-year plan. And and to see it all work out and see it all come to pass was just very, very rewarding. And it's inspiring. I hope. You know, I hope that other people that are my age, you know, I hope that they realize it's not over, you know, don't stop, you know, try to find a way to keep going and keep fighting.

OC > So, what's next? Let's get to, to this postseason. Given the unpredictable way this entire season has unfolded, I would imagine you and talking to your peers, you've got to be thinking, you know, we're in kind of an anything could happen situation. Is that is that fair?

OC VO > Yeah, I think so. My attitude is really good. I feel like my game is in good shape. I feel like, expectations are not very high, but yet I'm very hopeful. Right. If that makes sense. And that's usually a pretty good recipe for, for good golf. But I don't know really what's going to happen. So, I find myself thinking, well, I find myself shrugging off little mistakes pretty well. I still get I get fascinated when I hit a really good shot, which that's a really good place to be.

OC > Well, congratulations.

OC > Thank you.

OC > And great to have you back.

OC > Thank you.

OC > And we're looking forward to the future for you. Harrison, thank you so much.

OC > Absolutely. I appreciate.

VO > Charles Schwab Cup standings the top eight remain the same. Winner Jerry Kelly moving up two spots into the mix. And SAS runner up Padraig Harrington rounds out the top ten as regular season play comes to an end.

VO > Coming up on the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs preview, a conversation with long time international star Thomas Bjorn, who shares what the journey on PGA Tour Champions means to him today and in the future. The Great Dane is next.

VO > Last season and step two of the playoffs, Padraig Harrington left no doubt at the TimberTech Championship in Boca Raton, Florida, a dominant victory. A final round that saw him card a seven under par, 64 16 under total and a winning margin of seven shots, the largest of the season this year won't be the same. Players now find themselves between a rock and a place in Phoenix.

OC VO > And now something entirely new in this playoff chase, the Simmons Bank Championship at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Little Rock, the first PGA Tour Champions event in the state of Arkansas, and the first PGA tour sanctioned tournament in that state since 2010. A fresh event and it's created quite a buzz. We spoke with several players and got their thoughts on what's ahead.

VO OC > I'm excited about being in little Rock. And I have a hunting place not far from little Rock of. I keep a boat on Greers Ferry Lake, which is not far.

VO OC > Pleasant Valley is just wonderful. Little Rock is as well, And I know everyone out here on the PGA Tour Champions, are going to really enjoy it.

VO OC > To have a tournament in a market that we don't play in that time of year at a really cool golf course is what I've been told. I haven't played Pleasant Valley, but I heard it's fantastic.

VO OC > Got a lot of good memories there. I won the high school overall in 1987 there, and the golf course is just amazing. I was there a couple months ago playing with some high school friends that I grew up with and just being back there and seeing all all my friends, everyone's so excited about it. You're going to see it when we get there. It's going to be great.

OC > I think it's going to be a win win. It's going to be great for us. You know, it's, a lot on the line. You know, the top 54 will be there, you know, trying to get in the top 36 and have a chance to win the Charles Schwab Cup.

OC VO > I think it's going to be a great turnout. I mean, I talked to Glen Day about it quite a bit, and he said the buzz in town is really nice and I think we're gonna have a great event.

VO OC > It's always really cool to go to places that that the PGA tour that we've never been to before in a market that's not a huge market, that's a smaller market that I think the, the fans will come out. I think a lot of people would be really excited about it. And to have Simmons Bank as our sponsor is just fabulous. So, I'm really looking forward to it. And I know all the guys are as well.

OC > You recognize this man, the Great Dane Thomas Bjorn of Denmark, who's been a long-time stalwart in Europe, European Ryder Cup captain winner and now on PGA Tour Champions putting together really, Thomas, a great, season for you. Tell me a little bit about your year. And you know how we've gotten here.

OC VO > To be honest, I was fortunate, you know, got a couple of invitations early on to play in Morocco and in Dallas and finished second and third, and it kind of snowballed from there. And a couple of good finishes here and there and kind of got my got myself in a position where I still got to stand up and and do the right things for the rest of the year but looks like I'm going to be enjoying a a full year here next year. And and I'm kind of looking forward to it.

OC > Yeah, we talked a little bit back in summer in Dallas about how this was a destination for you. Why did this become a destination?

OC > The last 4 or 5 years? You know, playing main tour golf and being around the youngsters, you know, eventually catches up with you and it's still fun to go back and make.

OC > They say you get older. Is that what they say?

OC > Well, I got older, that's for sure. But I still fun to go back and play one week.

OC > Sure.

OC VO > Here and there but I'm playing with them every week is tough. You know, it's it's it's a different kind of golf. It puts a lot of strain on you and and your, your mind stopped playing tricks on you. You just start believing you're not the golfer you were and and can't shoot the numbers and results. You come out here and you started playing with guys, and they're standing next to you in the fairway. That's a little bit more fun than them being 70 yards forward down there somewhere. And so, you start and then you start seeing golf again the way you recognize it and play it. And you know being around guys that I played with all my life and I'm more relaxed version of everyone that that you see your, your whole life is it's nice. You know, I enjoy this tour. I enjoy everything I'm around the tour, not just, you know, being amongst the players, but the, you know, the staff and everybody that, you know, it's it's a very family vibe to it. You got to go probably back to the 90s to find that kind of way of being on the main tour is, you know, that it's it's tight. And people, people here understand the need together to grow, to grow the product and grow what, what they have. And so that's, that's nice to be part of.

OC > There's nothing like, performance because performance never lies. And your performance allowed you to move on through the season. But have there been difficult moments where you're just you're trying to get it into events? Still, how much of a challenge was that during the year?

OC > I just think, for one thing is that you you don't know if you're in. And obviously when you in my career, I'd never been in that situation, you know, I don't know.

OC > As a world class.

OC VO > Well, the week before, I don't know if I'm playing, if I'm not playing and, and kind of that mindset to place a little bit on, you know, on you. But I just as I said all along, I, I'm just grateful for the opportunities I've been given. And, and people have been very good to me. And, and I've had a lot of support from Miller and, and his team, from the Champions Tour. And you know that that helps a lot that you feel like you're welcome. You feel like that you can be a part of it, even though that it's, you know, it's, just taking little steps and trying to get get somewhere where you want to be. And, but having that kind of feel that. Yeah, I am been a part of it this year and that allowed me to be a part of it has been has been very nice and supportive.

OC > Right. Well, these have been your peers. You've competed against them for years. And, and while the years sort of soften the edges a little bit, it it's still ultra-competitive. And we are not to let me try to explain to folks like out there in a sprint.

OC VO > Well, I think I think first of all, I don't think it ever leaves you being competitive. I think that is something that you will carry all your life. And and that's what makes them, makes them the players that they were and the players that they are. But I also think that everybody out here knows that it's coming to an end and and the end is there in front of them somewhere, so they want to get the last bits out of it. So, they get very competitive with that on the golf course. But I just think it doesn't carry with you as much as it did used to. You know, you you come off the golf course and you kind of leave it there, where, you know, when you played on main tour golf, you probably took it with you a bit more. And and the seriousness of getting down into the detail of why you weren't playing well, I think you leave that a little bit more now, you know. The technical side and, the mental side of it, you kind of have what you have now, and you you try and play with that. And yeah, you can do some small adjustments. But when you play 30, 20 and 30 years ago, you made bigger adjustments and, and then you put a bigger demand on your body and your skill set. Today, you just kind of stay with it. And I know if I'm in in this little frame, well then, I can actually play okay. And then it comes down to if I have a good putting week or not.

OC > Well, how excited are you for postseason this year and where and where do you see yourself in this? What's your strategy.

OC VO > I'm I'm very much playing like I play; you know, these till the end. And you know my play 1 or 2 tournaments in Europe just to get myself ready for the next season. But I, I go pretty much from finishing the season and into to getting ready for the next one. I, I, I can't make got my my tail up at the moment and I'm just want to carry it through and, and I also feel like I've played a lot of golf, I've played a lot more, been competitive a lot more. So, I feel like I'm starting to play better in that, in that frame that I, I feel like I'm, I'm dealing with those situations better and I don't want to kind of lose that over taking a big break.

OC > So the timing is right for you right now with all this?

OC > Yes. I just keep going and and keep it going all the winter and try and and play a couple of events and get myself. So, I'm ready to play when the, when the new season starts.

OC > Yeah. And this should be a great springboard I think into 25 as well.

OC > Absolutely. I mean I this is I can't tell you how grateful I am for the opportunity. It really has been you know; it's been pretty special and I'm I'm just like I'm just happy about, you know. Yeah. I mean, you don't really ever think that you're in that situation because that's not where I've been for 30 years. But just walk around and just smiling and looking forward to going to golf tournaments and being happy about playing. And so yeah, I just I really enjoyed my time this year and I'm looking forward to what's ahead.

OC > It's been so much fun to see you after all these years in this framework as well. So, thank you.

OC > Thank you.

OC > Best of luck.

OC > Thank you.

OC > Thank you.

VO > Still to come on the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs preview a career retrospective with Stewart Cink. Photographs and memories and perhaps a new chapter to be written as well. So, stay with us.

VO > Stewart Cink is one of those players seemingly unaffected by age. His body the same, his game still elite. So, capturing his first win on PGA Tour Champions was inevitable. And it happened. In his 10th start on this tour, Cink ran away with The Ally Challenge, a 54-hole total of 17 under tied the tournament record, dazzling the crowd in Grand Blanc, Michigan. The eight-time PGA tour winner and major champion recently invited us into his home outside of Atlanta, where he recalled some of the highlights of a career still being written.

OC > A lot of the stuff just brings back such good memories, you know, presidents come here from 05. Nicklaus was our captain, and it's so awesome to be a part of these teams and some of the memorabilia. I'm not that big on the memorabilia side of things. But to have these memories and, you know, some of the guys, I see these guys all the time, you know, and some of them I never see anymore.

VO OC > My son Reagan caddy for me. And we took out two wins there. Up there in the front of the hallway. And a lot of the team events, some of the more unusual items, like the shoes that Nike used to make us a long time ago. So, you do get a lot of items like this over the years if you played, for instance, in the Presidents Cup or the Ryder Cup, but these just make the best wall pieces and, you know, you get to see the faces and the, the courses and both both teams are, represented on some of these things. So, it's just cool to think that you were able to be part of this stuff and how much of it for, for so many years. Special part of a career. There's no question about that. At Turnberry strangely, I wasn't all that nervous. I think I was in a really contented place, like off the golf course I'd spent the week before in Ireland with my kids and my wife, and just playing golf and having fun. We played 36 a day and just having a blast. It was the first time my kids ever played links, and I played really well the first day, and I was up in contention pretty much the whole tournament. And but Tom Watson, been involved I think, served as a good distraction for me because, normally I get pretty nervous out there like most guys do. And that week I was focused on what Tom Watson was doing. So, while I would hit my shots and I'd kind of look at the board and like a golf fan, like, wow, this is amazing with Tom Watson, he's playing great. He's 59 years old and he may win this. Pour that baby right in the middle of the hole for birdie didn’t mean I was going to win. But you know a birdie on the 72nd hole a major doesn't really ever hurt. I after the tournament was over and I was the winner I was I was proud to battle against Watson. I think I felt a little bit validated and to have a win and to join that elite group of major champions felt really good. And, you know, it's something they can't ever take away. This pickleball, you know, sweeping the nation. And last year at the Ryder Cup, this is one of two pickleball paddles that, we received as a team gift from PGA signed by the players and captains, which is cool. This one probably won't ever see any, dinking or smashing or serving, but the other one we got. Ted Scott, who caddies for Scottie Scheffler has a company that he got us all paddle too. So that one I do use for smashing and drinking and serving. But this bracket will never paddle. Will probably never see, a wiffle ball.

VO > Much more ahead on the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs preview. Former world number one and major champion David Duvall with a very candid interview on making the jump to this tour and his goals moving forward. How golf is a humbling game, even for the best.

VO > PGA Tour Champions is a wonderful second act for players, and so it was for Steven Alker, who captured the 2023 Charles Schwab Cup championship in Phoenix. The New Zealand native has been a steady hand on this tour and was again in last year's finale. Alker held off the likes of Ernie Els and Stephen Ames to win and finished second in the overall race behind only Steve Stricker and his magnificent six-win season.

VO > Once again, the playoff format is a series of eliminations for players. The top 70 to begin the quest at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic in Virginia. Following that, a field of 54 players will compete in event number two, the new Simmons Bank Championship in Little Rock, Arkansas, where a spot in the finale is on the line. 36 players qualify for the Charles Schwab Cup championship in Phoenix, Arizona, and there a season long champion will be crowned. The Pressure's on even for the most battle tested of players.

OC > Well, David Duvall is in his third season of PGA Tour Champions, and this has been his best for sure. So, what what is the process really been like for you to return to competitive golf? And it has been a process.

OC VO > It has been. Yeah. Honestly, more than I expected. I think because I did the television side of and obviously, I continue to do it for ESPN for the PGA Championship, each year. But I did that for 7 or 8 years. I kind of thought.

OC > You are really good at it.

OC VO > Thank you. Thank you. I kind of thought summer to the end of the first year, I would kind of get back into the rhythm of competitive golf. It wasn't until the summer, towards the end of the last year, that kind of really started to feel a little more comfortable and kind of kind of remember, if you will, what it takes to play tournament golf because it's different than, you know, country club golf and recreational golf. Decent events towards the end of last season played well when I had to in North Carolina for the last event to get into the to the playoffs and so. And this year I've tried to build on it started a lot slower than I expected. I came out kind of expecting a lot. It's actually funny, I thought, you know, just get out to Hawaii. Just, you know, kick their teeth in the ground and standing on the 5th 6th tee 5 over like what just happened. But you know, so it's taken a little bit of a little bit of time. But I'm getting I'm getting a little more comfortable out in the world because I'm perfectly comfortable. But I don't I just kind of remembering I guess is the way to put it.

OC > It's interesting. Obviously, you had a magnificent career and former number one and a major champion, and I guess my question was, and you sort of answered it, do you have to sort of humble yourself to come back or does the game do that for you?

OC VO > You don't I mean you you do have to humble yourself. Sure. But the game humbles everybody at some point, every player. And I think I think as much as anything, you just got to appreciate how incredibly hard and difficult it is, you know, and it's, you know, there's it's like I say, you know, there's there's not a single shot in this game I can't hit. Not all of them are good. You know? Yeah, we can we can do it too. And so just to kind of get into the rhythm of, of playing the routine of it every day, week after week, it's, it's just kind of. And we've been doing a long time obviously, but but, it took longer than I expected.

OC > In some ways. Is this sort of not that you need to do this, but finishing your story or the way you want your story to be written golf wise, being out here on PGA Tour Champions.

OC VO > You know, more than anything, it's just, walking the fairways and hitting golf shots. How you intend to hit them? Yeah. I, I always said that one of the greatest joys I got was controlling the golf ball. Yeah, and having it do what I wanted to do. And that didn't always translate into winning golf tournaments, but it translating into at least trying to claim some type of mastery of your profession.

OC > At the Principal Charity, at the Ally. So, you're kind of in in the mix in some of these. What's what's it like when you're kind of back in the mix again in tournament play?

OC VO > The, the most difficult thing for me has been getting back into that position. I'm comfortable and I get there. The hard part, the hardest part on here because most, most weeks, not all of them, the hardest part for me, has been the weeks that haven't gone as well as I would like. And when you're teeing off in the last few groups off the wrong side, yeah, it's kind of hard to get to figure it out and get fired up about it.

OC > Right? Right. So now we're approaching a postseason this this year under your belt. Give me some ideas about, you know, down the stretch here. What are some of your goals as we finish up.

OC > Obviously, I'm inside the second one at the moment as we sit here and speak today, it's interesting to look at how the the points list spreads out because like, well inside the 72, I guess it is. Kind of, inside the 54, in the 54 to 72 is a pretty big spread. But then from the 54 to the 36 is another pretty big spread. So, I'm well aware that it's going to require, some good play, some of the better events I've had.

OC > Yeah. But I mean, at this point, where's your form? I mean, you feel like, you know.

OC >It's good. Yeah, I feel good about what I'm doing.

OC > So, it you get some things to go your way this could be fun?

OC VO > Yeah, yeah. Yeah, exactly. It's as much as anything. You know, I do still contend that, professional golf is is about as a hitting contest. It's not a fighting contest. With that being said, you have to putt well, we all know that. But you don't. If you're hitting it good, you don't have to hit it, putt great because you're going to have a lot of looks, a lot of opportunities. But it's a matter like the first round up it up at Ally. You know, I hit the hole ten times in the first round and didn't go in. Second day was something similar to the third day. They when they win it. And so, it's just a matter of being present enough and patient enough to kind of continue to give yourself those opportunities.

VO OC > And again, there's always TV, which is, you know, you've joined the dark side. And what was that like to become a media member?

OC VO > You know, the dark ones. You know, you know what? It is fun. And it is fun to be a part of it. It's fun to sit with Scott Van Pelt and the ESPN crew. With Mike, leading the charge. Mike McQuaid. Because, you know, over the years, it kept me involved, kept me in the game, kept me paying attention to what was happening.

OC > Did you learn? Did you learn something about. Like with that observation point, did that help?

OC > Learn about the game? About?

OC > Sometimes when coaches go in the booth, they're like, well, I see the game. Like, I don't really haven't seen it from here. You know, you sit back and kind of take a look at the bigger picture.

OC > As much as anything if I learn something is that like from you go back. I guess at this point, you know, 25 to 30 years when I was kind of coming out in through my prime when I wasn't injured, the game was although I had a power game like so many, it's gone well beyond that at this point. And they play and they think a different way. And I think a lot of that has come from the availability of the statistics that are that are at hand. We obviously had a lot of statistics back in the 90s, early 2000, but it's just it's what is it, a 10th or 20th of what they have now. And I think that's why has changed, the approach of how these young players play.

OC > I'm glad you're out here, David.

OC > Thank you very much.

OC > Anyways. Keep playing well.

OC > Thank you.

OC > Great talking ot you.

OC > Thanks a lot.

VO > When the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs preview continues, the one and only Boo Weekly, having the time of his life in his first full season on this tour. Boo shares with us his team of mental coaches. And like the man himself, it's a bit unusual.

OC > That's where I chill out and I just have my, you know, 12 psychiatrists.

OC VO > Been an adventurous year. Anyway, you know, we've done rented a U-Haul and. Then lost my luggage a couple other places and, well, you know, another week of losing luggage. So, the turnaround. La la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la. So, I went to Walmart today and bought me some Ben Hogan clothes. The way I feel right now, maybe the the leapfrog from. I do the leapfrog. I learned that a long time ago from my granddaddy.

OC > Always fun to spend time with three-time PGA tour winner Boo weekly, his first full season on PGA Tour Champions, and boo, that has been like, what for you this full season?

OC VO > It's been an awesome run so far, you know? And like I said earlier in the year, you know, I didn't know the golf courses. And now I'm like from Washington on, I kind of knew the golf courses and it kind of shows how I play. You know, I've gotten a little bit better at what I'm doing. I'm getting more comfortable out here and it's fun. It's just hard, you know, trying to travel again. What I think is one of the hardest thing in learning new golf courses is again. And but overall, it's been a fun ride.

OC > Yeah, logistics is one thing, but how about you. You know, physically, what have you had to do to your game in order for you to be where you are right now?

OC > Well, after I had my hip surgery, my last surgery, and I've lost a lot of distance and I'm just trying to, you know, keep it healthy enough to where I know I can turn and burn on it, you know, and get my swing to go through. And I still struggle a little bit with it because I lost a little power. And I don't hit it as far off the tee and my irons is not as far and still trying. Like I said, it's just little things you got to kind of put together.

OC > Is there one moment or maybe one event where you felt like, you know, I'm comfortable. I've settled in here pretty much.

OC > No I don't know, I don't know anybody can say that and play this game because, you know, this game right here is the hardest game you can play in life.

OC > No, there's no question about that. And you know, I love to sit down with you because the media kind of, you know, with their portrayal of you is, you know, you're a fun guy. You know, they know you like to laugh and have a good time. And it's almost like, I don't want to say a caricature, but you're a serious player. Does that ever bother you? You know, just kind of the perception of Boo Weekly? What, because you're a serious guy. You're out here doing work.

OC VO > Yeah. I'm serious, I mean, and I'm really serious when I'm playing golf. Yes. But at the same time, you know, I still it's like this years lightened up a lot more. I feel like I've gotten a lot easier of what I'm wanting to do, where I'm wanting to go with it because I'm actually getting to play, you know, and but I'm still having to play in all the pro-ams and all the stuff, you know, where my tired at the end of the week, you know, I'm wore out because I've played five days in a row, you know, or, you know, and it's just been kind of a grind on that end. But overall, yes, I, I enjoy I love the laugh. I that's, that's me though. I love the laugh and have fun at what we're doing. And you know, because it is a game at the end of the day it's all it is.

OC > No question about it. So post major season, a couple of top tens for you. Are you feel like you're in good form as we as we head to the playoffs?

OC VO > We're getting close. We're still trying to I'm still trying to find some irons. Like I said, my swing is not 100%, just trying to find a little swing thing a little bit. It just gets me to where I'm hitting it more solid, just like I'm right now. I'm still missing it just a little bit on the toe, which is rare from my past.

OC > Right.

OC VO > But to now, it's just I'm just still missing just a little bit, you know? And I work with Scott Hamilton and Cartersville, Georgia. And you know, I ain't been able to do as much with him this year because of, you know, we play three weeks, and we're home a week. And it's like, I don't have enough time and that one week to be able to get up there to him. But overall, yeah, I feel like I'm getting closer to where I want to go.

OC > Where would you place yourself in this kind of postseason? Would you consider yourself a dark horse? You mean at this point, like any because it's been like an anything could happen season on the tour?

OC > Yeah. Well, the way I look at it, he's you can't never count out of redneck, and you don't ever know what he's going to bring to the table. You know, you don't know what you look at...You know, you don't know if he's going to bring a possum or a steak, an alligator, a rattlesnake. You don't ever know what you're going to get from a redneck. You know what I mean?

OC > Well, yeah, I mean, it's certainly, certainly a theory.

OC > Oh, yeah.

OC > I didn't go down that one. Well, what's most exciting about, this stretch driving, getting into the playoffs?

OC > Actually playing and competing. I love to compete. No matter. No matter if I win, lose or draw. I love the grind. I love to be able to compete against the players that I get to play against, you know? And it's the guys I got to play against on the PGA tour known as times that I beat them, and there's times that they beat me, you know, and to me, the whole total grind of it, you think when you sit back at the end of the year when I go deer hunting and I go climb up my stand and I'm just sitting there, might not even have a gun with me, might not have my bow with me. I might just be climbing in stand and just sit there.

OC > What do you do if you just sit there?

OC > Just think about what all happened in the past this year. And I kind of break it all down mentally. You know, I sometimes I used to write it down. Now I don't I don't mean that I can't remember if I wrote things down now remember what I'm doing. But it is still the same time. You just kind of break it all down and just say, okay, this is what I need to get better at, or this is what I need to do, you know, and not just in life, but in personal life and, you know, golf and everything. Know there is always there's always something that you can do to be better, to help somebody or just whatever.

OC > You know, this is a whole new theory that I've never heard before, but I understand what you're talking about. You're talking about being meditative. You're talking about being present in the moment, all these things that you're doing. Maybe this is your redneck version of like the, the, the higher end theoretical versions of getting yourself prepared.

OC > Oh, yeah. It used to be I'd go buy me a…

OC > You're visualizing all those things

OC > I, I'd get me a 12 pack of my psychiatrist is. You know what I'm saying? Natural light or Busch light. You know what I mean? I go home and that's where I chill out, and I just have my, you know, 12 psychiatrist.

OC > Yeah, well, it's nice to have a team behind you.

OC > Yes, they are my team.

OC > Yeah. They're working for you. Boo. Always a pleasure.

OC > Yes, sir. Enjoyed.

OC > Glad to you out here. All right.

OC > Yes sir.

OC > Well talk to you down the line.

OC > Yes, sir. Buddy.

VO > Straight ahead. The wide-open season race moves into postseason, where clearly anything can happen and just about anyone can win. We'll go through some of the favorites and a dark horse or two when the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs preview returns.

VO > Stricker won the Charles Schwab Cup in 2023, but announced in September after winning the Sanford International, that he would be shutting it down for the season due to an injury in his lower back. It has been an emotional year given the loss of his father, Bob, and with family long a priority for Steve. The tour will certainly miss this amazing performer.

VO > 18 wins on PGA Tour Champions in 75 starts. Steve finished in the top 10 in 10 of his 12 starts in 2024 winning the Sanford International for a third straight year and fourth overall. Stricker has at least one victory in six consecutive seasons and seven career major championships on this tour. Tied for fourth all time.

VO > Some final thoughts ahead on the Charles Schwab Cup playoffs preview. The entertaining Peter Jacobsen joins us to reveal his biggest takeaway from the 2024 season. And it's not all about golf.

OC > Happy birthday to you.

VO > Ames survives, finishes with a birdie.

VO > Did he hit it? Did he hit it? Did he hit it? Yes sir, Steven Alker. Wow. How do you like this place, Steven?

VO > Go in. Come on, come on.

VO > Ernie Els has won.

VO > Ernie Els has won his first major on the PGA Tour Champions.

OC > It is always a pleasure to spend time with Peter Jacobsen, one of the voices of our tour. A seven-time winner on the PGA TOUR, twice on PGA Tour Champions and what an exciting season that you have been a part of. So how would you what are your impressions of this season? What's your takeaway as we head to the playoffs?

OC VO > Well, there's so many ways I could go, but I think the place I have to start is with the amazing comeback of Bernhard Langer. What's happened with Bernie coming off that Achilles tear. Nobody thought. I didn't think we'd see him all year. And all of a sudden, he goes down to Naples. He works with a fabulous medical group down there called Arthrex, and the next thing you know, we see him playing, not just playing, competing, and having a chance to win. So, I would say that the most the most incredible aspect of this season on the PGA Tour Champions is Langer's comeback.

OC > It's interesting you mentioned that because, you know, years ago somebody in their 60s, it seemed like it was really farfetched that they were going to win even on this tour. But look at us now with with Bernie Ames, Couples, Jimenez. Why have we extended that window of winning for players?

OC VO > I don't know if I can lay it all at Tiger. Tiger woods feet. But he had a definite impact on play on the PGA tour and the Champions Tour, not only with his game, but with his preparation and his fitness. I think he showed players that you can you can extend your tour, your career on the tour and playing golf by focusing on your health. That's the one thing we've seen, whether it's as you mentioned, Ames and Alker and and Langer and other players that are in contention. They're stronger, they're fitter. They back in the day I can tell stories of players that used to finish their round and hit the towel and have serious fun. Now the players avoid that, and they go to the range, and they do some serious work. So, I think back in the day when you join the Champions Tour, the the length you had was maybe 50 years old, maybe 56, 58.

OC > Right

OC > Now it goes all the way. What is Langer now 66?

OC > 67 Yeah. He's phenomenal.

OC > It's incredible. We're seeing a lot of players, VJs, another player, right, who is in contention. I think he made the cut at the Masters this year and he's an Iron man, so it's fun to see a lot of the guys that, that have been able to extend their career by focusing not just on their golf, but on their bodies.

OC > I want to throw out some names as we head to the playoffs, and I want to get your thoughts on these individuals in the race. So, first of all, to our leader, Ernie Els?

OC VO > Ernie is timeless. The one thing I think he's actually gotten better is he's gotten older. We know him as a as a multiple major champion winner. But as he plays out here, it seems like he's on the first page of the leaderboard every week. And I think he's become more relaxed. And I think actually that he's playing some of his best golf. Without a doubt, the most improved part of his game is his putting.

OC > Okay, how about Stephen Ames?

OC VO > Stephen Ames. Again, another player who didn't win as much on the PGA TOUR

? He was sporadic in his victories, but I think something, something is really changed in Stephen to where he's found himself. He's found his comfort level. He's again like Ernie, he's putting better, but I think he's approaching the game a little bit more positively. He's, you know, in the game of golf we don't win that much. You lose a lot more than you win. So, you can get stuck on in the negative aspect of it. And I think from what I know of Stephen, every time I see him, he's got a big smile on his face and a positive outlook.

OC > I'll throw out a wild card here. Richard Green was knocked on the door all year.

OC VO > Richard Green. I've been saying on the telecast all year this is the next winner on the PGA Tour Championship circuit. He is there every week. He's long, he's accurate, he's an excellent putter. And he's one of those guys I think that's destined to win a bunch of tournaments out here.

OC > How about a dark horse from you to somebody that kind of keep an eye on? Anyone?

OC VO > Oh my gosh. Well Justin Leonard another one other major champion winner, who has yet to breakthrough a win out here. I've been saying also on the telecast, those two, Richard Green and Justin Leonard, those are the two guys that I predicted would win in 24. And as we head to the playoffs, don't count them out.

OC > All right, so if we were to wrap this up here with just to do a promo or two, describe as someone why they should be watching these playoffs, these PGA Tour Champions playoffs. What what would you say to them?

OC VO > The one thing I love about the PGA Tour Champions is you pretty much know every name coming down the fairway. If you're sitting on in the bleachers on any hole, when you look down at your pairing sheet, you know all these players that are coming, they've got a pedigree on the PGA tour, they've got champions, and some of them have major champions. Some of them are in the Hall of Fame. So, what's great is the familiarity of the players on the PGA Tour Champions and the integrity. Just about every one of these players has a foundation. They've used their platform to give back in a significant way in their community because, let's be honest, the PGA Tour Champions Tour is all about the communities where we play and the charities we support, and nobody embraces that aspect more than the PGA Tour Champions players.

OC > Well said, and we're fortunate to have you as a voice and a presence to Peter.

OC > Thank you.

OC > Always good to see you.

OC > Good to see you.

VO > And with that we move into postseason play, higher stakes, greater reward and eventually crowning a Charles Schwab Cup champion. I'm Vince Cellini as always. Thank you for watching.