



Welcome to the Fall/Winter issue of digital *Golf Range Magazine*!

Inside this issue, you will find the following features:

- How Cool Is This? Bill Murray and Justin Timberlake practice their “Happy Gilmore” tee shots.
- Next on the Lesson Tee: Olympic Rings to Golf Swings – Michael Phelps swam his way to Olympic greatness; does he have a chance of grooving a gold medal golf swing with help from 1993 PGA Teacher of the Year Hank Haney?
- Practice Tips from the Pros: Rory McIlroy – Rory Says – There’s Always Room For Improvement.
- Range Routines: Practice Like You Play – Simulating holes on the course can help you get more out of your range time and have fun at the same time.
- Tips For Women by Women: Don’t Hesitate to Compete – Practicing on the range is important, but learning to compete can help you improve on the course.
- Clubfitting: Do Your Wedges Fit Your Game? Working with a trained club-fitter can give you the short game tools you need to shoot better scores.

Keep it fun and thanks for supporting the GRAA.

Best Regards,

Rick Summers  
CEO & Publisher, GRAA  
610-745-0862  
rsummers@golfrange.org  
*Golf Ranges: Where the Fun Starts*



TEACHING ■ PRACTICE  
FUN ■ EQUIPMENT

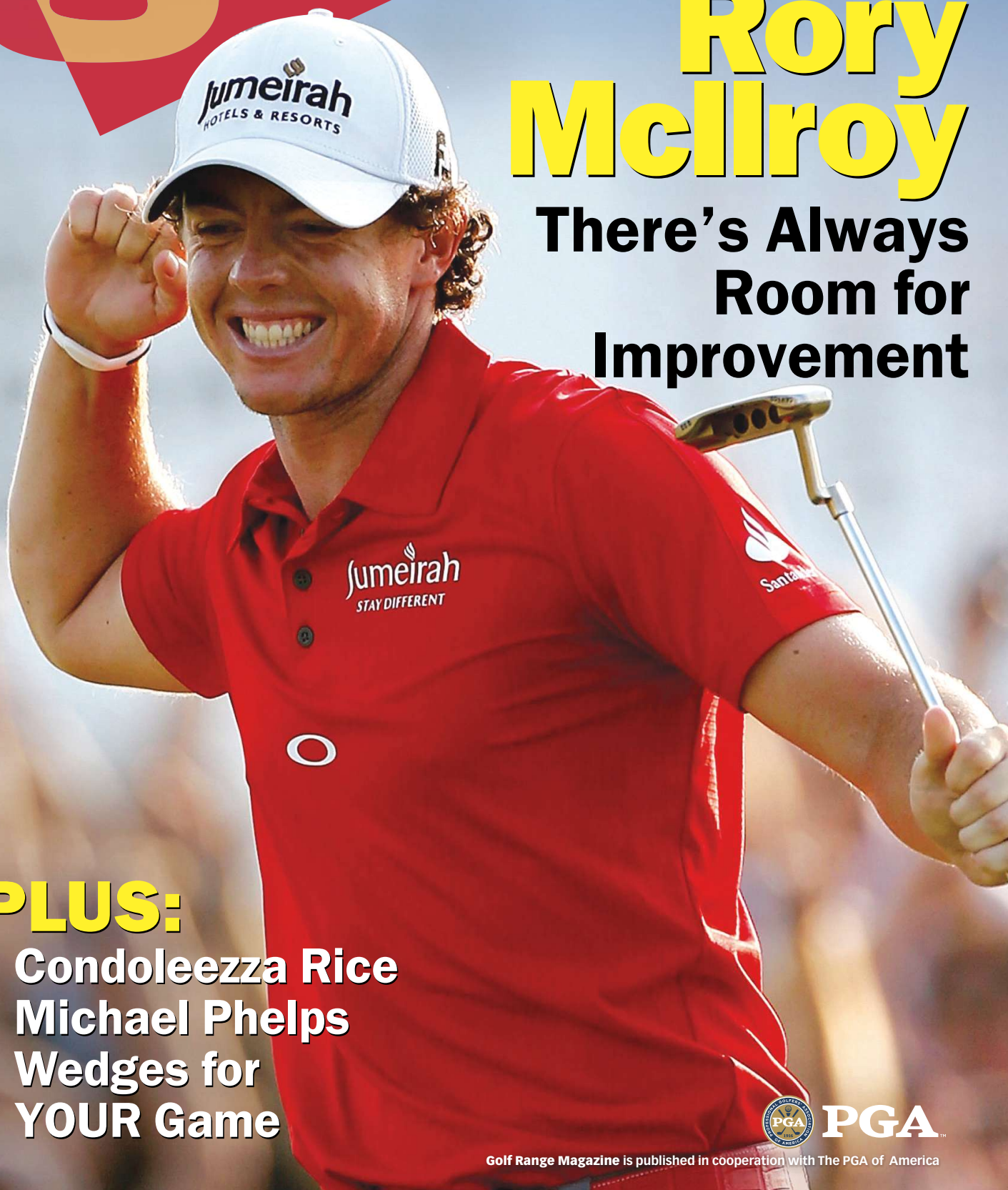
VOL. 20, NO. 10

FALL/WINTER 2012

IN THIS ISSUE:  
Fitness For You  
Women's Tips  
Range Routines

# Rory McIlroy

There's Always  
Room for  
Improvement



## PLUS:

- Condoleezza Rice
- Michael Phelps
- Wedges for  
YOUR Game



PGA

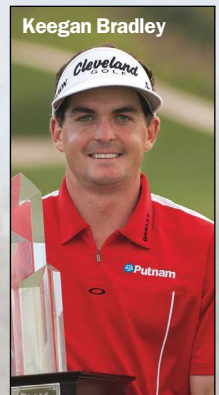
Golf Range Magazine is published in cooperation with The PGA of America

# Opening R O U N D



# A Range With a View

**P**ort Royal Golf Course has the busiest and most scenic range on the island of Bermuda. But from Oct. 22-24, it will be open to only four players – Bubba Watson, Webb Simpson, Ernie Els and Keegan Bradley – as they compete in the PGA Grand Slam of Golf. For more on Port Royal's range, see page 52.



# Opening ROUND



# Drawing A Crowd

**T**he excitement and pressure of the Ryder Cup doesn't start at the first tee – it starts on the range. At Medinah Country Club, thousands of spectators flocked to the range throughout the week to watch players from the U.S. and European teams practice.



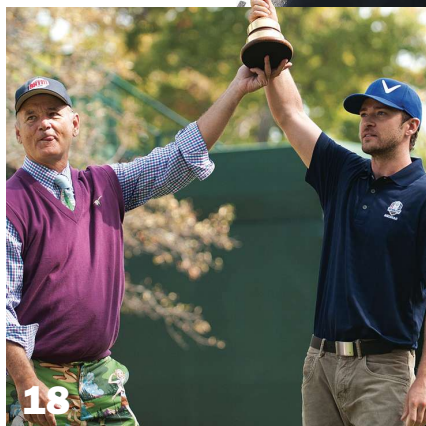


TEACHING ■ PRACTICE  
FUN ■ EQUIPMENT



28

Vol. 20, No. 10  
Fall/Winter 2012



18





38





54

## F E A T U R E S

- 18 How Cool Is This?**   
Bill Murray and Justin Timberlake practice their “Happy Gilmore” tee shots  
**BY DON JOZWIAK**
- 20 Next on the Lesson Tee: Olympic Rings to Golf Swings**  
Michael Phelps swam his way to Olympic greatness; does he have a chance of grooving a gold medal golf swing with help from 1993 PGA Teacher of the Year Hank Haney?
- 28 Practice Tips from the Pros: Rory McIlroy**  
Rory Says – There’s Always Room For Improvement  
**BY DON JOZWIAK**
- 32 Range Routines: Practice Like You Play**   
Simulating holes on the course can help you get more out of your range time and have fun at the same time  
**BY STEVE WHIDDEN, PGA**
- 38 Tips For Women by Women: Don’t Hesitate to Compete**  
Practicing on the range is important, but learning to compete can help you improve on the course  
**BY SUSAN CROWLEY, LPGA**
- 44 Clubfitting: Do Your Wedges Fit Your Game?**  
Working with a trained clubfitter can give you the short game tools you need to shoot better scores  
**BY SCOTT KRAMER**

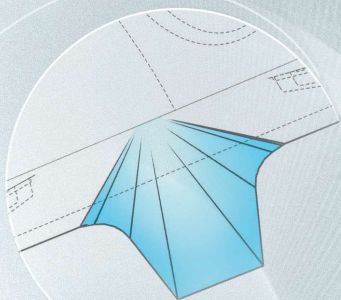
## D E P A R T M E N T S

- 8 From the CEO**
- 10 Warming Up**   
Condoleezza Rice is next on the tee; Lorena Ochoa Foundation reaches out to new golfers; NBA’s Mike Conley compares the course to the court; new Guinness World Record set; plus much more  
**BY TONY L. STARKS, DON JOZWIAK**
- 34 Wish List**  
Everything you need to know about today’s most sought after golf equipment but were afraid to ask
- 40 Junior Golf**  
Three PGA Junior League Golf coaches share insights on how to encourage juniors to work on their game  
**BY TONY L. STARKS**
- 48 Fitness For You**   
If you’re in a rush before hitting the range or playing a round, follow this plan for a quick warm-up that will help prevent injuries **BY KEVIN WEEKS, PGA**
- 52 Behind the Scenes**  
When the elite four-man field warms up at the PGA Grand Slam of Golf, they get Port Royal’s range to themselves — and a panoramic look at the Atlantic Ocean
- 54 Final Shot**  
PGA Center for Golf Learning and Performance at PGA Village in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

# WHEN IT COMES TO GROOVES, EVERY TEN-THOUSANDTH OF AN INCH COUNTS.

The decision to start milling the Gorge™ Groove on our new Tour wedges in-house was easy. It was the only way our engineers and machinists could ensure the precision you need for higher spinning, more consistent wedge shots. Then we added three sole designs to help match your swing and playing conditions. For more spin and control in your wedge game, find Tour wedges at your golf shop or [ping.com](http://ping.com).

**PING®**  
PLAY YOUR BEST™



## **GORGE GROOVE TECHNOLOGY**

Milled to perfection by PING® machinists in Phoenix, Arizona.

## **FIT FOR YOUR GAME**

Three sole widths (WS, SS, TS) in multiple lofts fit your swing and playing conditions.



# are you an industry insider?



INDUSTRY  
INSIDER

www.pgamagazineinsider.com/intro  
215-914-2071

## Letter from the **CEO** & PUBLISHER

### Get Ready for Fun With the Fall/Winter Issue of *GR: Golf Range Magazine*

**G**olf continues to evolve, and I'm excited to see the game continue to focus on becoming more fun for more people. I think we're seeing this great game turn the corner from serious and severe to exciting and engaging. From the world's best players to average golfers like you and me, I see the game getting an infusion of fun at every level.

Start by looking at today's biggest stars on the professional tours, players such as Rory McIlroy and Bubba Watson – who play with swagger and smiles. There are great young women's players from around the world making their mark, including China's first major champion, Shanshan Feng, and phenoms such as Lexi Thompson and Lydia Ko. Even the seniors are having fun out there, with Fred Couples winning majors with his trademark brand of casual cool.

Even the game's most traditional voices are finding new ways to make the game enjoyable and accessible. Industry-wide initiatives such as *TEE IT FORWARD* help make the game more fun for many of us by helping us play from more realistic distances, while the great Jack Nicklaus is thinking outside the box by installing extra-large cups on the greens at Muirfield Village for one or two of his home club's events. We've even seen Augusta National Golf Club induct its first female members, including Condoleezza Rice – you'll see more about her love of golf on page 14 of this issue.

Of course, we think of golf ranges as the place “where the fun starts,” and I see plenty of happy faces out there at the practice facilities I visit. I think we all see that golf ranges are the places where we can enjoy the game when we don't have time for a full round. For the millions of new golfers entering the game – or former players returning to it – the range is the ideal place to learn the basics and hone your skills before venturing out onto the fairways and greens. And, of course, golf ranges are the place where the entire family can enjoy golf together, regardless of age or skill level.

We invite you to read this digital Fall/Winter Issue of *GR: Golf Range Magazine* for ways to enjoy the game while increasing the fun factor. We've teed up stories on how celebrities such as Michael Phelps and George Lopez spend their time on the range, tips from expert instructors on how to improve your swing and your fitness, and much more.

I hope this issue makes you want to grab your clubs and head to your favorite range for some fun of your own!

Rick Summers  
CEO & Publisher, GRAA  
610-745-0862 or [rsummers@golfrange.org](mailto:rsummers@golfrange.org)  
*Golf Ranges: Where the Fun Starts*

#### GRAA Advisory Board:

David Beltre, Chelsea Piers; Mark Caster, PGA, Top Golf; Darrell Crall, PGA of America; Patrick Eggeling, PGA, Old Oaks Country Club; Bruce Fleming, Makefield Highlands Golf Club; Bruce Gerlander, PGA; Lou Guzzi, PGA, Lou Guzzi Golf Academy; Katherine Jemsek, Jemsek Golf; Mike Malaska, PGA, Superstition Mountain Golf & Country Club; Tony Martinez, PGA, Keeton Park Golf Course; Greg Mason, PGA, Legend Trail Golf Club; Del Ratcliffe, PGA, Sunset Hills Golf Course; Susan Roll, PGA, Carlsbad Golf Center; Mike Woods, PGA, Haggin Oaks Golf Complex.

#### Golf Range Association of America:

2600 Philmont Avenue, Suite 325, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006;  
Phone: (215) 914-2071, Fax: (215) 914-2076

**CEO & Publisher:** Richard K. Summers; **COO & Art Director:** Peter J. Sansone;  
**Vice President Sales:** Brian Folino; **Editorial Director:** Matt Marsom; **General Manager,**  
**Operations:** Patrick Cherry; **Senior Editor:** Don Jozwiak; **Editorial Assistant:** Tony L.  
Starks; **Production/Pre-Press:** Frederick Yantz; **Design:** Jim Gerhard, Matt Hulnick,  
Steve Higgins; **Operations:** Julie Yuen, Tom Gauss, Ryan Henderson; **PGA**  
**Relationship Manager, National:** Kelly Sheehan, PGA; **PGA Relationship Manager, West:**  
Greg Prudham, PGA; **PGA Relationship Manager, Midwest:** Ryan Holland, PGA; **PGA**  
**Relationship Manager, Northeast:** Ryan Gingrow, PGA; **Accounting:** George Kotlyar

Allied Association: PGA



Leading Golf Products Since 1931™

OFFICIAL  
SPIKE & TEE  
OF LDA

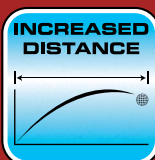


## CUSTOMIZE YOUR GAME

CHAMP



**FLYtee™**



6 prongs  
Easy & Stable  
Ball Placement



**Extreme Distance  
Extremely Accurate  
Extremely Durable**



[www.champgolf.com](http://www.champgolf.com)

800.OK.CHAMP

# Warming UP

Tips, trends and topics to get you and  
**YOUR GAME READY FOR GOLF**

BY TONY L. STARKS

## Lorena Ochoa Foundation Reaches Out to New Golfers



**F**ounded in 2010 by the former No. 1 women's player in the world, the Lorena Ochoa Foundation has a mission of providing low-cost playing and learning opportunities for new golfers. The foundation provides family-based health, fitness, education and inclusion programs delivered through family golf activities such as being exposed to the game for the first time on the range.

The program reaches children through an initiative called Lorena's Links, a three-tiered program that begins with two outreach programs bringing families to registered golf facilities where they are welcomed and included into family-based health, education, inclusion and golf programs.

Based in Mira Loma, Calif., the Lorena Ochoa Foundation has partnered with the Southern California PGA Section to help bring golf to more families by having a presence at events like the Route 66 Rendezvous, an annual gathering of car enthusiasts in the Southern Cal area that's grown to great popularity over the past two decades.

"We understand the need to take golf to the people, to introduce them the ways in which the game can enrich their lives and their family ties," says PGA Professional Jason Taylor, executive director of the Lorena Ochoa Foundation. "We've taken great strides as a foundation in our first few years. Lorena is exuberant about the difference we've made already and the impact we'll have in future." ■



# NBA's Mike Conley Compares the Course to the Court

**M**ike Conley of the Memphis Grizzlies has begun to emerge as one of the top young point guards in the NBA. Conley, who was selected fourth in the 2007 NBA Draft after helping lead Ohio State to the NCAA Championship Game, has been playing golf since his rookie season.

Over the past five years, Conley has developed a pre-round routine that's just as important as his pre-game regimen for the Grizzlies, which includes a pasta dish from Fazoli's Italian restaurant, listening to the same playlist (Jay Z, Drake and Lil' Wayne) on his headphones and 20 minutes of TV.

He arrives at the course 40 minutes early and heads straight to the practice range, where he reaches for his pitching wedge, 7-iron and driver. After hitting half-a-dozen balls with the pitching wedge, he hits a dozen with the 7-iron and then warms up with the driver. Conley spends the rest of the time before teeing off on the putting green. He says he doesn't listen to music because he enjoys the sounds of nature and the calm atmosphere.

"I definitely equate going to the range to shoot-around before a game," says Conley. "I have to have a rhythm before I go play, a routine. Mine is to get to the course early enough to hit a few balls and make sure every part of my game is working."

The son of an Olympic gold medal triple jumper, sports always came natural to Conley. But it was the challenge of golf that appealed to him. "I was able to do lots of different things like play soccer, basketball and run track. But when it came to golf it was like a foreign language, I had no idea what I was doing," says Conley, who is a member at Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio. "I love that challenge of going out and trying to do better, just like basketball. Trying to get better each day and knowing that there's no ceiling."

Conley has developed a passion for the game of golf, and says he would like to see more young African-American men do the same. "I think the driving range could provide them with that chance to be introduced to the game. It's a less expensive option," he explains. "Once they get the feeling of hitting one straight, it kind of hooks you in. It did for me, anyway."

*Take a few minutes to view this interview with Mike Conley from the 2012 PGA Championship at Kiawah Island. ■*



# A PGA member is part of new Guinness World Record

A team of golfers that included PGA Professional Jason Nelson (pictured to the right in mid-swing) set the Guinness World Record for the most golf balls hit in a 24-hour period. The Guinness attempt began at 9 a.m. on April 23 at Dead Horse Lake Golf Course in Knoxville, Tenn.

"I'm excited to see what happens when the next Guinness book comes out," says Nelson, who estimates that he hit more than 3,600 golf balls during the record-setting event. "It's a cool feeling to have your name in the record books. There's already talk of four or five other teams lining up to try and beat us!"

The team was led and assembled by Pin High Pro President Carl Papa.

Pin High Pro is a golf swing training aid that beeps at the exact time your weight shifts to your left foot.

"The goal was to hit 20,000 or more balls into a target area within a 24-hour time frame," said Papa. "In the end, our team hit 33,469 into the target area."

The official certification by Guinness was made on Aug. 15, and states: The most golf balls driven into a target area in 24 hours by a team is 33,469 balls and was achieved by Team Pin High Pro (all USA) at the Dead Horse Lake Golf Course, in Knoxville, Tenn., USA, on April 23-24, 2012.

Team members included: Carl Papa, Jr. (Captain), Gordon Bruner, Zane Hagy, Bill Cross, Jason Nelson, PGA, John Owings, Rock Saraceni, John Roethlisberger, Mike Thompson, Tom Slagle, Jim White and Kai Thomas. ■



## Premier Pee-Wee Golf Swings



Beyond introducing and teaching golf to kids ages 3-8, Little Linksters is all about celebrating the very best that pee-wee golf has to offer! Operated by PGA Professional Brendon Elliott and based in Deltona, Fla., Little Linksters is dedicated to youngsters learning the game and excelling at it.

Two years ago, Elliott came up with an idea. He wanted to showcase some of the premier pee-wee golfers nationally, while getting some of the biggest names in the game to help perpetuate the idea. Thus, the Best Pee-Wee Golf Swing in North America video contest was born. Parents of youngsters from across the country submitted videos of their kids' swings to be judged by some of golf's greats. The 2011-2012 judges included LPGA Tour standout Lexi Thompson; acclaimed instructor Jim McLean, PGA; Golf Channel's Win McMurry and former

"Big Break" contestant Kelly Sheehan, PGA.

Contest dates for 2013 will be announced on [littlelinksters.com](http://littlelinksters.com). Check out a compilation of the "Best Pee-Wee Golf Swings" from the 2011-12 contest. ■



**trinity** (trin-i-tee)

noun, a group of three, triad

see also, ultra high performance golf shaft

golf shaft combining the 3 most technically

advanced, Tour proven shaft design technologies.

The 3 most popular wood shaft designs in play on Tour.

Related words, control, stability, feel

**Coming soon**





# Next on the Tee: Condoleezza Rice

BY DON JOZWIAK

**S**even short years ago, Condoleezza Rice wasn't a golfer. Now she's a long-hitting avid player and one of the first female members—along with financier Darla Moore—of Georgia's famed Augusta National Golf Club. To paraphrase the old saying about Carnegie Hall, it's easy to see how Rice got to Augusta National: Practice.

Rice has made plenty of history in her political and academic career, from serving as Secretary of State and national security adviser under President George W. Bush to becoming the youngest-ever provost of California's Stanford University. Before earning any of those lofty positions, however, Rice was already a tenacious athlete. She was a competitive figure skater in her youth, and as an adult became a serious recreational tennis player.

"She says that she wishes her dad had given her golf clubs instead of skates as a little girl," says PGA Professional Eric Eshleman, director of golf at the Country Club of

Birmingham, Ala., and Rice's golf instructor. "She really loves the game, and she has a real talent for it."

Rice was introduced to the game seven years ago on a family vacation to the Greenbrier in West Virginia, and she's been hooked ever since. She started working with Eshleman when she joined the Country Club of Birmingham in 2010, and her improvement has been impressive.

"She plays a lot and she loves to practice, and she's really fallen in love with the game," Eshleman says. "And she plays well. She's between a 15 and 16 handicap—she's a long hitter off the tee, and she's a very good putter. In fact, we played in an event

recently with Fred Couples, and he said Condoleezza putted as well as any of the LPGA Tour players he's played with."

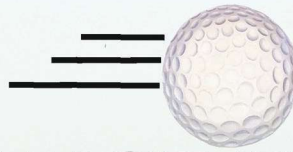
Eshleman says he and Rice are now working on ball-striking with her irons and getting better at scoring shots with her wedges. He says her game is suited to being a member at Augusta National.

"The way she putts and hits it off the tee, she's going to be fine at Augusta," Eshleman says. "If you're long off the tee, you're always going to do well at Augusta. Plus she's competitive out there—she's one of the nicest people I've ever met, but she plays to win." ■



Preferred Range Picker at  
This Year's US Open

Easy Picker Golf Products



# RANGE-EXPRESS

Wireless Ball Dispenser System

Easy Picker Golf's latest innovation in wireless technology, **Range-Express** Software with real-time access to all accounts and compatibility with all POS computer systems.

- Completely Wireless and Real-Time – No need to manually transfer data from dispenser to main computer as with other ball dispenser management systems.
- Accountability – Tracks tokens, cash, pin numbers, media cards and credit cards.



Pro Shop Computer



Ball Dispenser

New!  
Easier to  
Read  
Display

## Go Wireless! with Range-Express

*Sun City Grand purchased the Range-Express System to replace an older, out of date computerized system that was failing and causing us much heartache. After two years of research we switched over to Range-Express which allows us to easily monitor sales and dispenser events/activities at the click of a button from any computer on our network. I would recommend Range-Express for any course that is looking for a computerized range system.*

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hochman, PGA, GCSAA

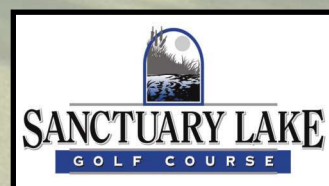
Director of Golf Operations

Sun City Grand Surprise, Arizona

Sales 800.641.4653 | Fax 239.369.1579

[www.easypicker.com](http://www.easypicker.com)

Email: [salesdept@easypicker.com](mailto:salesdept@easypicker.com)



Media Card



# Brisbane Airport to Open Range

**M**ore than likely, there has been a point in your life when you've spent far more time in an airport than you would have liked. Whether it's due to a delayed flight, an extended layover or getting dropped off way too early, spending hours in an airport is something we've come to accept.

Have you ever found yourself wishing that there was something to help those hours go by faster? Something better than overpriced drinks at the airport bar or playing Angry Birds on your phone. What if you could hit a few range balls?

Australia's Brisbane Airport has recently announced plans to build a golf driving range and leisure center on airport property. Brisbane Airport is one of Australia's fastest growing airports with roughly 50,000 passengers expected to use the airport daily by 2029.

Officials are targeting tourist, passengers with extended layovers, residents and airport workers with the new practice range. The range and golf leisure center are expected to open in 2013.

Hope this idea catches on Down Under and airports in the U.S. decide to give it a try! ■

## Bunker Basics From Lou's Lab

**G**reenside bunker shots are nerve-racking for most golfers. Many either swing too hard and hit too close to the ball – sending a skulled rocket across the green – or swing too meekly, leaving the ball in the bunker.

PGA Professional Lou Guzzi has seen it all, and he's here to help with a video from "Lou's Lab." As the two-time Philadelphia PGA Section Teacher of the Year and owner of the Lou Guzzi Golf Academy at Talamore Country Club in Ambler, Pa., Guzzi



has some theories as to why the greenside bunker shot gets into golfers' heads.

From a mental standpoint, it's hard to think about swinging hard enough – a greenside bunker shot that travels 50-60 feet has the same power as a swing that would launch the ball 50-60 yards from the fairway. Plus, the greenside bunker shot is one of the

only times you actually want to hit the ball fat, driving the club into the sand up to four inches behind the ball.

These are tricky concepts, and that's why practicing these shots is so important. Watch Lou's video for yourself and see his tips for a simple setup and swing that will make your next greenside bunker shot less intimidating and more successful. ■

## A man in a blue polo shirt and white golf glove is captured mid-swing, holding a golf club. In the foreground, a large black Bose speaker system is visible, featuring a prominent circular driver and a rectangular subwoofer. The background is a bright, cloudy sky.



**HMT – Head Measurement Technology** – a ground-breaking innovation that combines with the GC2 to capture club head data with unprecedented accuracy. With HMT, you now have instant access to critical data such as club head velocity, smash factor, horizontal/vertical club path, face angle, dynamic loft/lie and impact location- with the same reliability, accuracy and indoor/outdoor flexibility you get with the GC2. Head Measurement Technology by Foresight Sports. We just changed the game again.



Apple® compatible GC2a now available.

For HMT pre-ordering and GC2 upgrade details, call your Foresight Sports sales representative today.



1-858-880-0179 • [www.foresightsports.com](http://www.foresightsports.com)



# How Cool

**Bill Murray and Justin Timberlake practice their “Happy Gilmore” tee shots**

BY DON JOZWIAK

**W**hat happens when you mash up “Caddyshack” with “Happy Gilmore,” and throw in a bonus helping of Justin Timberlake? You get the following video, where Timberlake shows Bill Murray how to hit a running tee shot.

Murray, of course, is immortalized as the loopy greenkeeper Carl Spackler from the classic “Caddyshack.” The Chicago native has become the clown prince of the game thanks to his hilarious appearances over the years at the AT&T National Pro-Am at Pebble Beach. But behind the smile, Murray is a passionate golfer who takes practice and playing more seriously than you’d expect.

Timberlake is a serious golfer, too, and spends a lot of time working on his tour-caliber swing when he’s not acting in feature films or working on new music. After some diligent practice while he and Murray were warming up on the range at Medinah Country Club during a celebrity event prior to the 2012 Ryder Cup, Timberlake decided it was time to have a little fun.

That’s when Timberlake showed Murray how to hit a running, slapshot-style drive – made famous by Adam Sandler’s hockey-player-turned-golfer character in the movie “Happy Gilmore.”

A large group of spectators was on hand to witness this spontaneous blend of golf and pop culture, and the crowd went wild. Check it out for yourself; in the words of Carl Spackler, you may receive total consciousness! ■



# Is This?

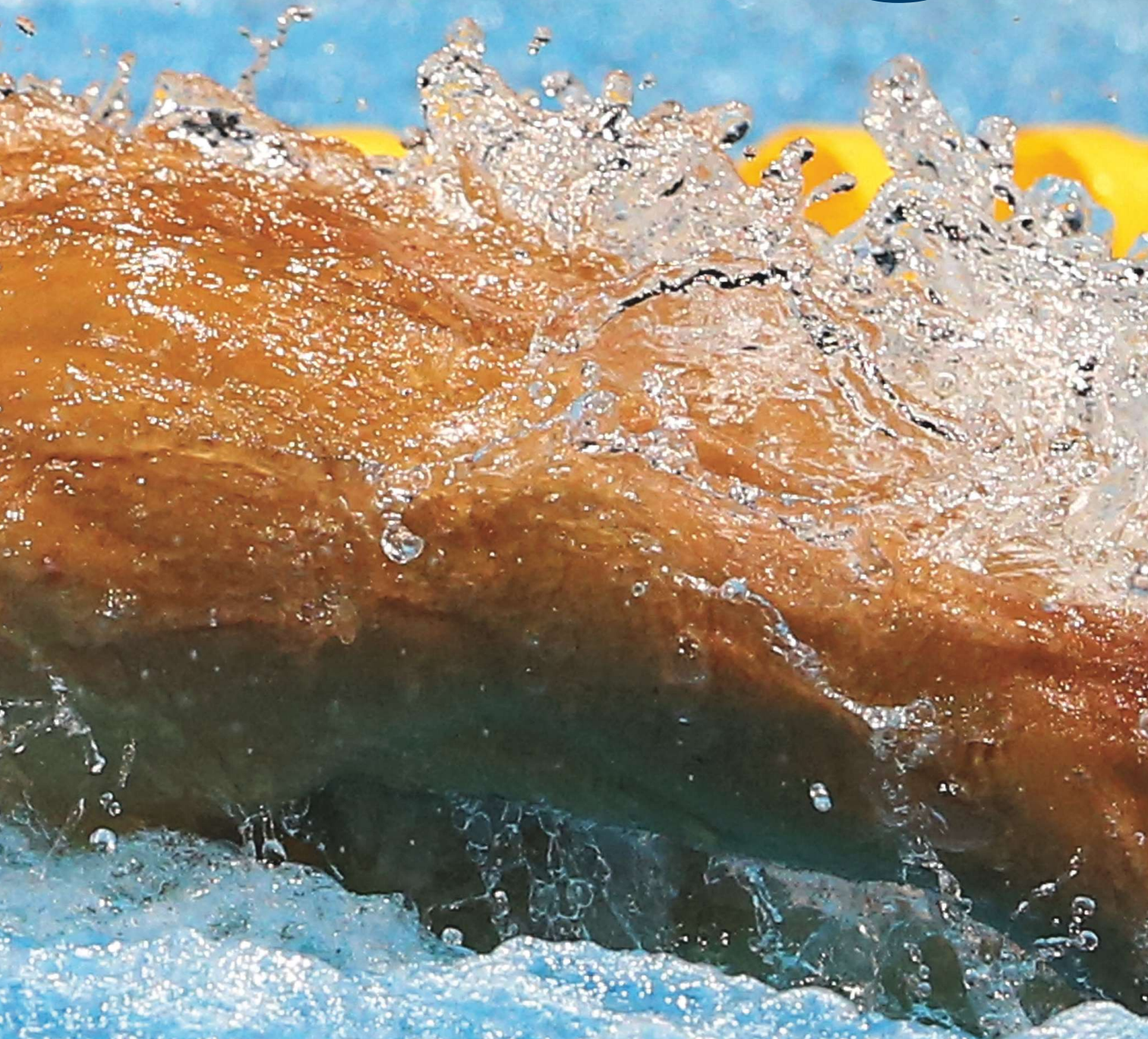


# Olympi to G



**Michael Phelps** swam his way to Olympic greatness; does he have a chance of grooving a gold medal golf swing with help from **1993 PGA Teacher of the Year Hank Haney**?

# c Rings olf Swings





GETTY IMAGES

**S**ports fans around the world instantly recognize Michael Phelps. Whether he's knifing through the water or collecting another gold medal, the 27-year-old Maryland native is considered one of the greatest athletes of all-time, thanks to the 22 medals he won over the span of four Olympics. The next time the world sees Phelps, however, he won't be standing on the starting blocks – he'll be on the tee.

After finishing his competitive swimming career by winning six medals at the 2012 London Olympics in August, Phelps set his sights on conquering the game of golf. He's currently working with 1993 PGA Teacher of the Year Hank Haney, with the results set to air early next year on Golf Channel's "The Haney Project" reality show.

"I have traveled the world through swimming, but really haven't had an opportunity to experience the world through my travels," Phelps said after his final race in London. "As I enter this next







Michael Phelps will put his golf skills to the test in front of PGA Professional Hank Haney (right), on Golf Channel's "The Haney Project" in 2013.

chapter of my life, I think I will be able to shift my competitiveness to anything I put my mind to and golf is one of the things I want to focus on," said Phelps. "If I have a goal of dropping a certain amount of shots, or working on my short game or putting, those things are going to keep me motivated and fire me up and keep me excited."

Unlike previous celebrity subjects like Rush Limbaugh, Adam Levine or Ray Romano, Phelps is a world-class athlete—he's a sculpted 6'3", 190 pounds and in the prime of his competitive years. (Charles Barkley



was a world-class athlete, of course, though you wouldn't know it from his golf swing.) That, and the dedication to training Phelps learned from years of competitive swimming, should be a big help to Haney.

But, Haney cautions, Phelps still

has his work cut out for him. "He wants to win his club championship," Haney said. "It will take him a little while, but he should improve really fast. It's funny, because whenever anyone makes a comment that a guy has got a lot of potential, they're always talking about one thing—he hits it a long way. The translation is: 'He hits it *everywhere*.'"

As Phelps transitions from swimming to golf, he'll be spending plenty of time on the range working on his game. That's fitting, since he discovered the game on a range—in China.

During the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, Phelps won eight gold medals. During this amazing run, Phelps and his teammates were looking for a place to take a break from swimming and relax. They found their sanctuary on a golf range near the Olympic Village, and the golf bug bit Phelps.

Upon returning home from China, Phelps took the next step.

"A couple of my friends play, and I said to them, 'Let's golf this weekend.' They said, 'Do you even have clubs?' I didn't," Phelps said with a laugh. "So that was a Friday morning. I went out and bought clubs on Friday afternoon. On Saturday afternoon, I went out and played golf for the first time on a course."

Phelps discovered that he loved golf both for the challenge and for the chance to focus on something other than swimming. His charitable Michael Phelps Foundation has even hosted a fundraising golf outing each of the past two years.

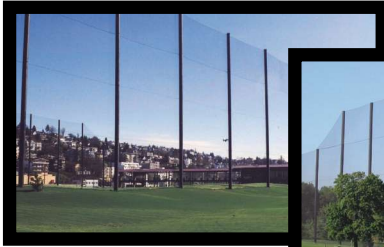
"I found that after Beijing, I needed to be able to get away from swimming a little bit more and find a way to relax," Phelps said. "And that's when I picked up golf. My game isn't quite up to par, but it's the best way to relax. I put my phone in my golf bag and have fun with my friends. And my game's definitely better than last year."

With Haney's help, maybe Phelps could find his way back to the Summer Olympics. After all, golf will be one of the sports played at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. ■

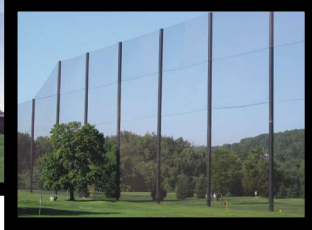
# Any Size Netting System Anywhere



*Hollywood*



*Seattle*



*Georgia*



*New Jersey*



The World's Largest Golf Netting Project ranging in height from 60 to 140 feet for Los Lagos Golf Course.



*San Jose*



*Las Vegas*

*Los Angeles*

- ▶ Engineered for specific soil conditions and wind load calculations
- ▶ Built the highest netting system in North America - 175 ft.
- ▶ Not one Coastal Steel Pole has ever failed
- ▶ Driving range design and consultation
- ▶ Fairway netting design and consultation
- ▶ Netting systems designed for minimal amount of cables
- ▶ Ball trajectory studies
- ▶ Complete turnkey installations by the highest qualified contractors
- ▶ Licensed engineering in all 50 states & all Canadian Provinces



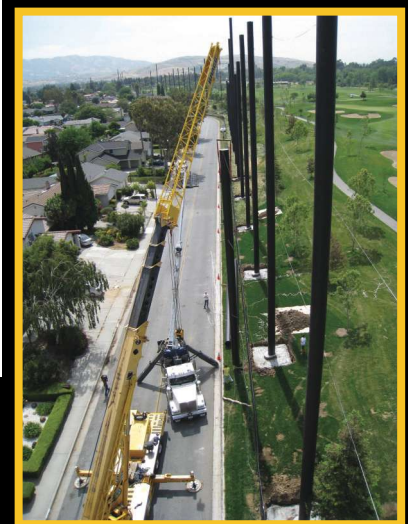
Engineered Netting Systems • Steel Pole Manufacturers

## *Corporate Office*

Coastal Netting Systems  
P.O. Box 1946, Bakersfield, CA 93303  
(661) 631-1582 • Fax (661) 325-0813

## *Field Office Locations*

Alabama	Nevada
Arizona	New Jersey
California	New York
Florida	Rhode Island
Maryland	Texas
Michigan	Vancouver,
Minnesota	BC Canada



**GRAA**

PREFERRED VENDOR

**800.726.3354**

**[www.coastalnetting.com](http://www.coastalnetting.com)**

Specializing  
in Steel Pole  
Engineering,  
Design and  
Manufacturing

Over 1000  
Steel Pole  
projects in  
North America

NEXT ON THE  
**Lesson**  
TEE



George Lopez raved about the lesson he received from PGA Professional Bruce Patterson (inset).

# Funny Man, Serious Golfer

Actor and comedian **George Lopez** is one of the most avid golfers in Hollywood, and he's always trying to improve his game **BY DON JOZWIAK**

**G**eorge Lopez is known as a hard-working, versatile comedian and actor. His career has blossomed from his early days as a radio show host and stand-up comedian, making him a mainstay on TV and in the movies. His groundbreaking "George Lopez" sitcom is one of the highest-rated syndicated TV shows on the air, and he currently hosts the dating show "Take Me Out" on Fox.

Lopez is also busy with movie projects, from voice work in family films such as the "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" series and "Rio" to grown-up fare like "Valentine's Day" and his recent HBO special, "It's Not Me, It's You."

He's earned his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, but Lopez has also earned another title: Die-hard golfer.

"I play all the time. I mean, all the time," says Lopez, a member at Lakeside Golf Club in Burbank, Calif. "And when I can't play, I'm on the range. I'm always working on something in my game."

The 51-year-old California native has a handicap that hovers around 11, and he's always looking for the next lesson that's going to help him shave a stroke or two off his scores. He learned how to properly warm up from one of his golfing heroes, Lee Trevino.

"Lee showed me that most golfers lean back at the end of their swing, but the pros get their weight moving toward the target," Lopez says. "So when I'm warming up on the range, I'm trying to work on my tempo and make sure that I'm hitting down on the ball and swinging through."

Whether he's home at Lakeside—where his fellow members include Justin Timberlake and Ray Romano—or on the road, Lopez puts golf ahead

of business. He recalls being asked to perform a 45-minute stand-up routine in Las Vegas for a six-figure payday. He turned it down, because the date conflicted with a pro-am round Lopez was scheduled to play with Samuel L. Jackson, Cheech Marin and Justin Leonard. The promoter doubled his offer, but Lopez stuck to his tee time and played golf instead.

---

**"When I can't play, I'm on the range. I'm always working on something in my game."**

—George Lopez

Lopez never set foot on a golf course until he was 21, but he taught himself how to swing a golf club in the backyard of his grandmother's house. Lopez would pick unripe lemons off a tree and hit them with an old 7-iron. Even now, he still loves hitting balls and working on his swing.

While in Chicago for a recent appearance, Lopez took a lesson from PGA Professional Bruce Patterson, the director of golf at famed Butler National Golf Club. The results were instantaneous, and Lopez couldn't wait to take his new knowledge to the course.

"Bruce got me to pause a little

more at the top of my swing, then hold onto the angle as I bring the club to the ball," Lopez says. "That really got me to compress the ball at impact, and just like that I was hitting the ball more solidly than I have in years. What Bruce did for me in five minutes was incredible. I almost ran to the first tee to play an extra nine holes, and I didn't miss a single shot. What a great feeling."

Lopez passes that feeling on to others through his work with The First Tee and through his annual George Lopez Celebrity Golf Classic. The golf tournament has helped hundreds of children with kidney disease attend a special camp. Lopez himself had a kidney transplant in 2005 after a genetic condition caused his own kidneys to fail. The experience helped him appreciate life—and golf—even more.

"The transplant helped me pursue my passions of playing golf and giving back to others," says Lopez, who was raised by his maternal grandmother. "The game of golf has taught me respect, responsibility and honesty. It became the uncle and father and parents that I never had."

"It's a fun way to challenge yourself and learn so much about yourself. And when you spend time with someone playing golf, you walk away feeling like you've known them your whole life." ■

**Rory Says:**

# There's Always Room for Improvement

From backyard bunkers to major championship preparations, Rory McIlroy's practice routines are as impressive as his skills **BY DON JOZWIAK**

**S**ome golfers break records, some win major championships. When Rory McIlroy does one, he does the other. The 23-year-old Northern Irish sensation has won majors in each of the last two seasons, and both were record-setting performances. McIlroy steamrolled the field by eight strokes in June 2011 at Congressional Country Club in Maryland to become the first U.S. Open Champion to finish at 16 under par. The phenom known as "Rors" then dominated this August's PGA Championship with a record eight-shot win at The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island Golf Resort in South Carolina.

There's no doubt that McIlroy has championship-caliber levels of skill, nerve and determination. And all of those attributes are sharpened through his devotion to practice. "I am a student," McIlroy says. "The key to this game is practicing hard and striving for constant improvement. Every day is a day of learning. No matter how good you get, there is always room for improvement."

Whether it's private practice sessions at his amazing backyard short game area or fine-tuning his ball flight on-site at a major championship, McIlroy practices as hard as he plays. Here's a look at how time on the range helps Rory maintain his spot at No. 1 in the World Golf Ranking:

#### **No Place Like Home**

Not too many people have the chance to practice in their own backyard. But that's the setup that's helped McIlroy win his two majors. Two years ago he purchased a plot of land behind his home near Belfast, Northern Ireland, after seeing Padraig Harrington's private practice area.

S



"I wanted to do something special with it," McIlroy says.

And he did. Working with a professional course building company, McIlroy oversaw the creation of a dream backyard practice area: Four greens, three teeing areas and multiple bunkers with different types of sand from around the world. Each green is built to USGA specs and has SubAir systems to maintain firm, fast conditions year-round. McIlroy's practice area has two full-time greenkeepers to keep the property in shape and mimic the conditions that Rory will experience at upcoming tournaments.

If McIlroy is preparing for an early-season European event, the greens are slowed down and he'll practice from the bunker with local Irish sand. Prior to the Open Championship, he'll practice hitting bump-and-run shots onto the greens, as well as sand shots from a replica of the famed Road Hole bunker at St. Andrews' Old Course. And before the U.S. Open and PGA Championship, he'll have the greenkeepers speed up the putting surfaces and grow longer rough so he can practice his flop shots. Using the different teeing areas, McIlroy can hit full shots from as far as 170 yards.

"To have a practice facility at the back of my own house is incredible," McIlroy says. "It was done as an investment in my future. Since I got it built I've won my first majors, so it's paid for itself already."

### Home Away From Home

Of course, McIlroy is on the road several weeks out of the year, playing in tournaments from the Far East to his native Ireland – and more than a dozen stops in the U.S. on the PGA Tour. That's when he makes himself at home on the range at that week's tour stop.

McIlroy gets to practice on some of the best ranges in the world, but he says he has a favorite of all the ranges in the U.S.: Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio. Firestone's South Course hosts the Bridgestone Invitational, the World Golf Championships event where McIlroy finished tied for fifth this year while tuning up for the PGA Championship.

## THE RORY FILE

**Born:** May 4, 1989, Holywood, County Down, Northern Ireland

**Lives:** Carryduff, County Down, Northern Ireland

**Family and friends:** The only child of Gerry and Rosie McIlroy, Rory is dating professional tennis star Caroline Wozniacki

**Off-course hobbies:** Is a big fan of the Manchester United soccer club; is an ambassador for UNICEF Ireland who has visited Haiti on relief missions; has a dog named Gus

**Website:** [www.rorymcilroy.com](http://www.rorymcilroy.com)

**Twitter:** @McIlroyRory

"It's just such a great place to come and do some work," McIlroy says of Firestone. "I like the practice facility because everything is so close: the range, the short game area, the putting green. And the thing about the range, it gives you nice targets to hit at. It's got good target greens and great turf, and it's just one of those ranges where I just feel like I could spend all day."

Sometimes, however, McIlroy spends less time on the range – by accident. That's what happened at this year's Ryder Cup, when he set his alarm to the wrong time zone and needed a police escort to get to Medinah Country Club in time for his singles match with Keegan Bradley (which McIlroy won, 2 and 1).

### Major Preparation

As a part of the broadcast team for CBS Sports Network's "On the Range" show at this year's PGA Championship, PGA Professional Brian Crowell had a bird's-eye look at the year's strongest field as it prepared to take on The Ocean

Course at Kiawah Island. Crowell says McIlroy's practice routine is something golfers of all skill levels should emulate.

"The thing that stands out about Rory's practice style is how he is constantly choosing different targets and hitting different types of shots to them," says Crowell, the PGA head professional at GlenArbor Golf Club in Bedford Hills, N.Y. "Instead of standing there and hitting 20 7-irons or 20 drivers at the middle of the range, he alternates between different targets and different ball flights."

For example, McIlroy might choose a target 150 yards downrange, then try to hit it with a high, hard pitching wedge, then with a low, choked-down 8-iron. He works his way through his entire bag with this method, which gives him a feel for any type of shot he might encounter during a round.

"You need to structure your practice like you're going to play, and you can tell from watching Rory on the range that he's thinking about specific shots he knows he's going to see on the course that day," says Crowell, author of "Slice-Free Golf." "All golfers would get more out of their time on the range if they practice like they play."

"At Kiawah Island, Rory knew it was going to be windy, so he spent a lot of time hitting long irons and knockdown shots. Seems like he figured it out just right."

Whether it's bunker shots in his backyard or long irons at a major championship, Rory McIlroy definitely practices like he plays: To win. ■



World No. 1 Rory McIlroy spends countless hours on the range fine-tuning every aspect of his game.

# Turn your Range into a **PROFIT CENTER**

go to [www.CoverShotsGolf.com](http://www.CoverShotsGolf.com) to try our Profit Calculator



"CoverShots has demonstrated to the golf industry that it is dedicated to innovation and quality service, which is a supplement to the teaching skills of PGA Professionals everywhere."

—Brian Whitcomb, Past President,  
The PGA of America

- CoverShots has been Proven to increase Range Revenue
- Mobile Canopies from 24 to 104 foot Clear span
- Since 1997 CoverShots has been providing cost effective tee line coverage for ranges, golf courses and teaching academies
- Our Quality is recognized: Official Mobile Canopy of the TPC Network; Preferred Mobile Canopy Supplier to PGA Golf Properties GRAA Preferred Vendor Preferred Vendor for Nicklaus Academies



**30 PTC**

located at Paradise Valley Golf Center, Fairfield, California

 **PGA**  
Learning & Performance  
Preferred Mobile Canopy Supplier  
to PGA Golf Properties

  
**NICKLAUS**  
ACADEMIES  
Preferred Vendor

 **GRAA**  
PREFERRED VENDOR

  
Official Mobile Canopy of the  
Tournament Players Club Network

  
**COVERSHOTS™**  
by Mobile Canopies, Inc.

[www.CoverShotsGolf.com](http://www.CoverShotsGolf.com)

1-888-881-2433 • [www.CoverShotsGolf.com](http://www.CoverShotsGolf.com)  
108-A South Kerr Ave., Wilmington, NC 28403

**Simulating holes on the course can help you**

**get more out**

**A**s an award-winning golf instructor, PGA Master Professional Steve Whidden's job is to help players get better at golf. Part of what he teaches in his lessons is a better way to practice – and he's sharing that strategy with you via video.

In this video, Whidden describes how to use your time on the range to simulate hitting the shots that you'll run into on the golf course. Instead of simply hitting balls toward the end of the range, Whidden suggests creating boundaries, obstacles and imagined hazards on each shot. For example, you can choose two flags to serve as either side of the fairway for driver shots. Or when hitting to a target green, imagine that there is water short of the green and a bunker long. This will train you to hit shots with targets and consequences in mind.

For example, start by imagining the first hole at a course you like to play. Think about the fairway and any trouble to the left and right, and then prepare as if you're hitting that drive. Your next practice shot will depend on how well you hit your drive; if you hit the imaginary fairway, you can practice hitting an approach shot – but if you miss the fairway, practice a shot that will get you out of trouble, like a chip back to the fairway.

If you hit a bad shot, don't give yourself a mulligan – take your medicine and practice the shot

# Like You Play



of your range time and have fun at the same time

that will get you back in play. This is a great way to practice those trouble shots that can save you strokes in the long run, and also a way to provide incentive to hit better tee shots. Your reward on the range, as it is on the course, is

to hit short irons and wedges from the fairway instead of from under trees or in the deep rough.

Also, be sure that you take your full pre-shot routine on each shot: Choose your target, align yourself correctly, and take a practice

swing before addressing the ball. This will make the process feel even more comfortable on the course, and will give you a sense of confidence and familiarity when you're faced with stressful shots during your next round.

As Whidden says, a little imagination can help you improve your ball-striking, your course management and your feel. By practicing this way on the range, you'll enjoy your next round on the golf course that much more. ■



PGA Master Professional **Steve Whidden**, the owner and director of instruction of The Steve Whidden Golf Academy at Rosedale Golf and Country Club in Lakewood Ranch, Fla., is the 2010 Southwest Florida PGA Chapter Teacher of the Year.

# Wish List

Everything you need to know about today's **most sought after golf equipment** but were afraid to ask

**W**ith the holiday season right around the corner, *GR* is providing you with the insights from PGA Professionals you'll need to shop for the golfer on your gift list. TaylorMade's R11S and RocketBallz continue to lead the market in drivers and fairway woods, but there's some competition brewing with new releases from Titleist and Ping. Cleveland and Titleist continue to keep things zipped up in the wedge category, but the ATV wedge for TaylorMade is gaining traction. Belly putters continue to be the craze when it comes to flat sticks, while spikeless golf shoes have spiked the interest of golfers of all abilities.

## DRIVERS

If you're buying a new driver this season, many PGA Professionals insist that adjustable is the way to go! TaylorMade revolutionized the driver market when the company introduced the r7 in 2003 – the first adjustable driver with moveable weight technology. Fast forward to 2012, and the R11S has more than 80 different adjustable settings. The Titleist 913 series of drivers feature advanced performance with increased speed and distance, plus plenty of exposure thanks to Rory McIlroy. This year marked the first time Ping has ventured into adjustable driver territory with the new Anser Driver. The Trajectory Tuning Technology allows you to hone in your launch angle and spin rate to increase distance.



Titleist 913



TaylorMade R11S



TaylorMade RocketBallz

## FAIRWAY WOODS/HYBRIDS

TaylorMade and Tour Edge Exotics have generated the most buzz in 2012. That's probably because their RocketBallz and XCG5 3-woods, respectively, literally hit the ball past their competitors. Fairway wood sales have been strong this year, perhaps at the expense of hybrid sales. However, the Idea Tech V4 hybrid from Adams has received some nice reviews. The "Through Slot" design promotes maximum ball speed and distance. In fact, the speed of the clubface approaches that of a driver.

TaylorMade  
RocketBallz



Adams Idea V4



Ping Anser



Tour Edge Exotics

## PUTTERS

Dating back to the 2011 PGA Championship, three of the last five major champions have all wielded belly putters en route to victory. That has contributed to one of the hottest crazes in golf equipment. Manufacturers are offering a variety of weights, head shapes and lengths in belly putters these days. And almost every model you can get regular length is available in the longer model. You may want to check out the Metal-X putters from Odyssey that are available in all the classic Odyssey head shapes. Other putter juggernauts such as Ping and Scotty Cameron have also released belly models recently.

Scotty Cameron GoLo



Cleveland 588



Titleist Vokey SM4

TaylorMade ATV



## WEDGES

Cleveland and Titleist are the perennial leaders in this category. The 588 series from Cleveland features USGA-conforming Tour Zip Grooves and Laser-Milled technology for maximum spin. The Titleist Vokey Design Spin Milled wedges are available with an unmatched number of choices for loft, bounce and sole grind. TaylorMade's ATV (All-Terrain Versatility) wedges feature an all-milled groove design and micro-texture across the face to generate more spin within USGA rules.



Ping Nome



Odyssey Metal-X



Ecco Golf Street



Nike Lunar Swingtip



adidas Crossflex



Callaway Master Staff



Ashworth Cardiff

## FOOTWEAR

Spikeless golf shoes are the largest trend in footwear for 2012, according to PGA Professionals. These are the shoes that have traction nubs on the bottom instead of cleats for sustainable footing. They're also very fashionable and comfortable enough to be worn on or off the course. The most popular brands and models include: Ashworth Cardiff, True Linkswear, Ecco Street Luxe, adidas Golf Crossflex, Nike Lunar Swingtip, Callaway Master Staff and FootJoy Contour Casual.

For more information about the latest golf equipment, seek out a PGA Professional in your area by logging onto [PGA.com](http://PGA.com).



# Don't Hesita

**Practicing on the range is important, but learning to compete can help you improve on the course** **BY SUSAN CROWLEY, LPGA**

**T**he range is so important when it comes to developing a golf game: It's the place where you get comfortable with the basics, where you learn your strengths, improve accuracy and gain confidence. But the range is kind of like going to rehearsal before the big recital.

I've taught so many women who can hit every note in rehearsal but still get stage fright when it comes to opening night. What I mean by that is so many women feel comfortable on the range and practicing, but that comfort doesn't transition to the golf course. It's for that reason that I try to take my students on course for lessons as often as possible.

When on the course I try to expose them to situational instances, which is a particularly helpful approach to teaching the short game. For example, playing from awkward distances such as 25 yards short of the green, or having to pitch over a greenside bunker. I show them things like when it's appropriate to play a bump-and-run or to putt from off the green, instead of trying to fly it to the hole. I find that these lessons stick more when they're given on course.

Despite that, I still see women who are hesitant to make that transition to the course. In my 16 years of teaching golf, I've asked a lot of women what they want to get out of a lesson; they almost always say "I just don't want to embarrass myself." They hear the horror stories about pace of play, and they don't want create any nightmares of their own.

In contrast, most of my men students will say: "I want a respectable game and to play at a certain level. I want to be able to compete with my buddies on Saturday morning." That urge to compete is something that I

feel is extremely important for developing a golfer. I grew up playing golf with the boys, so I'm used to playing \$2 Nassaus. So to get my women students wanting to compete a little more, I teach them games like Nassau or Sixes (where two members of a foursome team up against the other two, and partners rotate every six holes). Even if they only play for a post-round drink or a ball marker, having something to add a little bit of competition helps them focus on the game more.

I also encourage my women students to play against their husbands, and most of the time they laugh at me – but I'm serious! To this day, my husband and I don't play a round of golf where there's not something on the line, even if it's just who cooks dinner or does the dishes that night.

So my tip for women is to get out on the course and play for something. Yes, keep up your range habits and work on the fundamentals like grip, aim, stance and posture. But also, don't be afraid to get out on the course and place a little wager. You'll be surprised at just how much a little competition elevates your game. ■



**Susan Crowley**, the director of instruction at Peninsula Golf and Country Club in San Mateo, Calif., is the 2011 LPGA National Teacher of the Year.



# te to Compete



Susan Crowley encourages women to mix practice time on the range with a little competitive play on the course.



# Getting Juniors to Practice

Three **PGA Junior League Golf** coaches share insights on how to encourage juniors to work on their game **BY TONY L. STARKS**

**I**n this era of touch screens, digital socializing and interactive video games, it's often difficult to get kids to focus on one thing for an extended period.

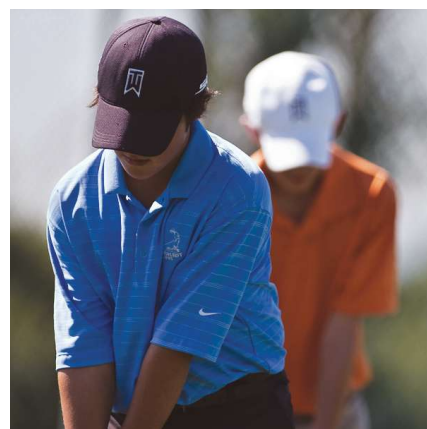
If you happen to have a child who participates in junior golf, than you know just how tough it may be to get them to spend any meaningful time practicing on the range.

*GR* recently caught up with three of the top junior golf coaches in the country and asked them how they structure practices. These three coaches each led their respective teams to the PGA Junior League Golf National Championship, which was held in September at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club near Chicago (*see*

*page 42 for more on PGA Junior League Golf*).

For PGA Professional Andy Nisbet, whose team from San Francisco, Calif., won the championship, practice time for juniors needs to be target oriented and focused on small competitions and finite goals.

"I've never told the kids they had to practice for one, two or three hours," says Nisbet, the PGA director of instruction at Las Positas Golf Course in Livermore, Calif. "Instead, we would give them four things they



Challenging juniors to reach specific goals helps keep them focused on practice.

needed to accomplish, and when they were done we gave them some free practice time where they could do what they wanted."

An example of the goals Nisbet would set for the juniors on his team was to chip in 10 balls from the fringe. While it may have taken one youngster 10 minutes, it could have taken another an hour. "It works out a lot better for them because they can work at their own pace and they don't feel pressured," says Nisbet. "For

# Resorts, Driving Ranges, Golf and Country Clubs: Are your members and guests getting the best SERVICE possible?

## Introducing: The Practice Tee Brush / Brush Caddy

- Stand-alone club cleaning that exceeds all expectations while practicing or warming up
- Customized logo plates for any resort, club, event/ corporate tournaments
- Attention to detail – the presentation of your practice facility will be unmatched in the industry
- Unique retail product with your logo for display in your pro shop or gift shop
- Generate revenue through advertising on the driving range



Visit [www.exsitegolf.com](http://www.exsitegolf.com)

[Chris@exsitegolf.com](mailto:Chris@exsitegolf.com)

Ph # (980) 722-4282

## PGA Junior League Golf: Just Like Little League

**P**GA Junior League Golf (PGA JLG) is the “Little League” approach to the game of golf, where every participant gets the chance to play. Designed for juniors 13 and under of all skill levels, PGA JLG features a team-versus-team scramble format in a structured league setting that provides for a more fun and less stressful competition. The emphasis is on the fun, recreation and sportsmanship of the game for



players at any skill level.

Launched as a pilot program in 2011, this year Junior League Golf announced a three-year partnership with The PGA of America and re-launched the program under the PGA JLG brand. In 2012, PGA Junior League Golf saw close to 2,000 participants, and exceeded 120 teams in more than 20 select markets. In 2013, PGA Junior League Golf becomes available nationally.

them, they have a goal in mind and a target to reach. And that helps keep them focused.”

Aurora Kirchner-McClain, who led the team from Houston to a third-place finish in the 2012 PGA Junior League Championship, also believes goal-oriented practicing is the way to go.

“It allows you to make it fun and simulate some competition so the kids stay interested,” says Kirchner-McClain, the PGA director of golf at Kingwood (Texas) Country Club. “We would split our juniors into three groups and do small competitions between ourselves, like see who could get 15 balls into the circle first or who could make 10 putts the fastest. The losing teams would have to clean the winners’ clubs. They didn’t like that very much, so it got pretty competitive!”

Nisbet adds that it’s hard to get a 9-year-old to practice. “But when you give them a goal to accomplish, it makes it fun and they get a sense of achievement when they’re done,” he explains.

According to Nisbet, this formula can work with juniors of any skill level, not just those who are competing on a national championship team. The trick is adjusting the goals appropriately. So if you have a junior who’s just starting out with golf, challenge them to hit 10 consecutive balls in the air. “When they do that, they have a level of satisfaction and success,” says Nisbet. “It also helps them track their progress, because two months down the line they can think back and remember how hard it used to be for them just to hit 10 balls in the air.”

Another element Nisbet utilized with his juniors was team practice. In

particular, he would do the par-2 drill – where one junior would chip toward a particular flag and the second junior would hit the putt. Nisbet says this is also a fun way for parents to practice with their kids.

Chuck Scoggins, whose team from Atlanta finished second at the PGA Junior League Golf National Championship, had a completely different approach to coaching up his juniors. He put them out on the course with high school and college players to both learn and compete.

“The high school and college players would guide them around, showing them which ball to pick in a scramble and how to approach the shot,” says Scoggins, the PGA director of instruction at Hamilton Mill Golf Club in Dacula, Ga. “It was a great way for the less developed young players to learn. For the more experienced juniors, I liked having them compete against the older players so they got used to facing a high level of competition.”

But it isn’t just about competing for Scoggins. He admits that fun is a big factor when it comes to encouraging juniors to practice. The game his junior team members most enjoyed was the golf relay race. Breaking the juniors into two teams, Scoggins lays a club and a pile of range balls in front of each team. The first player from each team runs up, hits a ball and if they get it in the targeted area they run back and tag the next player. Each player must hit a ball in the target zone before tagging the next player, the first team to have each player hit the target wins.

“These fun formats keep the kids interested, more engaged and staying with it for a longer time,” says Scoggins.

For Kirchner-McClain, who competed on the women’s golf team at Texas A&M, the team element of PGA Junior League Golf is a strong reason why the program has been so successful so early. She brought that element to her practices by having the juniors switch partners for every drill, so players could develop camaraderie with each one of their teammates.

“Making golf a team sport really gives us a chance to grow our junior numbers,” says Kirchner-McClain, the 2011 South Texas PGA Section Junior Golf Leader. “Practicing in a team environment is one way that we as coaches, instructors and parents can make the game more entertaining and impactful.” ■

Team practices helped the squad from California win the 2012 PGA Junior League Championship.



# GET GOLF READY

*Looking for an easy and affordable way to discover golf?*



## Get Ready for Fun!

**Visit [GetGolfReady.com](http://GetGolfReady.com)  
to find a host facility  
and register today!**



- Join in a series of golf lessons
- Learn in a casual, friendly setting
- Get onto the course to play
- Enjoy the outdoors
- Spend quality time with friends and family and meet new golfers

# Do Your Wedges Fit Your Game?

**Working with a trained clubfitter can give you the short game tools you need to shoot better scores**

**BY SCOTT KRAMER**

**H**aving a proper selection of wedges in your bag can be a lifesaver. After all, how many times have you found yourself at a “tweener” distance, one in which you resorted to choking down on one of your wedges – or swinging out of your shoes – just to hit it the right distance? Perhaps you have issues generating backspin, or getting the ball up quickly out of steep bunkers.

Simply having two or three random wedges will often not accomplish all the tasks you need to in an average round, while having the right wedges gives you more versatility and precision for scoring shots. Here’s an approach you can take to make sure that you get the right tools for the job.

For starters, know what to consider when buying new wedges.

## **Bounce Angle**

Bounce refers to the amount of space between the leading edge of a wedge and the ground when you address the ball. Drivers, woods, hybrids and irons have very little bounce, but the amount of bounce – measured in degrees – rises as the clubs in your bag get shorter. Professional clubfitters say the steepness of your wedge downswing and the size of the divots you take can be very revealing. If your swing is steep and you take large divots, you typically need more bounce (12 to 14 degrees) to tone down the digging. If you have a neutral steepness and carve medium-sized divots, try a mid-bounce. If you take shallow divots or none at all, you might best benefit from wedges with

less bounce, like six or eight degrees. The grass and bunker sand at the course you usually play are also factors: Generally, the shorter the grass and firmer the sand, the less bounce you need. For versatility, you might want to mix up your loft/bounce combinations, so you can use wedges with different amounts of bounce in different situations. Or try some of the latest wedges, like TaylorMade’s ATV, with varying effective bounce angles in one sole.

## **Distance Gapping**

A clubfitter can help you figure out how many wedges you need and which lofts to get, so that you have a wedge for every conceivable distance. “We’ve seen more players moving to a four-wedge setup,” says Dave Neville, Titleist’s wedge marketing manager of its Vokey Design wedges. “They carry pitching, gap, sand and lob wedges. The most common wedge line up is still 52-56-60, but since pitching wedges are getting stronger lofts, many players are moving towards 46-50-54-58. We recommend a maximum of four to five degrees of loft between wedges, which gives you 12 to 15 yards

between your max distance with each wedge.”

## **Sole Grinds**

Sole width and shape, commonly referred to collectively as a grind, are also key to the average golfer. “Different grinds are becoming more popular on tour and with players of all levels,” says Neville. “They can provide versatility on shots around the greens. On the other hand, a full sole is going to be a bit more forgiving.” For example, a narrow flange on the sole helps in tightly packed sand and shorter grass, while a wider flange can cut through thicker grass.

## **Matching Wedges**

Should your wedges match your irons? If you play super game-improvement irons, then by all means go for matching wedges that may have a slightly larger hitting area with the forgiveness of a cavity, as opposed to standard wedges that are slightly smaller with no cavity. Many players prefer to have their wedges match one another, for consistency in feel, performance and distance gapping.





PHOTO COURTESY OF TITLEIST

## Grooves and Spin

Many high-end wedges today have milled grooves and a textured face, to help impart spin on the ball. These types of faces will generally get you more backspin than those with cast grooves that aren't made with as much precision. The USGA and R&A have strict limits on groove design, and nearly all new wedges sold today follow those guidelines.

## Shafts

No matter the flex, wedge shafts will play stiff for a number of reasons: the shafts are shorter, the clubheads are heavier, you swing them at the slowest speed of any of your clubs so they won't bend, and the high lofts take away impact force. Also know

that a soft wedge shaft tip lowers ball trajectory just a shade, and increases spin, to optimize control.

Sure, you can arm yourself with a lot of wedge information and take a stab at fitting yourself, but your best option is to allow a clubfitter to quickly and accurately help organize your short game. "We have lots of information on all of our wedges, lofts, bounce angles and grind options at [vokey.com](http://vokey.com), so self-fitting is possible," says Neville. "But with the number of loft, bounce and sole options out there, it's best to work with a fitter."

For example, to derive your optimal bounce angle, a fitter will likely apply marking tape to the sole of a 56-degree wedge and then have

you hit balls off of a lie board to zero in on the proper bounce angle based off where the sole is striking the board. Or they may use a high-tech launch monitor to determine ball flight and distance statistics for different wedges you hit. That's something you aren't likely to do on your own. And even if you had access to these tools, it'd be like trying to read your own X-ray; better to let a trained professional do their job.

A fitter can also use a keen eye to detect which shapes and lofts may help or hurt your particular short game, and help you zero in on the exact wedges and specifications you should have in your bag. That way, you'll play confidently from any distance or situation. ■



# Above All Advertising, Inc.

Inflatable Advertising & Signage



We help you dramatically increase your business and profits through our wide range of inflatable products, large format displays and signage. It's as easy as:

## 1 Select Your Product

Choose a product that works for your business or event. Don't see something you like? We'll custom create it for you.

## 2 Send Your Design

Submit your artwork to place on your desired product. If you don't have artwork, our graphics design team will create it for you.

## 3 Make It Perfect

We'll work with you until we get your design dialed in to your exact specifications. Production will begin upon approval.

### Advertising Flags

#### Call For Details!

- Several Sizes & Styles Available



### Banners & Displays

#### Call For Details!

- Custom Prints & Displays
- Several Sizes & Styles Available



### Fabsta™ Displays

- Unique Advertising Displays
- One-Of-A-Kind Designs
- Guaranteed To Make You Stand-Out



**Fabsta™ Plus**  
• LCD & Tablet Accessible

**Fabsta™ Vertical**  
• Tablet Accessible

**Fabsta™ Curve**  
• Curved Display

### Custom Inflatables

- Driving Ranges
- Product Replicas
- Helium Units
- Costumes



### Event Tents

- Pop-up Tents
- Inflatable Tents
- TeePee Tents
- Available with Full Digital Graphics or Thermal Press



1.866.552.2683 • [www.abovealladvertising.com](http://www.abovealladvertising.com)



# In a Hurry?

If you're in a rush before hitting the range or playing a round, **follow this plan**

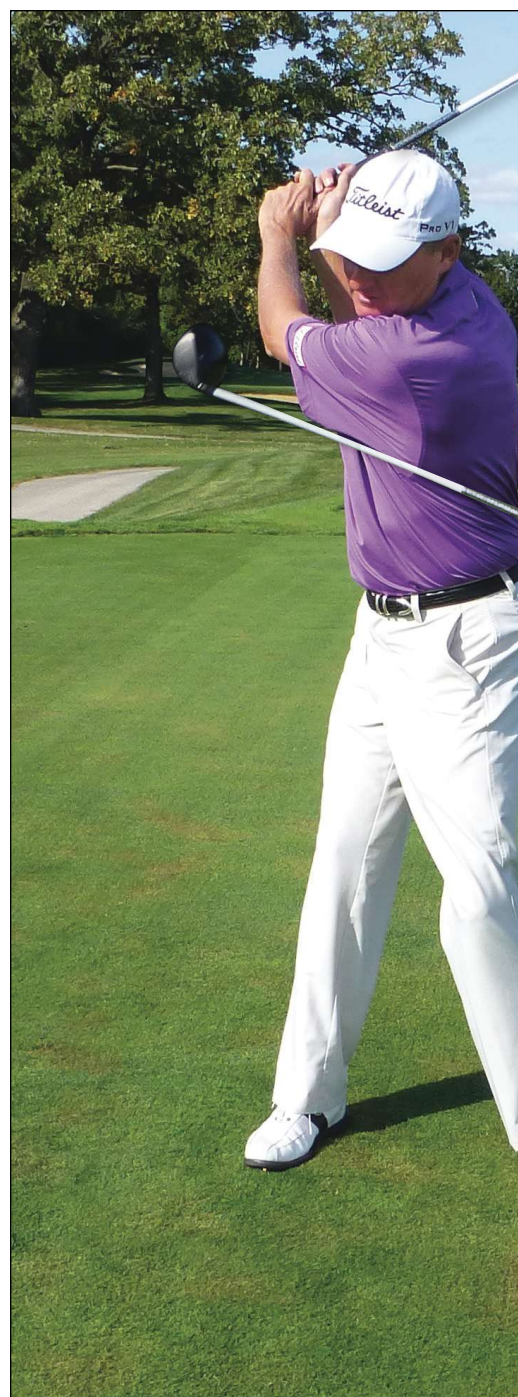
**W**e've all experienced the flustered feeling of arriving at the range or on the first tee without enough time to properly warm up. From fighting traffic to juggling work schedules, sometimes there just isn't enough time to get to the golf course in a calm, collected manner. And in the scramble to start swinging the club, we forget all about some important fitness steps that can help us play better and stay healthy.

As the PGA director of instruction at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club in Lemont, Ill., I see golfers rushing to the range or the golf course every day. They're running around trying to put on their golf shoes, carry their bag and buy a hot dog all at the same time. In many cases, once they get to the tee they start swinging without any sort of warm-up – or they rush through a series of motions they think will help, but might really do more harm than good.

Sometimes you can't control being late or rushed. But there's no reason

to abandon the idea of warming up or ignore your fitness. A few quick and easy moves can improve your flexibility and get your body ready for making golf swings.

■ **Start Slow** – You'll see a couple of common mistakes by golfers trying to warm up quickly. One is grabbing two clubs and swinging hard, like a hitter with two bats in the on-deck circle of a baseball game. This can hurt your back, since you're swinging a fair amount of weight without having stretched your core muscles at all. The second type of warm-up that does



# Don't Worry

for a quick warm-up that will help prevent injuries **BY KEVIN WEEKS, PGA**



Making slow golf swings that gradually increase to full speed is better for your back than swinging two clubs at a time.



Making a turning motion and holding your position for a few seconds is a good way to engage the core muscles and the back.

more harm than good is the windmill, where golfers take a club or two and whirl their arms like the hands on a clock. This is a motion that you never make during the golf swing, so you're wasting precious time you could spend on a more targeted movement.

Instead, start your quick warmup by holding a club at both ends, then raising your arms over your head. Tilt your arms gently to the right and feel the stretch along the left side of your body for 15 seconds, then reverse the motion toward the left – whatever you do on one side of your body should be repeated on the other for a balanced warmup. This move will warm the muscles in the side and core.

■ **Stretch the Shoulders** – Grip the club with your left hand and hold your left arm parallel to the ground. Take your right hand and grab your left wrist, pulling your left arm across

your chest; reverse and repeat with the other arm. This will stretch out your shoulders and back, mimicking the moves you'll make in the backswing and follow-through.

“Sometimes you can't control being late or rushed. But there's **no reason to abandon** the idea of warming up.”

—Kevin Weeks, PGA

■ **Start to Swing** – Once you've warmed your shoulders, sides, back and core, you can start making swing motions. First, hold your club across your chest and make a turn away from the ball (*above*); hold this position for a breath, then turn a little farther before turning through the

ball. After a couple of these moves, start taking full swings with the club – slowly at first, then ramping up to full speed.

You can do all of these stretches in just a minute or two, and they all work on the specific muscles you use while swinging the club. You'll feel better while you're playing, you'll be less likely to injure yourself, and you'll probably be less sore in the morning, too. Try this the next time you head to the range or the course, and you'll notice a difference in the way you feel and the way you swing the club. ■



PGA Professional **Kevin Weeks**, the director of instruction at Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, is a three-time Illinois PGA Section Teacher of the Year and one of *Golf Digest's* Top 50 Teachers for 2011 and 2012.



# Tee <sup>it</sup> FORWARD

PLAY FASTER...  
HAVE MORE FUN

Start Smart — Move Up a Set of Tees



Register today as a **TEE IT FORWARD** host facility at [PGALinks.com](http://PGALinks.com)

**Behind  
THE SCENES**

# Port Royal's Range



**When the elite four-man field warms up at the PGA Grand Slam of Golf, they get Port Royal's range to themselves – and a panoramic look at the Atlantic Ocean** **BY DON JOZWIAK**

**W**hen major championship winners Bubba Watson, Webb Simpson, Ernie Els and Keegan Bradley are warming up, you'd think all eyes would be on them. But at Bermuda's Port Royal Golf Course, their stunning swings will compete with a striking view of the Atlantic Ocean as the foursome prepares for the PGA Grand Slam of Golf (see page 2 and inset above).

Port Royal is hosting the event for the fourth consecutive year. The PGA Grand Slam of Golf is open to the winners of the year's four major championships: The Masters (Watson), U.S. Open (Simpson), Open Championship (Els) and PGA Championship (Rory McIlroy won this year's event, but is being replaced by 2011 winner Bradley due to a scheduling conflict). Not only is the Robert Trent Jones-designed course at Port Royal a solid test of golf for the 36-hole event, scheduled this year for Oct. 23–24, but it features one of the most memorable ranges in the world.

"We have golfers come from all over the world, and they tell me all the time, 'This is the most beautiful range I've ever seen,'" says Andrew Brooks, the director of golf at Port Royal. "You won't find a better view at a practice range, and even without the view it's still a great place to practice."

Land is scarce on Bermuda, an island in the Atlantic that is less than 21 square miles in size. But Port Royal

is fortunate to have a generously sized range, with 20 grass hitting bays and a 300-yard hitting area that faces out to an unobstructed view of the ocean. There are several targets in the landing area, along with a practice green and bunker for short game work.

For 51 weeks out of the year, Port Royal is the busiest of Bermuda's golf courses. The public facility hosts an average of 28,000 rounds a year, and this season was the first for a new golf

academy located on the range. Brooks and his staff of golf professionals use the range for lessons with golfers at every skill level, from juniors and beginners to elite players.

"We've really tried to position ourselves as the place in Bermuda for people to come and get into the game," Brooks says.

For the week of the PGA Grand Slam of Golf, however, the Port Royal range becomes the most exclusive range in the world: Instead of \$5, you need a major championship to hit balls. Each player in the four-man field gets his own extra-large hitting area – complete with his specified brand of golf balls and a custom nameplate – to warm up for the challenge of 36 holes in the trade winds on Port Royal's course.

Brooks says the PGA Grand Slam of Golf competitors work on the same things he advises all golfers to practice while preparing for a round on a windy course like Port Royal: Feeling a slow, balanced swing to control ball flight.

"The thing I always tell our visitors is to work on their balance: Take a slightly wider stance, take one more club if you're into the wind and swing nice and easy," Brooks says. "'Ease in the breeze' is the best way to remember it."

And Brooks adds one more piece of advice that's specific to the range at Port Royal. "If you're not hitting it so well, just stop for a moment and enjoy the view." ■

**7**

Golf courses in Bermuda

**4**

Players in the PGA Grand Slam of Golf

**28,000**

Rounds of golf played at Port Royal Golf Course each year

**20.54**

Size of Bermuda in square miles

# Golf Range Association of America

# Preferred Vendors

In recognition of their support and participation, The Golf Range Association of America wishes to thank the following **GRAA Preferred Vendors**.



248-960-1700  
www.5hourenergy.com  
Official Energy Shot Supplier



800-726-3354  
www.coastalnetting.com  
Official Golf Netting Systems Supplier



888-287-2614  
www.golfwebdesign.com  
Official Web Designer



SPECIALTY INSURANCE  
800-237-3355  
www.alliedspecialty.com  
Official Insurance Supplier



888-881-2433  
www.covershotsgolf.com  
Official Mobile Canopy Supplier



866-743-9773  
www.standardgolf.com  
Official Range Equipment Supplier



YOUR ONE STOP SOURCE  
800-869-1800  
www.wittekgolf.com  
Official Range Equipment Supplier



800 OK CHAMP  
www.champspikes.com  
Official Spike and Tee Supplier



EASY PICKER®  
GOLF PRODUCTS

800-641-4653  
www.easypicker.com  
Official Range Equipment Supplier



800-541-1123  
www.texnetusa.com  
Official Netting Supplier

# FINAL Shot



# A Golfer's Paradise

**L**ocated in sunny South Florida, the PGA Center for Golf Learning and Performance is an innovative golf complex at PGA Village in Port St. Lucie, Fla. The 35-acre facility features some of the most impressive training grounds in the country, including 100 full-swing practice stations, the Golf Fitness & Performance Center, nine varied practice bunkers, 7,000 square feet of putting greens and a three-hole teaching course. And if you feel like your game is ready, you can venture next door to PGA Golf Club where 54 holes of championship golf await.

[www.PGAVillage.com](http://www.PGAVillage.com)

