



Welcome to the Summer issue of *GR: Golf Range Magazine!*

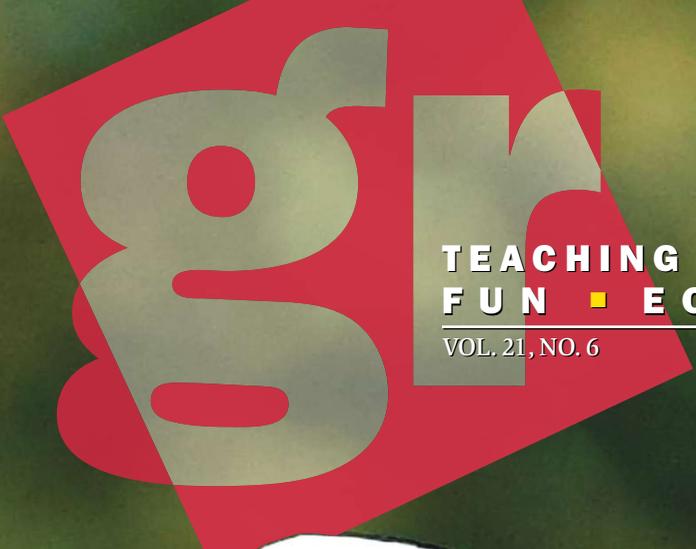
Inside this issue, you will find the following features:

- **How Cool Is This? Tiger's Den:** An exclusive look at Tiger Woods' backyard practice facility on Jupiter Island.
- **Next on the Lesson Tee: From the Court to the Course –** Golden State's Stephen Curry's short game makes him one of the best golfers in the NBA.
- **Practice Tips From the Pros:** Adam Scott's swing is a thing of beauty, but his major breakthrough came after a change in location and a lot of hard work on the putting green.
- **Tips For Women by Women: Not All Advice is Helpful –** Everyone has an opinion, but you can maximize your range time by tuning out some tips.
- **Clubfitting:** Too many long irons, not enough hybrids and wedges? If that's what your bag looks like, then you need a clubfitter to help fix the holes in your set.

Keep it fun and thanks for supporting the GRAA.

Best Regards,

Rick Summers
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Golf Ranges: Where the Fun Starts



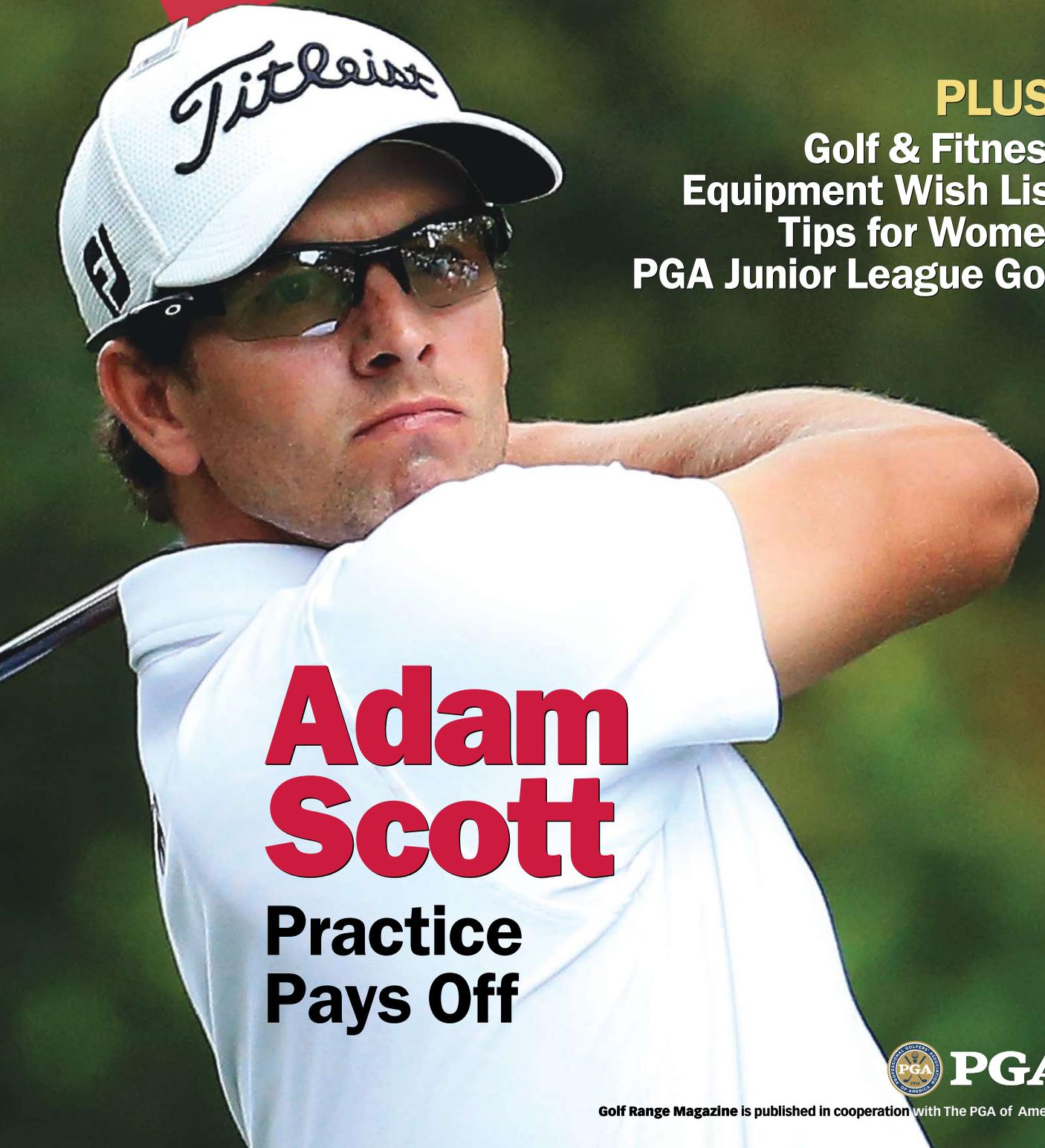
**TEACHING ■ PRACTICE
FUN ■ EQUIPMENT**

VOL. 21, NO. 6

SUMMER 2013

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Tiger Woods
Stephen Curry
Aaron Rodgers

PLUS:
Golf & Fitness
Equipment Wish List
Tips for Women
PGA Junior League Golf



Adam Scott

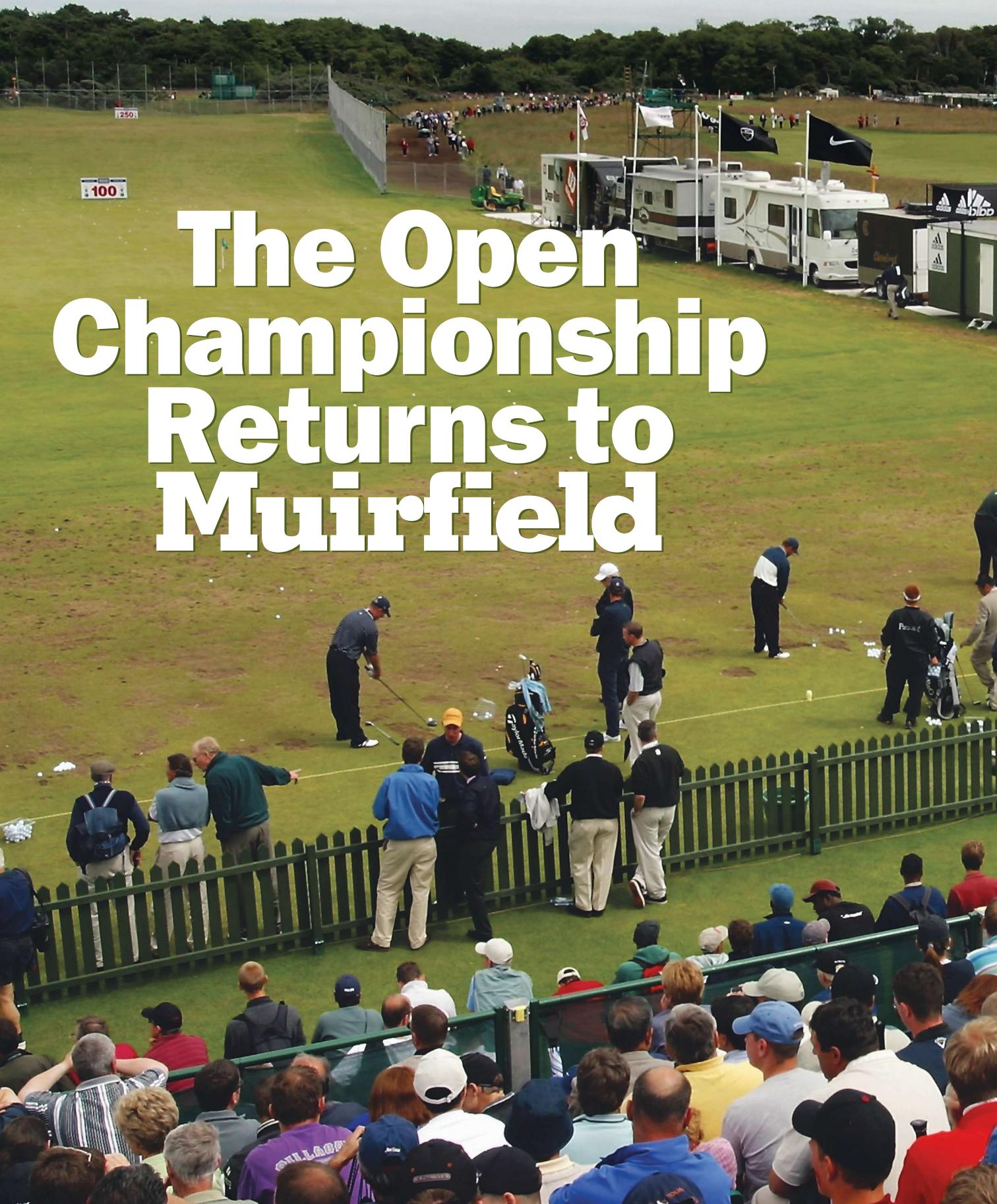
Practice Pays Off



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

Opening
R O U N D

The Open Championship Returns to Muirfield





Muirfield in East Lotham, Scotland, is considered one of the premier golf courses in the world. On July 15–21, the game's top players will line the practice range as they attempt to tame the venerable links layout during the 2013 Open Championship.

Two-time Open Champion Ernie Els – winner of the 2012 Open at Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf Club in Lancashire, England – will defend his title on the same course where he first hoisted the Claret Jug in 2002.

This photo was taken during the 2002 Open Championship, the last time Muirfield hosted the event.

Previous Open Champions at Muirfield, dating back to 1959, include some of the greatest names in golf history: Nick Faldo (1992 and '87), Tom Watson (1980), Lee Trevino (1972), Jack Nicklaus (1966) and Gary Player (1959). Prior to '59, the Open Championship was held at Muirfield eight times, beginning in 1892.

Opening
R O U N D



Rare Air

Arguably the greatest basketball player of all-time (no offense, LeBron), Charlotte Bobcats majority owner Michael Jordan continues to spend as much time on the golf course as he can. Here, the self-proclaimed golf fanatic pulled up to the practice range in his personalized Carolina Blue golf car for the ARIA Resort & Casino's 12th annual Michael Jordan Celebrity Invitational golf tournament at North Las Vegas' Shadow Creek Golf Course in early April.

GETTY IMAGES



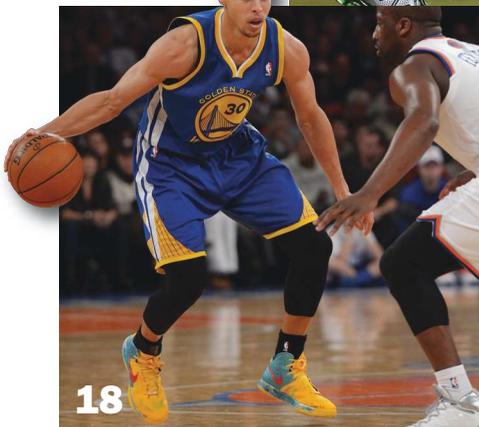


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FUN ■ EQUIPMENT



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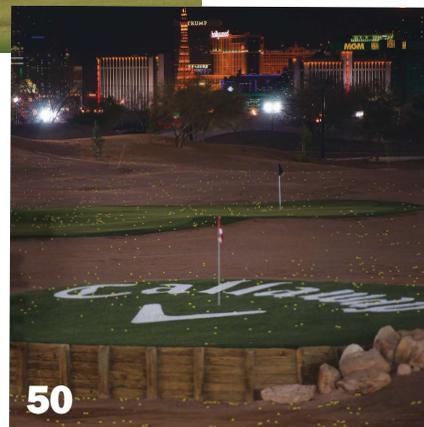
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The Range is Where the Stars Come Out

Welcome to the Summer 2013 issue of *GR: Golf Range Magazine*. We like to look at golf as a game that's played on the course and on the range, and this issue takes a look at some well-known athletes who feel the same way.

One is Adam Scott, the 2013 Masters champion and one of the world's top players over the past several years. How did the sweet-swinging Aussie make the leap from good to great? He found a great place to practice, and he dedicated himself to getting better. I invite you to read the story to see how Scott and Tiger Woods are often the last players left on the range.

OK, you say, these guys are professional golfers – of course they practice. But what about a non-golfer like Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers? The Super Bowl winner and NFL MVP is an avid golfer, and he likes to have fun and unwind from his grueling hours on the gridiron by hitting balls and working on his golf skills. The same can be said for standout Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, a 2-handicap who has been honing his game since before he played for his high school golf team.

It doesn't matter how cool or glamorous your job is, everyone can get their golf fix by hitting a few balls or rolling a few putts on their way to or from work.

This issue of *GR: Golf Range Magazine* also has some great stories on how Speedgolf training can improve your practice, how women can politely sidestep all the golf advice men love to give them, and the hottest golf gear that you'll be seeing on the course and at the range this summer.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue, and that it inspires you to head to the range today!



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Golf Ranges: Where the Fun Starts

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are
you an
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Warming UP

Tips, trends and topics
to get you and your game
READY FOR GOLF

BY TONY L. STARKS,
DON JOZWIAK



Come Fly With Bubba!



GETTY IMAGES

Sometimes, Bubba Watson makes anything look possible on the golf course: Smashing 350-yard drives with a pink driver, hitting 150-yard wedge shots around trees, swinging so hard his feet come off the ground. Now the 2012 Masters champ has a new superpower – the gift of flight.

OK, so Bubba himself can't fly. But his new golf car can. Bubba, with help from Oakley Golf and Neoteric Hovercraft, created a prototype hovercraft/golf car mashup that floats down fairways and over water. The process was captured in a video called "Bubba's Hover" that went viral on YouTube when it was uploaded before this year's Masters. The original clip has been seen nearly 8 million times,

and it's estimated that more than 60 million people have seen it on various sites.

Bubba's hovercraft has proven to be so popular that it soon won't be one of a kind any more. Neoteric is creating a production version, and will sell more than 100 of the golf hovercrafts this year at roughly \$50,000 per vehicle. Drivers need to complete 12 hours of training before they can take the wheel, but how fast do you think you could play 18 holes in a hovercraft that has a top speed of 50 miles per hour? ■





Annika's Academy **Awesome** for Practicing

As with many athletes who reach the pinnacle of their respective sports, Annika Sorenstam (*pictured*) demonstrated a relentless work ethic during her 16-year career as a professional golfer. She won 72 LPGA tournaments, including 10 majors. Sorenstam would spend countless hours practicing her game and now – through the Annika Golf Academy at Reunion Resort in Kissimmee, Fla. – she's providing other golfers with premier instruction and practice space.

Charlotta Sorenstam (*pictured above left*), Annika's sister, serves as director of golf operations at the Academy, in addition to being an instructor and clubfitter. Charlotta says the

facility prides itself on a holistic approach, which ties in to the mission statement of "sharing Annika's passion for golf, fitness and nutrition."

"We strive for our students to feel welcome when they visit and really care about their progress in every facet," says Charlotta, who had an accomplished professional career in her own right, including success on the LPGA Tour.

The Annika Academy attracts golfers of all skill levels, from true beginners to tour players. When the 5,400-square-foot facility first opened in 2007, they attracted golfers at a clip of 80 percent women and 20 percent men. The ratio is now at 65-35.

"Whether a guest is a beginner or experienced player, a man or a woman, it's the same formula," says Charlotta. "We focus on the five fundamentals of grip, posture, balance, aim/alignment and ball position. These elements are crucial to creating an efficient, consistent and body-friendly swing."

With awesome amenities such as the full gym, practice range, a massive putting green, two chipping and pitching greens, as well as the Callaway Performance Center that features V1 video analysis and K-Vest technology, it's assured that golfers leave the academy with a newfound perspective and excitement for practicing the game of golf. ■

COURTESY OF BUFFALO COMMUNICATIONS

Range Tips from Rory

Rory McIlroy is hopeful that extra time on the practice range will help him return to his 2012 form, when he won the PGA Championship and was named the PGA Player of the Year.

When Rory's game gets a little wayward, he hits the range and works on the basics. "I'm very big on the fundamentals," says McIlroy. "If someone can get their fundamentals right it makes the golf swing that much easier."

The next time you're on the range, McIlroy suggests spending time working on these three elements of the golf swing:

1. Alignment

"It's the most important thing. A lot of amateurs think they're aiming at the target when they're actually lined up 15-to-20 yards to the left or right," says McIlroy. "When you're on the range, pick a target and lay a club at your feet pointing toward your chosen target. This will help you see and feel what proper alignment is like."

2. Ball position

"Ball position is key," McIlroy explains. "It has to be consistent from swing to swing so you can develop a repeatable motion with steady results."

3. Tempo

"Tempo and rhythm are crucial – they're what keep your body and the club in sync," McIlroy claims. "Tempo is one thing that you kind of need to figure out on your own. There are a lot of golfers who prefer a faster tempo, while others benefit from a slower speed. Spending time on the range will help you learn what tempo works best for you." ■



GETTY IMAGES

Duck Dynasty on Tour?

Golfers on the PGA Tour are getting a little more adventurous with their personal style in recent years – think Charley Hoffman's long blond locks, Miguel Angel Jimenez's pony tail, Johnson Wagner's mustache, Graeme McDowell's scruffy beard and Rickie Fowler's colorful wardrobe. But when the guys from "Duck Dynasty" paid a recent visit to the pro-am prior to the Zurich Classic at TPC Louisiana,



the PGA Tour got a double-barreled shot of big beards and camouflage.

In case you live under a rock and don't watch the show, "Duck Dynasty" is one of the highest-rated cable shows on the air. Through three seasons on A&E, the show has followed the Robertson family business, Duck Commander hunting gear, and its colorful characters. Brothers Willie (*pictured*) and Jase Robertson and co-worker Justin Martin

became friends with "Duck Dynasty" fan Bubba Watson over Twitter, and the trio met up with Watson to play the Zurich Classic Pro-Am. Watson has also spent time hunting ducks with the Robertson family.

The self-taught Watson famously doesn't take golf lessons, but the Robertsons had some advice for Bubba after their round (which was cut short by rain).

"If he grew a beard, there's no telling what he could do," said Willie Robertson.

Added Jase Robertson, "He wouldn't need any kind of security if he grew a beard." ■

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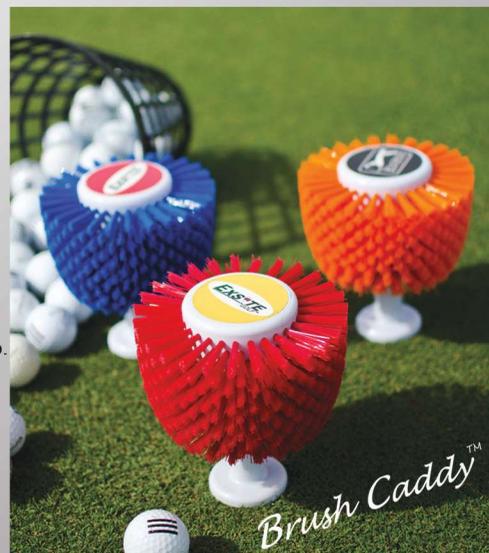
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How to Practice Like a Pro

There are noticeable differences between how amateurs and professionals practice. And it's more than just the differences in their swings.

Take it from Rodney Green, PGA director of golf at Innisbrook Resort near Tampa, Fla., host of the PGA Tour's Tampa Bay Championship. Over the two decades that Green (pictured) has worked in the golf industry, he has watched more than his fair share of amateurs and professionals take to the



range. The major difference he notices is that most amateur golfers

will hit from the closest piece of "nice grass" they can find, leaving sporadic divots over a large area. Professionals, on the other hand, take



divots in a clean and concise pattern.

Check out this video to learn how to take divots like a professional, and why it's important to do so. ■

EA Sports: Get in the Game

Before people head to the range and pick up a club for the first time, there has to be an initial introduction to the game. Many times, it's a parent or a friend who acts as the conduit. But in a world of ubiquitous technology, it's not farfetched to consider a video game as a potential entryway into the game of golf.

watching it on TV."

Evans adds that the company's market research on their golf franchise has yielded similar results. Often times, people are hesitant to try golf because they don't understand the scoring or the most basic rules. Having a golf experience from the comfort of their home at their own pace helps consumers familiarize themselves with the game.

"It helps you become passionate about golf if you understand the sport, so that's what we're hoping to do here," says Evans, himself an avid golfer. "As with many people in the golf industry, we're trying to help grow the game at EA Sports as well."

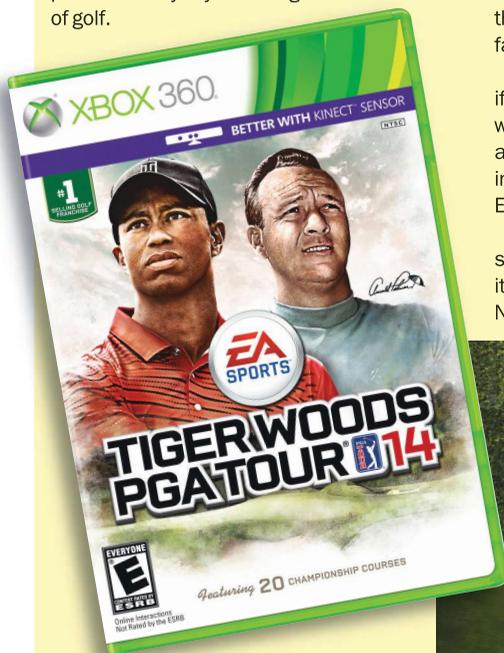
Over the past three years, EA has significantly grown its golf franchise. In 2010, it reached a licensing agreement with Augusta National, allowing the company to bring the

games have wanted to do since the dawn of video games," says Evans. "It's really exciting to be able to allow people to experience those venues in a new way."

This is another part of EA's strategy to strengthen people's connection to the game and industry of golf. When people are channel surfing on a Sunday afternoon and come across the final round of the 2014 PGA Championship, they will be more inclined to tune in if they're familiar with the Oak Hill Country Club venue after playing it on the game.

The latest installment of Tiger Woods PGA Tour Golf also features "Legends of the Game" such as Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player, Seve Ballesteros and Bobby Jones. Palmer even co-starred with Tiger Woods and Lee Trevino in a daring commercial for the game.

"It's really been great from our standpoint



EA Sports has created some of the most successful video game franchises in history, including Madden NFL, NBA Live, FIFA and Tiger Woods PGA Tour Golf. The partnership between EA and the sports they digitize has been mutually beneficial on many levels, according to the company.

"We've conducted studies and found that for people who play our Madden NFL product, for example, their fandom as an NFL or American football fan increases," says Craig Evans, marketing director for the EA Sports Tiger Woods Golf series. "Because they play the game, they realize there's a thing called a dime or a nickel, they learn the terminology. And that leads to a more enjoyable experience when either they're playing football or even



hallowed golfing grounds to a video game console near you. They've further expanded that in the 2014 version of the game, reaching agreements with all of golf's major championship hosts to present digital recreations of the Masters, U.S. Open, Open Championship and PGA Championship.

"Playing the major championship venues is something that those who play golf video

helping our players to understand the history of golf," says Evans. "For Mr. Palmer, and a lot of the other legends, they saw what we were doing from a standpoint of detailing the history of the game. They saw it as fun, as giving a new group of younger folk an opportunity to not only interact with history, but to interact with them and see some of the legacy they left on the world of golf." ■

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How Cool Is This?

An exclusive look at Tiger Woods' backyard practice facility on Jupiter Island

Tiger's Den

Many golf analysts over the years have said the one thing that separates Tiger Woods from the rest of the field — other than sheer talent — is his commitment to practice. One glimpse at Woods' backyard, and you'll see that commitment on full display.

Behind the mega-mansion beachfront property located in Jupiter Island, Fla., there's a 3.5-acre home practice facility with four putting greens that can be used to simulate a variety of different par-3 holes (*pictured*).

Tiger describes it by saying: "Working with my (golf course design) team, I designed the short-game facility and oversaw its construction. It features four greens, six bunkers with different depths and kinds of sand, a video center and a putting studio. If no wind is blowing, the longest club I can hit is a 7-iron. It's also set up so I can hit shots out of my second-story studio."

We're a little more than five months into the 2013 PGA Tour season and Tiger Woods has already racked up four wins, with his most recent coming at the prestigious Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass. This was the fastest that Woods has reached four wins in a season. The practice must be paying off.

Woods' practice facility was first described by Florida luxury realtor and golf property expert Cary Lichtenstein, in the blog on JeffRealty.com. Photos courtesy of Jeff Lichtenstein, marketing Palm Beach Gardens real estate and PGA National homes for sale. www.jeffrealty.com/palm-beach-gardens-homes and www.jeffrealty.com/pga-national. ■

From the Court **to the** Course

NEXT ON THE
Lesson
TEE

Golden State's **Stephen Curry** is known for his long-range shooting, but it's his short game that makes him one of the best golfers in the NBA **BY DON JOZWIAK**

As a second-generation NBA star, it's fair to assume that the Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry polished his basketball skills by playing one-on-one with his dad, Dell Curry. Turns out the Curry family competitive streak extends to the golf course, too.

Dell Curry started playing golf after his third season in the NBA, when he was with the then-Charlotte Hornets. That was when Stephen was just a year old, and the youngster quickly became his dad's shadow at the golf course.

"Dad would take me out to the course, and I'd just putt and chip at first," Stephen Curry remembers. "I just kept coming back to it because I liked the game so much. Ever since then, I've been pretty good at it, and just challenging myself to get better whenever I could."

Stephen still recalls the first time he beat his dad on the course. On a 2001 family vacation to Myrtle Beach, he shot in the 70s to beat his dad – on his dad's 37th birthday, no less.

"I'm pretty sure that's not how he expected it to go down for him, and it was a real big moment for me as a kid; that wasn't a good birthday for him, but I'm sure it was a cool moment for him in retrospect," Stephen Curry says. "We still go to Myrtle Beach as a family to play golf every year, and whenever we tee it up there I always remind him about that round."

Stephen Curry went on to play golf in high school at Charlotte (N.C.) Christian, and has continued playing

– through his college years as an All-America hoops star at Davidson, and into his NBA career, which started when he was a lottery pick by the Warriors in 2009.

Curry says he doesn't get a chance to play much during the long NBA season, but he keeps his 2-handicap game sharp by practicing from time

About Stephen Curry

Born: March 14, 1988

Occupation: Golden State Warriors guard

Number of NBA seasons: Four

Career scoring average: 19.2 points per game

Golf handicap: 2

Family: Wife Ayesha, daughter Riley

to time. When the season's over, he hits the course as much as he can. He also hosts the annual Stephen Curry ThanksUSA Charity Golf Tournament at the Presidio Golf Club in San Francisco, and participates in the Curry Family Celebrity Classic golf fundraiser at River Run Country Club in Davidson, N.C.

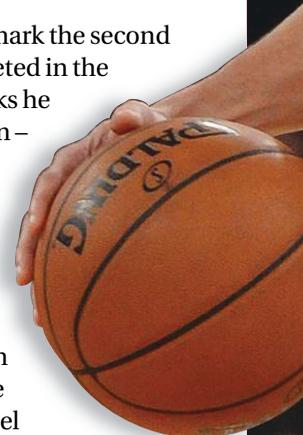
In July, Curry will also tee it up in the American Century Championship, the annual celebrity golf tournament at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course in

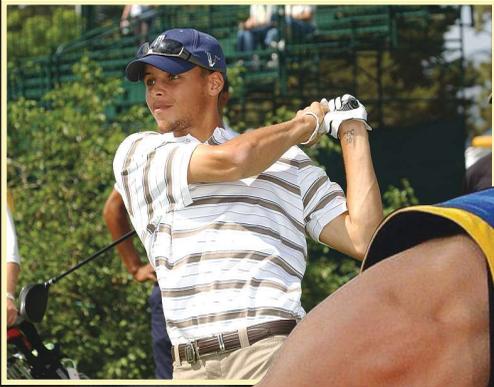
Reno, Nev. It will mark the second time he has competed in the event, and he thinks he has a chance to win – or at least be the best basketball player in the field, which includes Michael Jordan and Ray Allen.

"I've played with Ray before and I've played with Michael Jordan before," Curry says. "I feel like I can beat them on a given day, but we'll see. When we take it out from a friendly match on vacation somewhere to the American Century Championship – in front of TV cameras and a big gallery – I think I can hold my own."

Despite his long-range shooting prowess on the hardwood, Curry's not a bomber on the golf course. Though taller golfers often struggle around the greens, the 6'3" guard says his short game is his strength because it relates to the skills he uses on the court.

"I've got pretty good hand-eye coordination," says Curry, who holds the NBA record for most three-pointers made in a season with the 272 treys he drained in 2012–13. "The best part of my game is my short game, the touch and feel shots around the greens – I shoot a lot of threes, so you've got to have some balance and touch when you're doing that. Maybe that translates to golf somehow." ■





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QB with a Passion for the Game (of Golf)

Aaron Rodgers' success on the golf course has been aided by Green Bay Country Club PGA Professional Lucas Hana BY ROGER GRAVES

Aaron Rodgers, the Green Bay Packers' Pro-Bowl quarterback, isn't as comfortable on the fairways and greens of Pebble Beach as he is on the frozen tundra of Lambeau Field. Still, Rodgers – who recently became the richest player in NFL history by signing a five-year, \$110 million contract extension – admits he is hopelessly hooked on golf.

When the NFL season concludes each year, Rodgers replaces his football cleats with golf spikes while playing in numerous celebrity, charity and national pro-am golf tournaments.

From the AT&T National Pro-Am at Pebble Beach to the Michael Jordan Celebrity Invitational at Shadow Creek in Las Vegas and the American Century Championship in Lake Tahoe, Rodgers has become a regular on golf's celebrity circuit. He has teamed with everyone from PGA Tour standouts Jerry Kelly and Steve Stricker (avid Packers fans) to Michael Jordan and comedian Brian Baumgartner from the "The Office."

"Football is my profession and my livelihood, but golf is something I enjoy playing," explains Rodgers, a Super Bowl MVP. "The fun thing

about golf is we're usually raising money for charity, so it's fun for a good cause."

However, pardon Rodgers if he feels more comfortable on the gridiron decked out in shoulder pads

About Aaron Rodgers
Born: Dec. 2, 1983
Occupation: Green Bay Packers QB
Career QB rating: 104.9
NFL record as a starter: (including post-season): 46-24
Super Bowl victories: 1 (2010)
Golf handicap: 6

and helmet than navigating the greenery at a charity tournament with thousands of people in the nearby galleries.

"Although I'm not totally comfortable, that doesn't mean I'm not competitive

on the golf course," says Rodgers, who plays to a 6 handicap. "I like to play with something on the line to get the adrenaline flowing, but golf is more of an individual sport.

"In football, it takes the coordinated effort of a team to score touchdowns and win games. In golf, it's basically you against the golf course while you are competing against other people playing the same course."

The 29-year-old Rodgers, who grew up in Chico, Calif., took up golf about 11 years ago and plays and practices at home bases in San Diego and Green Bay during the spring and summer. When he showed up at the American Century Celebrity Championship a few years ago in Lake Tahoe, he picked up a few swing tips from renowned instructor Hank Haney. But now, he works with PGA Director of Instruction Lucas Hana at Green Bay Country Club in Wisconsin,



Lucas Hana, PGA





Each off-season, Aaron Rodgers plays in several pro-ams and celebrity tournaments. He's pictured here at the 2013 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

which allows him to combine summer Packers' workouts with golf.

Hana quickly discovered that Rodgers is a gifted athlete and is nearly as passionate about golf as he is about football. And Rodgers can hit the golf ball prodigious distances.

"Aaron's athletic ability and power allow him to crush the ball in excess of 300 yards on average, and he maneuvers his way around the golf course like he's working the ball through to his receivers in a narrow opening on the football field," says Hana. "He plays very much by feel and finds a way to get it to the hole no matter where he is on the course.

"He is always trying to improve his driving accuracy, as he can tend to get

a little too much fade or pull on his shots. But with his slightly stronger grip and shallower path to the ball, he hits a nice draw most of the time."

"Football is my profession and my livelihood, but golf is something I enjoy playing."

—Aaron Rodgers

Hana has observed that Rodgers is blessed with exceptional hand-eye coordination and is disciplined enough to develop a consistent, repetitive swing.

"Aaron likes to play and practice on the course," says Hana. "His control is

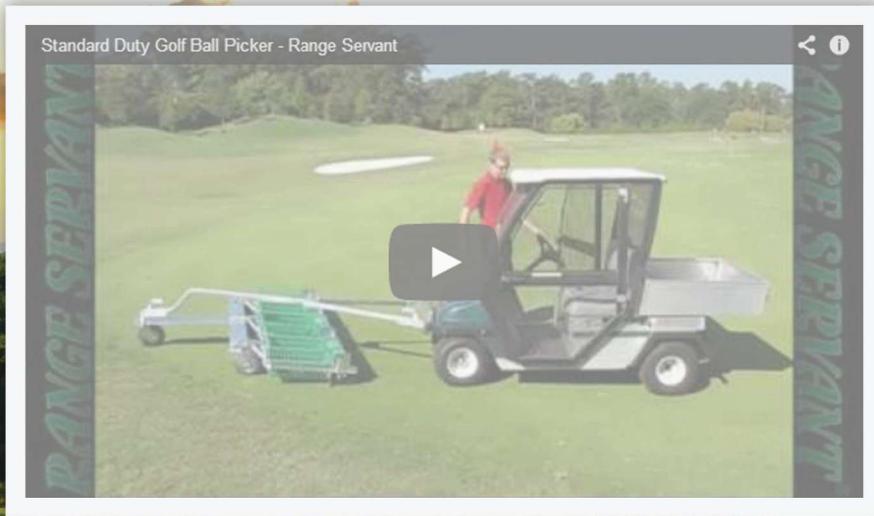
in his eyes and seeing where he wants the ball to go. Aaron is a competitor when he gets on the golf course. He is a true grinder and never gives up on the course. I try to tell him to try to have more fun and not make the events he plays in too competitive. Easy to say, hard to do."

Just like football, it comes down to execution on the golf course, according to Rodgers. "In both, if you commit a turnover or hit a bad shot, you have a chance to redeem yourself," he says. "Plus, if you're a little off one day, you can embarrass yourself."

Whether it's on the golf course or the football field, Aaron Rodgers isn't embarrassing himself very often. ■

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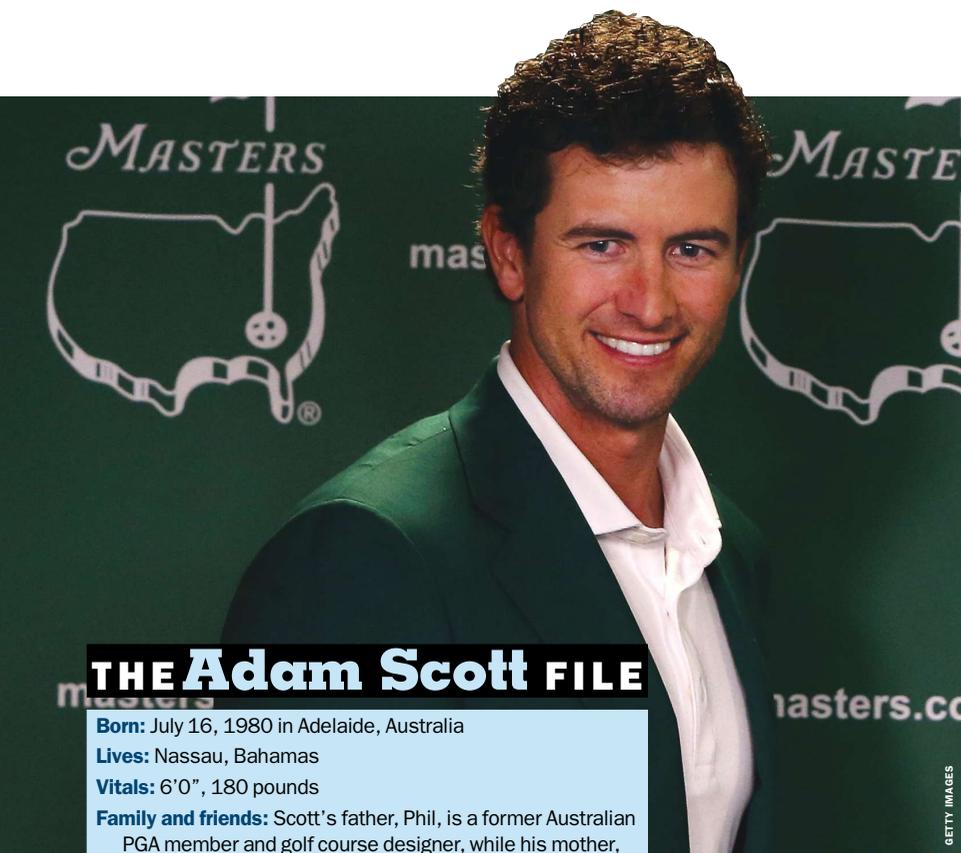
Practice Tips
FROM THE PROS

Practice Contributes to Masters Victory

Adam Scott's swing is a thing of beauty, but his major breakthrough came after a change in location – and with a lot of hard work on the putting green

BY DON JOZWIAK

There's no doubt Adam Scott looks good on the golf course. From a swing standpoint, his mechanics are picture-perfect. And according to his large following of female fans, it isn't just his swing that's handsome. How many other golfers have been mentioned as possible candidates to star in ABC's dating reality show "The Bachelor"?



THE Adam Scott FILE

Born: July 16, 1980 in Adelaide, Australia

Lives: Nassau, Bahamas

Vitals: 6'0", 180 pounds

Family and friends: Scott's father, Phil, is a former Australian PGA member and golf course designer, while his mother, Pam, is an accomplished golfer. Scott's girlfriend (sorry, ladies), Marie Kojzar, is an architect in Sweden.

Off-course hobbies: "If I can get to water, I'm going surfing."

Website: www.adamscott.com

GETTY IMAGES

Good looks aside, Scott made the entire golf world swoon with his dramatic playoff victory this April at the Masters. The victory was Scott's 21st victory across the world's tours, and the first major in a career that seemed destined for greatness as far back as childhood, when his father – a former club professional – got him started in the game.

Scott has always had one of the most sound, smooth swings on the PGA Tour – a blend of Tiger Woods' athleticism and Ernie Els' tempo, with a touch of Fred Couples' style. But in recent years, Scott has taken his game to the highest level by sharpening his putting practice, and by establishing a home base where he can work on his game between tour events. Here's a look at how practice time helped Scott become the first Australian to slip on the coveted Green Jacket:

Around and Around

Scott has worked out a specific way of practicing his putting that has led to a dramatic improvement on the greens. He starts by placing eight golf balls on the ground in a circle,

four feet away from the cup. Scott then attempts all eight putts, then repeats the process until

he's stroked 40 putts.

Following the same routine from six feet and from 10 feet, Scott finishes having hit 120 putts. By doing so in a circular pattern, he gets a feel for the different speed and touch he needs on all types of putts: uphill, downhill and breaking left or right. It isn't fast – the full 120-putt routine takes nearly an hour – but he can perform a scaled-down version as a quick warmup before a round, or on days when he's running short on time.

"An hour is about how long I figure I can concentrate for," Scott says. "It takes patience and concentration, and the drill is about going through the same routine over and over again to really ingrain it, and it has been a big help to my game."

Scott also keeps track of how many putts he makes as a way to track his progress, and to give him something to shoot for. "I made 38 out of 40 of the four-footers yesterday. Every time I do the drill is a little competition against myself," he adds.

Finding a Place to Practice

After leaving Australia to play full-time on the PGA European Tour in

2001, Scott made Switzerland his primary home, with plenty of trips back to Australia if he had a few weeks between events. But once he began to play primarily on the PGA Tour, booking flights on Swiss Air between events was no longer very convenient. Not to mention that Switzerland doesn't have a year-round golf climate.

So Scott found a new place to call home: The Albany, a private community and golf club in the Bahamas that was designed by Ernie Els. Els, Tiger Woods and a handful of other golfers have homes at The Albany, but Scott is the only one to make it his year-round home.

"The Bahamas are nice and quiet, and The Albany is a fantastic facility," Scott says. "There are a lot of tour golfers who have holiday homes there, but I am the only one so far who has a main base there."

Scott chose The Albany for the difficulty of the golf course and the comprehensive practice facility geared toward tour players. For example, the practice green runs 15 on the Stimpmeter in the weeks prior to the Masters so members can prepare for Augusta National's lightning-quick greens. Scott holds the course record with a 65 that includes a double-bogey on the first hole of his record round.

That's where Scott put in hours working on his putting stroke before this year's Masters, and where he went after the Masters to relax and enjoy his victory. He has also learned to spend more time on the practice tee and less on the course when he's working on his game.

"Generally I have played a little less and put in a bit more work, and I have seen my level of consistency go up," Scott says. "Before the Masters I went home to the Bahamas and spent two weeks of pretty intense work, and by the time I got to the Masters I felt so ready to play well – it felt like it just had to happen."

Scott says there was only one other player practicing at The Albany while he was preparing for the Masters: Tiger Woods. Scott said he and Tiger spent nearly the same amount of time practicing. "I'd just stay on the putting green a little longer," he reports. ■





Not All Advice is Helpful

Everyone has an opinion, but you can **maximize your range time** by tuning out some of the tips

BY LEIGHANN ALBAUGH, PGA

The range can be an intimidating place. That's especially true for women, who tend to receive more than their fair share of unsolicited, well-meaning and non-helpful technical advice. Husbands, boyfriends, sons, complete strangers: When it comes to the technical aspects of the golf swing, it seems everyone has an opinion to share with women golfers.

Leighann Albaugh, PGA, warns against "well-meaning but non-helpful" technical advice.

Here's a prime example: I recently had a new student on my lesson tee. She had been referred to me by her husband, an avid golfer I've known for years. He always talked with excitement about getting her into golf, so I was excited to finally meet her. This particular student is the personification of driven; she's a pediatrician and a mother of three who competes in triathlons. Two words: "dream student."

This new golfer found herself on my lesson tee in her first golf lesson having never touched a golf club before. She left the range that day hitting her 9-iron 100 yards in the air (did I already say "dream student"?).

One week later, I received a "911 HELP!" email from my new student. She had gone out to practice with her husband, and suddenly she couldn't get the ball airborne! Needless to say, I had "Dr. Dream Student" back on

“Very cool way to practice!”

-David Phillips



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Have a practice plan and stick to it" and "be straightforward" is what Albaugh (pictured above and right) stresses to her women students.

the lesson tee, STAT! It was clear to me from her very first practice swing that she had fallen victim to "well-meaning husband advice."

In an attempt to be helpful, her husband had told her to "keep her head down" – at one point, even standing in

"By avoiding the wrong advice and sticking to what a trained professional has taught you, you can enjoy your practice and playing even more."

—Leighann Albaugh, PGA

front of her, holding her head still – and that was just the beginning. We spent the next 30 minutes undoing what her husband had done, and then concocted a game plan to help him be helpful and supportive without giving technical advice.

If you're a woman, this is going to happen to you on the range and on the

course. Here's how to redirect inevitable well-meaning technical advice:

- **Have a practice plan and stick to it:** A good practice plan always has a "baseline foundation point" for students to return to if they work themselves into a slump. I also assign "homework" that needs to be completed and practiced before I see my students again. Once the progression and/or homework is completed, it's time to go play or go home.
- **Be straightforward:** "Thanks for the advice, I already have a coach; I am working with Leighann at Richmond Country Club." This has stopped

many Teacher of the Year wannabes in their tracks.

- **Redirect technical tip offers with questions about other parts of the game.** Turn the talk away from swing mechanics to something else golf-related. That includes the Rules, other courses they like to play or who their favorite tour players are. This is a good way to politely turn the conversation away from well-meaning but non-helpful technical advice, while still giving you a chance to learn more about golf.

And, when all else fails, wearing headphones and an iPod and setting up at the station on the far left end of



the range is always a safe choice to shield yourself from advice-givers. By avoiding the wrong advice and sticking to what a trained professional has taught you, you can enjoy your practice and playing even more. You might even want to start giving advice to the men! ■

Leighann Albaugh is a PGA associate golf professional at Richmond (Va.) Country Club and coach of the women's golf team at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va., where she was recently named Old Dominion Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.

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Mind the Gap

Too many long irons, not enough hybrids and wedges? If that's what your bag looks like, then you need a clubfitter to help fix the holes in your set **BY DON JOZWIAK**

What makes golf feel like work? When you don't have the right tools for the job. Chances are that you're carrying clubs that you don't hit very often, or don't hit very well – or both. If that's the case, a trained clubfitter would say that you have a problem with your gapping, meaning the spacing between the distances that you hit the different clubs in your bag.

PGA Professional David Rupp is a clubfitter with decades of experience and hundreds of fitting appointments on his calendar every year. As the owner of Pagoda Golf Area outside

Reading, Pa., Rupp sees golfers on the range every day with the wrong mix of clubs. We asked him for his advice on fixing your gapping problems, and here's what he told us:

Use It or Lose It

Rupp says there's a simple question to ask yourself to identify if you don't have the proper gapping between clubs: Do you have clubs you hardly ever use? And the follow-up question: Why don't you use them? "The answer is usually that the golfer can't hit those clubs effectively," Rupp says. "I always ask what's the longest iron they carry that they successfully hit. If they're being honest, the answer is usually a 5- or 6-iron." If you have long irons you don't hit anymore, you should



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clear them out of your bag to make room for something more effective.

Shake Up Your Makeup

Once you've discovered which clubs are just dead weight in your bag, figure out how to replace them. If you're dropping one long iron, you'll probably want to replace it with a hybrid that blends the playing characteristics of a wood and an iron. If you're ditching two or more long irons, you'll probably want to add another wedge to your bag. "People are kidding themselves when they're still carrying 2-irons and 3-irons," Rupp says. "Even tour players hardly carry those anymore. You're only allowed to carry 14 clubs, so it behooves you to have 14 clubs that you can use."

Seek Professional Help

A qualified clubfitter can help you finesse some of the trickier gapping decisions you might face. Rupp says trouble spots can include the transition from fairway woods to hybrids, and making sure that golfers have hybrids that will hit the shots high enough to hold the green on approach shots. "Everyone wants more distance, but you don't want hybrids that go too far or you're going to miss a lot of greens by rolling off the back," Rupp says. "Every player hits their clubs differently, and one person's going to benefit from a 7-wood while another's going to get better results from a hybrid with the same loft."



Combining launch monitor data with Ping's nFlight software helps clubfitters calculate gapping options for their customers.

Take Advantage of Today's Tech

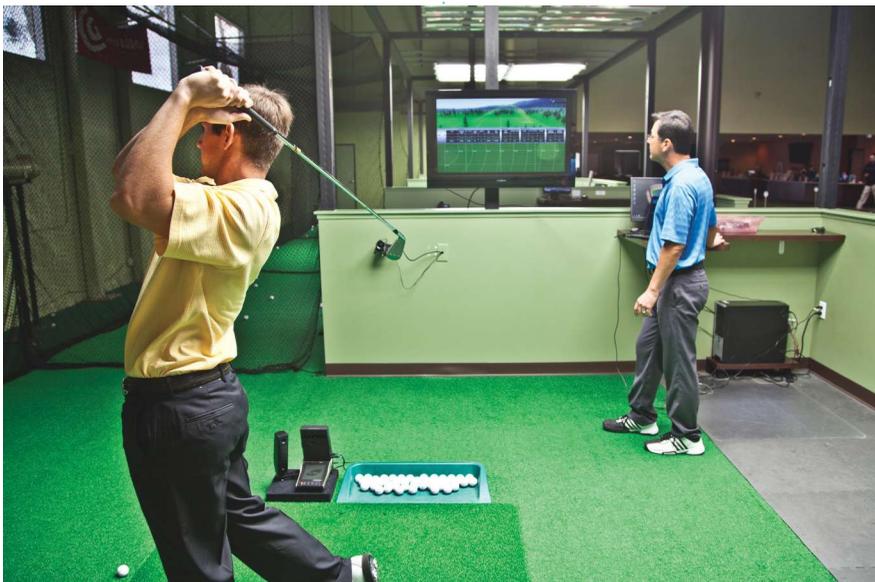
Most clubfitters also use launch monitor technology to help golfers learn how far they hit their clubs. Rupp uses a Foresight launch monitor with Ping's nFlight software to capture ball flight data and suggest gapping options to his customers. The software, combined with data amassed during launch monitor sessions, helps Rupp project distance gaps for sets based on how many hybrids, irons and wedges are in a golfer's bag, ensuring there are no gaps that would impact scoring opportunities.

Increase Your Scoring

Opportunities – For years, many players carried two wedges: pitching and sand. With the emphasis on improving scoring chances, today's golfers can benefit from carrying four. Rupp likes to see four-five degrees of loft between a pitching wedge, gap wedge, sand wedge and lob wedge in most golfers' bags.

Be Creative

Today's golf club manufacturers have an eye-popping variety of clubs and options for golfers to choose from. Better players can take full advantage of these options, such as adjustable drivers and fairway woods that can be fine-tuned if your swing or weather conditions change. There are also 3-woods that play more like drivers, such as TaylorMade's RocketBallz and Callaway's X-Hot 3Deep. And there are wedges with spin-enhancing face patterns and customized sole grinds. Work with a clubfitter to see which of these exotic options might be fit into your set, and you can see a big benefit. "Gapping is great, especially for the person who hits the ball consistently," Rupp says. "But for all golfers, they should be playing more hybrids and more wedges than they are now. Let's face it, that's the key to better scoring." ■



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Wish List

Most golfers wish they could get more out of their equipment; here is some of the hottest golf equipment of 2013 that's helping those wishes come true

Many of the industry's leading manufacturers introduced new products in 2013 to give golfers the edge they need the next time they tee it up. From drivers to irons and even footwear, this year's lot of golf equipment features loads of technology and new features. Here's a quick look at some of the hottest 2013 equipment on the market this year, as identified by PGA Professionals.

Tour Edge Exotics XCG6



TaylorMade R1



Ping G25

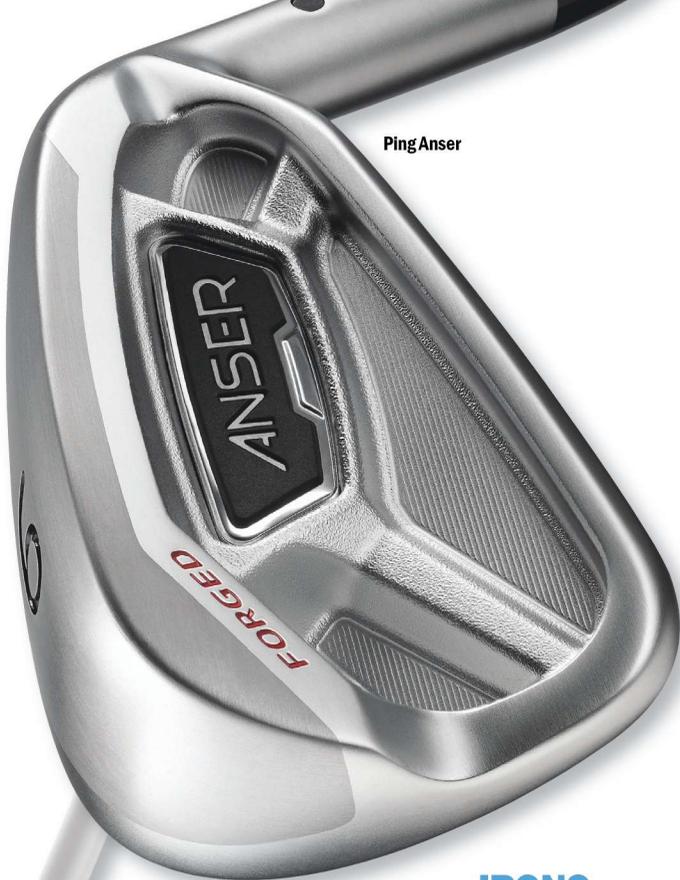


DRIVERS

Adjustability continues to be the theme with drivers. The R1 from TaylorMade allows the golfer to choose face-angle, loft and weighting — equaling a combination of 168 possible settings. The Tour Edge Exotics XCG6 driver boasts one of the hottest faces on the market and also has adjustable features that allow golfers to tweak face angle and loft. Ping is new to the adjustable-driver market, as the company released its first adjustable offering in the Ping G25. The Cobra AMP Cell driver provides colorful options and adjustability with the company's MyFly Technology. The SureFit technology in the Titleist 913 series of drivers offers various customizable settings to fit the club to any swing. The thin casting used in the crown of the Callaway X Hot driver make it one of the lightest clubheads on the market.

Cobra AMP Cell





Ping Anser



Callaway X Hot

IRONS

For the better players who desire workability and spin control, the 2013 lineup has plenty of offerings: Callaway X Hot Pro, Cleveland 588 TT, Mizuno MP-64, Ping Anser, TaylorMade RocketBladez Tour and Titleist AP2 712. For the mid-handicappers, the Callaway X Hot, Cobra AMP Cell, Ping G25 and Titleist AP1 712 irons are the cream of the crop. And for beginners seeking a game improvement set, look to the Nike VR_S Covert and TaylorMade RocketBladez Max irons. They both feature low CG for easy launch from any condition.



Titleist AP2 712



TaylorMade RocketBladez

FAIRWAY WOODS/HYBRIDS

The fairway wood market is all about added distance in 2013. TaylorMade's RBZ Stage 2 fairway wood is touted as giving golfers more than the 17 extra yards they were promised with the first edition. The Titleist 913 fairway models give you higher launch and less spin than the previous 910 family. Adams Golf introduced Velocity Slot Technology in the Speedline F11 fairway wood, and has made further refinements in the SUPER S fairway woods. Callaway's X Hot 3Deep is designed for players who want a 3-wood that travels almost as far as their driver, offering more workability and accuracy. In the hybrid market, which has dropped off slightly in recent years, Adams is still leading the way with several stellar offerings such as the Super LS and Idea Tech V4.



Callaway X Hot 3Deep



Titleist 913



TaylorMade RBZ Stage 2





Scratch Golf 1080

Ping Tour

WEDGES

At the top of the wedge world is the Titleist Vokey SM4. Featuring entirely re-engineered grooves and tighter scoreline spacing, the SM4 line produces maximum spin and control. The new Cleveland 588 RTX wedge uses surface roughness (Rotex Technology) to enhance spin. The Ping Tour wedge features Gorge grooves, which are precision milled for max spin. The Scratch Golf 1080 Forged wedge is modeled after the company's original handcrafted designs that were released in 2003, and can be built to your specifications.



Titleist Vokey SM4



Cleveland 588 RTX

Scotty Cameron Select



Nike Method Midnight Series



Odyssey Versa



TaylorMade Daddy Long Legs



PUTTERS

Nike's Method Midnight Series of putters are precision-milled from 8620 stainless steel and feature Nike's Method grooved-face technology with a dampening insert for a soft feel. The family of Odyssey Versa (Visionary High Contrast Alignment) putters feature black and white contrast that allows golfers to align the putter more accurately and easily see face angle at impact. The TaylorMade Daddy Long Legs putter has the highest MOI head of any TaylorMade putter ever, offering twist-resistance and distance-control on off-center hits. The new Scotty Cameron Select putters have a sleek Black Mist finish. The precision-milled putters are crafted from stainless steel with tour-proven deep-face milling, and are designed for weight changing and personalization.



Nike TW '13

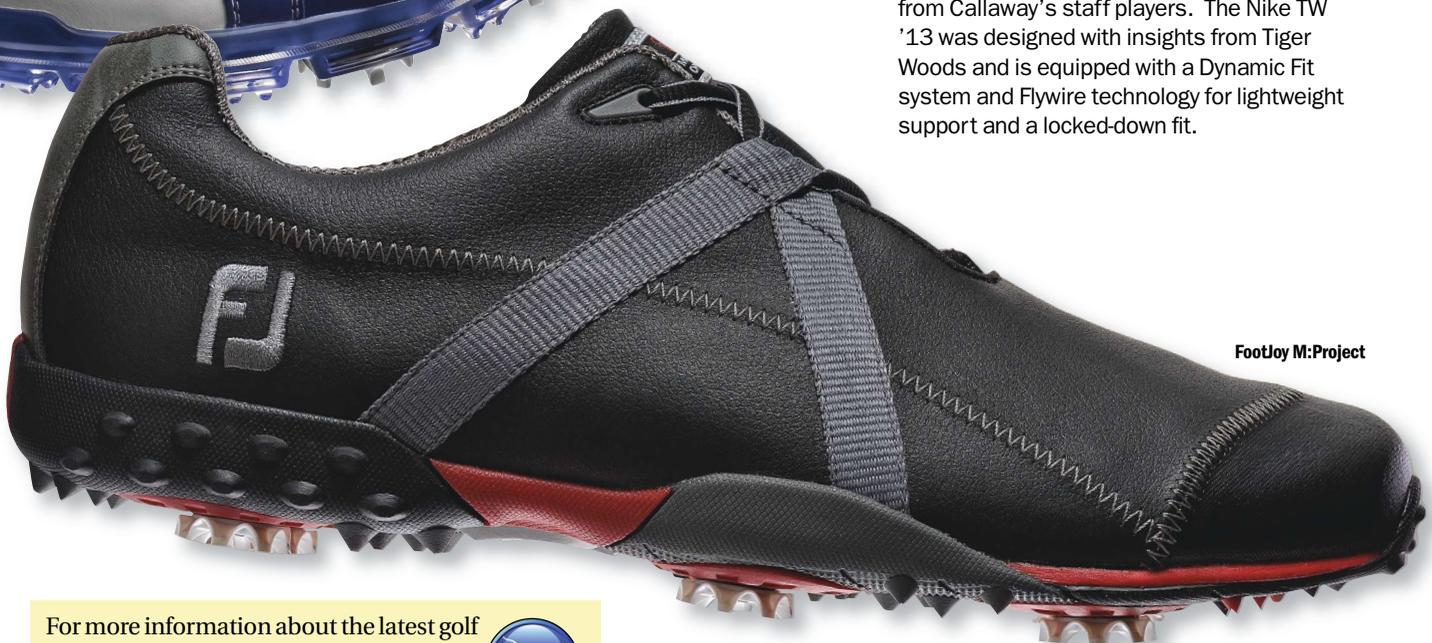
Callaway Tour Staff



adidas adicross Tour

FOOTWEAR

Footwear for 2013 combines color and design with technology and functionality. The adidas adicross Tour was built to accent natural motion and stability. The FootJoy M:Project shoes, available in both cleated and spikeless versions, feature a thin midsole to increase flexibility and feel. The Callaway Tour Staff shoe was inspired by classic designs and features intricate features based on input from Callaway's staff players. The Nike TW '13 was designed with insights from Tiger Woods and is equipped with a Dynamic Fit system and Flywire technology for lightweight support and a locked-down fit.



FootJoy M:Project

For more information about the latest golf equipment, seek out a PGA Professional in your area by logging onto PGA.com.





Learning the Game in a Team Setting

PGA Junior League Golf registration soars nearly 345 percent compared to 2012, as rosters for 700-plus teams are filled across 33 states

BY TONY L. STARKS

The popularity of PGA Junior League Golf has skyrocketed since the program was introduced in 2011. In just its second full year of operation, 8,000 boys and girls nationwide have registered for the 2013 season, representing an increase in participants of nearly 345 percent. As a result, more than 700 teams across 33 states will be filled nationwide – a five-fold rise in PGA Junior League Golf teams over last year.

One of the new teams will play out of the PGA Center for Golf Learning and Performance in Port St. Lucie, Fla., where PGA Head Professional Holly Taylor is serving as coach and captain of the team.

“The focus is on fun and being part of a team,” says Taylor of the PGA Junior League Golf format. “The scramble scoring and team element really make it perfect for kids who maybe aren’t ready for tournament golf on their own.”

Taylor conducts practices once a

week for her roster of 15 players. The kids really enjoy working on their game at the PGA Center for Golf Learning and Performance, which is literally a golfer’s playground with its 100 hitting stations, nine different practice bunkers, 7,000 square feet of putting greens and three-hole practice course.

Taylor always starts her team’s practice session with a short fitness routine, so the kids get warmed up and ready to swing the club. That’s followed by a small bucket of range

balls for each player and the lesson of the day.

“We always try to have a focus at each one of the practices, whether it’s alignment, grip, setup or a pre-shot routine,” says Taylor. “We compress a lot into a short amount of time, so we try to give them one thought at a time. That way, when they go out to play they’re just thinking about one element and don’t too many things running through their head.”

She ends her practice sessions by pairing off players in small teams and having them play the scramble format on the practice course.

“That’s a good opportunity to get them used to playing as a team and acclimated to the scramble format,” says Taylor. “And we get to see which teams work the best together, so we know who to pair up during actual competition.”



Rob Comerer, PGA assistant professional at Baltimore Country Club in Timonium, Md., is also overseeing a first-year PGA Junior League Golf team and is taking a similar approach. "The main thing is getting the kids out on the course and getting them familiar with one another," says Comerer. "The idea of our practices right now are to come out, have fun and meet new people. I'm trying to promote a fun atmosphere."

As far as swing techniques, Comerer is focusing on the short

Teams consist of kids ages 9 to 13, with no previous playing experience required. Much like other recreational league sports, **PGA Junior League Golf participants receive team uniforms** with jersey numbers.

game. Since many of the 13 kids on his team have never played any of the venues they'll face in league play, he has tried to prepare them by creating scenarios that they'll encounter. "When they're not familiar with the differences in the greens and that sort of thing it can be difficult for them," says Comerer. "So I get them practicing the type of short game shots they'll see in competition, like downhill putts, hard breaks and heavy grain."

Similar in structure to Little League Baseball and youth soccer programs, PGA Junior League Golf introduces kids to the game of golf in a team setting under the direction of PGA and LPGA Professionals. The PGA of America and LEJ Sports partnered to bring PGA Junior League Golf to facilities across the country.

"We are delighted to report the phenomenal year-over-year growth and expansion of PGA Junior League Golf," says PGA President Ted Bishop. "What started in just four markets in 2011 has evolved to reach thousands of kids nationwide today. The PGA of America anticipates that PGA Junior

League Golf will soon become a household staple of youth sports programming, as our innovative team concept is fun, engaging, exciting and welcoming to kids of all ability levels."

With 2012 United States Ryder Cup Captain Davis Love III serving as its Official Spokesperson, PGA Junior League Golf brings juniors into the game in an exciting new way, fostering a sense of sportsmanship and teamwork typically associated with other recreational team sports. Teams consist of kids ages 9 to 13, with no previous playing experience required. Much like other recreational league sports, PGA Junior League Golf participants receive team uniforms with jersey numbers. Rosters are co-ed with competitions being two-player scrambles, which reinforces the team concept and limits the pressure on any one player. Coaches can substitute players every three holes, so that all of the golfers on each team can participate. Meanwhile, parents play an active role, making the program a family activity to create another generation of players to enjoy the game.

Check out the video below for an inside look at PGA Junior League Golf. ■



PGA Professional Holly Taylor (far right) is leading a Junior League Golf team at the PGA Center for Golf Learning & Performance in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Golf On the Run

Speedgolf may not be for everyone, but lessons learned from running the course can improve your game at any pace **BY RALPH REAHARD, PGA**



Have you ever tried to squeeze in a quick nine holes before work? I did that the other day with a few friends – and we finished in 28 minutes. No, we don't have turbocharged golf cars. But we do play Speedgolf, a combination of golf and running that combines your strokes with your speed to determine your score. We wear running shoes, carry a special bag with five or six clubs in it, and we run between shots.

I was never a runner before, but I was looking for a way to get off the couch and lose a few pounds. I learned about Speedgolf earlier this year and decided to give it a try. I've lost almost 30 pounds, and I'll be competing in my first tournament soon.

As a PGA Professional who's been playing and teaching golf for years, I can see many ways where following

some of the concepts behind Speedgolf can help you improve your fitness and your golf game – even if you're not running from shot to shot when you play. Here are a few things I've learned while getting up to speed on Speedgolf that might help you get more fit and become a better golfer:

■ **Get a running start:** Before you hit balls or play a round of golf, you should definitely warm up. I've found

that the routine I use before a round of Speedgolf or a training run works great for practice sessions or regular rounds of golf. I'll do some light stretching, then jog a couple hundred yards to get my muscles warmed up. This raises my core temperature and my heart rate, which gets your blood pumping and prepares your body for activity. Instead of easing into the round and feeling stiff for the first couple of holes, my muscles are awake and I can make good swings right out of the gate.

■ **Learn to slow your heart rate:** Putting can make your heart pound in a regular round of golf, so just imagine what it's like to putt when you've just sprinted 150 yards to the green. In these situations, you learn to quickly regulate your heart rate with a couple of deep, cleansing



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breaths. This also works great in a regular round of golf when you start to feel nerves over a putt or any type of shot. Take a moment to breathe in through your nose and blow the air out through your mouth, then you'll find it easier to execute the next shot.

■ **It's gotta be the shoes:** In running and in golf, your shoes are your connection to the ground – and if your feet hurt, you're not going to

Who wouldn't want to get into better shape and play better golf? And there's something to be said for **being able to play nine holes in less than 30 minutes.**

have fun. Running between shots in Speedgolf makes that connection even more important. Playing Speedgolf in running shoes has helped me maintain proper balance and tempo in my swing. Over-swinging on wet turf while wearing



Speedgolf is a combination of golf and running that combines your strokes with your speed to determine your score.

running shoes can lead to egregiously errant shots (trust me, I've tried it)! But even in a round of regular golf, ill-fitting or uncomfortable shoes can have a negative effect on your score, and can even cause injuries. Take the time to get properly fit for footwear. I wear running shoes when I play

Speedgolf, but there are many lightweight golf shoes on the market that could help you feel more comfortable during your time on the golf course.

■ **Give your brain a break:** Playing Speedgolf has taught me to be a lot more intuitive and creative on the golf

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Pace of play isn't a problem when it comes to Speedgolf. Check out this video for more.

course. You don't take time to pace off yardages in the fairway or line up putts on the greens when every second counts, and only having six clubs means learning to play a variety of shots to fill the yardage gaps. But the mind is a muscle that can get over-used during a round of golf. Playing fast takes you away from over analyzing your shots and worrying about technical swing thoughts.

During my first Speedgolf round,

the goal was survival, not shooting a good score. Speedgolf has helped me forget about results and get lost in the process of playing – and running. This is a lesson that we can all take with us to the golf course for every round we play – the game is more fun, and we swing more freely, when you stop worrying and just swing the club. But don't forget this: There is still a time and place for practicing your swing and being technical, and that happens

at the range. Take time for practice and lessons on the range and you'll be able to swing away on the course without having to think so much.

If you don't currently have a fitness program, talk to a doctor or a certified fitness trainer about starting a running regimen. I've found that running is a great counterpart to playing regular rounds of golf. On days when I run before I play golf, I feel better and stronger, and I don't fatigue at the end of the round like I used to. The members at my club have noticed my weight loss, and they're asking me a lot of questions about Speedgolf. Who wouldn't want to get into better shape and play better golf? And there's something to be said for being able to play nine holes in less than 30 minutes! ■



Ralph Reahard, the PGA head professional and general manager at the Foundry Golf Club in Powhatan, Va., is hosting and participating in the Eastern Speedgolf Open, set for June 30 at The Foundry. For more

information about Speedgolf, see www.speedgolfinternational.com.

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Las Vegas will once again serve as the backdrop for the 2013 PGA Expo, where more than 250 golf companies will present and demonstrate their latest equipment, apparel and accessories at the three-day, invitation-only extravaganza.

The festivities will kick off on Monday, Aug. 19, with the popular Demo Night event held here at the Callaway Golf Learning Center. During Demo Night, attendees will have a chance to test the latest golf equipment and network with fellow golf enthusiasts, while the Las Vegas skyline provides some eye-catching scenery.

