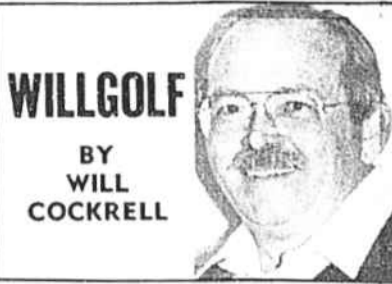


Touring Pros Shouldn't Teach

In the April edition of Golf Magazine, Jim Murray's "Commentary" addresses a question that has been a pet peeve of mine for a number of years. Murray has a repressed fury for written golf instruction by professional golfers and other assorted experts on the game.

Murray is not talking about the club professionals, who are generally highly skilled in giving golf lessons, in person, on the practice range. His anger is focused on the touring pros who capitalize on their success on the PGA tour by publishing books and video tapes of golf instruction.

While I will have to admit that even a bad video tape of a golf lesson is to be preferred over most written instruction by pro golfers, it must be said, however, that video instruction does not insure learning will take place. The bottom line in golf instruction is how it affects your game in the long run. Does your game improve?



WILLGOLF
BY
WILL COCKRELL

Crenshaw On Putting

About a month ago, I sat in the clubhouse at Oak Island watching a video tape by Ben Crenshaw on how to putt like a pro. It lasted almost 30 minutes and the only salvation for my investment of time was that it reminded me to grip the putter very lightly. That has produced very effective results on the five and six foot putts in the past few weeks.

We all know that Crenshaw is recognized as one of, if not the best, putter on tour today. That does not alter the fact that Ben possesses skills, time to practice, time to play and a direct financial need to succeed with the putter. Not many of us can claim his set of conditions to succeed as a putter.

His video tape was poorly produced, directed, written and filmed. Ben is a great putter but a poor actor and communicator. The tape was just plain boring. He uses a grip, set up and stroke we would all be thrilled to be able to emulate, but he says or does nothing to tell how to practice and acquire these skills or how to know when we are violating his technique.

When we are missing five and six footers consistently to the right of the hole, are we not aligned properly, are we pushing the putt, are we not following through, or do we have a faulty grip? You never really know until someone watches you and tells you. Those very important par savers from short range will never fall if any of the above errors are present in our putting strokes.

Beware Of Touring Pro Tips

You really must be cautious about those short tips on "How To" golf that we often see or read. The fact is that touring pros know how they hit the ball and what makes something work for them. They sure don't know how we hit the ball.

Jimmy Demeret once uttered the following cure for a slice, "Hook it." Well, that made sense to him. Not to the average golfer who hits a big balloon slice most of the time. Most slicers have hit a hook.

I can remember when the slice was my stock in trade on the course. I always aimed at the trees on the left and hoped it stopped rolling before it ran into the treeline on the right. If I aimed down the middle, it would soar into the right treeline on the fly and try to hide from me.

I also remember those little instructional tips on how to draw the ball. Boy, did I want to draw the ball. The tips seemed very logical and gave inspiration to my next practice session. The problem was that the pro who wrote the tip was hitting the ball with his swing and not my swing. When I tried the new, exciting tip, the ball not only did not hook, it did not go straight either.

More often than not the tip would produce a worse slice or some form of a worm burner skittering off in the morning dew, spraying a plume of frustration and leaving a clear record of the ball's path for all to see. "Hey, Will, you practicing chips or putts over there?" "Nice swing, Buddy, you really stayed down on that one." One cannot really afford too many swings like that. It is bad for the ego. Back to the old reliable slice.

The truth of the matter is that the pro who wrote the tip could not hook or draw the ball with our stance or swings. If he contorted his body and lost his balance the way we do, he would only be playing two or three days a month like the rest of us. And it would not be at The Masters either.

We gotta remember that the professionals who play for a living have swings and a game that most of us can simply admire. If we are to try to emulate those swings we need to focus on basics and not on those tips that finesse the ball.

Diamond Bulldogs Nip West Brunswick 4-3

West Brunswick remained winless after three starts in the new prep baseball season last Tuesday as visiting Wallace-Rose Hill took a 4-3 non-conference victory over the Trojans.

Relief pitcher Battle Holley came on to throw 4.2 innings to get the win while also collecting two hits to lead the Bulldogs at the plate.

The game ended after six innings due to darkness.

With the game tied 3-3 in the sixth, pitch-runner Darren Polk scored the winning run courtesy of a Trojan error.

The win improved Wallace-Rose

Hill to 3-0 while the Trojans fell to 0-2-1.

West Brunswick continues non-conference play today (Thursday) hosting Loris, S.C.

The Trojans hit the road Monday to Acme-Delco in another non-league matchup. Prior to the start of the regularly-scheduled game, the two teams will finish a prior meeting that ended in a 4-4 tie after six innings. The first contest was postponed due to darkness.

West Brunswick will visit Whiteville on Tuesday in the Trojans Waccamaw 2-A Conference opener.

This Week In Brunswick Sports

Thursday, Mar. 30

Loris, S.C. at West Brunswick (baseball)

Monday, Apr. 3

West Brunswick at Acme-Delco (baseball)
Fairmont at West Brunswick (boys' tennis)
West Brunswick at Pender (softball)
West Brunswick, East Bladen at South Brunswick (boys' & girls' track)
Whiteville at West Brunswick (JV baseball)
North Brunswick at South Brunswick (JV baseball)

Tuesday, Apr. 4

West Brunswick at Whiteville (baseball & softball)
South Brunswick at North Brunswick (baseball & softball)

Wednesday, Apr. 5

West Brunswick at South Robeson (boys' tennis)
Whiteville, Fairmont at West Brunswick (boys' track)

Golfers Hold Nassau Event

Forty-four members of the Brierwood Ladies Golf Association competed in a Nassau golf tournament last Tuesday.

Winners were named in three flights for net scores on the front nine, back nine and full 18 holes.

In the first flight, winners on the front nine were Anne Gentles with net 32.5 and Anna Mae Huber with a net 33.

Low net honors on the back nine went to Doris Dunfee with 35. Runner-up was Ginger Sugrue with net 36.5.

The overall winners for all 18 holes were Mary Schaack with net 70 and Pat O'Connell with net 72.

Second flight winners included Marion Johnson with 32.5 and Chick Weingarten with 34.5 on the front nine.

On the back nine, Lois Beato led the way with a net 37.5. Maureen

Farley finished one stroke back with 38.5.

Elizabeth Carter had the low net of 71 for all 18 holes. She was followed by Sue Greiner with net 72.

In the third flight, front nine winners were Pat Barnes and Esther Smith with matching scores of 31.5.

Grace Thorpe and May Robertson tied for first place on the back nine with 35.5.

Overall winners in the third flight were Emily Laughlin with net 77 and Marie Brown with net 80.

During the round, Nel Justice had a chip-in for birdie at the eighth hole, and Maggie O'Mara had one at the 11th.

Other chip-ins came from Ginny Dorshimer at the first hole and Dot Trostle at the fourth.

Claire Aston and Inky Remais tied for low putts for the tournament with 29 apiece.

Whiteville Wins First Golf Meet

Whiteville edged past East Bladen and West Brunswick to win the season's first Waccamaw 2-A Conference golf match at White Lake Golf Course.

Terry Formyduval's 74 led the Wolfpack to a team-total 338 followed by East Bladen (340) and West Brunswick (346).

South Brunswick finished fourth with a 389 while Fairmont took fifth with a 407.

East Bladen's Courtney Brissen shot a 71 for medalist honors.

Finishing third in the individual standings was Jeff Gause of East Bladen (78), while West Brunswick's Joe Campbell and South Brunswick's Brent Bishop tied for fourth with rounds of 79. Finishing sixth was Whiteville's Jay Stanley (81).

Yellow Buoys Are Illegal

Illegal crab pot buoys have recently been popping up along the North Carolina coast.

Some commercial fishermen in Core Sound and other areas are unlawfully using yellow buoys to mark crab pots, according to a news release from the state Division of Marine Fisheries.

Fishermen are permitted to mark crab pots in one of three ways, the release states. They may use their state motorboat registration number, their federal vessel documentation name or the owner's last name and both initials.

Crab pots with any yellow coloring are a violation of state law and owners are subject to a fine.

Commercial fishermen may only use yellow buoys to mark the ends of gill nets, which helps boaters identify the location of the net and avoid entanglement.

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