

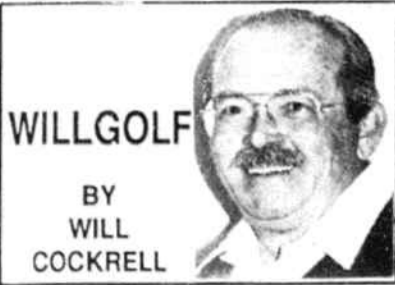
SHORT GAME FUNDAMENTALS

Set-Up, Stroke For Chip Shots

In this series on the short game we have progressed from putting to chipping and soon will be working on the pitching stroke. The basic difference between the chipping stroke and the pitch shot is the trajectory and the amount of spin imparted to the ball.

The inspiration for this series on the short game came from the *PGA Teaching Manual* which impressed me as a system which is easy to learn, and better yet, a system which every golfer should be able to understand. By linking the learning elements which are common to putting, chipping and pitching, the teaching professionals enhance our understanding of how these shots are alike and how they differ.

So much of the "full swing" theory in golf is linked to timing, coordination, and balance that even the best teachers are occasionally hard pressed to identify swing faults. In the short game those elements are clearly observable. Not only the teacher can see them, the golfer is fully capable of self analysis when he understands what causes such errors.



WILLGOLF
BY
WILL COCKRELL

Club Loft Dictates Set-Up

By way of review, the chip shot differs from the putting stroke in the way you set up to the ball, but the stroke itself is essentially the same as the putting stroke. The set-up varies because you are making the shot with a lofted club instead of the flat faced putter. The stance is narrower than the putting stance and the feet are slightly open. Your hands and your head are slightly ahead of the ball. Your weight should begin and remain on your left foot throughout the chip shot.

Due to the loft on the chipping club you must use a set-up which will ensure contact with the ball while the clubhead is still on its downward arc. The desired set-up is one which is easy to check. Just imagine a line running straight down from your chin. That line should be one or two inches in front of the ball and your hands should be a couple of inches in front of that line. The PGA suggests that you choke down on the chipping club and that your hands be along the inner left thigh.

When you take this set-up you will clearly see that it fits well with the weight left and the open stance to ensure your clubhead will contact the ball on its downward path. Since most chip shots will necessitate a longer backswing than most putts, the narrow open stance will promote a smoother stroke through the ball. One which will not become tied up too close to your body. This set-up also promotes a single lever stroke which uses the shoulders to control the shot. The hands, wrists and arms simply follow the lead of the shoulders.

The Chipping Stroke

In the chipping stroke the hands must remain firm to ensure that they lead the clubhead through the ball. There should be no wrist break through the ball and the hands must follow through beyond the left leg to ensure that the right hand remains behind the left throughout the stroke. The narrow, open stance and the weight left also help to keep the wrists firm through the stroke. You can check this by setting up square with your weight on the right foot and taking a few chipping strokes. It is almost impossible to keep the right hand from rolling over the left.

After you are comfortable with set-up for the chip shot the stroke is just exactly like the putting stroke. I must admit that I even cheat a bit by taking my putting grip when I hit chip shots. The PGA does not recommend that, but it is a constant reminder to me that I want to deliver the club through the ball exactly as I do with the putter. My son tells me that I do break my wrists on the backswing on really long chips, the same as I do on run-up shots. I do work hard on both those shots to keep the wrist firm when contacting the ball and following through on the shot.

Adjust For Bad Lies

If you are one of those golfers who does not play preferred lies or winter rules all year round, there is one occasion when you may want to make a slight modification to the stroke. When you are faced with a chip shot with a bad lie. In these cases you may want to make one of two adjustments: choose a club with more loft or set-up to swing the club with a modest wrist break.

Faced with a bad lie, you will want to contact the ball with a sharper descending stroke and catch the ball clean before making contact with the turf. If the chip calls for a 6-iron you may want to use an 8-iron and keep your hands well ahead of the ball. This effectively delofts the 8-iron and also ensures a descending stroke on the ball. If you are not comfortable changing your set-up or hand position, then you can produce the same results with a limited wrist break on the backswing while being sure to lead the clubhead through the ball with your hands.

Next week we will examine the differences and similarities between the chip shot and the basic pitch shot. Everyone knows that the pitch shot falls somewhere between a chip shot and a full golf swing. Not everyone understands that the pitch shot may be refined by using some of the basic principles we have discussed with the putting stroke and the chip shot.

Lady Bird Player Scores Ace At The Brick

Kitty Smoker of Sea Trail acec Brick Landing Plantation's 80-yard second hole during a Lady Bird League tournament July 24.

Winners in the championship flight were Kay Brannon of Oak Island with gross 77 and Marge Roach of Brierwood with net 68.

Runners-up in the top flight were Sally Manifold of Carolina Shores with gross 85 and Lynn Nichols of Sea Trail and Frankie Dawson of Oak Island with matching scores of net 75. Dottie Meader had low putts with 28.

Low gross scores in the first flight were posted by Alice Grossman of Brick Landing and Lois Beato of Brierwood. Ellen Rose and Elsie Flack, both of Carolina Shores, had the low net rounds. Jennie Botts of Carolina Shores had low putts.

In the second flight, June Beck and Paulie Waddle, both of Brick Landing, had the low gross scores. Low net winners were Shirley Vazquez and Irene Crane, both of Carolina Shores. Eileen Deehan of Carolina Shores had low putts.

Ruth Gardner of Brick Landing and Emily Sharp of Carolina Shores had the low gross scores in the third flight. Low net winners were

GOLFING ACTION

Virginia Gibson and Jane Flieg, both of Brierwood, Ruby Rickard of Fox Squirrel and Dorothy Cambria of Sea Trail had low putts.

Fourth flight low gross winners were Kate Buntin of Fox Squirrel and Ester Smith of Brierwood. Megan Carmichael of Fox Squirrel posted the low net, followed by Joan Cowie and Lou Akers, both of Brierwood.

Low putt winners in the fourth flight were Lilli Stainbrook of Oak Island, Audrey Salmon of Brierwood and Thelma Speidel of Carolina Shores.

Brierwood Men

Two teams tied for first place in the Brierwood Men's Golf Association nine-hole mixed scramble last Wednesday.

Burley Athen, Fred Einstein, Catherine Clemmons and Nancy Bouldin shot 34 to tie the threesome of Jack Causer, Neal McCall and Margaret Wood in the captain's choice event.

On July 29, Neal McCall took first place in an individual point

system tournament at Brierwood with six points.

Points were awarded for eagles and birdies and subtracted for bogies and double bogies in the full-handicap event. Dave Harper was second with four points.

The team of Roy Havenga, Jack Baker and Marilyn Athen shot 67 to win the 18-hole captain's choice mixed scramble July 28.

Bill Shoemaker, Rita Dugan and Mary Lamb placed second with a 69. Three teams tied for third with rounds of 71.

Sea Trail

Joe Reid had the low gross of 82 and Bob Street had the low net of 65 in the Sea Trail Men's Golf Association weekly tournament July 30.

Runners-up were John Ewart with gross 83 and Marv Peters with net 67. The tournament was held on the Byrd course at Sea Trail Plantation.

Sea Trail Ladies

The team of Kitty Smoker and Carol Peters shot a 72 to win the Sea Trail Ladies Golf Association captain's choice event last Wednesday.

Dinah Gore, Pat Burkhardt and Eva Baham placed second with a 77.

Third place went to the team of Shirley Helmke, Lois Curry and Jennie Botts with an 80.

Finishing fourth with an 81 was the team of Louisa Nicol, Dorothy Cambria and Lois Pike.

On July 24, Rita Bilz fired a gross 106 and Betty Street shot net 83 to win an individual tournament played on the Jones course.

Runners-up were Robin Walter with gross 109 and Pat Burkhardt with net 87.

Carolina Shores

Helen Morrison, Betty Goodwin, Ann Hierman and Mylle Mattson scored 127 points in winning the Carolina Shores Ladies Golf Association tournament last week.

Finishing seven points back in second place was the foursome of Terri Gould, Doreen Spearin, Martha Paynter and Mae Robertson.

Ruth Radcliffe had low putts for the day with 27. Birdies were carded by Elsie Flack and Mrs. Morrison at the third hole and Mrs. Robertson at the eighth.

Chip-ins were made by Carol Szarks at the fifth hole, Mrs. Paynter at the eighth and Helen Marsh and Mrs. Gould at the 17th.

New Football Stadium Ready For Trojans

BY TONIA TREST

A new 1,675-seat football stadium and press box should be completed by the time students report to West Brunswick High School later this month.

The project is the largest in a series of athletic facility improvements completed over the last five years at the high school, according to the coaching staff.

The softball and baseball fields have been refurbished and a coaches' office, strength room and two tennis courts have been built. Other recent improvement projects include the repaving and refencing of the track, construction of a track and field area and new yard-line markers.

Construction of the stadium began in January 1990, said Coach Marshall Seay. All that remains to be completed is the wiring in the new press box.

The new arena will be named the M. H. Rourke Stadium, in honor of one of its major sponsors, Dr. Malcolm Henderson Rourke of Shallotte.

Dedication of the new stadium is tentatively scheduled for the first home football game on Aug. 30, said Will Cockrell, JROTC instructor and golf coach.

In addition to a generous donation from Rourke, funds for the \$115,000 project included \$80,000 from the Brunswick County Board of Education, said Cockrell. The balance was raised by the West Brunswick Athletic Boosters Club.

The new stadium, completed in April, was built because the old stadium didn't provide enough seating for Trojan fans.

"Fans and Booster Club members had nowhere to sit," said Seay, head football coach. "Everybody has a good seat (at the new stadium) and the visibility will increase fans."

Starting this fall, fans of the home team will sit in new bleachers on the side of the field once reserved for visitors.

On what used to be the "home" side of the field, wooden seats in the old stadium have been replaced with aluminum seats that will accommodate 700 to 800 visiting team fans.

The new press box is costing \$13,000 to \$15,000 which includes \$2,400 for the public address system.



STAFF PHOTO BY TONIA TREST

TROJAN FOOTBALL FANS will enjoy use of these new bleachers in the M.H. Rourke Stadium starting Aug. 30.

The press box will include a large, lighted sign that can be seen from N.C. 130 and three telephone lines for use by media covering

events at the stadium. Also, two power outlets will be located on the field along with a microphone and a line to the coaches'

hook-up booth, said Cockrell. Cockrell said the next project will be construction of a new concession stand.

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