

MANEUVERING THE BALL

Sliding Fade Shot Best For Accuracy

The fade shot which slides left to right may be the simplest form of maneuvering the golf ball. It is certainly one of the most accurate shots in golf. For some reason the fade has played second fiddle to the draw over the years.

Many golfers disdain the fade in favor of the draw due to the additional roll produced by the draw and the hook. Others identify the fade with its more demonstrative cousin, the slice. There are even those who believe that any left to right flight pattern is the result of a weak shot.

Some golfers believe that most golf courses are designed for a ball which draws or hooks. They look at the predominance of dogleg left holes to prove their point. Let me take these notions one at a time and discuss the truth and fiction involved in each.

Add To Your Arsenal

I should begin by saying that I am not a proponent of either the draw or the fade. I believe that both shots add to your repertoire certain inherent advantages. You may argue that it is not realistic to try to command both ways of moving the ball. You could even point to the fact that most of today's professional golfers rely on one or the other. I would not argue that point, however, most good golfers are capable of maneuvering the ball both ways when the need arises.

The low flying draw does produce more roll and more distance than does the fade. If a hole or a course is set up to accept a long rolling shot, then you will find the extra distance to your advantage. When you find flat, hard fairways and little or no trouble on the left side of the hole, then let the draw or hook rip. However, many doglegs to the left have a bunker or some other deterrent at the corner of the dogleg. You can aim a fade at those hazards and let it slide to the right and land safely in the fairway.

No one will argue that the banana ball slice is not a weak golf shot. Such a slice is the result of a poor swing plane, poor timing and worse yet, bad balance during the swing. By correcting the balance alone you can take the banana out of the slice and move toward a more accurate fade. Improved balance will also tend to help cure poor timing and poor swing planes.

Balance Is Always The Key

If this sounds like just so much mumbo jumbo, let me remind you of the two points of balance, which I mentioned in last week's column. There is a balance point over the rear foot at the top of the backswing and a balance point over the forward foot on the follow through. I am convinced that the quality of a golf swing is greatly determined in the process of shifting from rear balance point to the forward balance point.

Shifting your balance point must be initiated with the lower body. Some golfers think of this shift as footwork. Footwork is involved but much more body coordination takes place. Driving off the inside of the rear foot to the forward foot sets in motion a sequence of knees and hips leading the shoulders through the hitting zone and on into the follow-through.

Balance Forward In Hitting Zone

The key to this shifting of balance to the forward foot occurs when the clubhead passes through the hitting zone. The hips are open to the target line, and so are the knees to a lesser degree. The forward shoulder, however, must still be moving straight down the intended line of flight.

The key to producing a strong, controlled fade with this swing is to aggressively drive the lower body to the forward balance point. There is no need for any mechanical adjustments. Your set-up and alignment should be aimed on the line where you want the ball to start, before the ball slides to the right. Your aggressive weight shift will deliver the clubhead to the hitting zone with clubface slightly open.

The resulting shot will be a powerful, high shot that flies essentially straight to the top of its trajectory and then slides to the right on its downward flight. The ball will land softly and come to rest quickly. It is an accurate shot that can be planned and executed with a high degree of confidence.

When working on this shot, do so on a practice range using a driver. Learn to work the tee shot first and then take it to the course. Later on you can build on that shot to include the long and middle irons.

Scorp Wrestlers Win Medals

Seven North Brunswick wrestlers placed in the top four at the Onslow County Invitational Tournament Saturday at Dixon High School.

Blake Hobbs finished in second place at 160 pounds. Consolation match champions were Roddie Jones at 112 pounds, Keith Bullock at 130 pounds, Mike Ganey at 135 pounds and Dwaun Gibbs at 171 pounds.

Heavyweight Andy Benton and 119-pounder Brian Cook finished fourth for the North Brunswick Scorpions.

Other high school teams in the tournament were Lejeune, Dixon,

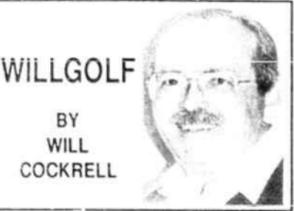
Roanoke Rapids and Jacksonville.

North Brunswick Coach Mike Dumas said teams scores were not kept because several junior varsity wrestlers competed in the event.

"We got a chance to see some of our competition," Dumas said. The North Brunswick coach expects to see Roanoke Rapids, Dixon and Lejeune in regional competition later this year.

North Brunswick, which lost a dual meet Monday night at West Brunswick, was scheduled to wrestle at South Brunswick Tuesday night.

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This Week In Brunswick Sports

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

- ☐Shallotte hosts South Brunswick in middle school basketball, 5 p.m.
- ☐Leland hosts Waccamaw in middle school basketball, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

- ☐West Brunswick at Whiteville in high school basketball, 5 p.m.
- ☐North Brunswick hosts West Columbus in high school basketball, 5 p.m.
- ☐South Brunswick at East Bladen in high school basketball, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

- ☐Trojan-Aire Association holds youth basketball registration at the West Brunswick High School gym, 8 a.m.-9 a.m. Sign-up fee is \$20. Practice will be held 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
- ☐Brunswick County Parks and Recreation holds youth basketball practice at Shallotte Middle School: 9 a.m.-10 a.m. for ages 5-7; 10 a.m.-11 a.m. for ages 8-10; 11 a.m.-noon for ages 11-13. Registration continues through January. Sign-up fee is \$10.
- ☐West Brunswick at Lejeune in high school wrestling tri-meet, 11 a.m.
- ☐North Brunswick at Albemarle in high school wrestling dual meet, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 13

- ☐Leland hosts South Brunswick in middle school basketball, 5 p.m.
- ☐Waccamaw hosts Shallotte in middle school basketball, 5 p.m.
- ☐North Brunswick at Dixon in high school wrestling dual meet, 7 p.m.
- ☐Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Men's Basketball League at Shallotte Middle School: Warriors vs. Young Guns, 7 p.m.; Lakers vs. Igloo Freeze, 8:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

- ☐North Brunswick hosts South Brunswick in high school basketball, 5 p.m.
- ☐Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Co-ed Volleyball League at Shallotte Middle School: Brunswick Community College vs. Richard Jones Construction, 7 p.m.; Rita's Team vs. Kari's Team, 7:50 p.m.; Gene's Body Shop vs. Roberto's Pizza, 8:40 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

- ☐Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Men's Basketball League at Shallotte Middle School: Turntables vs. Rockets, 7 p.m.; Sonics vs. Brew Crew, 8:15 p.m.

This week's listings include events reported to the *Beacon*. To list a sporting activity call 754-6890 or write to *The Brunswick Beacon*, P.O. Box 2558, Shallotte, N.C. 28459.

Sea Trail Men's Tourney Decided On Card Playoff

It took a match of cards to determine the winner of the Sea Trail Men's Golf Association captain's choice last week.

Howard Van Dusen, Al Consalvi, Bob Brossa and Wayne Ruff were awarded the victory with a score of 72.

Second place went to the foursome of Bob Moore, Clarence Brown, Gene Bilz and Marv Peters. The tournament was played on the Jones course.

Brick Landing

Alice Grossman birdied the 10th hole and fired the low gross of 88 in the Brick Landing Ladies Golf Association tournament last Thursday.

Marie Barry had the low net with a 76.

Brierwood Men

Dave Harper, Jerry Smith, Jack Causer and Emile Vrydaugh's combined for a score of 132 to win the Brierwood Men's Golf Association two best ball event last Thursday.

Finishing four shots back in second place was the team of Neal McCall, Jim Crosby, Odie Johnson and Paul Keeley.

In other recent action at Brierwood, the foursome of Jack Causer, Jim Roach, Don Seitz and Morris Hall shot 119 to win a best ball last

GOLFING ACTION

Monday. Each team counted one ball on the par fives, two on the par fours and three on the par threes.

Howard Bayne, Odie Johnson, Matt Monaghan and Bill Goldsberry combined for a 124 to finish in second place.

On Dec. 29, the team of Ann Causer, Dillon Taylor and Roy Havenga shot 68 to win the mixed scramble captain's choice at Brierwood.

The threesome of Marje Roach, Wyarian Taylor and Burley Athan finished second with a 72.

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WestTrojans Pin North

West Brunswick's wrestling team defeated visiting North Brunswick 44-25 Monday night in the first inter-county match of the season.

"I was very impressed with the way they wrestled," West Brunswick Coach Joe Noble said of his team's performance. "They were fired up all night long."

Results

103 pounds: D. Johnson (WB) won by forfeit; 112 pounds: Cokely (WB) won by forfeit; 119 pounds: Cook (NB) defeated B. Johnson, 11-3; 125 pounds: Jones (NB) pinned Woodard, 1:26; 130 pounds: Ganey (NB) defeated Jones, 20-7; 135 pounds: Bullock (NB) defeated Mitchell, 15-0; 140 pounds: Hagler (WB) pinned McBride, 3:12; 145 pounds: Andreis (WB) pinned Ganey, 1:12; 152 pounds: E. Johnson (WB) defeated Chadwick, 14-5; 160 pounds: Ashley (WB) won by forfeit; 171 pounds: Hobbs (NB) pinned Stanley, 3:54; 189 pounds: Hickman (WB) defeated Gibbs, 21-11; Heavyweight: Brooks (WB) pinned Benton, 3:56.

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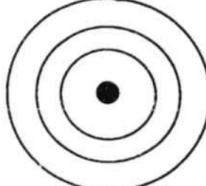
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