

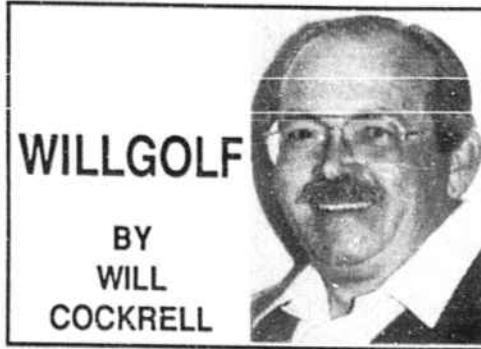
Maneuvering The Ball In Two Directions...

Have you ever wished you could maneuver the golf ball in the other direction? Have you ever stood on a tee and admitted that your slice or hook was just not what the doctor ordered on that hole? My guess is that most golfers can answer, "Yes" to at least one of those questions.

My golfing experience has tracked through both a hook swing and a slice swing. When I began playing the game I had a baseball grip and a flat swing which pro-

duced long shots with a wide hook trajectory. Later, largely due to the success of a chap named Nicklaus, I had a pro completely retool my swing to produce a fade and the inevitable slice which constantly lurked in the shadows.

That pro really knew what he was doing. He rearranged my swing so well that hitting a hook was almost impossible, and I soon stopped trying to produce the right to left shot. Due to the inherent ac-



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curacy of the fade, I played without a draw for more than ten years. It was not until I retired from the Army that I took the time to re-install the hook shot and eventually refine it into a controlled draw.

Many Advantages

To Maneuvering The Ball

The advantage of being able to maneuver the ball in both directions is significant and one I strongly feel most golfers should be able to use on the course. I also learned that hitting the ball low or high with consistency was closely related to

the direction the ball will curve in the air. The hooked ball is far more reliable on low shots, and the more upright fade swing will get the ball in the air much more quickly. Learning to maneuver the ball in the opposite direction is not all that difficult. If you are a slicer, I can take you to the range and have you hooking the ball in five to ten minutes. Of course, I cannot promise how far it will go or whether or not it stays in the fairway. That will certainly require extra work and possibly more patience and dedication than you are willing to invest.

Many Ways

To Maneuver The Ball

It must be said that there are a variety of ways to convert from one extreme to the other. You may be able to buy custom-built clubs which will produce the trajectory you want. You could do as I did and completely retool your swing. Some golfers with a neutral swing

plane will be able to learn to maneuver the ball in both directions with a minor adjustment or two. Changing to a new grip or a new stance may be all you need.

Believe it or not, most golfers who curve the ball in the same direction all the time do so because of a very basic swing flaw. The flaw may be the grip, the stance or the swing plane. When I discover this in a student, I have to tell them that we must correct those basic mechanical flaws before moving on to refining a desired trajectory.

Golfers with basic errors in their swings will occasionally, and without notice, rip the ball in the opposite trajectory without knowing what caused it to happen. A slicer who sets up down the left side of a hole expecting the ball to drift back to fairway and suddenly hits the ball straight or, worse yet, jerks a dreaded hook in the woods, normally looks up with a confused expression and asks, "Where the heck did that come from?"

You Learn Cause And Effect

If one is to learn to maneuver the ball with some degree of consistency in either direction, it is necessary to understand the cause and effect relationships in the golf swing. Maneuvering the ball is never consistent when it is the result of compensating for one mechanical error by overcompensating with another.

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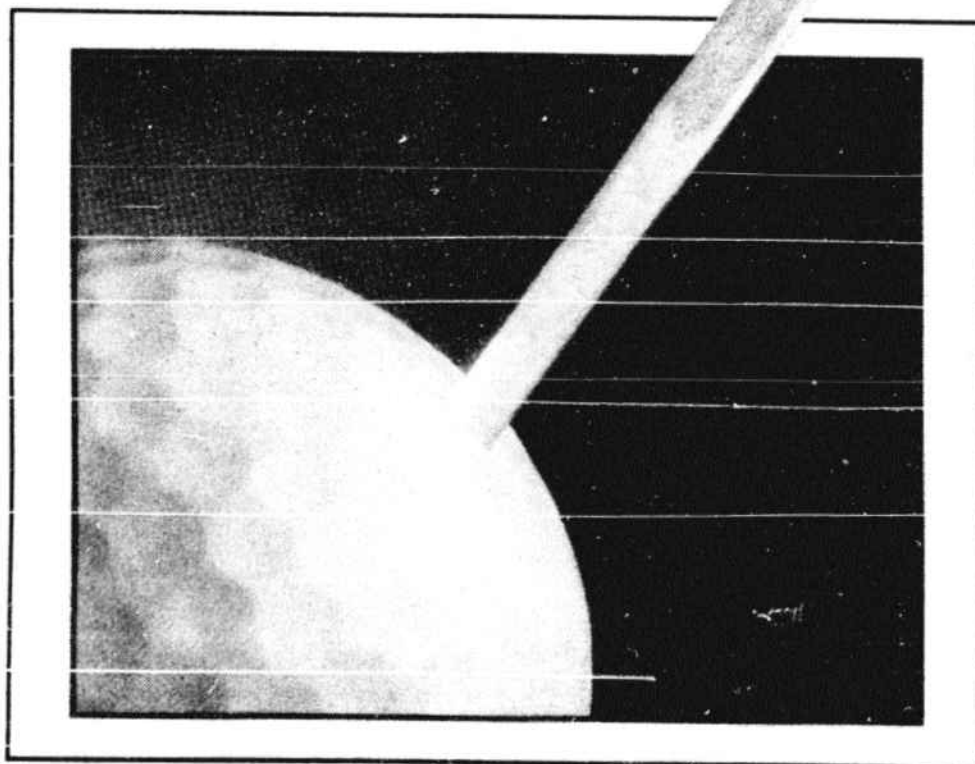
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