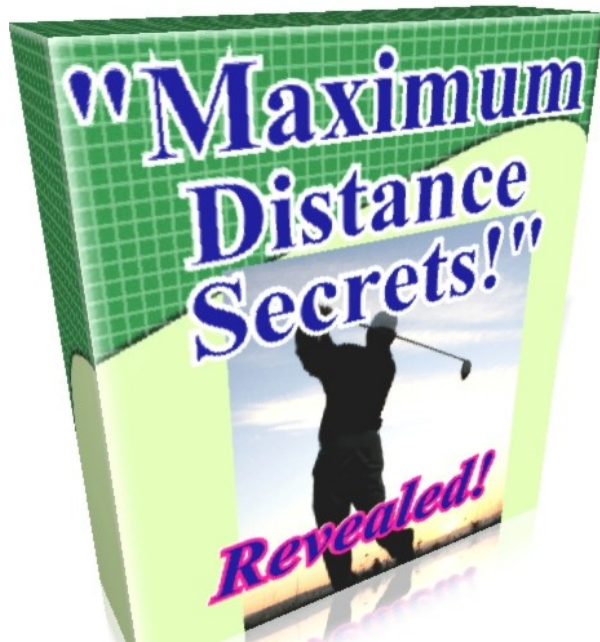


Strictly Off The Record
"Crucial Game Tips"
Mini-Report



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I. Introduction- Ball Positioning Tips

In this mini report, we are going to cover a grab bag of assorted tips to help your game advance. Let's start off with ball positioning....

Where you place the golf ball in your stance should depend upon the type of club you are using.

For example, when making a shot with your driver, you will usually want to play the ball off of your left heel.

When using a fairway wood, move the ball over about 1 inch to the right. When using long irons, the ball should be roughly in the same position, or maybe a little bit behind.

Middle irons typically need the ball placed an inch or so towards the left. And lastly, wedges & short irons should be played from the center point of your stance.

A. The Ball

Beginner golfers should concentrate on the basics and learn to make contact with the ball as cleanly possible. Once you are confidently making contact each time you swing, you can start to experiment by varying the positions of the ball.

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This will inevitably change the flight path of the ball. However, this is often necessary when you are playing a "non-traditional" hole.

Let's look at an example: By moving the ball an inch or two to the right for your short iron, you will come into the contact zone at a steeper angle. The result is a lower shot, which is necessary when playing the ball into fierce winds.

If you move the ball to the left side of your position, a higher shot will result which may be required if you are trying to get over a tall bush or tree.

Another way to get a higher shot is to tee the ball up a little higher when preparing to drive. (Teeing the ball lower will, of course, cause the ball to move closer to the ground.)

B. Practice Goes A Long Way

You've heard it before (and in a lot of MY other mini reports too): Practice makes perfect! This is especially true with regards to ball position. Whenever you are on the practice range, spend time adjusting your tees & making shots to find out what happens when you do so. Significant changes can result from the slightest adjustment of the tee.

Regardless of your current skill level, you should take the time to practice. You never know what type of shot you will face in a game. Being prepared & well practiced can really help out in a sticky

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situation & it's the mark of a great player.

II. Accuracy Tips

Accuracy should be one of the focal points of your game. You can increase your accuracy by keeping these points in mind:

1. No matter where your ball is fixated, you should always aim for a target. Developing accuracy & playing with a strategic mindset means choosing a target. Even if you can't see the hole, pick something to go for.

Choose a small target, such as an object or location on the fairway, & visualize the ball heading in that exact direction. This technique has helped thousands of golfers hit more accurate shots towards their targets.

2. Just because you are teeing off, that doesn't mean that you should use your driver. Yes, the driver will hit the ball the farthest, but it also has the least accuracy of any club in the bag.

What if you are facing a very narrow fairway or perhaps major hazards are located on each side of it? Either way, your driver may not be the best choice. Instead, consider using your woods, preferably a 3 or 5-wood. You could even use an iron when hitting the ball from the tee, if it looked appropriate.

3. Learn to take your ego out of the game when you need to. Always

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take the safe shot if you are unsure of what to do. Trying to be a "hero" may ruin your score. The goal is to simply keep the ball on the green & finish the job with your putter.

4. Regardless of skill level, most golf players have a "lucky club." They call it their "go to" club. It is the one club in the bag that they consistently hit the ball well with.

Your lucky club comes in handy whenever you have a very important shot to make. Remember, different clubs are designed to hit the ball in different manners. But most clubs will work for most shots.

For example, imagine you are on a a par-5 hole. But, you need this shot to absolutely go well. What if your lucky club is a 5-wood? Use it! What if the 9-iron is your go to club? Use that! This is more a tip for veteran players, but everyone can benefit from using their lucky club...

III. 3 Basic Tips

Even if you just like to hit a few rounds during your leisure time, you can lower your score by using some basic common sense. Here are some tips to improve your game. These aren't rocket science, but are worth mentioning.

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Here they are:

1. No switching balls during a hole. The rules state that you must play with the same ball from the tee to final putt. Wherever the ball lands, that is where you play it from. Get used to following the rules.
2. Carry a scorecard with you. Carrying a scorecard is a great way to track your progress.
3. The best way to keep track of your progress & improve your short game is to keep & compare older scorecards. In other words, if you just hit the course last month, bring along that scorecard the next time you play. You now have an opportunity to look at how you played the hole last time & improve on it.

IV. Learning To Love Bad Days!

One of the best aspects of golf is that no two shots are the same. Each hole is unique & each round is a new adventure that requires hundreds of little decisions made throughout the day.

Some golfers like to describe golf as a *linked chain*: If one link is weak, your entire game can suffer. One break in the chain & your entire game can be thrown off.

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A. Take Every Shot Seriously

Some shots are very difficult to make, while others seem to scream "*Easy!*" The ball looks like it's just sitting there with no real obstacles in the way, and your confidence goes through the roof. There may not be *much* to worry about with an easy shot, but there is always room for disaster!

To avoid turning an easy shot into a hard one, take it as seriously as you would a more challenging one. No matter how easy it looks, focus like you are playing a tournament.

Remember: The easier a shot looks, the more frustration & disappointment you may face if you mess it up!

B. The Tough Shot

When faced with a difficult shot like a water hazard, bunker, or a shot from the rough, you need to change your perception of it. Shake off any nervous jitters you experience before attempting a tough play.

Instead, welcome & embrace the tough shots. The more you think about how difficult they are, the quicker your body & mind will create an unwanted result.

I have personally experienced this first hand. If I think it's going to work, it often does & vice versa. This doesn't only apply to golf either! Your mind is wayyyy more powerful than you think it is..so

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use that power!

1. Harness your self-confidence. A difficult shot from tough terrain is an opportunity for your self-confidence to grow. Because, when you hit it correctly, the resulting confidence boost will help you the next time you face a similar situation. It will grow all by itself.

2. In a bad spot? Great! Now use this as the perfect opportunity to practice. Many golf players take the game way too seriously. Instead of enjoying the ride, they curse after every poor shot they make.

Instead, have fun when you play.

When your ball lands in a hazard area, rejoice! It's an excellent opportunity to have a little fun...

Let go of the stress & use the time to practice getting yourself out of sticky situations like this. It can do nothing but better your short game as well as your attitude.

V. Ignore The Pros!

New golfers often want to imitate the styles & techniques of the professional golfers that they see on TV & in magazines. Every day we are presented with thousands of tips from the web, the latest magazines, & special golf videos.

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It would be great to become a better golf player just by copying Annika Sorenstam or Tiger Woods. But it can be counterproductive to try emulate them right off the bat.

You have to understand that the number of players who make a living from competitive golf is very small.

Professional golfers don't play golf after they get off from work. Golf *is* their job. They work at golf full time, like you do your career. Eight to ten hours of their day is spent at the practice range, the golf course, the practice green, or anywhere else they can swing a club!

Most of us don't have the luxury of being able to practice for a living. Professional golfers sometimes demonstrate shots that loft into the air & stop just 2 feet short from the hole, without even an inch of roll.

Regular players shouldn't spend six months trying to repeat the same shot. We're better suited to practice the basics and take our time to refine our individual styles and techniques.

What type of practice is best for average golfers then? Most golfers spend over 95% of their time hitting long distance shots at the driving range. But, they never take the time to practice the boring shots that count, like *short game*.

Most people do not enjoy practicing short game. But, the value you'll reap from investing your time here can lower your score

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quickly.

Did you know that some pros spend 80% or more of their time practicing short game shots using many different angles & variables?

While you should not imitate the way professional golfers play individual shots, you can certainly learn how focus your practice on the right areas, like they do.

A. Why Short Game is Important.

Most people get a huge thrill out of banging their driver for hours on end. They hit the ball great distances & make long drives until they are exhausted. However, after their real games are over, they look at their scorecard and it still reads 100! Their excitement quickly dwindles to a standstill....

Improving your score means spending less time using your driver, and more time working on short game. This is one of the best uses of practice time.

Instead of spending an hour at the driving range hitting long-distance balls, devote time to putting, chipping, pitching, bunker shots, & shots made from 45-75 yards out.

Did you know that 50% or more of your score will come from strokes taken at 75 yards or less? So, does it make sense to spend at least 50% of your practice time on those shots? According to my math it does!

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It may take some discipline to ignore the driving range for a bit, but your golf game will improve WAY more by focusing on short game during practice.

After all, you'll be one of the only ones who've focused on it!

But wait!

There's A LOT MORE than was presented here!

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