

THE BASICS

GolfDigest®



DRIVING



HOW TO **SNIFF OUT** ANOTHER 20 YARDS

BY STEVE HENNESSEY

PROBLEM – You waste power before impact. **CAUSE** – Casting from the top, throwing away wrist hinge.

WISDOM – From *Bobby Jones on Golf*: “As the downstroke begins, one should have the feeling of leaving the clubhead at the top.”

PROBLEM – You hit off your back foot.

CAUSE – Upper body takes over the downswing. **WISDOM** – From Harvey Penick’s *Little Red Book*: “Let your weight shift to your left foot . . . and continue turning as if to say howdy to someone on your left.”

PROBLEM – You have no pop at the ball. **CAUSE** – Not hitting with the dominant side. **WISDOM** – From Ben Hogan’s *Five Lessons, the Modern Fundamentals of Golf*: “As far as applying power goes, I wish I had three right hands!”

SWING THOUGHTS

BY DEAN REINMUTH

⬇️ Play the ball opposite the left heel, with the shaft vertical, as Adam Scott demonstrates here.



⬇️ Keep the left knee flexed inward to allow a good weight shift to the right and a full windup.

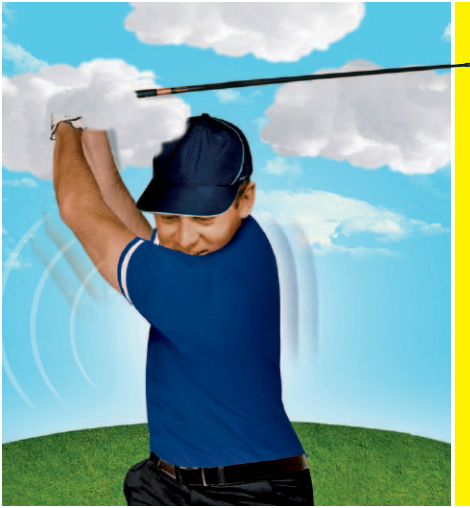


⬇️ Return the shaft to the same position it held at address for a center-face strike and optimum launch.



⬇️ Finish with the right foot toe-down. This indicates a complete shift to the front side and good balance.





WHEN **NOTHING'S** WORKING

The next time you're spraying it sideways off the tee and your brain is reeling, use one of these famous driving images: **↶ Jack Nicklaus** Thrust your hands through the clouds at the top. **↷ Joe Parent** Picture your favorite tee shot at your home course. **↷ Sam Snead** Try to feel oily. **↷ Bob Toski** Think of the elephant's trunk, strong but flexible. **↷ Jackie Burke** Imagine a wall on the side with the trouble. **↷ Julius Boros** Swing easy, hit hard. **↷ John Daly** Grip it and rip it.

DRIVING IT IN THE DAISIES

BY RON KASPRISKE

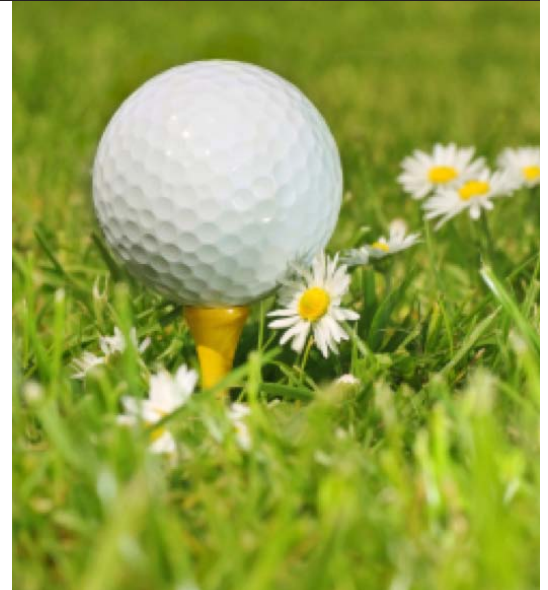
Nobody likes looking for balls, or finding ticks and snakes. Try these fixes from instructor **Rick Smith**.

SLICE A shot curving right (for righties), caused by the face at impact being open to the swing path. **THE FIX:** Imagine a clock face on the ground with 12 o'clock on your target line. Swing over the "1" through impact with the toe turning over.

HOOK A shot curving left, caused by the face at impact being closed to the swing path. The fix: Make sure the back of your left hand is pointing toward the target at impact, and keep turning your body to the left.

PULL A shot that goes straight left because the face is square to a swing path that's moving left. **THE FIX:** At address, drop your right foot back a couple of inches from the target line, and try to hit the inside part of the ball.

PUSH A shot that flies straight right because the face is square to a swing path that's moving right. **THE FIX:** Bunch up your shirt under your left armpit, and keep it there as you feel like your left hand swings over your left foot.



WHERE TO **STOP** YOUR BACKSWING

↶ STAY SHORT BY CHUCK COOK

"Everyone has a spot in the backswing where the muscles will fire the fastest, and it's usually shorter than you think. **It's like jumping:** If you squat all the way down, you have to expend a lot of energy just getting back to your optimal explosive position. That's why a shorter backswing is better."



↷ GO LONG BY CHUCK COOK

"Picture a race between two identical cars where the winner is the one that's moving fastest when it crosses the finish line. If one car started 100 yards away and the other 200 yards away, the second car would have more time to accelerate. **Same here:** The farther you swing back, the more you can accelerate."





GET **20 YARDS** IN 20 MINUTES

BY MIKE STACHURA

Buying a driver without a fitting is like eating ice cream with your fingers instead of a spoon: You'll get some of what you want but not all of it. So get fit, and be aware of the following: **THE BALL** "A fitting with a range ball isn't a fitting," says fitter Woody Lashen. Use a ball like the one you play. **THE SHAFT** "It's easier to hit it solid with a shorter club; that gives you a higher energy transfer," says fitter Dennis Piant. **THE OLD YOU** "A doctor can't prescribe the right medicine if you don't tell him what's wrong," says fitter Mark Krahe Jr. Don't fib about your distance, and bring your current club for comparison.

DON'T FEED THE **FIRST-TEE** MONSTER

BY MATTHEW RUDY

The first tee is scary enough on regular days, but add a little tournament pressure, and it's a house of horrors. Of course, it's all self-inflicted. You show up two hours early with your shoes shined and your clubs sparkling. You basically do everything possible to tell your brain this is something different. ✨ Mental coach Ed Grant has worked with golfers for more than 30 years. His advice? Remind your brain that you're doing something familiar. Set aside your normal amount of time. Hit some shots on the practice tee like you want to hit on the first hole, then go sit on the patio and play the first few holes in your head. Dave Stockton used this approach at the 1978 U.S. Open: He decided to treat it like it was a state open. He didn't hit balls before any round and just played his normal game. Result? Second by a shot.



THE **PROS** KNOW

Q What advice would you give golfers who want more distance?

A **SLOW DOWN!**

That's the one thing I'd tell every amateur. Slow down the process, and slow down your swing. It works.

— BUBBA WATSON

A **THINK LESS.**

Most golfers worry too much about their swing and the trouble out there. Pick a target, and go.

—WEBB SIMPSON

A **PLAY YOUR SHOT.**

Too many guys try to play draws when they naturally hit a fade. Don't fight what's natural; work with it.

—AARON BADDELEY