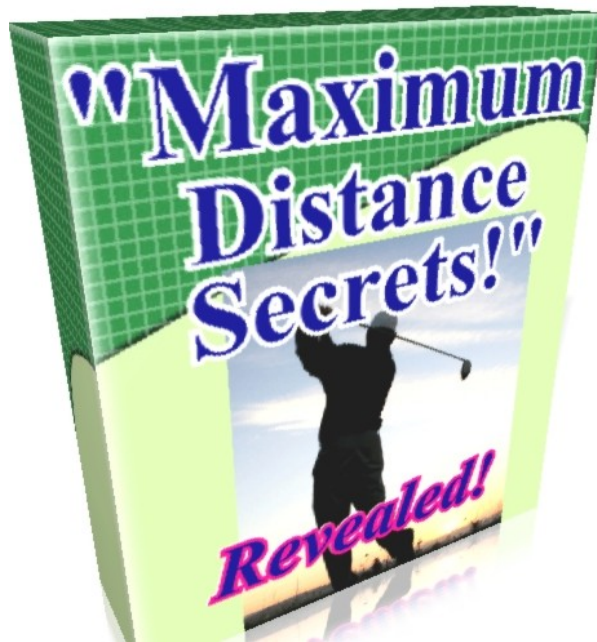


Strictly Off The Record

"Short Game Secrets"

Mini-Report



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I. The Critical Importance of Short Game

When people first start playing, all they want to focus is on how long & how far they can hit the ball.

This is admirable. And, in fact, it's such a popular topic that my main course revolves around this topic.

But veteran players know that "short game" is critical to winning more rounds. "Short game" refers to any shots that you are taking that are close to the green: e.g. putts, chipping, pitching, close bunker shots, etc. Short=close, not far away. Game=game. Short game.

The reality is that hitting the ball onto the green from the tee is very easy compared to honing in on the various short game shots you may face.

Of course, having a decent power drive is nothing to sneeze at. But, when you tee off, the ball is sitting perfectly on a level tee waiting for you to take your best swing.

Short game presents the challenges of shots that come with different lies, different shapes, and different lengths.

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And more variations means more chances that you won't prepared for the shot.

You can improve your short game immediately by identifying & staying away from common mistakes that we'll cover below.

Short game may seem silly to all you "power players" out there. But a bad score awaits those who ignore it's importance.

A. Make Time

Before you confront specific shots on the course, be sure you have practiced them. By practicing regularly, you can build up your confidence as well as add to your options that you have available to you on the course.

Sometimes, you will have practiced a shot repeatedly before being confronted with it in a real game. Other times, you will have no choice but to attempt a shot that you haven't even imagined existed before.

Regardless, put in the hours practicing as much as you can.

Life is no big mystery folks. Those who practice the most are the best. That's the big secret.

The key is to prepare as much as you can for what you might *reasonably expect to happen on the course*. Make time in your schedule to practice short game.

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Certain shots require extra attention & practice sessions to master. Most short game falls into this category.

When you have to perform under fire during a real game, you will be much more confident with your knowledge from being prepared. Do your best to prepare & practice.

B. Playing Too Fast

When watching golf on TV, you may notice that the players all seem to run through the course rapidly. While you can try to emulate your favorite Professional's technique, never try to copy their pace.

These players play for hundreds of thousands of dollars of prizes. They play on private courses & their performances are broadcast to international audiences worldwide.

You should play at a brisk pace. But, your OWN pace. Slow down enough to take time to read the green, check your lie, and visualize success before attempting each shot.

Prepare for your upcoming shot while other players are swinging or while you are walking down the course to the next hole.

Never hit a shot until you have settled your nerves & have a clear picture in your mind of the final outcome. Play the game quickly. But, never so quick that you sacrifice decent preparation for every shot.

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C. Over-Analysis

The reason some people choose golf as their sport is so that they can enjoy a game that is comfortable, confidence-building, and which puts them at ease with the world.

They let the game *come to them*, by just letting it happen. They know that overanalysis won't help them. They are at one with their game.

You may have taken a few lessons in the past, put in hours on the driving range, & learned additional skills and tips from watching the pros on TV.

It's time to trust these lessons and past experiences that you have had by allowing your subconscious to guide the way. Just take your swing – it's that simple.

The best thing you can do is develop a solid, consistent swing and grow your confidence with it. From that point on, the game is all about simply hitting the ball towards the intended target, walking over and picking it up, hitting it again, until you have reached the hole.

This may seem like an oversimplification. And, of course, practice and preparation are important. But, if you spend time analyzing every second of the game to the point of seriously frustrating yourself, you are on the wrong track.

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Rather, enjoy golf and use your energy to focus and concentrate on your next shot.

Use the time wisely instead of mulling over every minor detail.

II. Are You Using the Wrong Club?

One of the biggest mistakes golfers make is using the wrong club.

You will have better short game, have more fun, & lower your score if you stick to one club for each a specific shot. Pick one & stick to it.

For example, if you are confident using a 7 iron whenever hitting the ball from 15 yards, use it. You may have read that an amateur or pro golfer prefers another club when facing the same distance. Or, you may have seen a golf training video which stresses the use of a different iron.

That doesn't mean you have to follow their advice. Stick to what works, for you!

I'll give you a perfect example. Whenever Tiger Woods is facing a shot from anywhere around the green, he usually uses his 60 degree wedge. He doesn't try to use several wedges.

He sticks to what works for Tiger. He is capable of using his 60 degree wedge to hit a flop shot that goes 25 feet.

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He can also use the same wedge to hit a shot that travels 60 feet by adjusting his technique. Why? Because he is most comfortable with that particular club.

Short game success has just as much to do with your confidence & comfort levels as it does with technique & shot specifics.

In time, you will find what is called your "go to" club when playing through a specific shot. And when practicing your short game, those practice sessions should be focused around this club in order to improve at the fastest rate possible.

III. Short Game: Putting, Pitch Shots, & Bunker Shots

How would you like to learn a few simple tricks that will lower your score by dealing with bunkers and more?

Following the next few tips. Practice each one for only a few minutes each day. If you do so, you should see strokes start dropping from your scorecard.

A. Putting

The next time you watch a golf tournament, take notice of the number of putts that are taken during the first nine holes as compared to the last nine.

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You will notice that they are far less. This is because by the time they reached the second half of the golf course, the players developed a *feel* for the green.

The key to maximizing your puts are to clear your head of all technical matters and just go for the stroke. By not thinking about the mechanics of putting, you have a better chance of making the hole.

B. Pitch Shots

When it's time to make a pitch shot, choose either a lob wedge, pitching wedge, or a sand wedge. Remember that a pitch is supposed to have the maximum amount of air time possible, with the least amount of roll time.

The chip shot is just the opposite.

If your technique is off even just a bit, it is difficult to create the perfect amount of air travel for your pitch shot. By following through *low to the ground*, you will undoubtedly achieve maximum air time with the ball.

By following through high after impact, the ball has no choice but to be hit on the upswing, which results in a skull or top shot.

C. Bunker Shots

When playing inside the bunker, treat your backswing just like you

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would a full swing when using your driver. When your ball lands in the sand pit, you must be able to knock it clear out of the hazard area in one shot.

With proper technique, your shot will become regularly successful. The key is to only use the necessary amount of strength needed, while still giving it a hard swing.

First, you have to set up properly. Put 80% of your total weight on your front foot.

The grip end of your golf club should be pointing towards your belt buckle. When it is time to swing, keep the majority of your weight on your front foot as this helps keep the swing coming in, down toward the ground. Then just focus your energy through the ball and out of the bunker....

But wait!

There's A LOT MORE than was presented here!

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