

Lesson #11

PLAYING THE IRONS

The long irons are considered by many golfers to be the most difficult, due primarily to a feeling that the thin little blade has to be "slugged" in order to get the needed distance. First of all let me tell you that the seemingly fragile little blade was lofited for its particular purpose of getting distance and trajectory. It needs less help from you to earn its daily 'toting tax' than almost any club in your bag.

Because the blade is thinner - it will get the ball into the air quickly, and get out of the worst lies. Because it sits at a more upright angle and needs a shorter backswing, the blades are easier to play with and gives greater accuracy than the woods. Don't try so hard to help the iron play, after all - it's been at this business for a long, long time.

The stance for the iron shot is slightly closer than on the wood, and the ball should be played farther back - approximately left center. Of all the shots in the bag the long irons need the most perfect alignment. So line up the shot with the flag, sole the iron in perfect alignment ~~fashion~~, and set your feet. Then keeping your club-head low - near the ground, start winding up the body coil. Remember to keep the head perfectly still and the left arm straight. As you bring the left knee in, push the straight left arm backward and up smoothly - with no abrupt motion. Cock the wrists and stop the backswing when the club is in a horizontal position. Then by starting the left knee out - uncoil the body; start the downswing smoothly but crisply; remember above all to let the weight flow into the left side.