

Lesson #19

PUTTING

Here's the one stroke in golf that everyone of us should be good at, but we are not so. Perhaps that's why Par golf allows us two putts to the green when absolutely perfect putting would sink them all in one, for if we could figure out just what the roll might be, just how fast or how slow the surface - having figured it out could stroke it perfectly we could sink every single putt, and we would have founded a science more exacting than the Einstein Theory.

But since we realize that one putt is perfection shouldn't we be just a bit ashamed to take a three and be just three hundred percent wrong. So let's try to train ourselves to use enough care on the greens to avoid those three putts always.

Putting is a combination of concentration, confidence, and touch. It's not so much stroke for any putting stroke that finds you feeling free and relaxed and allows your hands to smoothly stroke the ball along the line is a good stroke. So if you have adopted a stroke that meets with the approval of your Pro and doesn't cause you to jab the ball you can start your lesson on concentration.

The fine putter frees his mind of everything but the task at hand. You'll see him carefully scan the entire line looking over the grain of the grass, because he knows that he must allow for this. You'll see him stoop and look for hidden rolls that might have been imperceptible standing erect. But what you won't see is the way he analyses that putt when it fails to go down. He's training his mind and his touch to keep from making that same error twice, and that's how concentration and touch are acquired. By thinking before and after we putt about that putt and nothing else in the world - and then practicing it as often as we can. For putting is truly an exact science, and perfect one stroke putting is possible if not probable.