

Straight Ahead

By Robert Keyes

Director of Golf Instruction - Picton Golf & Country Club
& Keystroke Golf Academy

“Perseverance”

How nice it is that the rains have finally stopped and the golf course is open once again. I hope everyone is getting ready to have some fun out there! For this session, I thought I'd give you some food for thought. Let me begin with this:

"Genius, that power which dazzles mortal eyes, is oft but perseverance in disguise."

This short stanza by Henry Williard Austin (1858-1912) aptly entitled "Perseverance Conquers All", has become a maxim that inspires me toward excellence. A high degree of competency or faculty in a certain area might be born more out of perseverance rather than of raw, natural ability.

We all possess different abilities and, of course, each of us places a different level of importance on each sport we participate in. In golf though, I've yet to meet someone who didn't want to hit that ball farther and straighter.

This article really isn't about that though. It's about how applying a bit of logic and a whole lot of perseverance will enable you to develop a respectable golf game.

Just look at the sprinter who methodically places himself in the starting blocks and you will better understand that how you begin your journey, whether it's 100 yards or 18 holes, largely determines how you'll finish.

Let's call The Address Position our starting blocks. I rarely have an article that doesn't touch upon this area. This setup, when done correctly, not only aims you in the right direction, but allows you to develop that elusive quality known as consistency. It's a rare commodity!

Observe any world-class golfer and you'll see a good Address Position, which is repeated shot after shot. Watch any typical high handicap player and you'll see just about everything, notably, a lack of sustained consistency.

Without a good Address Position, it's almost impossible to detect what has gone wrong in your swing. The correct setup paves the way for your Backward Motion and a good Backward Motion, creates the scenario for a successful Forward Motion. They are unavoidably linked!

Granted, it's not the most exciting thing in the world to work on your Address Position, but it's essential if you want to improve. Getting someone who can show you in five minutes what might take you months or years to discover on your own, will get you to your next plateau.

So, let's create a bit of an overview for your game of golf. This is how I look at things. For this season, we will continue to investigate the many ways in which you will be able to gain proficiency in all of these areas and thus see improvement in your game.

1. Create a good Address Position
2. Understand what you need to do to create an optimal Backward Motion
3. Know how to initiate and execute a smooth and orderly Forward Motion
4. Understand how to deal with all types of "hazards"
5. Develop a competent "short game"
6. Golf fitness
7. Developing the mental edge

If you have any questions regarding today's article or would like to know more about the instructional programs we are offering at Keystroke Golf Academy this year, please visit the Picton Golf & Country Club website or call me at 613-885-9883 or email me at northstring@gmail.com

Until Next Time...Straight Ahead!