

**GOLF DIGEST'S
LIST OF
THE MOST
TALENTED
INSTRUCTORS
UNDER 40
FOR 2021-2022**

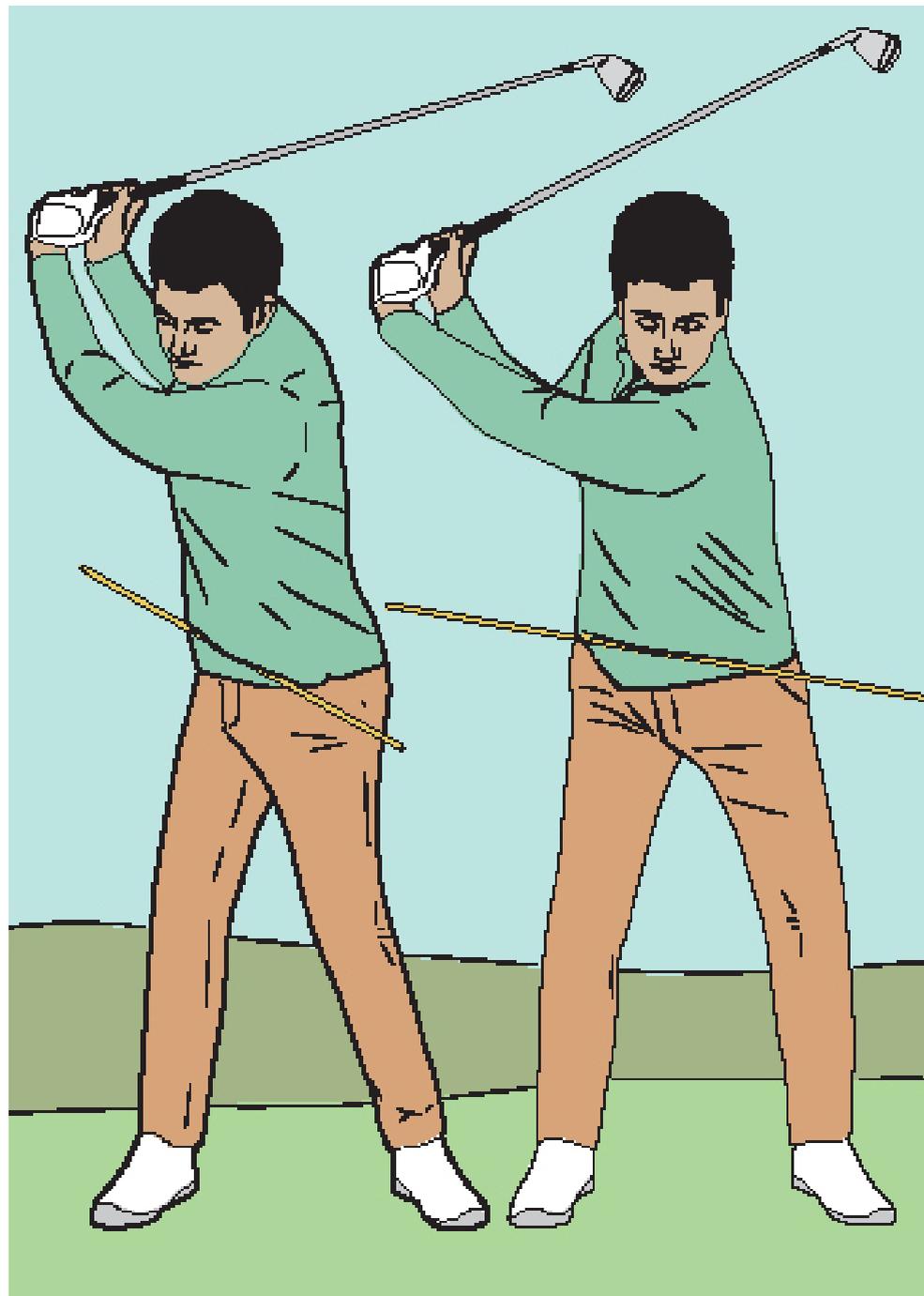
BEST YOUNG

**CHECK OUT
WHO MADE
IT—AND THEIR
FRESH TIPS
FOR YOU ▶**

TEACHERS

PERHAPS IT'S A REFLECTION of golf's youth movement or a new spike in the game's popularity, but whatever the reason, we believe there are more talented golf instructors under the age of 40 than ever before. Back in 2008, when we debuted our biennial list, we identified 20 teachers in their 20s and

30s who were worthy of national recognition. Our latest group of award winners stands at 177. It's a diverse group, and a creative one, too. We challenged our winners to provide an "original" golf tip, and their response was impressive. Hopefully you'll learn a few things from them. These are Golf Digest's Best Young Teachers in America. —THE EDITORS



20 TIPS YOU'VE (PROBABLY) NEVER HEARD BEFORE

BRANDO TOMMASI
HIT DRAWS AND FADES WITH YOUR HIPS



Rather than focusing on the clubface or swing path to curve a shot, you can produce a draw or a fade by how much you rotate your pelvis in the backswing.

To draw the ball, rotate your hips significantly (*far left*). This will create more space to swing the club into the ball on an in-to-out path in relation to your target line. For a fade, limit your hip rotation going back (*near left*), which will keep the club more in front of your body. This will allow you to swing more left (for right-handers) in relation to your clubface at impact.

TOMMASI, 37, is the director of instruction at Miami Beach (Fla.) Golf Club.

ILLUSTRATIONS: T.M. DETWILER • PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF TEACHERS

'KEEP YOUR WEIGHT IN THE HEEL OF THE FRONT FOOT AND ROTATE YOUR BODY AROUND IT WHEN YOU CHIP.'

—THOMAS HAWKEYE VALDEZ

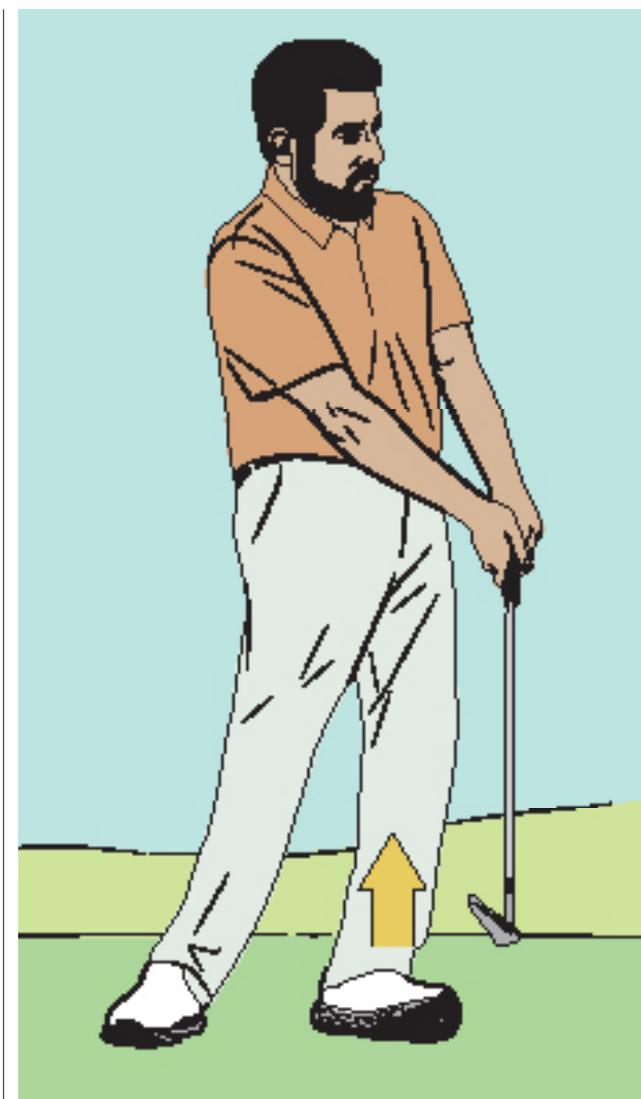
TANYA DERGAL
TEE IT UP TO IMPROVE YOUR SHORT GAME



To execute a pitch shot off a tight lie, you can't get wristy or hit sharply down on the ball to lob it high and get it to land soft.

Instead, you want to open the clubface skyward at address and let the club glide along the turf as you swing through impact. This drill will help: Tee a ball an inch or higher off the ground (*below*), and make a swing trying to clip the tee instead of hitting the ball. To do this, you can't flip your wrists or get too steep. You have to use the trailing edge of the club correctly, swinging on a shallow path through the hitting area.

DERGAL, 36, is the director of instruction at Brentwood Country Club in Los Angeles.



THOMAS HAWKEYE VALDEZ
LIFT YOUR TOES TO CHIP LIKE A CHAMP



It's true that you want most of your weight on the front foot when you chip to promote good contact, but where that weight is can determine success or failure.

With the ball positioned no farther back than center between your feet, set up so you feel most of your weight in the heel—not the front—of your foot closest to the

target, and keep it there as you swing. This will help you pivot your body around your front leg, which is important to executing this shot. As a drill or even a good swing key, try chipping with the toes of your front foot off the ground (*above*). That will keep your weight in the heel, setting up a good result.

VALDEZ, 38, teaches at GolfTec Houston Galleria.

BEST YOUNG TEACHERS IN AMERICA 2021-2022

NORTHEAST

• **AARON ASEDO / 35**
Knickerbocker C.C.,
Tenafly, N.J.
\$175/HR.

• **JASON BARRY / 32**
Springdale G.C.,
Princeton, N.J.
\$175/90 MIN.

• **NICK BOVA / 35**
Hamilton Farm G.C.,
Gladstone, N.J.
\$240/HR.

• **DAVID BOVE / 34**
Tashua Knolls G. Cse.,
Trumbull, Conn.
\$175/HR.

• **STEVEN CHALMERS / 36**
Saucon Valley C.C.,
Bethlehem, Pa.
\$150/HR.

• **SCOTT CHISHOLM / 35**
Rolling Green G.C.,
Springfield, Pa.
\$175/HR.

• **EARL COOPER / 31**
Earl Cooper Golf at Union
League G.C. Torresdale,
Philadelphia
\$200/HR.

• **ADDISON CRAIG / 30**
The Bridge G.C.,
Bridgehampton, N.Y.
\$200/HR.

• **BRIAN CREGHAN / 33**
Rolling Green G.C.,
Springfield, Pa.
\$250/HR.

• **GREG DUCHARME / 29**
Trump G. Links
at Ferry Point,
New York City
\$300/HR.

• **PETE EGAZARIAN / 38**
Northeast Performance
Institute, Portland, Conn.
\$150/HR.

• **DARREN FALK / 36**
Holly Ridge G.C.,
Sandwich, Mass.
\$120/HR.

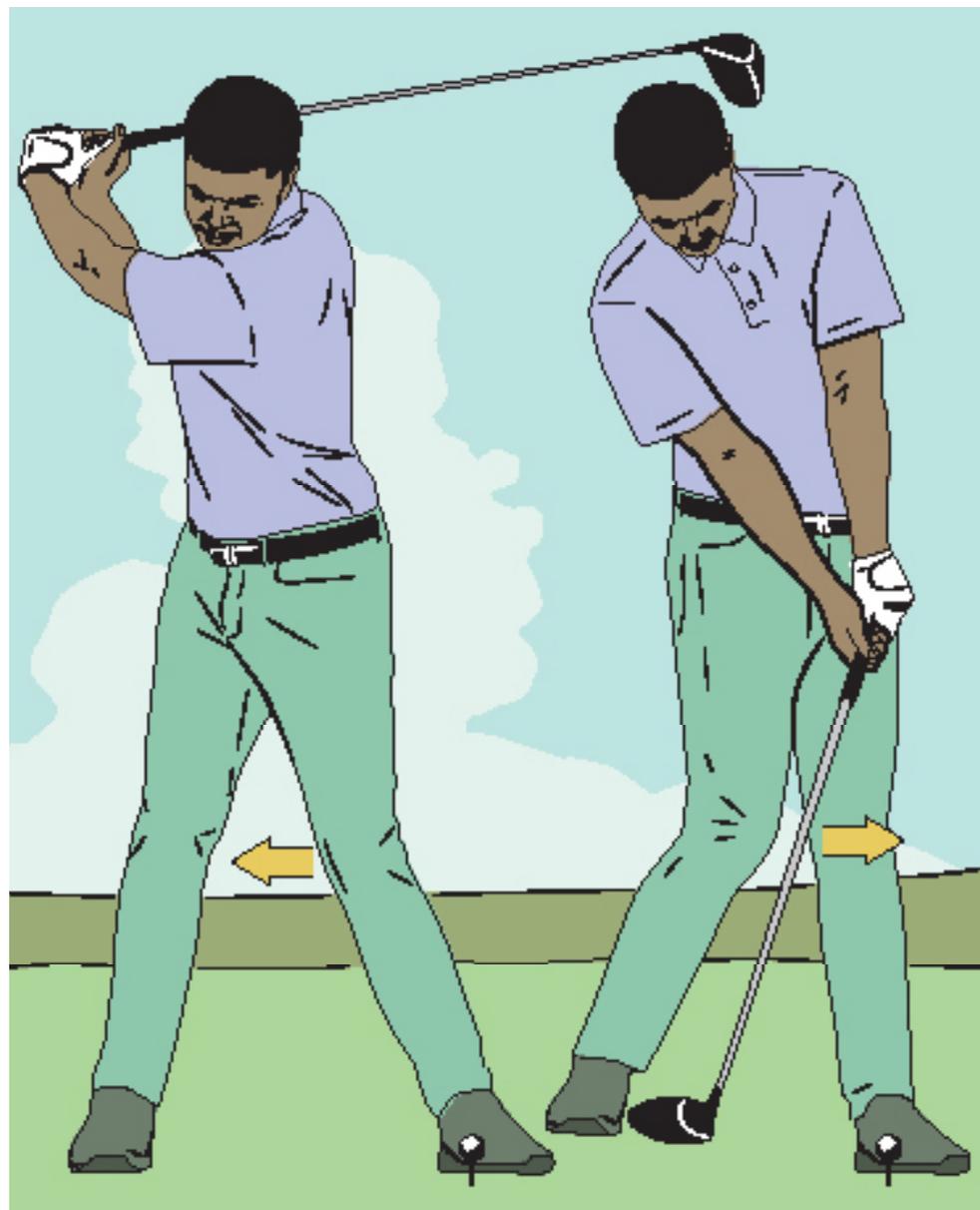
• **JUSTIN FOSTER / 35**
Ridgewood C.C.,
Danbury, Conn.
\$120/HR.

• **MARIO GUERRA / 36**
Quaker Ridge G.C.,
Scarsdale, N.Y.
\$250/HR.

• **BRIAN GUSSIS / 36**
GolfTec Woodbridge,
Metuchen, N.J.
\$175/HR.

• = NEW THIS YEAR

'FOCUSING ON THE LATERAL MOVEMENT OF YOUR KNEES CAN HELP YOU STAY IN POSTURE BETTER.' —EARL COOPER



EARL COOPER
USE YOUR KNEES TO HIT IT SOLID

Good footwork is important to playing good golf. But for some players, focusing on the feet leads to too much vertical movement, making it hard to consistently connect with the ball in the sweet spot. Those golfers might benefit from keying

on lateral knee movement instead. If you do, there's far less risk of losing your posture and mis-hitting it.

If you let your lead knee move away from the target as you take the club back (*above, left*), you'll be able to create a bigger turn off the ball. And if you let your

trail knee move toward the target in the downswing (*above, right*), you'll produce the proper weight shift to hit solid shots.

COOPER, 31, operates Earl Cooper Golf at the Union League Golf Club at Torresdale in Philadelphia.

• **RYAN HAGER / 26**
Plainfield C.C.,
Edison, N.J.
\$140/HR.

• **JENNIFER HUDSON / 36**
Sankaty Head G.C.,
Siasconset, Mass.
\$200/HR.

• **NICK IACONO / 32**
Chester Valley G.C.,
Malvern, Pa.
\$150/HR.

• **ADAM KOLLOFF / 38**
Pure Drive Golf,
Woburn, Mass.
\$175/HR.

• **MICHAEL LABELLA / 31**
Nemacolin Resort,
Farmington, Pa.
\$175/HR.

• **SEAN MCTERNAN / 39**
Brae Burn C.C.,
West Newton, Mass.
\$165/HR.

• **CJ NAFUS / 30**
Roxiticus G.C.,
Mendham, N.J.
\$150/HR.

• **NICK NOVAK / 35**
The Golf Performance Center,
Ridgefield, Conn.
\$250/HR.

• **JOE OSTROWSKI / 35**
Glen Head (N.Y.) C.C.
\$150/HR.

• **JORGE PARADA / 36**
Liberty National G.C.,
Jersey City, N.J.
\$350/HR.

• **RICO RICIPUTI / 33**
Wentworth by the Sea C.C.,
Rye, N.H.
\$150/HR.

• **BILL SCHMEDES III / 35**
Forsgate C.C.,
Monroe Township, N.J.
\$250/HR.

• **JASON SEDAN / 35**
On Course Golf Academy,
New Durham, N.H.
\$300/90 MINS.

• **PAUL SELVAGGIO / 36**
Westchester C.C.,
Rye, N.Y.
\$150/HR.

• **STEFANIE SHAW / 33**
Sebonack G.C.,
Southampton, N.Y.
\$170/HR.

• **STEPHEN SIERACKI / 36**
Woodcrest C.C.,
Cherry Hill, N.J.
\$200/HR.

• **MICHAEL SWEENEY / 34**
The Bridge Golf
Harlem Learning Center,
New York City
\$285/HR.

DANIEL CARRAHER CLOSE YOUR STANCE FOR BETTER BUNKER PLAY

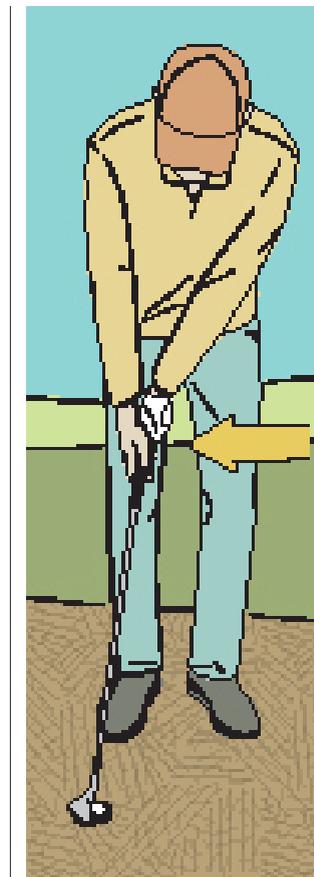
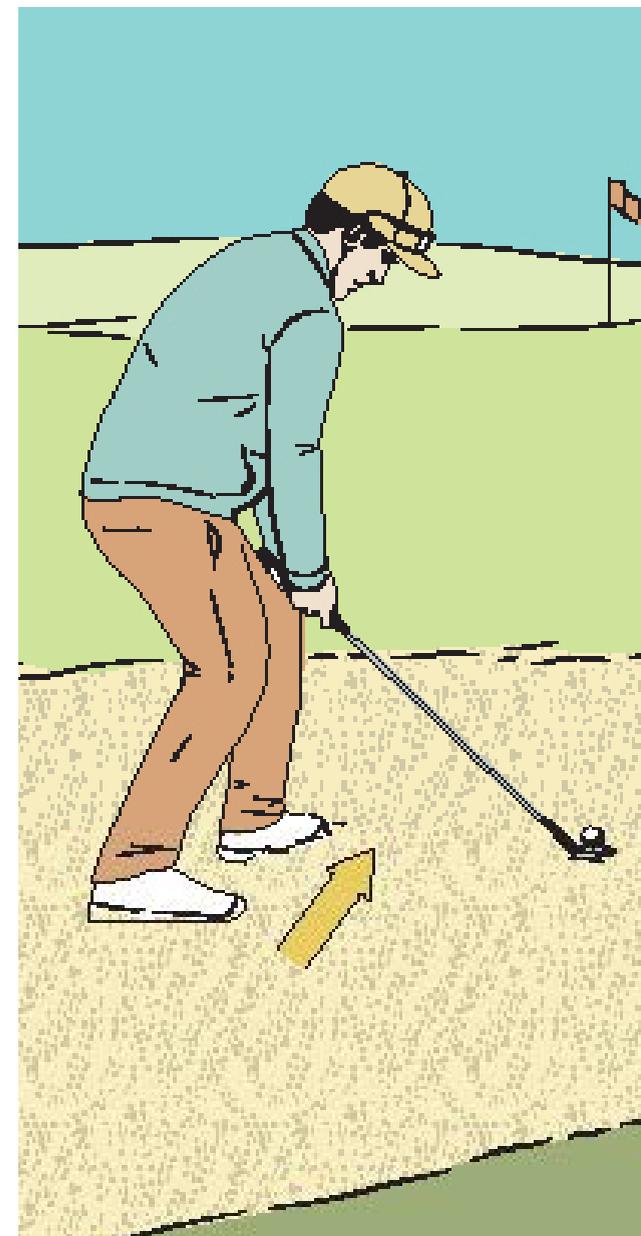


Greenside-bunker instruction typically has a golfer set up with the feet and shoulders open to the target. I find this distance makes it harder to hit high-and-soft sand shots because it promotes a steeper angle of attack and too much digging. The position of your back leg also can interfere with your backswing.

If you set up in the opposite manner, aligned right of

your target (for right-handers), you can lower the position of your hands (*below*) and keep them low as you swing. This shallowing action through impact produces those pro-like bunker shots where the back of the club thumps the sand and the ball floats out and stops near the cup.

CARRAHER, 35, teaches at the Golf Club at South Hampton in St. Augustine, Fla.



JAKE PLECKOWSKI
CREATE LOFT FROM A BALL-BACK POSITION



There are times when you can't afford to hit it fat around the greens or the ball will go nowhere (pine straw, muddy lies, sitting up in the rough, etc.). In those situations, playing the ball back in your stance helps a great deal.

But what if you also need to get the ball up? Try this: Set up with the ball back and your hands back, creating a more vertical shaft position (*above*). This will expose the trailing edge of the club and replace much of the loft lost by the ball position. When you swing, keep your lower body and head fairly still to increase your chance of solid contact—because that's what this shot requires.

PLECKOWSKI, 34, teaches at Naples (Fla.) National Golf Club.

• **DAVID TARASCHI / 32**
Burlington C.C.,
Mount Holly, N.J.
\$150/HR.

• **MARK WALDER / 37**
DiJulia Golf,
New Hope, Pa.
\$175/HR.

• **MICHAEL WHEELER / 34**
Rossi Golf Center, Exton, Pa.
\$125/HR.

• **MICHELLE WINKLER / 30**
The Stanwich C.,
Greenwich, Conn.
\$150/HR.

MID-ATLANTIC

• **ANDREW BREWER / 27**
Bayville G.C.,
Virginia Beach, Va.
\$125/HR.

• **JOANNA COE / 31**
Baltimore C.C.,
Lutherville, Md.
\$150/HR.

• **GAYLON CUDE / 32**
Golf House Tennessee,
Franklin
\$140/HR.

• **ROBBIE FRITZ / 38**
Greensboro (N.C.) C.C.
\$125/HR.

• **BILLY HOFFMAN / 39**
Westwood C.C.,
Vienna, Va.
\$140/HR.

• **MATT KILLEN / 35**
Troubadour G. & Field Club,
College Grove, Tenn.
\$2,000/3 HRS.

• **CATHY KIM / 34**
1757 G.C., Dulles, Va.
\$150/HR.

• **MITCHELL MOORE / 33**
Mitchell Moore Golf Academy,
Hopkinsville, Ky.
\$80/HR.

• **DANIEL NEBEN / 32**
TPC Potomac (Md.)
at Avenel Farm
\$150/HR.

• **GAVIN PARKER / 28**
Salisbury C.C.,
Midlothian, Va.
\$125/HR.

• **BEN PELLICANI / 36**
Westhaven G.C.,
Franklin, Tenn.
\$125/HR.

• **JOHN SCOTT RATTAN / 39**
Congressional C.C.,
Bethesda, Md.
\$200/HR.

• **BRANDON RAY / 38**
Lowcountry Lessons at
Patriots Point Links,
Mount Pleasant, S.C.
\$180/HR.

'YOUR PUTTING PACE SHOULD BE STEADY AND SMOOTH, LIKE A CAR PULLING UP IN FRONT OF A STORE TO PARK.' —PRESTON COMBS

PRESTON COMBS EASE OFF THE GAS FOR BETTER CONTROL ON THE GREENS

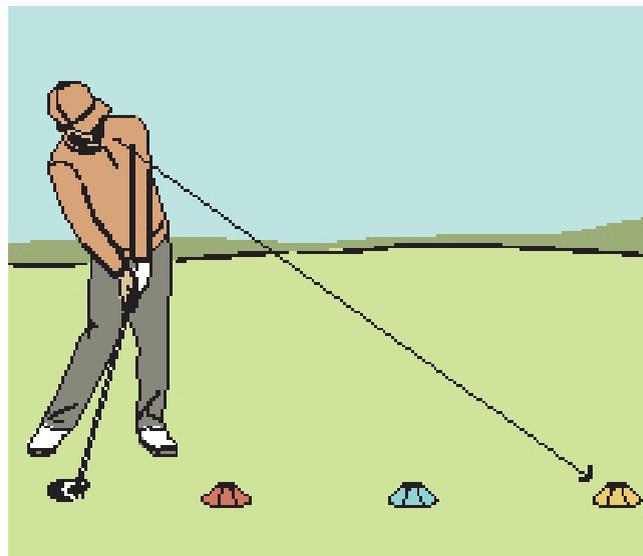


Consistent pace and length to your putting stroke is going to boost

your distance control. Use this drill: Place four tees on a green parallel to your putting line; the first should be next to the ball and the others toward the target, about a putterhead's length between them. Hit putts, stopping the club next to each of the three tees ahead of the first (*below*). Note how far the ball travels if you swing at the same smooth pace—like how a car glides into a storefront parking spot.

Use these follow-throughs for short, medium and long putts. Note: If your putter recoils a little when you stop at a tee, the stroke was probably too fast.

COMBS, 31, teaches at Twin Lakes Golf Course in Goleta, Calif.



RICO RICIPUTI LOOK BEYOND THE BALL IF YOU WANT TO CRUSH IT



There's a misconception that you have to keep your eyes locked on the ball until you strike it. It's why so many amateurs stop turning their bodies after impact, which leads to poor ball-striking.

My "1-3-5 eye drill" can fix that. First, hit shots with a wedge, letting your head swivel so you're looking a foot in front of the ball by

impact. Then, graduate to an 8-iron, looking three feet ahead. Finally, grab your driver and look five feet out (*above*). Your body will rotate past impact naturally, helping to produce good shots as you swing through the ball. Try it, and you'll never lock your head down.

RICIPUTI, 33, teaches at Wentworth by the Sea Country Club in Rye, N.H.

BRIAN ROGISH / 36
The G.C. at Lansdowne,
Leesburg, Va.
\$160/HR.

RYAN SMITH / 35
Marc Lapointe
Golf Academy,
Fort Mill, S.C.
\$100/HR.

DOUG SPENCER / 39
Northstone C.C.,
Huntersville, N.C.
\$155/HR.

COLBY WOLLITZ / 34
The Golf Academy
at Persimmon Ridge,
Louisville
\$120/HR.

TYRUS YORK / 37
High Performance
Golf Academy,
Nicholasville, Ky.
\$135/HR.

SOUTHEAST

DAVID ANGELOTTI / 31
Sea Island G.C.,
St. Simons Island, Ga.
\$235/HR.

**CHRISTOPHER
ARDOLINA / 35**
Cove Cay G.C.,
Clearwater, Fla.
\$100/HR.

DAVID ARMITAGE / 38
La Gorce C.C.,
Miami Beach
\$200/HR.

CHRIS BIGGINS / 28
The C.C. of Birmingham (Ala.)
\$80/HR.

MEGAN PADUA BUZZA / 35
Bonita Bay C.,
Bonita Springs, Fla.
\$220/HR.

STEVE BUZZA / 33
Bonita Bay C.,
Bonita Springs, Fla.
\$220/HR.

DANIEL CARRAHER / 35
The G.C. at South Hampton,
St. Augustine, Fla.
\$150/HR.

CODY CARTER / 31
The Club at Savannah
Quarters, Pooler, Ga.
\$120/HR.

STEPHEN CLARK / 35
Rick Smith Golf Performance
Center, Doral, Fla.
\$200/HR.

JOE COMPITELLO / 35
Indian Creek (Fla.) C.C.
\$155/HR.

STEVEN DEBOER / 31
Steven DeBoer
Golf Academy,
Hanceville, Ala.
\$100/HR.

BRANDON RAY GET UP TO GET DOWN AND COMPRESS THE BALL



Maintain your posture from address through impact? No, I want you to change it to put more *oomph* into your golf shots.

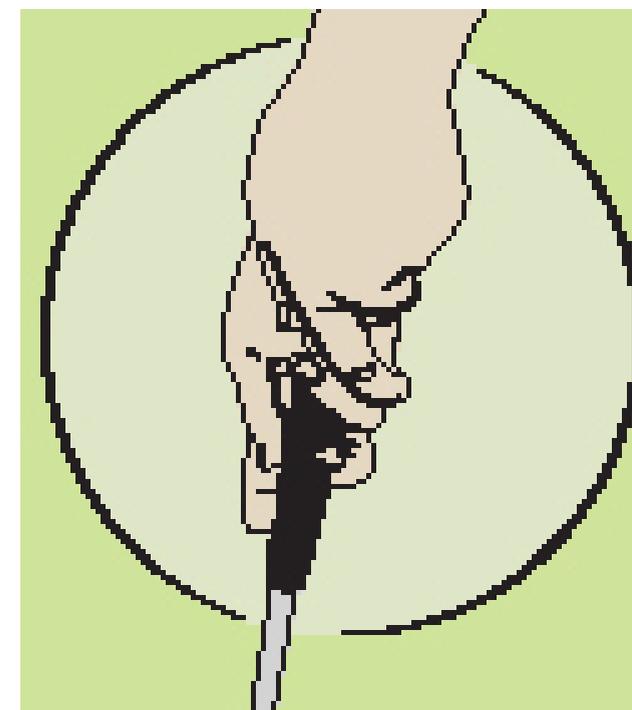
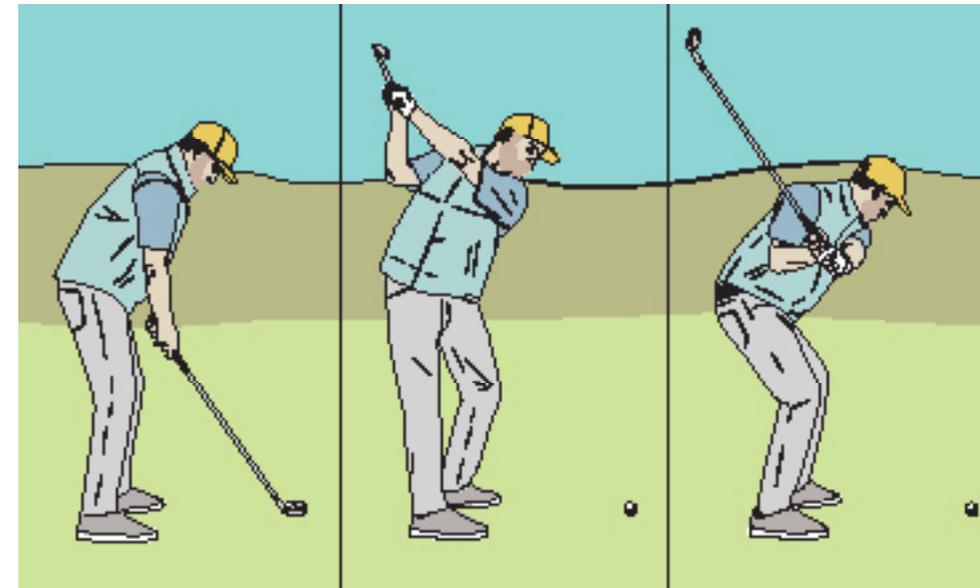
First, stand tall at address with less knee bend than normal (*below, left*). Then, as you swing to the top, get

taller, letting your trail knee straighten and your spine lengthen (*below, middle*). Finally, to start the downswing, bend your knees, lower your head, let your butt move away from the ball and rotate your hips toward the target (*below, right*).

It should feel like you're applying a lot of pressure

into the ground through your legs and getting heavier. This creates a ton of energy, which allows you to use gravity to hit down on the ball and compress it.

RAY, 38, teaches at Lowcountry Lessons at Patriots Point Links in Mount Pleasant, S.C.



JENNIFER TUCKER GIVE YOUR PUTTING GRIP THE SQUEEZE TEST



Take your putting grip, then give it a hard squeeze. Did the face move? If

it did, your grip might fail you in pressure situations when the tendency is to tighten up. Change the way you hold the club to pass the squeeze test.

My "clutch" grip (*left*) moves the right index finger onto the flat top of the handle, so the club nestles in the palm. This reduces wrist action and steadies the face, making it more reliable.

TUCKER, 37, teaches at the Desert Mountain Club in Scottsdale.

MATT DEJOHN / 30
Matt DeJohn Golf Academy,
Port St. Lucie, Fla.
\$125/HR.

JORDAN DEMPSEY / 39
PGA Tour Performance Center
at TPC Sawgrass,
Ponte Vedra Beach
\$250/HR.

KATIE DETLEFSEN DAHL / 32
West Bay C., Estero, Fla.
\$135/HR.

JESSICA DICKSON / 37
Shadow Wood C.C.,
Bonita Springs, Fla.
\$140/HR.

SARA DICKSON / 33
Wilderness C.C.,
Naples, Fla.
\$120/HR.

NICK DUFFY / 39
Nick Duffy Golf at Orange
County National Golf Center,
Winter Garden, Fla.
\$150/HR.

ALEX FERNANDEZ / 29
Jim McLean Golf School
Biltmore Miami,
Coral Gables, Fla.
\$125/HR.

IAIN HIGHFIELD / 38
The Leadbetter Golf Academy,
Acworth, Ga.
\$200/HR.

JACKSON KOERT / 30
Frederica G.C.,
St. Simons Island, Ga.
\$170/HR.

ANDREW LANAHAN / 38
PGA Tour Performance Center
at TPC Sawgrass,
Ponte Vedra Beach
\$200/HR.

STEVE LIPPINCOTT / 36
GolfTec Carrollwood,
Tampa, Fla.
\$125/HR.

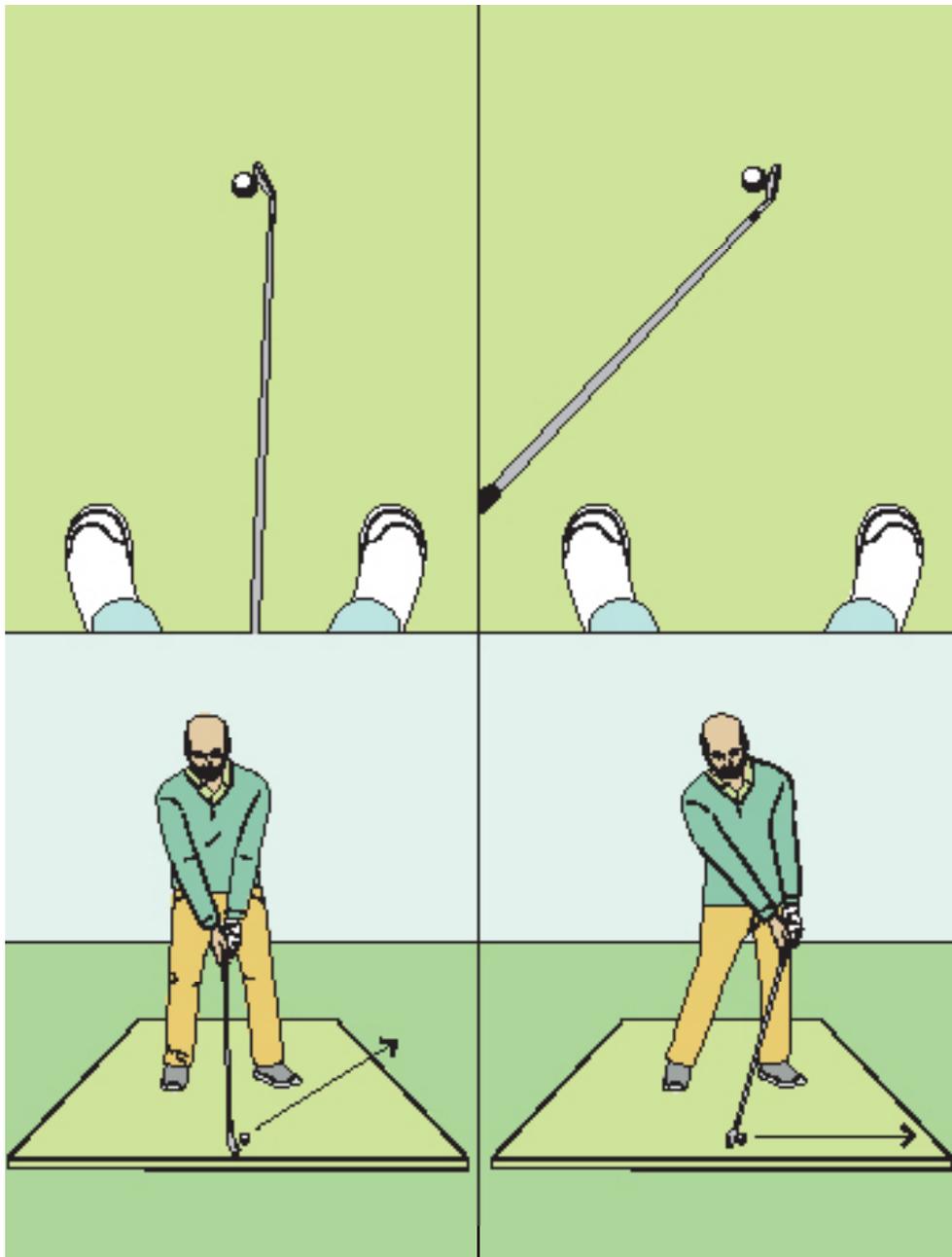
TYLER MCGHIE / 37
Orange County National
Golf Center,
Winter Garden, Fla.
\$300/HR.

JON MCLEAN / 34
Jim McLean Golf School
Biltmore Miami,
Coral Gables, Fla.
\$195/HR.

MATT MCLEAN / 36
The Concession G.C.,
Bradenton, Fla.
\$200/HR.

BRETT MEYER / 35
The Leadbetter Golf Academy
ChampionsGate, Fla.
\$195/HR.

JOHN MONTGOMERY / 30
Celebration (Fla.)
Golf Academy
\$95/HR.



BRIAN GUSSIS
SET UP 'TOUR-PRO' IMPACT AT ADDRESS

Here's a great and simple way to learn what a good impact position looks and feels like without having to spend countless hours on the practice tee. Address a ball in the middle of your stance, hood a 7-iron so the face is pointing toward your front foot, and then take your normal grip (above left, top and bottom). Now make a swing with the goal of getting the ball to

start to the right (for right-handers) of your target line as it leaves the clubface. To do that, you have to swing on an in-to-out path with the shaft of the club leaning toward the target as it strikes the ball (above right, top and bottom). This is what tour pros look like as they swing through the ball. By setting up with the club hooded, you have to make the correct adjustments in the downswing to get the

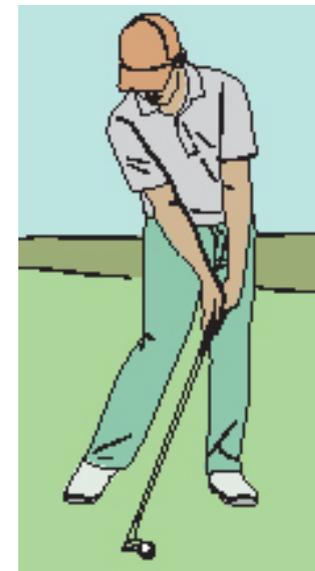
club in this ideal impact position. If you don't, the shot won't start to the right of your target. Practice this for a while, but it won't take that long to groove this pro look and feel to your swing. You also will notice a difference in how the ball sounds when it leaves the club. **GUSSIS, 36**, teaches at GolfTec Woodbridge in Metuchen, N.J.

- **RENEE TRUDEAU O'HIGGINS / 37**
 Quail West G. & C.C., Naples, Fla.
 \$150/HR.
- **CARLA OVERHISER / 33**
 John Webster Golf Academy at The Breakers, Palm Beach
 \$200/HR.
- **RUSHI OZA / 34**
 Jim McLean Golf School Biltmore Miami, Coral Gables, Fla.
 \$125/HR.
- **ZACH PARKER / 39**
 The Leadbetter Golf Academy, ChampionsGate, Fla.
 \$250/HR.
- **JAKE PLECKZKOWSKI / 34**
 Naples (Fla.) National G.C.
 \$130/HR.
- **JON SCHOEPF / 28**
 Jim McLean Golf School at Miami Beach G.C.
 \$195/HR.
- **JUSTIN SHEEHAN / 35**
 Pelican G.C., Belleair, Fla.
 \$200/HR.
- **ALANA SWAIN / 32**
 PGA Tour Performance Center at TPC Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra Beach
 \$225/HR.
- **JOHN TILLERY / 38**
 Cuscowilla G.C., Eatonton, Ga.
 \$250/HR.
- **BRANDO TOMMASI / 37**
 Jim McLean Golf School at Miami Beach G.C.
 \$250/HR.
- **T.J. YEATON / 32**
 Atlantic Beach (Fla.) C.C.
 \$200/90 MIN.
- **GRAYSON ZACKER / 35**
 Jim McLean Golf School Biltmore Miami, Coral Gables, Fla.
 \$250/HR.

MIDWEST

- **KIEL ALDERINK / 37**
 Royal Melbourne C.C., Long Grove, Ill.
 \$150/HR.
- **GREG BARESEL / 36**
 Cantigny G., Wheaton, Ill.
 \$140/HR.
- **LUKE BENOIT / 39**
 Interlachen C.C., Edina, Minn.
 \$160/HR.
- **GARY BISSELL / 31**
 The Meadows G. Cse., Allendale, Mich.
 \$100/HR.

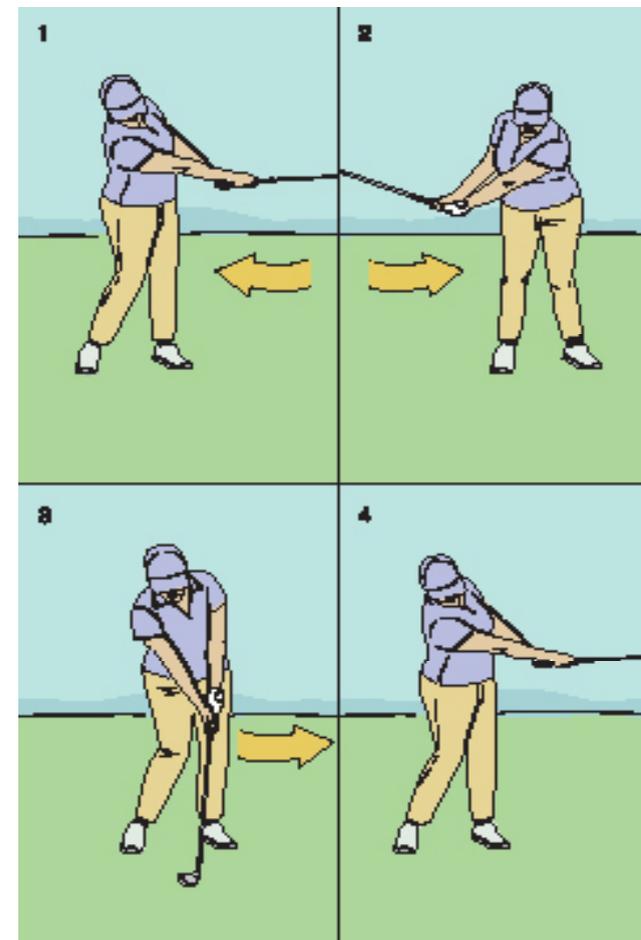
'THE IDEA IS TO PUT YOURSELF IN A POSITION WHERE YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE BALL THE WAY A TOUR PRO WOULD.' —BRIAN GUSSIS



ALEX FERNANDEZ
FLIP THE CLUB AROUND TO LEARN HOW TO HIT A FLIGHTED WEDGE

Lowering the flight of a wedge shot is great if you're looking for better accuracy into greens. It's so much easier to control the ball when you don't have to deal with wind. But how do you do it? To hit those low, boring approaches, you need to train your wrists to put you in the right position at impact. The lead wrist should be bowed and the trail wrist cupped (left). A good swing

thought is, *knuckles down* on your lead hand as you strike the ball. A way to train these wrist positions is for a right-handed player to take a lefty wedge but swing it as if it were a right-handed club. The goal is to get the back of the wedge as flat to the ground as possible as you simulate impact. **FERNANDEZ, 29**, teaches at the Jim McLean Golf School Biltmore Miami in Coral Gables, Fla.



JENNIFER HUDSON
START AT THE FINISH TO HIT BETTER PITCHES

A time-honored way to improve rhythm, tempo and sequencing in your swing is by starting in the follow-through position instead of at address. It's a great drill, which is why I love it for pitching, too. Many amateurs decelerate when pitching or make a short, jabby swing. To hit better pitches, start in a follow-through position with the shaft of the wedge pointing at the target (top left). Then, take the club back until the shaft is roughly parallel to the ground (top right) before swinging down, getting the club back in the same position it was in when you started (bottom right). **HUDSON, 36**, is the director of instruction at Sankaty Head Golf Club in Siasconset, Mass.

- **TIM BOEGH / 36**
 GolfTec Madison (Wis.)
 \$150/HR.
- **MOLLY BRAID / 33**
 Westmoor C.C., Brookfield, Wis.
 \$125/HR.
- **GARRETT CHAUSSARD / 37**
 Skokie C.C., Glencoe, Ill.
 \$140/HR.
- **LUKE DONAH / 27**
 Cedar Rapids (Iowa) C.C.
 \$150/HR.
- **CARLTON DOVE / 38**
 Wichita (Kan.) C.C.
 \$95/HR.
- **ADAM FARABAUGH / 34**
 C.C. of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.
 \$130/HR.
- **RICHARD FRANKLIN / 37**
 Deerpath G. Cse., Lake Forest, Ill.
 \$175/HR.
- **CHRIS GREEN / 34**
 Glen View C., Golf, Ill.
 \$180/HR.
- **COURTNEY MAHON / 37**
 Falcon Ridge G.C., Lenexa, Kan.
 \$100/HR.
- **CHAD MIDDAGH / 36**
 Muirfield Village G.C., Dublin, Ohio
 \$100/HR.
- **KYLE MORRIS / 35**
 The Golf Room, Dublin, Ohio
 \$175/HR.
- **MAUREEN OLSON / 33**
 Sykes/Lady Overland Park (Kan.) G. Cse.
 \$100/HR.
- **JOHN PERNA / 38**
 TPS Player Service, Naperville, Ill.
 \$375/HR.
- **JON REIGSTAD / 39**
 Keller G. Cse., Maplewood, Minn.
 \$100/HR.
- **EVA ROGERS / 32**
 Medinah (Ill.) C.C.
 \$145/HR.
- **DANIEL SHELDEN / 38**
 Ruth Lake C.C., Hinsdale, Ill.
 \$125/HR.
- **TYLER SLOCUM / 28**
 Lake Shore C.C., Glencoe, Ill.
 \$130/HR.
- **T.J. SULLIVAN / 36**
 GolfTec Oak Brook (Ill.)
 \$150/HR.

'MAKING PRACTICE SWINGS WITH YOUR LEAD HAND LOWER ON THE GRIP THAN YOUR TRAIL HAND HELPS GET YOU SLOTTED.' —RUSHI OZA



RUSHI OZA
GROOVE A BETTER BACKSWING CROSS-HANDED



Many golfers struggle to get to the top of the swing in a way that will put them in a position to swing back down and consistently hit good shots.

If you want to know how it should look and feel when you reach the top, switch hand positions on the

handle of your club and then make a backswing (*above, left and right*). Notice how your arms feel more connected to your torso and your elbows are close together. And although the swing length might seem shorter than your normal backswing, your torso should still feel fully wound

as the club reaches the top. Alternate between this cross-handed practice swing and your usual swing. You'll probably feel a big difference. You can even hit short-iron shots at slow speeds cross-handed.

OZA, 34, teaches at the Biltmore in Coral Gables, Fla.

SOUTHWEST

JEREMY ANDERSON / 37
Legacy Golf Performance Center, Phoenix
\$250/HR.

JONATHAN BUCHANAN / 35
Dallas C.C., Highland Park, Texas
\$175/HR.

MIKE BURY / 39
Mike Bury Golf Academy, Dallas
\$225/HR.

TROY DENTON / 38
Maridoe G.C., Carrollton, Texas
\$200/HR.

JOSEPH DICHIARA / 37
Ancala C.C., Scottsdale
\$150/HR.

NICK DUNN / 32
Altus Performance, The Colony, Texas
\$150/HR.

KATIE FINNEY / 37
GolfTec The Woodlands (Texas)
\$190/HR.

EJ KIM / 38
Axis Golf Academy and Fitting Center, Cypress, Texas
\$150/HR.

JOHN KOSTIS / 33
JPK Golf Instruction, Scottsdale
\$175/HR.

JUSTIN KLEMBALLA / 33
Forest Highlands G.C., Flagstaff, Ariz.
\$125/HR.

LINDY LABAUVE / 31
The Westin Kierland G.C., Scottsdale
\$130/HR.

ANDREW LEWIS / 36
Altus Performance, The Colony, Texas
\$175/HR.

COREY LUNDBERG / 37
Altus Performance at Trinity Forest G.C., Dallas
\$250/HR.

KENNETH MESIMER / 34
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CLIFF MISHLER / 32
Hank Haney Golf Ranch at Vista Ridge, Lewisville, Texas
\$125/HR.

ASHLEY MOSS / 30
Superstition Mountain C.C., Gold Canyon, Ariz.
\$200/HR.

PAXTON O'CONNOR / 29
Desert Mountain C., Scottsdale
\$225/HR.



MICHAEL LABELLA
MISS THE BALL TO HIT BETTER SHOTS



A common fault is early extension—a straightening of the body with the hips moving toward the ball in the downswing that alters the club's path and leads to inconsistent contact.

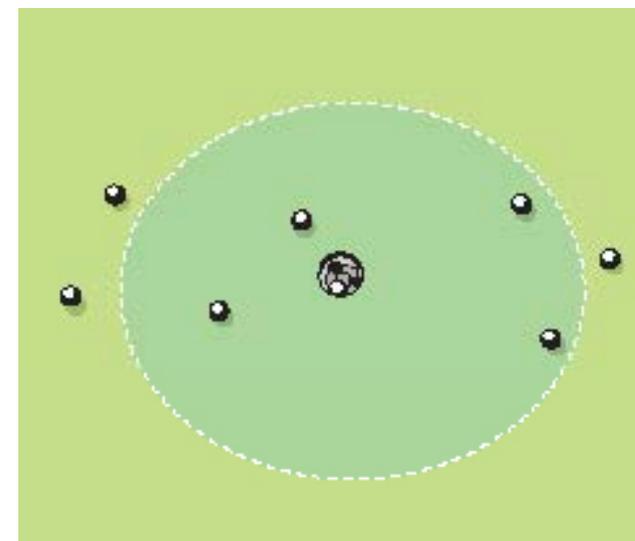
A drill to prevent early extension and improve ball-

striking is to make swings with the goal of missing the ball on the side closest to your body. You read that right—miss the ball.

Allow your lower body to start the downswing with the sensation that it's pushing you away from the ball, trying to create room for the

club to swing and miss to the inside (*above, right*). Note how the lead leg straightens as the hips clear out. Re-create that feel when you go back to hitting shots.

LABELLA, 31, teaches at the Nemaocolin Resort in Farmington, Pa.



DARREN FALK
THINK CLOSE, NOT IN



Trying to make putts you're likely to miss leads to more three-putts than hole-outs. Try to get medium-to-long-range putts close, but not in. Doesn't matter if you're short or long, as long as the next putt is easy. Lagging enlarges your target considerably—and that will free up your stroke.

FALK, 36, teaches at Holly Ridge Golf Club in Sandwich, Mass.

AARON OLSON / 39
Tour Striker Golf Academy at Raven G.C., Phoenix
\$200/HR.

JARUT PADUNG / 32
America Golf Academy at Paradise Valley G. Cse., Phoenix
\$150/HR.

ANDY PATNOU / 32
Starfire G.C., Scottsdale
\$150/HR.

RYAN RODY / 35
Southern Hills C.C., Tulsa
\$200/HR.

ROBERT SCOTT / 39
Royal Oaks C.C., Houston
\$150/HR.

KAYLIN SKOVRON / 33
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Red Hawk G.C., Las Cruces, N.M.
\$70/HR.

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\$125/HR.

JENNIFER TUCKER / 37
Desert Mountain C., Scottsdale
\$130/HR.

THOMAS VALDEZ / 38
GolfTec Houston Galleria
\$125/HR.

J.J. WOOD / 36
Golf Performance Group at Northgate C.C., Houston
\$130/HR.

BRIAN ZEIGLER / 33
Dallas National G.C.
\$200/HR.

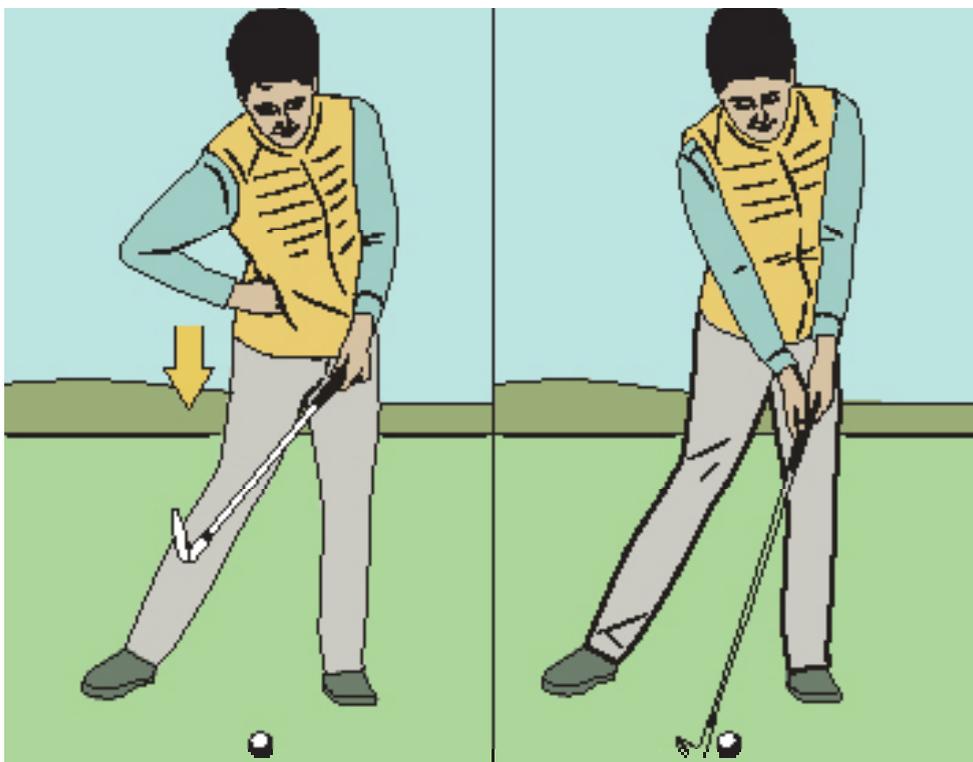
WEST

A.J. AVOLI / 39
Omni La Costa Golf Performance Institute, Carlsbad, Calif.
\$300/HR.

JASON AICHELE / 39
Meadow Springs C.C., Richland, Wash.
\$125/HR.

JOHN BATTAGLIA / 35
PGA West Golf Academy, La Quinta, Calif.
\$175/HR.

MARIO BEVILACQUA / 31
TPC Summerlin, Las Vegas
\$300/HR.



ERIN MENATH

PINCH YOURSELF TO STAY BEHIND THE BALL

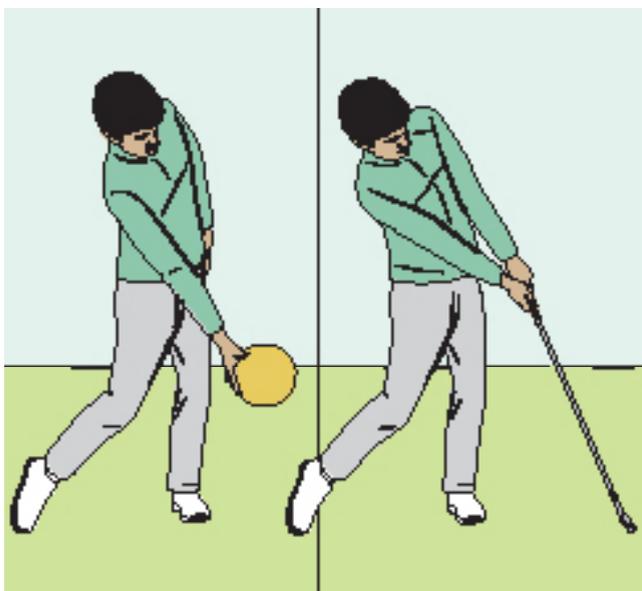


Many golfers, especially beginners, start the downswing by letting the upper body rotate and slide toward the target. It's what we call getting ahead of the ball—a big reason some golfers struggle to make good contact.

To train a better downswing, try this drill: Take your trail hand and place it above your trail hip below the rib cage. Holding a club in your lead hand at address, side bend away from the target until your ribs and hip bone pinch your hand (*above, left*). Feel pressure

move into your lead leg as you pinch and rotate your ribs toward the target. Copy this feeling and move when you go back to hitting shots (*above, right*).

MENATH, 37, operates Erin Menath Golf in Redmond, Wash.



TIM BOEGH

DRAW IT LIKE A BOWLER



Imagine holding a bowling ball in your dominant hand. While resisting rotation of your hips and shoulders, let your trail foot slide back as you tilt and “roll the ball” down the lane. Then, straighten your arms and legs in the follow-through (*far left*). This is the motion you want when hitting short punch shots (*near left*). Do it, and you'll groove a draw swing and shot shape.

BOEGH, 36, teaches at GolfTec Madison (Wis.).

DEVAN BONEBRAKE / 35

Rolling Hills C.C., Rolling Hills Estates, Calif.

\$225/HR.

• **ALEXANDRA BRAGA / 36**

Denver C.C.

\$120/HR.

• **JARED BUTTS / 34**

Will Robins Golf, Folsom, Calif.

\$150/HR.

• **PRESTON COMBS / 31**

Twin Lakes G. Cse., Goleta, Calif.

\$650/3 HRS.

ALISON CURDT / 38

Alison Curdt Golf at Wood Ranch G.C., Simi Valley, Calif.

\$150/HR.

• **TANYA DERGAL / 36**

Brentwood C.C., Los Angeles

\$125/HR.

• **STEFANIE FERGUSON / 33**

Experience Golf at Common Ground G. Cse., Aurora, Colo.

\$250/90 MIN.

TYLER FERRELL / 39

La Rinconada C.C., Los Gatos, Calif.

\$250/HR.

MATT HENDERSON / 35

TPC Las Vegas

\$150/HR.

• **AYUMI HORI / 35**

Balboa G. Cse., Encino, Calif.

\$250/HR.

JON HORNER / 35

Jon Horner Golf Academy at CordeValle, San Martin, Calif.

\$225/HR.

KYLE KUNIOKA / 35

Honolulu C.C.

\$150/HR.

SEAN LANYI / 39

Langdon Farms G.C., Aurora, Ore.

\$125/HR.

MACKENZIE MACK / 33

Callaway Golf, Carlsbad, Calif.

\$50/HR.

CHRIS MAYSON / 39

Maderas Golf Academy, Poway, Calif.

\$300/HR.

• **ERIN MENATH / 37**

Erin Menath Golf, Redmond, Wash.

\$130/HR.

• **NATHAN MORRIS / 37**

GolfTec Westminster (Colo.)

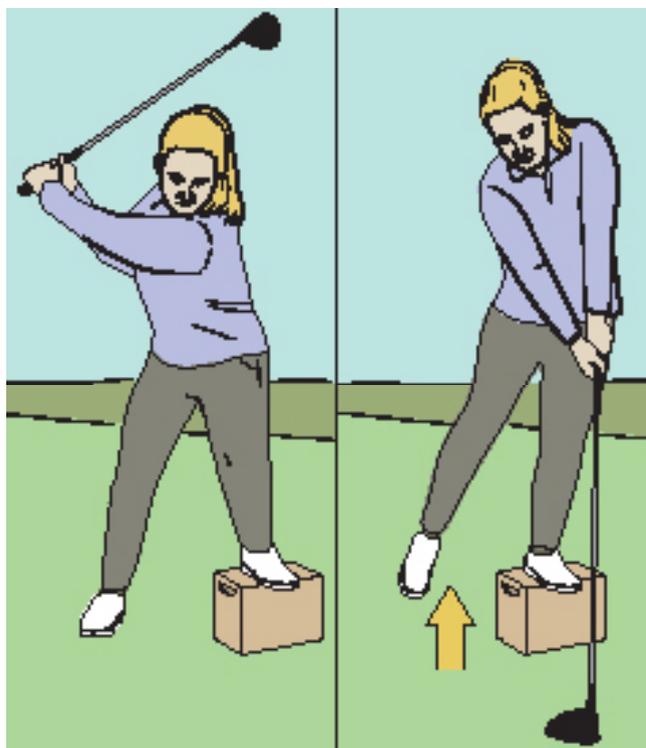
\$190/HR.

• **ANDREW NAVARRO / 34**

The Club at 3 Creek, Jackson, Wyo.

\$165/HR.

'SHIFTING WEIGHT TOWARD THE TARGET IS IMPORTANT, BUT APPLYING GROUND PRESSURE WILL TRANSLATE INTO MORE YARDS OFF THE TEE.' —ALEXANDRA BRAGA



ALEXANDRA BRAGA STEP UP FOR MORE POWER



Shifting your weight toward the target is important, but focusing instead on vertical pressure will give you more power. As a drill, set your lead foot on a makeshift step—anything sturdy—and make practice swings. Push off the step in the downswing with enough energy that your trail foot comes off the ground. Note the force being created down through the posted leg. That's the feeling you want when you hit shots.

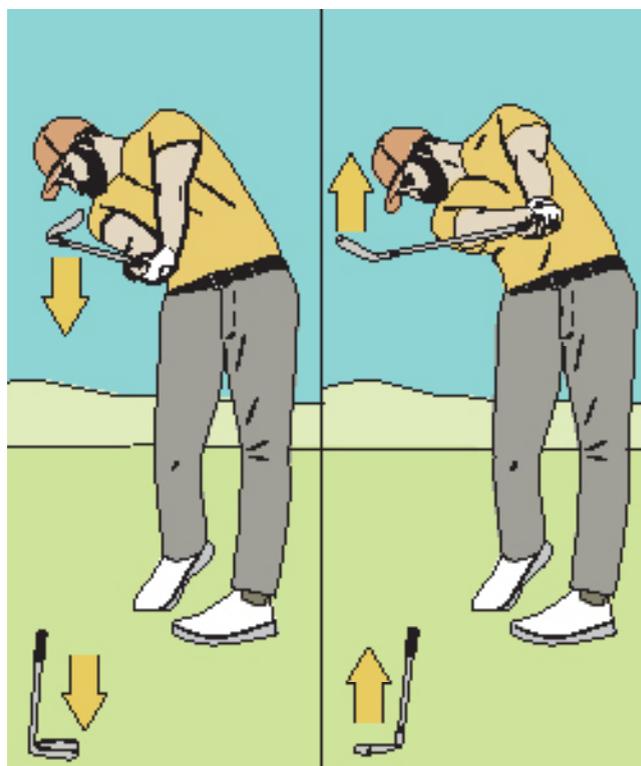
BRAGA, 36, is director of player development at Denver Country Club.

MITCHELL MOORE COPY WHAT YOU SEE TO CURVE IT



To curve the ball, practice with these visuals: For a draw, place an iron face down on the ground parallel with your target line so the butt end is just ahead of where a ball would be at address. Now make a swing trying to match the look of that face-down iron when your club reaches parallel to the ground in the through-swing (*near right*). To hit a fade, lay a club face up and copy its look (*far right*). You can even hit half-shots drilling with this visual.

MOORE, 33, operates the Mitchell Moore Golf Academy in Hopkinsville, Ky.



PATRICK NUBER / 38
GolfTec Headquarters,
Englewood, Colo.
\$250/HR.

TRAVIS OLSON / 34
Rock Creek Cattle Company,
Deer Lodge, Mont.
\$140/HR.

• **JAMIE PUTERBAUGH / 36**
Aviara Golf Academy,
Carlsbad, Calif.
\$175/HR.

• **JASON PUTERBAUGH / 37**
Aviara Golf Academy,
Carlsbad, Calif.
\$175/HR.

KEVIN SHIMOMURA / 37
Ko Olina Golf Academy,
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\$140/HR.

BRAD SKUPAKA / 33
GolfTec Headquarters,
Englewood, Colo.
\$250/HR.

DREW STECKEL / 34
Southern Highlands G.C.,
Las Vegas
\$350/HR.

• **JORDAN THOMAS / 37**
Rick Smith Golf Academy,
Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif.
\$189/HR.

• **JAKE TOLIVER / 30**
The Los Angeles (Calif.) C.C.
\$140/HR.

• **GINA UMECK / 39**
California State University,
Northridge
\$100/HR.

GAVIN WITZER / 39
Henry Brunton Golf Academy
at Strawberry Farms,
Irvine, Calif.
\$1500/10 HRS.



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