

GROHMAN GOLF GAZETTE

JUNIOR GOLFER EDITION

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INSIDE TEAM TIGER

“I like practicing better.”
14-year-old Tiger Woods when I asked him why he didn't play on the course more when most of the time he had it all to himself every afternoon. Coming from anyone else, I'd have had trouble believing it. But his father was the same way.

EARL THE 1 HANDICAP
Back then Earl was a 1 handicap, the second lowest handicap held in the 600+ member Men's club. Only Tiger's +2.3 handicap was lower at the time. Earl was also a prolific practitioner. While Tiger was at school, Earl could be found on the range for hours on end. Again, Earl could have been on the course but like his son, he had an affinity for practice. On the course, Tiger would usually get the best of “Pop” but Earl never went down without a fight. By the time he was 15, Tiger was basically untouchable by anyone on a golf course. But even then he liked to spend most of his time on the driving range or putting green.

FINISH ON THE RANGE
And when he did play, he always ended the round on the

driving range, working on something or other that got his attention while on the course.

TIGER'S WORK ETHIC
One of the first questions people ask me about Tiger is about his work ethic. Often I would come to work and Tiger would be on the range. On my lunch break, Tiger would still be on the range. After my shift, some 8 and a half hours later, Tiger would still be on the range. Only when he wasn't in the middle of a swing development would I convince him to join me for a few holes in the waning daylight. However if he was, he delighted in telling me and showing me exactly what his discovery was and why it was significant. If you've ever watched in awe as someone with a great golf swing hit ball after ball, imagine them being gracious enough to explain to you what they were trying to accomplish or what they were working on. And answer any of your questions related to it.

IMAGINE IT'S TIGER
Now imagine it's Tiger Woods, you're on his team and feel like you've learned his secret. That by following Tiger and his family's example, anyone can achieve anything. That's my message.

TIGER'S NICKNAME

One of my main concerns back then was helping “Champ” (Tiger's nickname) and the Team wherever I could. Now it's to share what I learned from those 7 years. For all his success, Tiger Woods is as deserving as they come. And like Earl says, you ain't seen nothing yet! (Eight Majors already and Champ is just getting warmed up! Barring injury he'll have over 30 before he's through. This kid is the real deal.)

JUNIOR BLIND CLINIC

**AUGUST 10TH 12-2 P.M. AT
CHESTER WASHINGTON**
The second annual golf clinic for the Junior Blind will be held at Chester Washington Golf Course this year. I will have at least 30 of my junior golfers to act as guides.

EVERYONE IS INVITED
I will also take all comers beyond that to cheer on our blind guests. Parents, brothers and sisters and anyone that wants to are welcome to participate. All participants will get a free lunch.

DONATIONS
I am also accepting donations for the clinic to cover the cost of lunch and gifts for the kids. Funds over this will be donated to the L.A.

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Foundation for the Junior Blind. So please help if you can and forward this request. Together we can make this a very special day for some very special kids. Please make checks out to "Chester Washington Golf Course" or if preferred "L.A. Foundation for the Junior Blind" send c/o Joe Grohman 1400 Harmony Ln. Fullerton, Ca 92831. If you prefer or to participate, be at Chester Washington on August 10th at 11:00 a.m. I can assure you, it will be a day you will never forget. Call me if you need directions or have questions. 714.992.6654 Thank you.

EARL WOODS TALKS TO JUNIORS

Some more Earl Woods quotes from his book "Start Something". Again these were the philosophies behind Team Tiger that Earl shared with me long before he wrote the book.

Follow your passion, not the pack.

Everyone is trying out for the school play-but you'd rather be in the band. Maybe all your friends are playing soccer, but you want to play tennis. Should you follow the pack, or follow your passion? It's hard to break away from your friends, especially if "everyone" is doing

something together. But if you're lucky enough to know what you like, don't you owe it to yourself to stick with it? Your friend's interests don't have to be the same as yours. Why spend time on something that doesn't interest you, when you can devote yourself to something you really care about? When Tiger was a kid, no one else his age was golfing-but golf was his passion, and he wasn't afraid to stand apart from his friends to pursue it.

It takes a strong person to break away from the rest of the group, but you'll be glad you did. You can go to their soccer games, and they can watch you play tennis. What's

Help A little kid

Remember how it felt to be little? There were so many things you didn't understand or couldn't do, and all those big kids thinking they're so great. Well, now that you're older and more experienced, it's your chance to be a real hero. Use your new maturity to help those younger than you. Instead of making a little kid feel stupid and helpless, make a point to say hi, share your seat on the bus, hold a door open help him find his way around school, show her how to do something better. Give a kid

a reason to look up to you. Wouldn't you appreciate the same kindness from those who are older than you?

Are you ready to make your own decisions?

Now that you are growing up, you want to make some decisions for yourself and have more control over your life-what you wear, who you hang out with, how you study, what you do for fun. And that can be tough on parents, especially when they still want to be involved in those decisions. But there are steps you can take to earn your independence, and still keep your folks involved in your life. First, be thankful that your parents care enough to be concerned-that's their job. Second, discuss your choices with your parents. Let them know why you feel the way you do, honestly and maturely, without being defensive or angry, so they know that you've given careful thought to the decisions you're making. If they disagree, respect them enough to listen to their viewpoint. You may not agree with them, but if you want them to respect your opinions, you have to respect theirs. Finally, let your parents know that you'd like to try it your way and see how it goes-and that if it doesn't

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work out, you'll be honest enough to admit you need to go in a different direction. Your parents will respect your openness, and you'll show that you've earned the right to make a few choices for yourself.

Whatever problems you have, someone else had them first

You are a unique and special person-there is no one else exactly like you in the entire world. The same is not true of your problems; no matter how badly you feel things are going for you, no matter how confusing and complicated your life seems, you are not the first person to experience what you're going through. All kinds of people are dealing with the very same issues right this minute. Now, this doesn't take anything away from your own troubles-if you think you have a problem then you definitely do-but it might make you feel better to know that other people have been there and understand how you feel. Talk to others about what's bothering you; share your concerns with people who have ideas and knowledge you can use. Let yourself learn from the experiences of others. Let them help. You are not alone in this world.

You have to start somewhere

Big hopes and dreams can feel overwhelming if you only focus on the end result. Reaching your goals is like climbing a ladder: You can't get to the top in one step. But if you plan your course and take charge of your plan, you'll be taking your first big step up the ladder. And when you feel like you'll never get to the next step, don't give up, just take a smaller step. You will get to the top if you want it enough. It's up to you.

LESSON DIGEST

PUTTERS CORNER

Here's a great tip I found in an old Golf Digest Magazine. It seems that a buy.com tour player was having trouble making any putts inside 12 feet.

EYES FIRST

His Pro had him align his eyes over the ball as the first step in his pre-shot routine. Once his eyes were directly over the ball, he then went through the rest of his set-up and proceeded to improve his putting dramatically. As always I tested this tip out myself then had one of my better students try it out. It definitely works!

LISTEN

Here's a tip to help you keep from "peeking" on those

shorter putts that I got from LPGA Pro Linda Larsen whom I used to work with when I was at Heartwell G.C. in Long Beach. Listen for the ball to fall into the hole. Instead of looking, which can turn into a peek if your head moves too soon, simply keep your head down after the stroke and "listen" for the ball to fall into the cup.

SMALLER TARGET

Another good tip on short putts is to aim at a spot much smaller than the hole. For example a blade of grass in front of the cup or a speck of dirt along the inside back edge of the cup. Good Luck!

WELCOME

L.A. Jr. Golf College Prep Tour, Sportsman's Jr. Golf, City of Gardena Jr. Golf, L.A. County Junior Golf Program

I'd like to welcome all you new Junior Golfers to the Gazette I look forward to working with you in class, a County Clinic or seeing you at tournaments I will be at for SCPGA Junior Golf.

KIDS ON COURSE

I want to remind you SFS, YGAA and SCPGA Juniors that as KOC members you are eligible to play Whittier Narrows through the Kids On

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Course program I set up last year. (If your junior program director says you are ready.) I am no longer there but the KOC program is still in place. So take advantage of it!

TOURNAMENTS

I hope all of you juniors become interested enough to want to play tournament golf. The SCPGA Foundation hosts more than 100 junior tournaments over the summer. I look forward to sharing a memorable summer with you in junior golf.

TIPS FOR LIVING

SUMMER TIME GOALS

Well it looks as though another summer is upon us. Take a moment before yours begins to write down a few goals you would like to accomplish this summer. Make one of them what you would like to achieve in golf. It could be to become a better player, to play in a golf event or win a golf event.

WE WANT TO HELP

And don't be afraid to ask myself or Al Duhon or your local PGA Pro for help in achieving your summer golf goals. We would be delighted to help! But whatever your goals are this summer, give it your best shot in achieving them.

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CHARGE!

Take charge of what you do this summer and you will be amazed at how much you can accomplish and how much fun you can have in the process! Here's one tip that can help you get the most out of your summer even though you might not like it.

WHAT? NO TV?

In My Opinion by Coach Joe

I just finished a one-year personal study of not watching TV. (It actually started out not as a study but more like dissatisfaction with the cable bill but I ran with it.) Anyway I quickly turned to reading, writing, exercise, quality time with my kids, my golf game and emailing my friends for entertainment. I soon noticed that I was developing some hostility for TV because of all the time I realized I had wasted sitting in front of it. Also because of how much more I was enjoying my life away from it. And how distracting something I saw on TV could be. Realizing the effects of TV on me after a year away from it was the inspiration behind this column.

DISTRACTION

I realized I would sometimes dwell on something I saw for days. Often this would chip away just enough of my time or attention that it would

affect my life or golf game and usually it was some type of depressing story. So here's a depressing story I can do absolutely nothing about, which brings up some negative energy when I start blaming someone or despising the killer, that made me forget the milk at the store which was the reason I went there in the first place, and I only accomplished half my things to do list that day because my focus and energy was diverted elsewhere on some sad tragedy I could do nothing about or make sense of.

DEPRESSING

That was from one story from the first news show I saw after one full year of no TV. It was very depressing to watch a half hour of news. All the TV I could handle after a year without it. I realized that day after day of that stuff had numbed my brain to it. And shut off my creativity, positivity, inspiration, aspiration, determination, drive, zeal, desire and zest for living.

MEDIOCRITY

I feel TV had made me numb enough to accept simply getting by in life. OK with mediocrity. That may be OK for some people but I certainly don't want any of you kids thinking mediocrity

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is OK. Not before giving life your best shot, no way.

POSITIVES

Furthermore, I was reminded how much fun reading is. I have time to write, draw and pursue things that have been on the back burner far too long. My golf game has never been better and I've found 75 friends I grew up with thanks to the Internet. After so many years, finding childhood friends is quite an exciting experience. And to top it off, I seem to be able to think much clearer, I feel much more creative and my life is much more full than before.

CONCLUSION

So now, after a year, I have concluded that watching TV is basically a huge waste of time and actually destructive to personal growth in many ways.

MY ADVICE TO YOU

My advice, turn off the TV this summer and explore your world. You can do this by reading books, local trips like fishing, the beach, amusement parks or city parks. (And the Internet puts the entire world right at your fingertips.) You can find a new hobby or revive an interest in an old one. Start a collection, write a kids book, draw, paint or color a picture for someone special, plant a garden, ride a

bike, fly a kite, swim in a pool, make something, fix something, restore something or learn something new.

OLD FRIENDS

Try finding old friends and look for new ones. Re-acquaint yourself with relatives you've drifted apart from and take renewed interest in those you haven't. Learn how good it feels to help others by doing volunteer work. Play sports you like and try new ones you haven't played before.

MAKE MONEY

Learn to make your own money by mowing lawns, washing cars, babysitting, doing odd jobs or even with a lemonade stand on a hot day. (It never fails) Then there are always your summer goals to work on.

NO TIME FOR TV

You can do so many things; you shouldn't even have any time to watch TV this summer! And I just listed things you can do for yourself. Your city has summer programs for kids that can keep you busy all summer long. They offer a lot of fun and adventurous things to do. Take charge of your summer. Turn off the TV. Then make it a point to make every day a new adventure. Just by turning off the TV.

PUT IT AWAY

Parents don't think twice about putting the TV in the attic for the summer if you want to bring your family closer together or have a child that watches too much. Like I stated in the beginning of this article, I just went a full year with no TV. Trust me when I say your kids would be better off without it. Much, much better.

REALITY

You don't want television dictating your child's sense of reality these days. Let your child do it from their own experiences. Try a summer with no TV and see what happens. You'll be amazed at how close and creative the entire family will rapidly become. And issues could be readily addressed now that watching television can't put them off. What I've learned is how watching TV shuts down the business of living a full life.

WHATS ON TV

Glamorizing intolerance, violence, drugs and sexual irresponsibility seems to be a running theme. And that's just the news. Forget about some of the shows. With a fresh mind I can see how this isn't stuff kids should be exposed to.

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TOO YOUNG

It makes them grow up too fast and process issues they are too young to form intelligent, mature opinions on. TV is where so many kids are getting their supply of low self-esteem, hate and questionable standards and values. I think it's great that this country has freedom of speech and artistic freedom. The Golf Channel and the travel channel and the discovery channel and ESPN are awesome. But it's obvious to me that these freedoms also protect an "anything goes" mentality born of ratings and targeted towards young people that often paint an unrealistic and unhealthy perception of our society. A perception left unchecked that has erased the lines of reality and reason in otherwise unrelated segments of our society.

DESENSITIZED

Hey expose our kids to enough violence on TV and some will become desensitized enough to think that it's actually an answer to their problems. The same problems we all faced when we were young. But no one from my generation thought shooting up the school and murdering teachers and other students was an answer. Of course we didn't witness

murder day in day out on television and in movies as impressionable young people like they do today. I think that many parents my age have the same view of TV that I did, that it's harmless; that it isn't real and therefore can't influence our kids. To all I say treat TV with the respect due the single greatest influence over our society today. Be it good, bad or ugly.

ONE HOUR FOR LIFE

In one hour, something kids see on TV can disillusion them for the rest of their lives. Very few kids I've worked with through the years make it to 18 with any of those group values intact. Something affects them. I blame TV. It inundates them with examples of standards and values that have a negative impact on their self-belief. For example, many stories of discrimination, hate and sexual irresponsibility that only serve to perpetuate it.

WHO DISCRIMINATES?

I doubt most people experience discrimination against them personally every day, week or month. But turn on the TV and one can feel victimized by hate (which is discrimination) on many channels every hour of the day or night. It doesn't take much hate to ruin kids. One

act of discrimination will never be forgotten and can destroy self-belief. TV can do a fine job because most kids don't know how to successfully deal with hate they experience, TV or not. (All Americans both young and old raged from the hate 9/11 exposed us to. And each of us had to deal with it on a personal level. There was no ignoring 9/11. And 40 years later there's no ignoring that we aren't living "the dream.")

A STRANGER AT HOME

Treat TV like a stranger in your home, not a friend or babysitter. Unless you're able to control what your kids watch 24/7 who knows what the TV will expose them to when you aren't around.

TRY IT FOR A WEEK

Kids, try one week for coach Joe. 7 days to start. In 7 days with no TV (or video games) you will be a much different person than you are today. Your creativity will be paroled from TV prison for starters. Creativity unlocks all the other doors to your mind. Doors locked by mind-numbing TV. In just 7 days you can be a whole new you without television. I guarantee it.

TIGER AND TV

And besides, Tiger didn't watch much TV. Other than sports that is. Go Lakers!