

# GROHMAN GOLF GAZETTE

## JUNIOR GOLF EDITION

Joe Grohman PGA Publisher

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### WHATS UP IN SOUTH CENTRAL

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Chester Washington Golf Course's new General Manager, Steve Donar. Steve is an old friend of mine and was the first golf pro hired by the Long Beach Junior Golf Association program at Heartwell Golf Course, where I was a pro and where Tiger Woods learned to golf. Steve learned the ropes at Recreation Park G.C. in Long Beach, a very busy LA County public course. He is a big supporter of junior golf and instructional programs. Chester Washington Golf Course and the surrounding community have acquired a great asset in Steve Donar. I look forward to working with him in making Chester Washington a great golf experience.

### IN MEMORIAM

It's with a heavy heart that I write about the passing of a dear friend and champion of junior golf, Bev Brines. Bev was the director of the Long Beach Junior Golf Association and a tireless promoter of junior golf. When I first met her and began working for the LBJGA it was the third largest junior program in the country. Bev never hesitated to donate whatever she could to the various programs I've hosted over the years. A living legend in junior golf, Bev was adored by many and will be missed by all.

### BOOT CAMP KIDS

I'd like to welcome the most recent junior golf class added to the Chester Washington Junior Golf family, the Respect Y.S.O.P class. Respect Y.S.O.P. is a program of youth intervention and prevention sponsored by the L.A. County Sheriffs Department. Respect Y.S.O.P stands for Respect Yourself Others School and Parents. The program is staffed with conflict resolution team officers from the Sheriff's Department, the Marine Corps and Centinela hospital. It is similar to those boot camp programs you may have seen on TV that instills respect and discipline in troubled youths – it isn't for the faint of heart! The program is very confrontational and I don't envy the kids that participate. However, every one of them has told me stories on how the program is making a positive impact in their lives. And after 8 weeks of golf class I haven't had a single discipline problem. I'm very proud of the students. I'd also like to thank active duty air Force Lt. Col. Fred Valentine for speaking to the kids on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Valentine is an avid golfer and former director of a program that works with troubled youths. Growing up in a bad part of Washington D.C. he could relate well to the kids and did an outstanding job talking to them. For information on how you can get involved, call Y.S.O.P. Director Henry Washington at 310.523.4227.

### INSIDE TEAM TIGER

**“No. It would just create a mess for him and Tiger.”** Earl Woods in 1994 in response to my question. I'd asked if he wanted me to tell General Lyles what had happened to Tiger at the Navy Golf Course and what had been going on for years. At the time General Lyles was an African American three-star General in command of LA A.F.B. and the missile defense program there. He was also one of my students and a friend. Tiger had just won his first U.S. Amateur Championship after winning three straight U.S. Junior Amateur Championships, and was weeks away from his first semester at Stanford. I was in the pro shop when I got a phone call from one of the residents that a couple of guys were hitting balls into the neighborhood. “I'll take care of it,” I said. I jumped in a golf cart and drove it out onto the range. Champ (Tiger's nickname) was there in his regular spot. He told me there were two guys that'd just walked down past the maintenance building. I knew the road could give them access to both the neighborhood and the golf course. Not seeing anyone in the neighborhood, I headed out onto the course. It soon became apparent that they'd gotten away. But since I was out of the pro shop, I took my time getting back. Then, when I passed by the range, my heart stopped. There were Tiger's range balls, but no Tiger. Immediately I assumed that something happened to Earl,

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because nothing short of a tragedy would get him off the driving range. I went back to the pro shop and ask Scotty (another pro) if he knew what had happened. With tears in his eyes he said: "They kicked Tiger off the course!" In minutes I was confronting the man responsible. He said he'd gotten a phone call from a neighbor saying that a black kid on the driving range was hitting balls into the neighborhood. (Apparently he walked into the shop after I went out to look for the culprits, and only got the tail end of the story.) "I took that phone call and they said no such thing!" I told him, mad as hell. He had no response. A million thoughts swirled around in my head as I raced to Tiger's house. When I arrived it was like being in a deep freezer. Tiger had already told the story to his father and mother; the room, like a funeral parlor, was numb with silence. And it dawned on me that I myself had been silent for far too long. That's when I asked Earl if I should tell General Lyles what Tiger had been put through. Then Tida, then Tiger. They all: Earl, Tida, and Tiger, said no – and they were right. Exposing the discrimination Tiger had gone through would have only created a mess for their whole family. The next day Tiger was given an honorary membership at Big Canyon Country Club. A few weeks later he went off to college and the rest is history. It's been 10 years since that day, one I'll never forget.

### TWO-FOOT PUTT BY COACH JOE

I watch my shot  
And with a grin  
I jump out of  
The sand I'm in

I rake the trap  
And mark my ball  
It's near the hole  
Two feet is all

A gimme, yes  
But not today  
A tough crowd is  
With whom I play

I wait my turn  
And read my line  
Inside I know  
This putt is mine

Carryovers,  
Birdies pay twice  
To make this putt  
Would be quite nice

Then it hits me  
Two holes before  
I missed a putt  
Two feet no more

My heart beats faster  
Hands start to shake  
This two-foot putt  
I have to make

Ready to play  
But I have to wait  
On a short putt that  
Is now my fate

Then suddenly  
My turn to play  
This two-foot putt  
Would make my day

In my routine  
Eyes over ball  
I stroke my putt  
It's gonna fall

But to be sure  
I just look up  
Barely at all  
And miss the cup

About to swear  
My mouth seals shut  
How could I miss  
That two-foot putt

I hope someday  
To practice hard  
Make every putt  
Get my tour card

But for right now  
End of today  
After this round  
Oh how I'll pay!

But come next time  
I know I'll win  
Time after that  
I'll win again

So practice hard  
And don't look up  
Or the ball will  
Slide past the cup

And if it does  
Don't scream or shout  
Just keep on smiling  
And don't freak out

There'll be days  
Your putts will fall:  
Two footers drop  
You win it all!!!

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### **BOOK REVIEW**

“START SOMETHING” BY  
EARL WOODS AND THE  
TIGER WOODS FOUNDATION

The following excerpts are great examples of how Earl taught Tiger (and myself) to look at life, way before all the fame and fortune. You don't have to be a superstar to benefit from the simple yet solid philosophies of life that built the house of Tiger. Earl's mojo is the best; his kung fu is strong. Tiger is a living testament. I'm a living testimonial. Enjoy... Coach Joe.

#### **Something good happened to you today- did you notice?**

It's so easy to get caught up in daily problems: Your parents are mad at you, your best friend made plans and you weren't included, the math test was impossible, you didn't make the team. Yet, believe it or not, in the middle of all that stress and trouble there are wonderful things happening all around you, that is, if you take the time to notice them. Every day reserve a minute to think of 3 good things that happened. They can be big events, like winning a game or getting a good grade, or small events, like hearing a good joke, receiving a compliment, or making a new friend. Even on your worst days you can still appreciate your favorite stuffed animal, a long bike ride or your good health. Don't let yourself get lost in your problems. Focusing on a few positives will keep your head above water even in the toughest times.

#### **What do you believe?**

As you probably know, Tiger was born half African/American and half-Asian, and he is proud of both aspects of his heritage. Yet he is constantly pressed by both groups to choose which he is, as if there's a prize for the winning team. Through it all, Tiger has held on tightly to his conviction that he is both, and nothing can shake that loose. It is one of his core values. Core values are a solid guide for living, and are at the heart of every decision you make, every opinion you develop. They're an expression of what you believe and provide the foundation for your reaction to everything that happens in your life. What do you believe? Maybe you believe that you're smart, that your parents love you, that you're a good person, or that you're generous. You might believe there are angels in heaven, poor people should be helped, lying is stupid and your red hair is cool. Identify your beliefs and let them guide you through your life. Be strong and determined to never lose sight of them. Remember they belong to you and you alone: No one can ever take them away from you!

#### **The truth hurts but lying can hurt you more.**

Anyone who has ever told a lie usually learns two things: (1) It's hard to keep the story straight and (2) Liars usually get caught. It can be so tempting to lie, especially when the truth isn't very pleasant, but believe me, the punishment is

even worse. Lying is a waste of energy – not only do you have to worry about the thing you're lying about, but you have to remember the lie as well. It takes a brave, strong person to stand up and admit the truth, particularly when it might get you in trouble. But the surest way to lose the respect of your family and friends is to be a liar. It takes a very long time to regain that kind of respect. Everything in our universe is based upon truth. Don't be the exception.

#### **Whatever problems you have, someone else had them first**

You are a unique and special person; there's no one else *exactly* like you in this world. But it's a different situation as far as your problems are concerned, for no matter how badly you feel things are going for you, no matter how confusing and complicated your life seems – you're not the first person to experience what you are going through! All kinds of people are dealing with the very same issue right at this very moment. This doesn't take anything away from your own troubles. If you think you have a problem then you probably do. But it might make you feel better knowing that other people have been there and understand how you feel. Talk to them 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.

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### 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GOLF CLINIC FOR THE JUNIOR BLIND

Coach Joe's 4<sup>th</sup> annual golf clinic for the junior blind will be Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Chester Washington Golf Course in Los Angeles. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the event to cheer on these very special kids. I guarantee it will be a day you will never forget!

### PRO'S CORNER THE GRIP

I remember asking Tiger many, many questions about the golf swing over the years. But what comes to mind was how strongly he stressed to me the importance of a proper grip. When I first met Tiger Woods we both had what you would call a strong grip. This means your left hand is turned to the right (for a right-handed golfer) and you can see the knuckles of your left hand. It allows you to get a lot of wrist snap, and for juniors and seniors, more distance. However, few tour pros have a strong grip. It can lead to a Pandora's box of trouble on the golf course. (I used to have a snap hook that would show up at the most inopportune times.) It wasn't until Butch Harmon gave Tiger a really neutral grip that I was able to grasp the importance of a proper grip. A proper grip is the glue that holds your swing together because

it allows proper hand action. An improper grip allows improper hand action resulting in an improper swing. That's why I love curing people who slice the ball. It's the easiest fix in golf and creates a revelation in the student that will allow them to take their game to the next level and beyond. If you aren't a single digit handicapper and want to improve without taking a lesson, improve your grip. (Then contact your nearest PGA Pro and get a lesson! People that don't want to improve don't take lessons. People that want to improve take lessons. This isn't bowling. Even Coach Joe has a swing coach!) Learn a proper grip and see how easy a proper swing is to make. Have fun!

### THE PYRAMID OF SUCCESS From John Wooden

**Industriousness:** There is no substitute for work. Worthwhile results come from hard work and careful planning.

**Friendship:** Comes from mutual esteem, respect and devotion. Like marriage it must not be taken for granted but requires a joint effort.

**Loyalty:** To yourself and to all those depending upon you. Keep your self-respect.

**Cooperation:** With all levels of your co-workers. Listen if you want to be heard. Be interested in finding the best way, not in having your own way.

**Enthusiasm:** Brushes off upon those with whom you come in

contact. You must truly enjoy what you are doing.

**Self-Control:** Practice self-discipline and keep emotions under control. Good judgement and common sense are essential.

**Alertness:** Be observing constantly. Stay open-minded. Be eager to learn and improve.

**Initiative:** Cultivate the ability to make decisions and think alone. Do not be afraid of failure, but learn from it.

**Intentness:** Set a realistic goal. Concentrate on its achievement by resisting all temptations and being determined and persistent.

**Condition:** Mental-Moral-Physical. Rest, exercise and diet must be considered. Moderation must be practiced. Dissipation must be eliminated.

**Skill:** A knowledge of and the ability to properly and quickly execute the fundamentals. Be prepared and cover every little detail.

**Team Spirit:** A genuine consideration for others. An eagerness to sacrifice personal interests or glory for the welfare of all.

**Poise:** Just being yourself. Being at ease in any situation. Never fighting yourself.

**Confidence:** Respect without fear. May come from being prepared and keeping all things in proper perspective.

**Competitive Greatness:** Be at your best when your best is needed. Enjoyment of a difficult challenge.