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INSIDE TEAM TIGER

“Match play is my specialty.”-Tiger Woods in 1989, late in the first round I ever played with him in response to my ‘it’s obvious I’ve been assassinated out here by a 13 year old kid’ comment, “I’m better at match play.” At the time I had no idea that Tiger was the junior world champion and his reply brought little comfort to my bruised ego. (The 3 US Junior’s and 3 US Amateurs he won at match play helped) I eventually learned some of Tiger’s match play strategy that I feel you may find useful and is the subject of this month’s column. But first let me explain the difference between match play and stroke play. In stroke play total strokes taken for the round is what you score by. Low score for the round wins. In match play you score by holes. If you make a 3 on the first hole and I make anything higher than a 3, you win the first hole and would be 1 up in the match. If I made a 3 the hole would be “halved” and the match would remain even. If you win both the first and second holes you would be 2 up and so on. If you are

up the same number of holes as the number of holes left in the match, for example 2 up with 2 to play, the match is called “dormie” at that point. If you win the next hole you would be 3 up with 1 to play and you would have won the match 3 and 1. If you win the match 5 up with 4 holes to play you would have won the match 5 and 4. And so on. If the match is tied going into the last hole and you win it, you would have won the match 1 up. If the match is still tied after 18 holes (called “regulation” from the term “regulation play”) it goes into sudden death. The first player to win a hole wins the match. Now for a few of Tiger’s match play tips.

Hit Your Approach First

Tiger explained to me that he liked to hit into a green first. This way if he hit it close to the pin it would put a little more pressure on his opponent. He told me that he would even tee off with an iron if that were what it took to be “away” and hit first. This is great match play strategy so remember this one. In match play, hit the tee shot that will put you in a position to “hit your approach first.”

Always Putt Out

Match play differs from stroke play in this regard. In stroke play you rarely want to putt out if you have a testy little putt. Usually the smart move is to mark your ball so you can collect your thoughts. In match play Tiger explained that you want to hole out first. Again to possibly add a little pressure to your opponent. If your opponent has a medium length putt for the win, they might not be as aggressive knowing they have to two putt for the halve. And if they have a long putt, they might three putt trying too hard to two putt for the halve. Whenever possible in match play, “always putt out.”

Get On The Green

On par 3’s, Tiger told me that first and foremost get on the green. In stroke play one has the opportunity to make up lost strokes later in the round. In match play if you lose the hole, it’s lost for good. This finality makes hitting the green on par 3’s very important. This forces your opponent to also hit the green, which may result in the opposite happening. If this is the case, even more pressure will be added to your opponent’s chip shot. So the next time you are playing match play and come to a par 3, “get on the green.”

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PRO'S CORNER

WHO CARES?

Life, like golf, is thinking mans game. To achieve anything in life you have to think about what you are doing and process all the outside influences that can affect you all the time. One of the biggest concerns my juniors experience in their life is that nobody cares about them. I think everyone goes through this at some point in his or her lives. What I've learned is that it's not important if nobody cares. It's not their life, it's yours. I've learned that to keep steady on the golf course and in life, you don't want to be driven by your emotions. You want to be driven by what is the right thing to do. Regardless of how emotionally difficult it may be for you or others to grasp. What is of utmost importance is that you care. About yourself, about others regardless of their feelings, about your future and about doing the right thing. It is very easy to buy into people that seem to not care when you are a young person and allow your personal standards and values to be negatively influenced because of it. As soon as this happens it affects your self-belief, your ability

to control your future and therefore reach your dreams. This path can lead to self-destructive behavior like using drugs, crime or harming others. Some people destroy their future at an early age from this by getting killed or sent to prison. Even if you don't care about yourself very much, caring about others is very important. Working with addicts and alcoholics has taught me that many of these people not only don't care about themselves but they don't care at all about how their behavior affects others. They hide behind the feeling that their situation is hopeless or blame others to justify their selfish behavior when in reality they just don't care enough about themselves or others to raise their personal standards and values, regardless of how they got there. (I lost a good friend that became like this). From this vantage point, (addict or not) achieving dreams is impossible. Which is a shame because salvation for these-type emotion driven people is only a 12-step program or caring about others, away. Yes it's true that many of these people have come from a nightmare childhood but in life you have to play the hand you're dealt. There are no do overs or free replays. If you

can't do the right thing for yourself, do it for others. And eventually you will find that people really do care. Because you do. Always think about what you are doing, your future, care about yourself and others, do the right thing and your life will be great. After all, life is what we make of it and we only get one shot. So aim high, think everything through to get there, and then give it your best shot. Emotions really have little say when it comes to what is the right thing to do when you pull the trigger on life. A hard fact is that many times you won't even like what's right. (Heck, a lot of tour pro's don't like to practice golf but it's what got them there and what keeps them there, therefore the right thing to do.) Nobody said life or doing the right thing was going to be easy. But I'm here to say you can do it. You can make your life great! And by the way, myself, Tiger, Earl, Al Duhon, Marilyn Evans, Bill and Fred Ensley and many others care about you! (I don't write this newsletter for you every month because I like to type!) Want to show us you care? Make your life great!

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TOURNAMENT REPORT

As of this writing, 4/22/02, I have approximately 3 weeks to prepare for the U.S. Open local qualifier at Industry Hills on May 15th. I mention today's date because I feel this is a good opportunity to keep a running journal of my preparation leading up to the qualifier and a review of the qualifier itself within this article. My goal is to hit 500 balls a day, putt for 2 hours and chip for an hour. I've also begun a daily 4.4 mile walk that is now part of my preparation. In one week I plan on seeing my golf instructor (yes Pro's have them too) to review my swing and go over any problem areas. Week 2, I hope to be able to solidify my pre-shot routine, shot shaping, tempo and the rest of my game. Week 3 I plan on playing in a few practice rounds and will develop a game plan for the qualifier. If all goes well, I'll be able to trust my swing and my pre-shot, stick to my game plan and provide a positive review of the qualifier. Whatever happens I am treating the qualifier as a great opportunity and learning experience. Good, bad or ugly, there's always something to be learned from every experience. More in a week. 5/1/02 I've managed to

stay on track with practice. I've hit 500 balls a day, chipped for an hour and putted for 2 hours as well as walk 4.4 miles a day. 5/8/02 I was feeling a little ill at class on Saturday and sure enough was bedridden Sunday through today (Wednesday) with some kind of cough from hell. My kids recently had it and I thought I had escaped. I missed my practice round on Monday and 4 good practice days. Luckily there are 6 days left to get back to form. 5/14/02 Well tomorrow is the qualifier. I have my game plan, I'm hitting the ball good and I trust my pre-shot and swing. Whatever happens it will be a good experience.

5/15/02. Well it was a great experience. After parring the first 5 holes I went birdie, bogey, triple, birdie, birdie, par, par, bogey, bogey, double, par. The triple and the late double were both caused by being lazy with my pre-shot routine. I had simple chips both times and didn't precisely follow my pre-shot routine which led to poor chips, self-doubt and a large number. I also missed several short putts, 4 feet and in, which surprised me. Upon review, I hadn't practiced short putts very much at all and once I missed one, my confidence evaporated!

BOOK REVIEW

From "Start Something" by Earl Woods and the Tiger Woods Foundation. **"When you were born, you were perfect. Everybody is. The problem is, no one has ever figured out how to stay that way. Life has a funny way of teaching us bad habits and letting us fall into ruts we can't get out of. We learn about fear, failure, disappointment, jealousy, insecurity and selfishness. We absorb all this negative energy that keeps us from being strong and positive about who we are and what we can achieve. But if you're determined to overcome all that and become a role model in life-as Tiger has-then you will have unlimited opportunities to do whatever you set your mind to. When people look up to Tiger and think of him as someone they admire, I hope with all my heart that it's not just because he's a great golfer but rather because he's a great person. No one deserves to be a role model just because he can hit a ball; you become a rolemodel-a true leader- by working hard to succeed and showing others that they can succeed too, by being the kind of person**

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that others want to be, by inspiring others to be their best and to try their hardest. That is Tiger's goal and it can be yours too. You may not ever play golf like Tiger, but you can follow his example on your own road to success." Earl Woods Cypress, California 2000. Way back in 1990 I began to tape record and write down stories of my experiences with Tiger and his family from inside Team Tiger. Even then, we knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that Tiger would one day be the best ever. That was a given. What I wanted to chronicle and remember was what awesome people Tiger and his family were and the impact they had on me. I felt that if being around Tiger and his family made me feel like I could achieve anything in life, others could benefit tremendously, as I had, from what I saw and learned. In 1996 when I learned Tiger had turned Professional, I can be heard excitedly yelling into the tape, "I have to let the world know what an awesome person Tiger is!" (The world knows what an awesome player Tiger is. Him and his folks are every bit as awesome as people. Look for the book in the fall.) Unfortunately, not being

around Tiger after he turned Pro took its toll. "Life has a funny way of teaching us bad habits and letting us fall into ruts we can't get out of." I absorbed "all this negative energy that keeps us from being strong about who we are and what we can achieve." It took 5 years of humbling to be left with nothing but a suspect golf game, a PGA card and a shared history with Tiger. I remarked when the ex filed for divorce during that time that all I needed was what I learned from Tiger, Earl and Tida and I'd be fine. Little did I realize at the time how prophetic that statement would be. By 2001 I wanted out of that rut and I knew Team Tiger standards and values was the only way. In January of that year I took the job as Head Professional at Whittier Narrows G.C.. As luck would have it my boss was the greatest General Manager anyone could ask for in Jaime Velasco. He let me institute every program and clinic I wanted to bring to Whittier Narrows. This included the junior blind, juvenile hall, the YGAA, L.A County Juniors, institute an Arnold Palmer Junior Golf Academy, SCPGA Juniors, Kids on Course-the first of it's kind in Southern California, a weekly 50/50

putting contest benefiting our junior golf programs, other programs like a monthly employee golf clinic and dinner and he was the man behind Whittier Narrows being proclaimed "the friendliest course in Southern California" that year. In December we learned that our KOC program had won course and junior program of the year (with the YGAA) "best in nation" awards from the USGA and NGCOA for 2001. Out of my rut and feeling I was needed more elsewhere, I left Whittier for South Central, the YGAA and other inner city programs that wanted my help. That's where you'll find me today. My goal isn't to create the next wave of dominant junior, collegiate and professional golfers in South Central, that's hopefully just a natural by product. (see this months golfer of the month.) My goal is to inspire juniors everywhere with personal Team Tiger insight "to be their best and try their hardest" no matter how difficult the objective, goal or dream. My goal is to "start something" big in South Central. Through junior golf.

**JUNIOR BLIND CLINIC
AUGUST 10TH 12-2 P.M.**

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EARL WOODS TALKS TO JUNIORS

The following are quotes from Earl Woods from his book "Start Something". Long before he wrote the book, these were also some of the ideals he taught to me inside Team Tiger and as a friend who cared. Behold young friends, the mojo of Earl Woods...

It's so easy to get caught up in daily problems: Your parents are mad at you, your best friend made plans that didn't include you, 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, if you take the time to notice. Every day, think of 3 good things that happened. They can be big events or they can be small, hard to notice things. 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.

Core values are at the heart of every decision you make, every opinion you develop.

They're an expression of what you believe, and they provide the foundation for your reaction to everything that happens in your lifetime. What do you believe? 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.

Wherever you live, wherever you go, there are people who need your help. Isn't there something you can do? You can make an unforgettable difference in someone's life by giving just a little of your time and energy. And the person you helped will never forget it.

It's so easy to get lost in our own little worlds, worrying about our own little problems. You can do better than that. Take a minute to look around you and notice other people. You have the power to reach out, to care. Use it to help others and let others help you when you need it. That's what were here for.

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 and the punishment is even worse. It takes a brave, strong person to stand up and admit the truth, particularly when the truth is going to land you in deep trouble. But the surest way to lose the respect of your friends and family is to be a liar. It takes a very long time to regain that kind of respect. Everything in our Universe is based on truth. Don't be the exception.

Get over it already! Do you think Tiger would ever win a tournament if he let his mistakes wipe out his concentration? He learned a long time ago that mistakes can only mess you up if you let them. If you are upset over a mistake you have 2 choices: (1) Continue to beat yourself up for making a mistake, or (2) admit that you made a mistake, learn from the experience and continue to grow.

Accept that you aren't perfect, learn from the mistake and move on. Try not to make the same mistake twice, if you do that's ok too. Feeling bad about past experiences won't make new ones any better. Give yourself a fresh start-you deserve it.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“Even if you are on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.” Will Rogers

“The only people who never fail are those who never try.” Ilka Chase

“Success can only be accurately measured against failure.” Joe G.

TIGER QUOTES

“People took the time to help me as a kid, and it made a real impact on my life. I want to do the same for other kids.” Tiger Woods

“Being a role model means more than having others look up to you. A role model is someone who gets others to do great things.” Tiger Woods

“I want every child in America to have the opportunity I had.” Tiger Woods

“You’re going to make mistakes. The key is to learn from them as fast as possible, and make changes as soon as you can. That’s not always easy because ego and pride get in the way, but you have to put all that aside and look at the big picture.” Tiger Woods

“My father has always taught me that there are only two things in life that you have to do. You have to share

and you have to care.” Tiger Woods

“You can learn a lot through adversity.” Tiger Woods

“I truly believe if you concentrate hard enough, good things happen.” Tiger Woods

“One of the things my parents taught me is never listen to other peoples expectations. You should live your own life and live up to your own expectations. Those are the only things I care about.” Tiger Woods

“To be honest with you, there’s just no substitute for hard work. There are no shortcuts.” Tiger Woods

“Good job Joe!” Tiger Woods talking about the book “How to Golf Beginners Guide” that I wrote and Earl Woods wrote the foreword to.

LIFE LESSONS

One of the many great things I admired about Tiger from being around him all those years was his determination. He always gave everything he did his best effort and there wasn’t a drop of quit in him. Then, as now, he was utterly amazing across the board-golfer, person, friend. You couldn’t help but be inspired. Here’s a trick I learned in my quest to emulate Tiger’s determination.

NEW YEARS EVE

New Years resolutions are goals and objectives that people make on New Years Eve and hope to accomplish the following year starting on New Years Day. For example quitting smoking, learning a new skill or following an exercise routine. Changing anything you do overnight is not an easy task. Like many I rarely was able to keep resolutions the entire year. This led to uncertainty in my abilities and I would often give up on the resolution until the following year. Tiger taught me to never give up so I developed an easy way to attack resolutions over and over. These days I treat the last day of every month as New Years Eve and the following day as New Years Day. Any resolution I haven’t kept get restated and new focus at the end of every month. Hopefully, by the end of the year all the original resolutions are being kept. This changes unkept resolutions from being cracks in my self-belief to opportunities to keep trying. So don’t let unkept New Years resolutions get the best of you. Keep trying each month and before you know it, you’re keeping them and able to focus on continuing to grow as a person.