

GROHMAN GOLF GAZETTE

JUNIOR GOLFER EDITION

Publisher Joe Grohman PGA

Volume 4

Issue 4

September 2002

INSIDE

TEAM TIGER

“I don’t know, I haven’t heard anything in years.” Tiger Woods in 1989 while walking off the 5th green at the Navy G.C. in Cypress in response to my question, “Does he really make noise like that all the time?” It was the first round I ever played with both Tiger and Earl in the same group. I had never heard of Tiger before meeting him and didn’t know at the time he had already won 5 Junior Worlds. To me, at that moment he was just a fellow

Military brat

Military brat, the son of a Green Beret Colonel. I quickly noticed that every time Tiger (and only Tiger) would address a shot or a putt, Earl would start jiggling his change loudly or talking out loud. At first I thought maybe he didn’t realize what he was doing, or perhaps he felt that it didn’t bother his kid. On the 5th green as Tiger addressed his putt Earl again became very noisy. I couldn’t take any more and said

“Shhhh”

“Shhhh” Earl looked over at me in surprise. I nodded at Tiger to point out that he was over his putt. Earl started laughing so hard that he stumbled. “Joe!” he yelled heartily, as Tiger calmly drained the putt, “don’t you know why I’m doing that?” “Ummm-no?” I stammered, suddenly feeling I had missed

something. I was feeling smaller by the second. “I do that all the time so Tiger

Play through distractions

will learn how to play through distractions when he gets to the tour!” I looked at the other players in the group for help only to see smirks on all their faces. On one level I was relieved that Earl had such a wonderful answer for my

High hopes

concern, and such high hopes for his son. On another level I felt like a fool for making my concern public and not privately questioning Earl to get his motives straight. But it sure got me on the same page as Earl-and fast. And after hearing Tiger’s answer to my question I never again questioned Earl’s actions, I just watched and learned. And learned and learned and learned...

LOCAL NEWS

BEVERLY HOSPITAL EVENT HUGE SUCCESS

My son Joe jr. had to have life-saving heart surgery when he was born. So it’s with great pride that I sit on the Beverly Hospital Foundation Cardiac Care Tournament Committee Board. This year’s tournament

Tremendous

was a tremendous success. Held on September 25th at Montebello Golf Course, the event raised \$150,000 for the

Cardiac Care Hospital. I did the scoring and announced the

Everyone

Winners, but to me, everyone that participated in the event is a winner!

GOLF DESIGN ADS

PGA MEMBER TO TEAM

John Tate, the owner of Golf Design and creator of the number one divot tool in golf, has added PGA Pro Joe Grohman to his team. Grohman will be responsible for working with Golf Designs sales force and PGA members in coordinating sales of Golf Design products, as well as coordinating retirement plus member accounts to insure PGA members are able to get the most out of their Retirement Plus program.

Dear old friend

“John Tate is a dear old friend that has been there for more me many times in the past. I would help him with anything no matter what and look forward to this opportunity he has given me with Golf Design,” said Grohman.

JUNIOR BLIND CLINIC SET FOR FLORIDA

I had made plans to visit some old friends the week of the International Golf Show. After we held our Junior Blind Clinic, I called and mentioned how well it went. They asked if I would do one for their community involving David Chow, a blind man that has a seeing-eye dog that doubles as

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his golf "coach". And I'm happy to say that come January 25th, Sarasota will be getting a junior blind clinic from Coach Joe at Fox Fire Golf Course. I'm hoping that this unique canine will help open up golf to the blind. And that some of the PGA Pro's and course officials attending the show will be able to come see how much fun this type of event is and will want to have one at their

Who knows

Course! Who knows, maybe the Golf Channel will stop by. (Unless they read the "In My Opinion" article...) That would sure get our message out there. Also, I was born in Florida, so it will be nice to do something positive for my home state.

L.A. COUNTY JR. GOLF COMING TO SOUTH CENTRAL?

Mike McMonegal, the Director of L.A. County Junior Golf has received a proposal from Al Dujon and myself to teach a County Jr. Golf Class at Chester Washington Golf Course.

Talent

There is so much talent in South Central and the existing programs work to a certain extent. However with over 30 County courses, involvement of L.A. County Junior Golf and especially Director Mike McMonegal, I feel a County-backed Junior Golf class at Chester Washington would set the standard and open a lot of doors for inner-city jr. golfers.

TEENS ON THE GREENS TOURNAMENT OCT. 12-13

Teens on the Greens, the only nationally recognized minority junior golf event will be held this October at Industry Hills Golf Course. Now called

Pacific Palms

Pacific Palms, the two courses are among the most difficult in the state and will be quite a challenge for the competitors. Good luck to all you juniors that are playing in the event! And remember to enjoy the experience no matter how you play!

FLASHBACK

It was September, 1996 and hotter than an oven set on bake at a sauna convention. I was at the International Golf Show in

Las Vegas

Las Vegas. It was about midday when I got on the shuttle bus. Figuring the bus would fill up by the time we made all the stops heading to the show, I took a seat up front next to a friendly looking old man. It didn't take too long before me and this man were trading jokes and having a grand old time. By the time we got to the show the old man had made me feel like

An old friend

an old friend, and even invited me to join him at the show to introduce me to some of the people he knew. It didn't take long to realize this man knew

everybody and I mean everybody. Everyone had tremendous respect for him. I remember meeting John Solheim, Karsten's son and the President of Ping Golf. At the Titleist display one of the young salesmen took me aside and

Stick with this guy

said, "Stick with this guy, he knows everybody and everybody loves him." It amazed me that someone I'd just met would go so far out of his way to help out an up-and-coming young golf pro. Talk about a true Gentleman. I spent a memorable day with that man,

Never forget

one I will never forget. I sent him a thank-you letter and we exchanged Christmas cards but I never saw the old man again. I was quite saddened to learn of his death not long ago, but I look fondly back at the day I

Joe Jemsek

spent with Joe Jemsek, owner of Cog Hill Golf and Country Club. And no one else ever did get on that bus. We laughed about it when we arrived at the show. But there's a lesson there. Be friendly to everyone you meet. You just never know when a Joe Jemsek might touch your life!

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IN MY OPINION

By Coach Joe

I remember watching baseball's All Century Team a couple years ago on TV. It was an amazing event to see all of the games living greats on one field at one time. When my boyhood hero Pete Rose was introduced he received the most thunderous applause of all. It was an awesome sight. Moments later Jim Gray sticks a microphone in his face and asks him if he will finally admit to gambling on baseball. Not only did Jim Gray ruin Pete Rose's shining moment, he ruined mine, the rest of America's and the awesomeness of the night's spectacle. I can't even tell you one other person that was out there that night. All I can remember was feeling like Jim Gray stole all my happiness from me at that moment and humiliated Pete Rose on National television. I mention this because the same type of reporting has infected the golf channel. This year's Ryder Cup was an awesome display of golf under the most intense pressure in the golf world. It was close, and the winning team was decided by the third to last group of the 3-day event. Europe won. Sure it would have been nice for America to win but we didn't. It was still great to see the excitement and happiness in all the European players. So many of the world's

top players that excited at the same time was a beautiful thing to watch. Then just as quickly the magic of the moment was taken away by the Golf Channel's very own version of Jim Gray. The reporter sticks a microphone in an ecstatic Sergio Garcia's face and says basically that Davis Love was angry at him because he had run up the 18th fairway to hug Love's opponent after the cup had been decided and what did Sergio think of that. I guess the reporter didn't realize the Europeans had just won the Ryder Cup! Absolutely bad form to ask a loaded question at a time like that. The comment didn't appear to faze Sergio too much but I was already on my way to turn the TV off in disgust. Here was another narrow-minded reporter trying to stir up controversy at the expense of the moment and the enjoyment of the television audience, without regard to how his comments may affect anyone else. And the revered Golf Channel no less. What a shame! I remember, as Tiger smashed amateur record after amateur record and became well known, people seemed to throw stones at him the more successful he became. And since I was the only person they knew that was close to him, I got to hear it all. For some reason there is always someone out there that's going to try to rain on your parade. My advice

to these people, to quote Thumper from the Disney classic "Bambi", "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." (I certainly don't like being critical of others but will speak out if affected by an error on their part. And only if some good could possibly come from it.) But no matter how big or how small, how just or how deserved your achievements are, always bring an umbrella.

TOURNAMENT REVIEW

Finally I get to write about finishing in the money for you kids in this column. I tied for 3rd at an event at Coto De Caza on 9/27 and "made a check" as we say. I did make a huge mistake however. It's embarrassing but I have to share it so it doesn't happen to you. On one hole I had a one-foot putt that I didn't go through my pre-shot routine on because it was so short. And you guessed it, I missed.

\$300

It was a \$300 miss. Now if I'll give \$300 to you for making a one-foot putt, how would you feel if you missed? That's why sticking to your routine is very important. I've played less golf this year and it cost me every time. Just never this much before. An expensive lesson for me, a free one for you. Always stick to your routine!

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PRO'S CORNER

Focus on Goals

It's been a few months since I've discussed achieving your dreams other than in the "Book Review" column. One thing I try to emphasize in here and during my classes is that you can achieve anything you can dream. Watching Tiger all those years drove that point home. And now look at him. What's

Tiger

the difference between Tiger Woods and the rest of us? Nothing. He's just a person like you and me. What sets him apart is the effort he put into becoming the man you see today. He worked harder than anyone else in the world and sits on his rightful throne as the best in the world. Guess what his biggest goal was growing

The best in the World

up. To be the best in the world. You cannot become what you want to be without setting goals. There are 2 ways to go about achieving goals. The first way is to set your goal and then outline the steps, standards and values needed to achieve it. The second way is to give yourself X number of years to achieve your goal and work

Backward

your way backward. If in 5 years you want to be on the PGA tour, write down where you must be in 4 years to get there. Then 3 years and so on.

And focus on your goals. Address behaviors that do nothing for your quest. For example, does reaching the 27th level of some video game have any bearing on achieving your goal? If not than you must realize that you are wasting valuable time that could be put

Better use

to better use with something that is indeed a step towards your goal. Television is an incredible time waster. Be aware of time spent in front of it. Not only is television a time waster but also it can negatively affect your self-belief and view of the world around you. Thus affecting your ability to reach your goals and achieve your dreams. Reaching your goals must have priority over everything else in your life. You are responsible for what you make of your life. So set goals for yourself at every opportunity. Reaching your goals is your responsibility; don't let anything stop you from achieving them. Distractions wait at every turn. Be prepared; keep your focus on your goals every moment. It's the standard that will guide you to ultimately reaching your goals and achieving your dreams. 'Focus on goals' is the

Enjoy the journey

standard that lets you enjoy the journey in the process. So set goals and dreams. Set standards and values where they need to be to harbor dream-achieving

self-belief. Concentrate your focus. Strive for continuous and never-ending improvement. Make giving back a big part of your recipe for success. Learn something positive from every experience. Be flexible, if at first you don't succeed-change your approach. Work harder than anyone else in the world thinks you should. And you will achieve any dream, making your life great in the process.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

I just had to plug the California Angels for making it to the ALCS and battling the Minnesota Twins for the pennant! All my kids were born in Anaheim; I've lived in Anaheim most of my 20 years in Southern California and have been to hundreds of games over the years. Compliments of season ticket holding friends schooled in disappointment. I remained a Yankee fan all these years but still didn't like to see the Angels stumble out of the play-off race at the end of seemingly every season. And watching the Yankees-Angels DCS, I must admit I was rooting for the Angels! (This newsletter is sent to a lot of old friends from New York, I can hear it already!) Regardless, way to go Angels! They have rejuvenated, inspired and reunited Southern California like only the Lakers have been able to do the last decade or so! O.C. is on fire right now! Keep it up! Win the Pennant Angels!

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MEMORIES OF TEAM TIGER



1990 U.S. Jr. Regional-Apple Valley CC
My first Tiger Caddy gig.



1ST US AMATEUR VICTORY CELEBRATION 1994



CITY of CYPRESS CELEBRATION of TIGER 1994



US Am Regional qualifier Western Hills
1994- My last Tiger caddy gig.

A peek at a unique experience. It's been quite amazing to see how far Tiger's gotten, knowing the best is yet to come. Humbling that I'm in a position to positively influence others from my exposure to Team Tiger. The question is, how? My answer; without Tiger's involvement. If I'm preaching to kids that they can reach their dreams, I want to prove it by reaching major goals with their help, not Tiger's. This will give "our" work in South Central credibility and momentum. And I won't ask Tiger for help or involvement until I feel we've done something Tiger-sized in South Central. There are a lot of awesome people in South Central working hard for juniors there, a lot of awesome people outside of South Central concerned for juniors there and a lot of everyday people that would love to help positively influence juniors in South Central. Golf is the common bond but only one aspect of a myriad of possibilities.