

We have taken the liberty to add friends with whom we wanted to share our newsletter. As with all transmissions these days, this one doesn't have to be in your inbox. If you prefer not to have it sent every two months, just let us know.

Also, we have elected to provide a URL from which our readers may download the current issue so as to deter anything resembling "spam." Thanks, CGM

One Under Par

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A Newsletter from.... **clearkeygolf™**...December, 2009

Why Oh Why? (equals) My Oh My!

With no wish to belittle anyone, or give off an air of condescension toward what looks to us like a lot left to be desired for human intelligence surrounding much of what goes on in life, and most assuredly in the game of golf, a contrast struck our imagination. (If you are not seeing that "want or lack" of "smarts" in sports, politics, religion, entertainment, advertising, the media in general, and your neighborhood, feel free to credit us with an unnecessary overestimate of conditions). Recently, and almost simultaneously, we were invited by email to review a particular golf forum post and "commanded" by the "news" on the tube to notice one more Tiger trauma in that continuing saga. The forum post asked, "Why is my practice swing so different from my 'real' swing?" And the tale of the Tiger wrapped itself around another moment of uncertain, immediate lack of anything other than speculation (though that changed in a few days), and the clear media motive appeared as another "scintillating, breaking revelation of celebrity misbehavior."

Those two widely separated, and seemingly different concerns evidence how ordinary, everyday ignorance (the condition of being without knowledge) and an indecent, speculative universal public appetite defaults to a mammoth vacuum in the "minds of men." Even more disconcerting is that there is little or no evidence, other than from a very few giving lip-service, that anyone is trying to view either of those issues with any degree of intelligence. It's as though everyone wants to explore the salacious, seamy side of events (Tiger), on one hand, and the need to over-simplify a personal "bother" (a "real swing") on the other, no matter the comparative importance or origin of either.

If a player has no clue why his practice swing and his "real" swing are different, he would do well to seek out an instructor who knows something more than the grip, swing plane, posture and how to hold his mouth. Preferably, it would be someone with a solid grip (no pun intended) on how the mind works with every move we make. The reality is that we rarely find anyone who can distinguish the roles played by the conscious mind and the non conscious mind in our daily routines.

The problem created in that respect, however, is one that absolutely needs our attention routed in a new or different way, which is to say that it may not previously have been "on our radar." When a player is "under pressure," even the normal kind, he is taken

straightway, by default, to the style given him from birth. That is as much a law of nature as the one we refer to as "gravity." Mother Nature's role is such that "she" is obliged, without exception, to take us to the style we own. The next step inevitably is that the manner in which we may have been learning and practicing is thrust aside to make room for that ownership. A "practice swing" has little to none of the pressure, but the course gets the full boat. It does not require much imagination to notice and understand the next following circumstance. It is reliable as clock-work. A player facing the normal (or added) pressure of the game and the course will invariably find him- or herself trying to figure what happened to all that "good" stuff" (the easy "practice swing") that was part of learning and practice, since s/he will be relegated instantly to her/his original traits and what was happening on the range will either be lost, or going through entirely different screens, creating a confusing picture. That is not necessarily bad, and many players just keep doing that, but that's another matter, perhaps for later. For now we simply need to see it, honor it and adopt a means of managing it, which is to be found solely in the automatic process.

In the same vein, if the media has so little to do than to produce some form of sensationalism, that entire industry could stand a makeover. To the credit of a very few, within days, at least some semblance of appropriate reporting began to come into view. It is noticeable that if you take Spitzer, Sanford, Clinton, a few members of the body of legislators, three or four from each of baseball, basketball and football, and add in a plenteous serving of entertainment icons, the attention they were given will still not add up to the grand debut of Tiger Wood's perceived "bad" behavior. We are not ignoring that "where there is smoke, there usually is fire."

Is Tiger the "wrong person?" If that question means "Is he beyond the pale of responsibility?", the answer is "No."

Michael Bamberger, (Sports Illustrated, Dec 28, '09) wrote, *"Here's another view (mine): the National Enquirer story that launched the whole thing represents an abuse of our rights to a free press. Tiger brought this on himself, by leading a double life, but the Enquirer brought it to OUR homes. I think Jack Nicklaus was being reasonable when he was asked about Woods's situation and said, "It's none of my business."*

"Yes, there was a chasm between the Woods we thought we knew and Woods as he actually is. Yes, by taking hundreds of millions of dollars in endorsement money, he lost some of his right to privacy. But does that give us the right to spy on the guy and write up what we find? I don't think so."

So what about we average citizens? If you are a Driver, it is quite likely that your public respect for the Tiger disappeared as suddenly as the reports appeared, while possibly, secretly, harboring the "You-go-man" syndrome. If you are a Persuader, you likely feel that all the fun in life just got yanked away, and you can't wait for the jokes and satire to hit the stage, or for Phil Mickelson to show up on one side of the fence or the other. If you are a Craftsman, you may have begun to review all "sins" ever attributed to him (and others) in chronological order and it will be awhile, but you will find a way to forgive him his indiscretions so you can enjoy watching him play expertly once again. If you are an Analyzer, you likely wrote him off before the commentator finished his report, and immediately "accepted" the "facts" as they were presented, since it proved why you

never liked him in the first place - also known as "so much for a fist-pumper. They all misbehave."

Of course, if you know something about behavior, you indeed own one of those styles and also (perhaps) know that you have a choice in your perception. You might even join those who heard and understood Arnold Palmer's "advice to the "young" Tiger just after he won his first Masters and complained to Arnie that he felt "crowded" (our word, not his) by having to sign so many autographs that it invaded his privacy.

"It never ends," says Tiger, as reported by Bob Schieffer.

"You're right," Palmer replied. "Normal 21-year-olds don't have \$50 million in the bank. If you want to be normal, give the money back."

And Schieffer continues, *"Sorry Tiger, we all make mistakes, but if you wanted to be normal you should have taken Arnie's advice, just played golf with your friends on Saturdays like the rest of us and I promise you no one would have cared what you did - except maybe your wife."*

So, how we use our intelligence may sometimes depend on how high we have built any pedestal associated with our personal aspirations - in this case either the one that goes with what is expected of a golf swing or one on which you have placed the Tiger over the years, since that governs how far either of them will fall and the volume of sound created when the bottom is reached. It is our observation that many think they know "something" about either or both and further there is plenty of available speculation about what they should do about it. It is remarkable how powerful the minds of pseudo-intellectuals become, and how many new "counseling psychologists" and "swing coaches" can suddenly come out of the woodwork when they imagine they have caught a tiger by the tail or a novice by the swing.

The air may never clear on either of these. It remains to be seen what the future holds for a Tour with or without Tiger, and it also remains for every player to comprehend all that is involved in the indelible relationship between the mind and the body in the game.

Meanwhile, we will all go on with our lives and head into 2010 with little else to be concerned about other than the economy, health care, jobs, the current and next war, and when and where social security will end. This will be the year no one makes a resolution. The world and all in it are breathless and quite unable to use their mental faculties to deal with anything meaningful. But that too will pass - at least one can wish.

We have placed past issues in our [Archives](#).
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