

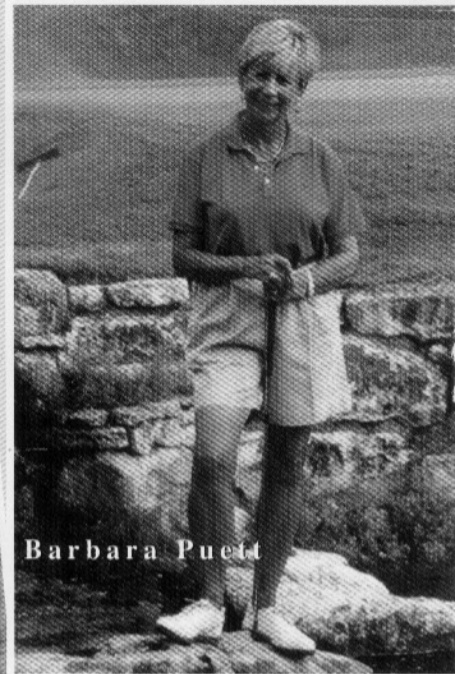
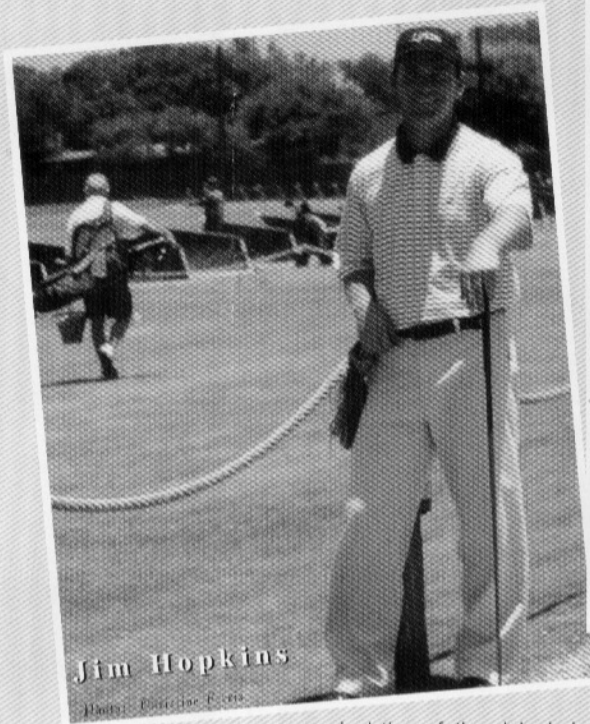
FOLLOWING THROUGH:

GOLF TIP JAR

Slap on the sun-screen, drink plenty of fluids, tread lightly on the cart break and be sure to seek shelter from lightening. Beyond that, it's open season. Advice, good and bad, especially bad, permeates golf. It's hard to avoid. To steer you in the right direction, several area golf schools offer Austin Monthly readers certifiably sound instruction for practice range and course. They

might even give you the inspiration to take some lessons, just like Tiger. Keep in mind the legendary Harvey Penick's observation that "a golfer rarely needs to hit a spectacular shot unless the one that precedes it was pretty bad."

by Jim Apfelbaum



Barbara Puett

Simple Sand Play Tips

by Ty Waldron

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Many amateurs struggle needlessly in the sand. With a few basic techniques, a much-feared on-course situation can become a scoring situation.

Many golfers try to help the ball out of the sand by swinging in a lifting or scooping motion. This method is inconsistent at best. The results can range from leaving the ball in the bunker to blading it over the green. Many golfers try to prevent their club from rotating naturally through impact. We refer to this as the chicken wing (the left elbow often looks like a chicken wing in the follow-through). This is typically caused by setting up with a square clubface at address. With a square clubface, in order to prevent the clubhead from digging, it is necessary to "hold on" through impact. This is also very inconsistent due to the

manipulation of the club during the swing.

Sand play can be easily improved with a few modest changes in the set-up. Once your set-up is adjusted, simply make your normal swing. In the sand, your clubface needs to be opened dramatically (35-45 degrees). Open your clubface first THEN grip the club. This will ensure a properly opened face. Your feet and shoulders should be aimed slightly left of the target (15 - 20 degrees open). The ball should be positioned forward in your stance (off the left instep). Your left toe (for a right-handed player) should be flared toward the target. This allows for a full release and follow-through.

From this point, just make your normal swing along your body. By swinging along your body, it will feel like the ball will go left, but the open clubface compensates for the swing path. This allows swinging through with a normal release. The clubface is thus in a position to bounce (shallow), instead of digging (deep), through the sand.

The clubhead should enter the sand a couple inches behind the ball depending on the firmness of the sand and the distance of the shot. Once

again, the preliminary set-up, not any mid-swing adjustments, should determine where the club enters the sand. With these set-up adjustments, the swing is very natural and simple. Try these set-up keys if you've been struggling with consistency in your bunker play.

Stand & Deliver for Better Chips

by Barbara Puett

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The most common mistake I see is a tendency to stand too far away from the ball when chipping. With their legs well apart, it's as if golfers are preparing to hit a ball down the fairway instead of the much shorter, abbreviated chip shot we use around the green. An easy way to view the distinction—when you're close to the green, stand closer to the ball with your feet closer together. Standing this way is most important to allowing the club to go straight back and straight through. Imagine the club has two eyes on its face. Those eyes need to look at the hole going back and going through.