

What in simple terms are you trying to get Tiger to do with his swing?
Simplify it. Minimalist theory, [to] get rid of all the unnecessary pieces and get to the causes instead of trying to fix the effects.

What do you say when your critics argue that Tiger isn't showing improvement fast enough?

The first time we worked together was at the PGA Championship. If he had won the tournament there is no way that I would have stood there on Sunday night and said that it was because of the things that we worked on. It doesn't matter if it's my method or Butch's [Harmon] or Hank's [Haney], Tiger is going to win tournaments, [because of] what we tell him and some times in spite of it. There was nothing about what he was doing in his previous swing that made any sense to me. But I know if he repeats something 500 times he'll figure out how to sequence it and make it work. But there is so much more to the game than ball-striking. His ability to break down holes and find angles to score is unmatched.

Golf Channel's Brandel Chamblee told us that you have Tiger compressing the ball more, and that your tweaks "are designed to help him trap the ball and hit it lower. I just don't get it. You have to hit the ball high in majors." What does Chamblee not get?

I wasn't aware that compressing the ball



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SILENT TYPE "With Tiger," Foley says, "I might only speak when he asks me a question."

more made the ball go lower. Actually, if [Tiger] moves better laterally with his lower body, and we are keeping his head still, that will create more of a frontal plane or side tilt away from the target, which will shallow out his attack angle. And since the hands are forward at impact, we are actually maintaining the club's loft at impact. To be honest, we have had a *more* difficult time hitting it lower with what he is learning. Because his weight is forward, and he is leaning the shaft with his head still in place from where it started at set-up, there is no rate

of closure in the clubface. Hands forward equal face slightly open; hips forward on top of [the] ball shallows [his] attack angle and has him hitting it *higher* than ever. People need to get their facts right. This is science, not opinion.

Do you expect Tiger to return to the form he showed from 2000-02?

I don't like to project into the future, but how fast we forget that this guy won 14 majors by the age of 34. If he plays until he's 50, he's got 15 more years and 60 majors left. You don't think he's going to get four majors with that many chances? Mathematically, he's proven that he can do it. He struggled for a year and his life

Revision Quest

For an impartial analysis of Tiger's swing in progress, we turned to Tom Stickney, Top 100 Teacher and director of instruction at Bighorn Golf Club in Palm Desert, Calif.



At address, he looks more balanced than he was a year ago, with less weight on his toes.



Too much weight on his toes used to cause him to take the club further away from his body.



Note the closed clubface, a byproduct of Foley getting Tiger to strengthen his grip.



At the top, he is slightly more upright than he has been, with his right elbow in a supportive position.

changed in many different ways. I think he's going to come out of all of this a better person and player.

If you had to bet your house on it, do you think Tiger wins more majors than Jack?

I bet my house, which would be made easier by the housing market in Florida. [Laughs] It's amazing how fast people forget. One year of poor play and people forget he won four in a row. If he played in majors until he was 46, when Jack won his last, he would still have 48 more attempts at winning five.

How has your life changed since you started working with Tiger?

I definitely have more critics than I knew. But that doesn't really bother me. The beauty of working with Tiger is that he lives three minutes from me [near Orlando]. So I typically drive over to Isleworth a couple of days a week to meet with him for an hour and half to two hours. How it will go in tournaments this season? I have no idea. But I think I have a good idea of my balance of happiness and it hasn't done anything to change that.

How are you going to keep your other top players happy while trying to tend to Tiger's needs?

I've been with all my guys for a while now and they know the type of guy that I am. The benefit of having Tiger and Justin here in Orlando is that we can

do most of our work off the golf course. Whereas Hunter is in Dallas, O'Hair's in Philadelphia and Ames [Stephen Ames] is in Calgary. So the brunt of my time on the road is spending time with those players. At tournaments my players will have the ability to play practice rounds together. Tiger is a hero of sorts to most players on Tour, so I think it's a win-win situation for everyone involved.

Is it possible to act the same way with all of your players?

You can be the same from the standpoint of holding them to a standard of ethics and values. With Rosey we might talk a little bit more. With Hunter we might talk a little bit less. With Tiger I might only speak when he asks me a question. O'Hair wants to talk some time and other times he doesn't—so it's [about] understanding the different personalities.

Do you feel like there's a target on you now because you're working

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with Tiger? You didn't do yourself any favors when you said some less than flattering things about other coaches, including Haney, in a September interview.

Sure. I don't regret anything that I said about Hank. I've said some things that I can't take back. It's just that my back was pushed up against a wall so I reacted perhaps in an unprofessional manner. But I'm not going to give anyone credit for how hard I've worked.

Do you want the respect of your teaching peers? Do you care?

No. All I can worry about is the performance of my players. My ultimate goal is to get respect from human beings for being one. I want to help people be more content. So I don't really care if these golf instructors think I'm good or not. When a guy talks about me as an amazing swing coach that's probably not 100 percent true. And it's also not true when they say that I'm just a branding machine and that I have politicized my way to the top.

But don't you like having a modicum of fame and celebrity?

There is nothing about it that interests me. I have no interests in having Sean Foley Golf Academies all over the world and being a multi-millionaire but not see my son play in his soccer game for two years. When kids come up to me for an autograph I just shake their hands. I don't sign autographs and I never will. →



He comes down on a slightly more inside path, which should promote a more consistent flight.



His head still dips too much in the downswing, causing him to pull up slightly at impact.



The finish looks good: high, balanced, relaxed—the result of a steadier, more natural swing.

Is his head in the game?

A new swing could trigger Tiger's resurgence, but the real key could be a clear mind. "Champions excel by staying in the present," says Jim Fannin, a performance coach who helps athletes find "the zone." "And in 2010, the past came up again and again [for Tiger]," Fannin says. "His focus was scattered. It's no wonder he went winless."

Fannin, who helped counsel baseball's Alex Rodriguez through a messy 2008 divorce, says Woods will likely rebound if he can think freely again. "The average person thinks too much and has 2,000 to 3,000 thoughts per day," Fannin says, or about twice as many as a peak athlete, who must keep thoughts simple. Golfers are no exception. Says Fannin: "Name another sport that takes six straight hours of being in the moment."