

Using the Driver

By JULIUS BOROS
USGA OPEN CHAMPION, 1952

The driver is one of the easiest clubs in the bag to use, for it is designed with a wide, flat sole which will help you right the club if it should be swung a little too deeply into the turf.

The main secret to hitting good drives lies in the ability of the player to relax. There is something about the driver which calls out to most people, "swing me as hard as you can." This idea is entirely wrong for good shots off the tee.

Don't forget that each wood is designed for distance, and it is not necessary to try and slug the ball with all your power.

A consistently good drive can be developed only through practice, and the elements to strive for are timing, rhythm and balance. Always be relaxed and swing the club smoothly.

By taking your time, you will develop a permanent feel and your swing will be grooved to an even tempo.

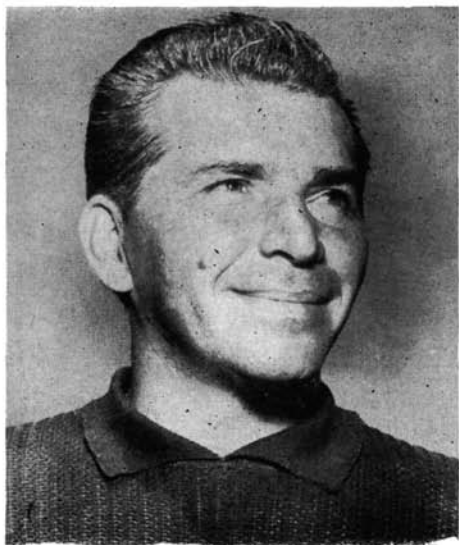
I generally play the ball off the left heel with a slightly closed stance and point my toes slightly outward to maintain balance.

Remember that the hands are to work in unison. Start your swing back with both hands, keeping in mind that you are *swinging* the club. At address, the hands should be slightly ahead of the ball.

As you start the club back, keep the clubhead low to the ground for two or three feet. This will start your swing on the right arc. You will notice that your body naturally turns with your arms and your left knee bends slightly.

About halfway back your wrists start to cock, the shoulders and hips have turned and the left knee is bent toward the right leg.

Swing the club completely back. Only practice can tell you when you have reached the top of your swing. The right elbow should be pointed down toward the right hip, and the right hand should be under the shaft. You should have perfect



Julius Boros

balance and control at the top of the swing.

Take your time on the backswing, and pause slightly when you reach the top. The downswing should be started with a smooth, unhurried motion.

Speed and timing produce distance, and most of the speed of the clubhead is generated when it is only three or four feet from the ball. This is the point where the power of your wrists comes into play. As your wrists uncoil in the hitting area, your arms come straight through and your body follows the natural turn to the left.

The follow-through should not die halfway out. The club should be swung to a complete finish.

This is the picture the golfer should produce at the completion of the swing: He should be turned and facing the hole with his head up. His hands should be high and as the speed of the club comes to a halt, his arms will bend down close to his body.