



PUTTING and the Importance of Face Angle

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We all want to make more putts while playing golf. Ultimately, if we can make more putts it is very likely we'll shoot lower scores. It is fair to say the closer the ball gets to the hole, the higher the chance becomes we'll make the putt. It is also mostly true that most short putts do not break much.

When someone asks me, "How do I make more putts?" I respond with, "Start with the short ones and work your way out from there."

The next logical question is "How do I actually make more short putts?" I would consider a short putt less than five feet in length and for examples sake, let's assume the putt is straight uphill (image 1).

I've opened the face slightly to show how even the smallest of face variations at impact can cause a putt to miss (see red arrow). You can see the face is pointed at the right edge of the hole.

I cannot stress this enough. The biggest influencing factor to making more short putts is how square the face is at impact to the intended

line of putt. Due to the relatively low speed of the putter head, the influence the Putter Path has on the starting line of the putt is small. This leaves the orientation of the face at impact as the primary force directing the starting direction of the golf ball.

If you could only work on one thing while putting, I would take two alignment sticks, going straight back from each edge of the cup and hit putts inside those proverbial railroad tracks. This will give you a visual as to what your Face Angle might be at impact while hitting putts. More importantly, it will train your eyes to correctly see the center of the hole in relation to where your putter face is aimed. In most of my putting lessons, where the face is pointed at address and how it is returned to impact is almost always skewed.

As you can see (image 2), the ball starts on



and finishes just right of the hole. This is a result of a Putter Face which was only slightly open at impact. You could apply this principle to a closed face as well. Had the putter face been slightly closed at impact, the putt would likely have missed slightly left.

Scott Sackett, GOLF Magazine Top 100 Teacher since 1999, just voted as one of Golf Digest's Best Teacher in the State for the fifth year in a row. Also Director of Instruction at Park Meadows CC in Park City Utah and while in Scottsdale teaches at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. If you would like to reach Scott, you can contact him through his website at www.scottsackett.com.

Waste Management Phoenix Open earns two "Best Of" awards at PGA TOUR tournament meetings

PGA TOUR event honored for Best Tournament Sales and Best New Product in 2016

The Waste Management Phoenix Open was honored by the PGA TOUR with two "Best Of" awards at the TOUR's tournament meetings on December 7. The Waste Management Phoenix Open has earned at least one "Best Of" award for seven consecutive years, including Tournament of The Year in 2014 and 2015.

The Waste Management Phoenix Open received recognition for Best Tournament Sales and Best New Product during the 2016 tournament at TPC Scottsdale. Thanks to the increased sales and innovation, the tournament donated a record-total of \$9.3 million for charity in 2016.

"On behalf of the PGA TOUR, I am pleased to congratulate the Waste Management Phoenix Open for the special recognition it has received

in two categories," said Andy Pazder, PGA TOUR chief tournaments and competitions officer. "The tournament staff should be extremely proud of its hard work and for being recognized as the best among its peers on the TOUR."

The Best Tournament Sales award is given to the tournament with the strongest adjusted post-event sales data from each event participating in the data collection program. As such, the Waste Management Phoenix Open reported a 10.25 percent revenue increase in 2016, following a 30 percent increase in 2015. The event experienced a nearly 13 percent increase in its number of skyboxes, taking the total to 312. The tournament also sold 1,743 hospitality packages.

The Best New Product, also awarded to the

Waste Management Phoenix Open, was the Bay Club at 17, a one-of-a-kind venue was built to resemble a five-star resort complete with high-end food and beverage. The 21 suites sold out in 2016, driving more than \$1.1 million in new revenue, with plans for 16 additional suites in 2017.

"We're excited and honored to receive this recognition from the PGA TOUR," said Andy Markham, 2017 Waste Management Phoenix Open Tournament Chairman. "These awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication of The Thunderbirds, our determined staff, the thousands of volunteers and the best fans in golf."

The 2017 Waste Management Phoenix Open, won this year by Hideki Matsuyama, will be held January 30 - February 5 at TPC Scottsdale.

Play like a champion on three of Scottsdale's best golf courses

Sixth annual Scottsdale Open is pure golf, pure Scottsdale & pure fun

Amateur golfers can live out their PGA TOUR fantasies during the sixth annual Scottsdale Open Golf Tournament, January 5 to 8, 2017.

The Scottsdale Open is a premier amateur event with play on three of Scottsdale's most celebrated golf courses: TPC Scottsdale Stadium Course, home of the PGA TOUR's Waste Management Phoenix Open, the world's best attended golf tournament; Grayhawk Golf Club's Raptor Course, former home of the PGA TOUR's Frys.com Open; and We-Ko-Pa Golf Club's Cholla Course, one of *GOLF Magazine's* "Top 100 You Can Play."

January is prime time for golf in Scottsdale, and we've got three of the destination's very best golf courses for our competitors

to enjoy" said Linda Dillenbeck, Scottsdale Open Tournament Director. "In fact, with the Scottsdale Open taking place just a couple of weeks before the PGA TOUR's Waste Management Phoenix Open, our competitors will enjoy playing conditions very close to what the PGA TOUR players experience - including the Stadium Course's famous 16th Hole."

Participation in the Scottsdale Open is limited to the first 52 two-player teams to register, and the event has sold out each of the last five years. Competition includes flights for Gross, Net and Senior divisions. The first two days of the competition teams will play a best-ball format. The final round on Grayhawk Golf Club's Raptor Course will be a "count 'em

all" combined-team-score format. However, in the interest of keeping a good pace of play throughout all three days, teams will play from the spot of their best drive on each hole.

In addition to bragging rights, first, second and third place teams in each flight will take home trophies and equipment prizes. Cost is \$1,235 per player, and includes golf, welcome reception on Thursday, January 5th and awards reception on Sunday, January 8th. Preferred rates are available for accommodations through Pinnacle Golf Vacations. To register or for more information, visit www.scottsdaleopen.com.

To learn more about what makes Scottsdale the "World's Finest Golf Destination," visit www.ExperienceScottsdaleGolf.com.

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