



**Your on the
Street Reporter**



Uyless Black

A Hole in One!

A Hole in One!¹

Hello from Your on the Street Reporter, who is not on the streets for this report---but on the links. A few months ago, I sent an email to my golfing friends announcing I had reached a milestone in my quest to mimic a golf player: I played a complete round using the same ball. The hallowed ball and the revered scorecard for this round have been saved. They are stored in my (new) chest of golfing memorabilia. Thus far, the ball and scorecard are its only contents---a very large trunk containing two lonely artifacts.

Why do I keep these mementos to mediocrity? Because I was advised by a friend to save them. The reason was not evident to me, so I asked him, “Why save a severely damaged golf ball and a scorecard containing only double-digit numbers?”

His reply, “You don’t know?! Why, they should be passed down to your son, then to your son’s son, and so on---like a family heirloom.”

My friend also collects string and used Q-tips.

Anyway, there you have it: A ball in serious need of cosmetic surgery; a scorecard with numbers larger than the national debt. All of which reflect the ability to---not achieve a low score--- but to maintain possession and ownership of a ball without losing it to hooks and slices, trees and shrubs, ponds and streams, and very stupid squirrels. It’s a tribute to ineptness.

Since this seminal event, I have been thinking about golf in general, and specifically, about the fact that I am a (charitably worded) “below average golfer.” My handicap? Do you understand exponential numbers?

Like most players, I have been looking for short cuts to golfing stardom---with the ability to execute the swings that I see on Sunday afternoon television. Ha. Truth be told, I’ll settle for golfing ordinariness---anything to keep me from removing my shoes when I count-up my strokes for a hole.

However, let’s not continue reciting the typical litanies of the Sunday golfer. Let’s change pace with this announcement: I have come up with an idea to solve my golfing woes. What follows is a description of my sure-fire scheme.

Holes in One

I have abandoned all my goals for learning to play golf, except one: I have begun practicing hole in one strokes. Forget scoring. Forget fades, draws, and all those esoteric machinations that are beyond the capabilities of almost any normal human being. I have decided to devote myself to making holes in one.

Thus motivated, I have done research on the subject. I’ve been searching for self-help books, checking out Web pages, reading manuals, looking for golfing apparatus designed to achieve holes in one...those sorts of progs.

I was surprised at the paucity of instruction manuals available for making holes in one. In fact, I could not find one solitary book on this aspect of golf. How can that be? There are more books on golf than there are golfers. I suspect there are hundreds of publications on the art of

¹ The trophy picture on the cover is courtesy of https://www.crownawards.com/ALL.Award_By_Sport.Hole_In_1_Golf_Trophy/TRGFWD.html?cgid=all&gclid=CIWL8a_p-dACFYpffgodVIAH8A, where a hole in one trophy can be ordered. This picture shows only the top part of the trophy, which also consists of a base and a metal face, which can be engraved.

putting, still more on the subject of golf and depression---considered by many to go hand-in-hand.

Golf and Religion

As another example, on one shelf in a library, I came across several books dealing with golf and religion---often they are described as being one and the same. Here is a sampling of the book titles on that shelf:

- *God and Golf: Which Comes First On Sundays?*
- *Golf and God: Question Answered.*
- *Amen Corner: The Religious Significance of Praying on a Golf Course.*
- *Genuflections: Guide to the Appropriate Reverential Gesture for Each Major Golf Course.*

By the way, the 18 genuflections rendered by a golfer as *he* stands on the tees of Augusta National are not included in this book. The reason? Because these machinations are copyrighted by the members of Augusta National, beyond the understanding of the golfing proletariat, and forbidden to the female sex.

- *Is There Golf after Death?*

I do not want to give too much away about the subject matter of this farsighted, metaphysical tome, but the author's view is that golf is above and beyond death. Well, except when one plays a round of golf. The actual rendering of the game is about the same as dying, as witnessed by the death wishes uttered by golfers as they play each hole. Another book related to this subject is:

- *Is There Death after Golf?*

The central thesis of this book is that there is no death *after* golf, and none *before* golf, but there is death *during* golf.

- *Is Golf Holier than Baseball?*

The writer suggests that baseball is on the same level of holiness as golf.

- *Is Golf Holier than Basketball?*

This book is a sensational expose and a bone of contention in Indiana. Like golf, basketball has its cathedrals: Madison Square Garden (well, the old one, now torn down), The Capital Center (well, the old one, now torn down), The Cow Palace (well, abandoned by basketball teams, now used by cows), and so on. The author claims any self-respecting religion (read sport) would not destroy its cathedrals. See anyone lobbying to tear down Augusta National? How about St. Andrews? Conclusion: Golf is holier than basketball.

Golf and Sex

Did you know there are books dealing with the subject of golf and sex? Again, going through the library, I ran across these titles:

- *Sex and Golf: Which Comes First On Weekends?*
- *Golf and Sex: Question Answered.*
- *Sexual Positions and the Golf Swing.*

The author's theme for this book is that a golf swing is as diverse (and as difficult to achieve) as some of the sexual positions in *Kama Sutra*, especially for older

golfers. Therefore, for you older golfers, please see an abridged version of this golfing book as well as an abridged version of *Kama Sutra*.

- *After the Golfing Act: Was it Good for You?*
A very useful book on how to convince your golfing partner you had a good round of golf, when in effect, you barely scored.
- *A Life Style Choice: One Round or Two?*
Assuming you scored on the first round, perhaps your partner and you would like to try for seconds.

A Book on the Hole in One

The upshot of my research has revealed that many books exist about the religious and/or sexual satisfaction of playing golf, but not one book is available on the subject of making holes in one. Consequently, I have had to devise my own strategies and routines on how to make holes in one. What is more, I have decided to write the first book on the subject. My book will describe the result of my research efforts.

However, I must admit I have experienced some difficulty in coming-up with tips for inclusion in the book. Thus far, my manuscript is somewhat thin, and I recognize I need more material. After researching the golf books, I am considering the inclusion of chapters about subjects never-before published. Topics like:

- How to Slice (instructional hint: just swing naturally).
- How to Hook (instructional hint: just swing naturally).
- How to Top the Ball (instructional hint: just swing naturally).
- How to Miss the Ball (instructional hint: just swing naturally).
- How to Hit Less than 40 Yards with Your Driver (instructional hint...well, you get my drift).
- How to Eight-Putt on a Level Green.
- How to Misalign Your Setup to Hit the Ball into the Adjacent Fairway--Achieving 100% for "Adjacent Fairways in Regulation."
- How to Achieve 100 % "Greens in Regulation (GIR)" on a Putt-Putt Course.

A Hole in One: My Method Works!

The upshot of this story is that my dedication has paid off. I made a hole in one! What is more, I made two holes in one---on the same hole, with only one swing.

This fantastic event (well, events, because of the two holes in one) took place at that fabled, mystic, awe-inspiring cathedral of golf courses: The par 3, Nine Hole Golden Apple Golf Course, located in one of the golf capitals of the world, Stephens City, Virginia.

The details of this feat are:

- Hole number nine---also plays as hole number eighteen because the course has only nine holes (thus, my two holes in one).
- Ball: Nike Special (found on the previous hole, and the most prestigious ball I have had the honor to miss-hit).
- Distance: 88 yards (from the blue tees, of course).
- Club used: Pitching iron, purchased at KMart.

- Swing: Using one of my holes in one stroke: A mis-hit, topped ball that first struck the tee-off area, then bounced its way---over several rocks----down the fairway into the hole.
- Witnessed by My wife (do threats of the loss of inheritance discount the wife as a witness?).

In Conclusion

Training for holes in one---a new industry in the game of golf, and I am the example of its worth. By the way, I am considering this title for my golf book: *Holes in One for Dummies*.

A wise person once proclaimed, “It’s not for fish that I go fishing.” (Coincidentally, this person was a lousy fisherman.) Nonetheless, it’s a ton of wisdom in a one-ounce statement. Golf should be the same idea, “It’s not for golf that I go golfing.”²

My pleasure from playing golf is not just trying to score well---for me, scoring is a part of the overall picture...you know, smelling the roses and all. Like the fisherman, I think the pleasure of golf is in the process.³

In my initial foray into golf, I have found it to be a pleasant past time. But starting the game at over sixty years of age, I am not sure how I will fare. There are so many new things to learn: “Make a full turn.... Be sure and follow through....Make certain your address is correct when you set up your stance.” on and on.

At this stage of my life, a “full turn” is executing a successful U turn at a street intersection. A proper “follow through” is cashing my social security check (after having lost and found it several times). And the correct “address” is successfully finding my way home from the supermarket.

But then again, I hope to keep in mind, “It’s not for golf that I go golfing.”

Actually, it’s for all those holes in one.

² This proclamation is uttered by those who can’t break 100. They’re on the links to smell the roses.

³ By the way, I am also a lousy fisherman.