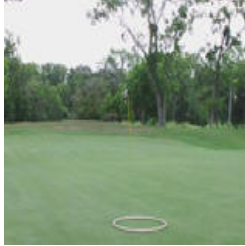


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## Articles and Tips - Short Game - The Eyes Have It

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This first picture is the spot picked out to land this ball to release to the hole.



Spot pitching or chipping is critical to having a terrific feel around the greens. I think great short game players understand the release factor of the golf ball once it lands on the green. The release factor is dictated by the height or launch of the golf ball off the desired golf club. The lie of the golf ball, amount of green to the hole, coupled with speed and slope of the green weigh into the formula. Do you think Tiger had the perfect spot on the green picked out at the 16th hole at Augusta? Do you think he had the perfect release factor? (If you didn't see it, the answer is "Yes!")

The second picture is Trey's eyes focused on the spot to land the ball.



I think that a great short game comes through the eyes finding a spot on the green. With the eyes committed to the spot, it allows for the proper length of backswing. If the eyes are focused on the flagstick rather than the spot, backswings get too long and have to slow down thru impact to land the ball on the spot. Meaning, if I ask a player to toss a ball underhanded to a spot, the brain will figure out how far back to take the arm and the speed needed to toss the ball to that spot. However, if I ask a player to toss a ball underhanded to a spot while looking 20 feet past the spot at the flagstick, the brain will never figure it out.

The third picture is the proper length of backswing needed to land the ball on the spot.



Short game is distance control versus direction. Most players will not hit it 10 feet left of the hole or 10 feet right of the hole. But they will hit it 10 feet long or 10 feet short of the hole.

The fourth picture is a backswing that appears to long to land the ball on the spot, it is due to the eyes focused on the flagstick rather than the spot.



1. Go out and get curious, that if you can launch the ball the same height and land it on a spot every time, your distance control will be amazing.
2. Use your eyes to focus on a spot. Your eyes will tell the hands and arms how far back to swing the club.
3. Practice lower trajectory shots first in order to recognize the release factor.
4. Remember it is easier to land it on a spot closer to you than across the green.
5. Consider that your technique is actually great if the eyes are more involved.

As Mr. Penick would say; "Go to dinner with good putters!"

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