



FEATURES

22 | Hahn Solo

From shoe salesman to two-time PGA Tour winner, Alameda's James Hahn is a self-made man who continues to represent the NCGA well. **BY ADAM SCHUPAK**

42 | Centennial Celebration

As the California Golf Club of San Francisco turns 100, the restored layout has never looked better. **BY ADAM SCHUPAK**

48 | Cockerill's A-O-Kay

Kay Cockerill, whose roots in Northern California run deep, has become one of golf's leading TV analysts. **BY RON KROICHICK**

54 | Putt Like a Champ

Putting is the great equalizer in golf. Learn from The Olympic Club's instruction staff how you can hole more putts.

BY MATT KILGARIFF with WILLIE TONEY

60 | Divine Nine

Wine isn't the only reason to head to Napa Valley. There's Meadowood, where a nine-hole round is like stepping back in time.

BY JAY STULLER

Cover Story

28 | Oh, The Places You'll Go

Oregon **BY ALAN SHIPNUCK**

North Carolina **BY JIM MORIARTY**

Florida **BY BETH ANN NICHOLS**

Wisconsin **BY GARY VAN SICKLE**

Novia Scotia, Canada **BY JASON LOGAN**

Willie Toney, Assistant Head Professional at The Olympic Club, shows you how to take a bite out of missed putts.

Putt Like a CHAMP

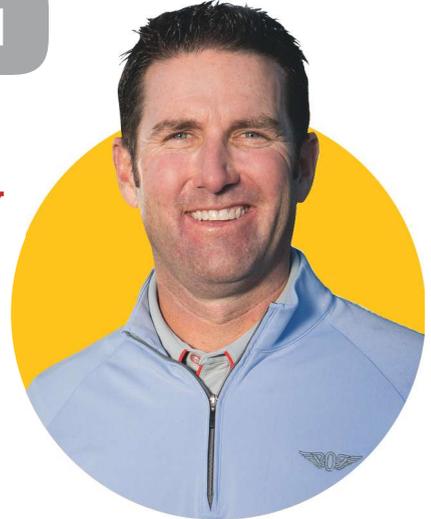
BY MATT KILGARIFF WITH WILLIE TONEY

AS TOLD TO ADAM SCHUPAK

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT KAUFMAN

As Director of Player Development at The Olympic Club, I've established an approach to teaching putting that recognizes it is the most individualized part of the game. From equipment selection to grip, stroke and speed, golfers have countless options. What our team of instructors, including Willie, preach is that the most important thing to keep in mind when putting is to draw on a well-established routine and have the upmost confidence in it regardless of the equipment, grip and stroke you use.

If you want to enjoy your next round of golf more — and who doesn't? — make more putts. It's that simple. Putting is the great equalizer in golf. But as the saying goes, a goal without a plan is just a wish so here are a handful of drills you can do to become a better putter.



MATT KILGARIFF



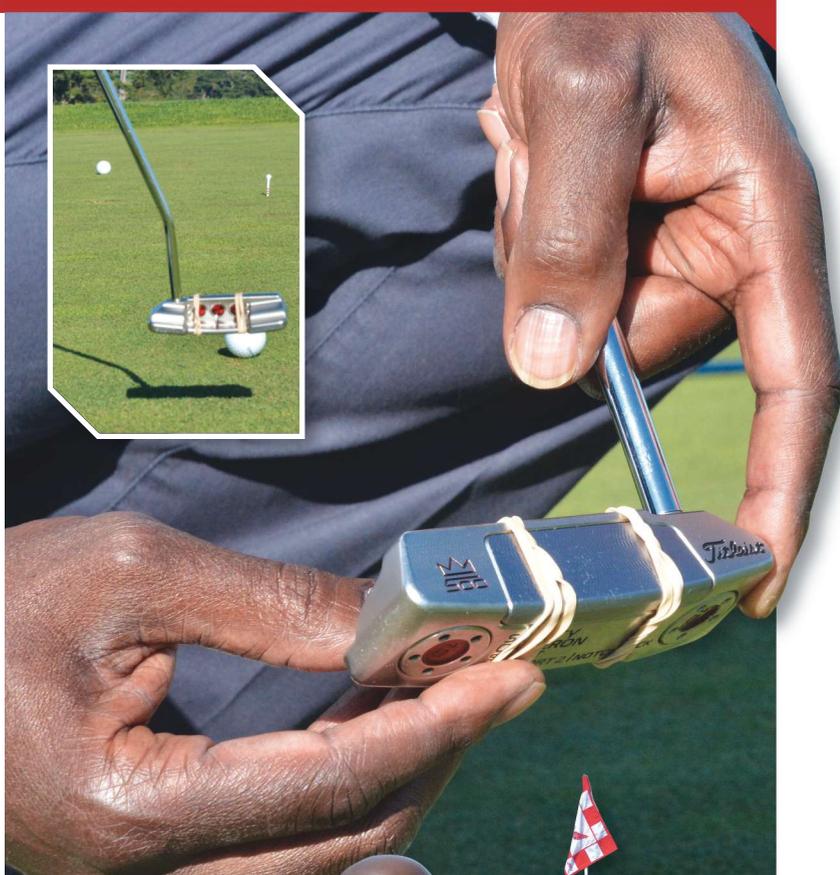
WILLIE TONEY



Matt Kilgariff brings over 17 years of golf instruction experience to one of the most elite golf clubs in the country. As the Director of Player Development at The Olympic Club since 2014, he has conducted over 1,500 hours of lessons per year and oversees an elite junior program with more than 200 golfers. The Millbrae native was named 2011 PGA Southern Nevada Chapter Teacher of the Year. **Willie Toney** grew up playing golf at Bing Maloney in Sacramento and is an Assistant Head Professional at The Olympic Club.

CENTERED STRIKE DRILL

A perfect strike happens when you hit the ball in the center of the sweet spot with the putterface looking straight at the desired starting line. It's hard to miss with this kind of contact. Sure, you can make putts without perfect contact, but that leaves too much to chance. You deserve better than that. A drill we recommend is to wrap two rubber bands around the putter-face, leaving just enough space to hit the ball cleanly. If you mis-hit the putt by catching it out toward the heel or the toe of your putter, or with the face open or closed to your starting line, the rubber bands will dampen the strike and send it off line. This drill improves your putting impact pattern and provides immediate feedback on the precision of your putter impact relative to the sweet spot. Let's eliminate your mis-hits and you'll pour 'em in the heart of the cup like never before.



PUTT WITH AN ARC

There are different philosophies on the proper path for swinging the putter, but at The Olympic Club we teach that the stroke should be inside on the take away and down the line to the target on the through swing. The Momentum Putting Arc is a training aid that simulates this path. Simply place the heel of your putter against the vertical portion of the track. As you make your stroke, allow the heel to stay in contact with the Putting Arc. The putter head will swing a little inside, then down the line on the through stroke. The ultimate goal of stroking a putt is to return the putter square to your target line and the shaft back to 90 degrees at the moment of impact. This drill creates a controlled practice environment that helps you get in the same position every time. It trains both the stroke and your eyes. You can hit putts with it from all angles and various distances, but we recommend starting your practice session from about 6 feet and then move back. With this device, you can instantly register the feel of a perfect strike, and feedback is critical to improving any motor skill.





ONE-STEPPERS

Holing more short putts is the quickest way to improvement. Assistant Head Professional Willie Toney made what he calls “The Putting Puck,” a block of metal the size of the golf hole but with four flat sides, and when we’re not too busy in the pro shop he practices “one-steppers” — because it only takes one step to rake the ball back to yourself. If you stroke the putt properly and hit the flat spot on the putting puck, the ball will rebound back to you, but if you hit an edge, it will ricochet away from you. Again, this type of practice builds confidence so that when you have that 4-foot knee-knocker for par to win the hole in your match, you’ve done it so many times before it becomes second nature.

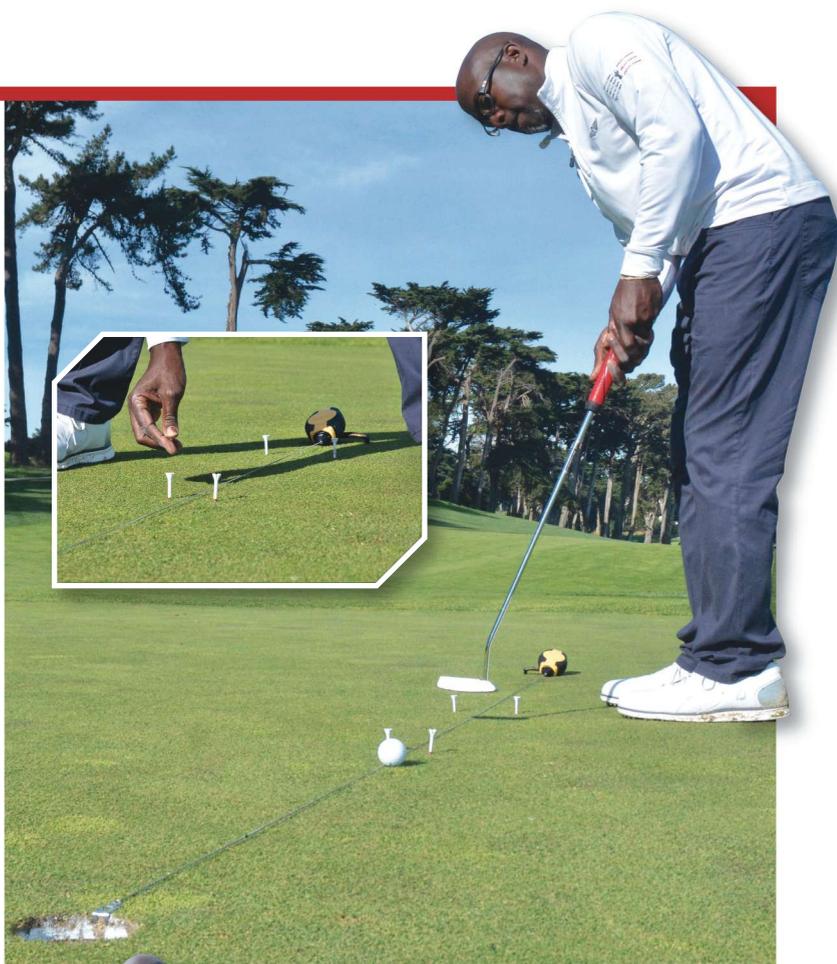


AROUND THE WORLD DRILL

At The Olympic Club, we like to have our students play games on the putting green to create pressure and the feeling of having to make a putt. Place four tees in the ground around a hole—distance is optional but at the club we typically start a full putter’s length from the hole—and try to make five in a row from each spot. You can’t go to the next ball until you make it. When you make all five, you can advance to the next tee. The pro-level version of this drill: miss and start all over at square one. You can judge your putting ability by how many you make or miss. This drill practices both left to right and right to left putts, and depending on your hole location, uphill and downhill too. When you complete the drill, pick your favorite putt and see how many putts in a row you can make. See if you can beat Willie, who used to make 200 a day. “It would take me three hours,” he said.

TIGER'S PUTTING DRILL

Prior to joining The Olympic Club, I spent 13 years as lead instructor at The Butch Harmon School of Golf, and during that time I got to witness how Tiger Woods practiced. One of the drills he made famous is simple to replicate. First, locate a straight putt, usually in the 6-8 foot range. We use a carpenter's tool to mark a chalk line. Stick two tees a putter-length apart (just outside the heel and toe) in the ground to create a gate for the putter to swing through. About 2-3 feet in front of the ball, make a second gate the width of a ball apart with two tees. The object of the drill is to swing the putter without hitting the tees and roll the ball through the second gate without touching the tees. If the putter veers off line even a tiny bit during the stroke, it'll crash into one of the tees. You don't even need to aim at a hole for this drill. The emphasis is on getting the ball rolling on the intended line and the key to doing so is keeping the face square. Tiger had to make 100 putts in a row. Good luck doing that!



PUTT TO THE CIRCLE

At The Olympic Club, I've assembled a team that is able to assist golfers of all levels and playing ability. Here, Willie shows a drill we often use with our junior camps and beginners. We start by placing a small, plastic circle around the hole and tell our students to try to stop the ball inside the hoop. Visually, it helps to practice to a larger target. We give 1 point for being inside the circle, 2 if it goes in the hole; first to 10 wins. This is another way of keeping score during practice. For our better players, we use the hoop from longer distances. This drill helps calibrate the speed of the green and helps create a mental Rolodex for distance control. If you can get your first putt from 50 feet inside a five-foot circle, you'll be in "one-stepper" range. Speed. Line. Confidence. That is the key to sinking more putts. All it takes is practice. Try these drills and you'll make more putts than ever before. 🍀

