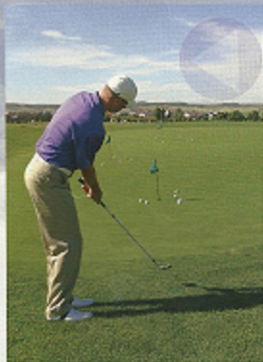


Count Your Chips

Trouble around the greens? Turning practice into a game makes it fun—and gives it a purpose. By Trent Wearner

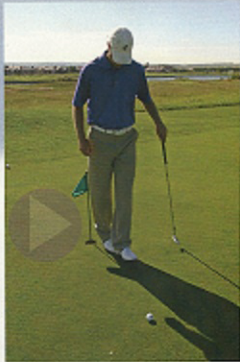
IF YOU TRULY WANT TO PROGRESS AS A GOLFER, YOU HAVE TO TRACK NOT ONLY YOUR ON-COURSE GAME, WHICH WILL help pinpoint your weaknesses, but also your practice sessions. If that sounds like "work," it isn't. After you learn how to track your practice sessions, you'll have more fun practicing and find more purpose to it. Practicing your chips by using the Chipping Median, for example, improves your accuracy and will lead directly to shorter, more makeable putts.

CHIPPING MEDIAN



From within five yards of the green, hit fifteen shots in the following manner: one ball to the closest hole, one ball to the hole in the middle, and one ball to the hole farthest away. Repeating this series five times gives you 15 chip shots.

Once you have hit all 15 shots, walk up to the green and while surveying all 15 shots, remove the seven closest shots you have hit to your targets. Find the next-closest shot (the eighth) and step off how far away it is from the hole.



Since there are seven shots that were closer and seven shots that were further away, that eighth ball is your median. Mark it.

Repeat the drill. If you can improve that first median, then you automatically increase the chances of making the putt. ■



A STUDENT AND I HAVE DEVELOPED A WEBSITE (SEARCHINGFORPRACTICE.COM) THAT FOCUSES AROUND GAME IMPROVEMENT. AMONG OTHER THINGS, YOU CAN RECORD YOUR SCORE FROM NUMEROUS PRACTICE GAMES SUCH AS THE ONE DESCRIBED HERE. BY KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR AVERAGES AND LOWEST SCORES, THE SYSTEM HELPS INSPIRE MOTIVATION AND PURPOSEFUL PRACTICE. SO THE NEXT TIME YOU FIND A WEAK AREA WITHIN YOUR ON-COURSE PLAY, LOG ON TO FIND A PRACTICE GAME THAT WILL HELP. —TW.

Trent Wearner is one of the Best Young Teachers in America according to Golf Digest and one of only 20 Certified Golf Coaches by Dr. Rick Senen. He was the 2004 Colorado PGA Teacher of the Year and is consistently recognized with numerous teaching accolades. TrentWearnerGolf.com, 303-645-2066.