

## BEST YOUNG TEACHERS

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0912-GD-TBYT-01\_02\_Stickney.jpg

## DON'T PEEK

If you rush to watch the ball, you'll alter your alignment and clubpath.

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## TOM STICKNEY

**AGE** 41 **LESSON RATE** \$200/hour  
**FACILITY** Bighorn Golf Club, Palm Desert, Calif.

**CONTACT** Tomstickneygolf.com  
**BACKGROUND** "After I graduated from college, I went down to play the mini-tour in Orlando for a month or two. In my first event I shot 74 and my playing partner shot 64. Shortly after, I began teaching. On the lesson tee, there are no three-putts, out-of-bounds or missed cuts."

**BEST LESSON** "It's just golf. We're not launching the shuttle. A little levity can go a long long way to diffuse frustration and aggravation in your students."

## HOW TO STAY STILL WHEN YOU PUTT

A quiet body is crucial to rolling it where you aim

**A**DMIT IT, YOU LOVE watching the ball roll in the hole. Unfortunately for many of you, it rarely does and the reason is because you're too anxious. If you take a peek before you've completed your putting stroke, there's a good chance you're going to roll the ball off line. When you turn to look prematurely, your

weight shifts onto your back foot and your upper body opens (*above, small photo*). This causes the path of your stroke to move left of your target line and all you get to do is watch a miss.

I have a drill that can help keep your body steady until the ball is long gone. Next time you're on the practice green, set your back foot up on its

toes, placing the majority of your body weight on your front foot (*above, big photo*). Now hit a putt. Even if you take a peek before the stroke is complete, your body won't open up and alter the path because you can't shift your weight onto your back foot.

Now if you miss, you can blame your caddie. ♣