



STRATEGY
**BY JACK
NICKLAUS**

PLAY YOUR BEST

BEAR OF A PAR 3

WILL YOU TAKE ON THE BIG BUNKER?

In a long par three, don't let the yardage intimidate you. Often there's no need to carry the ball all the way to the middle of the green. Take the third hole at the Pronghorn Club (illustrated) in Bend, Ore., which tips at 253 yards and is typically set a hair over 200 yards for the members. This is a basic design model I've used on many of my courses – a large, raised bunker guarding a low green with assistance available to the shorter hitter. What kind of assistance? If you don't feel comfortable flying the ball all the way to the green, simply carry it past that high bunker and allow the downslope leading to the green to feed it there. Or, play away from the bunker and leave a simple chip shot. None of these three strategies is the most correct. All that matters is what plays to your strong suit at that particular moment.

– with Max Adler

AVOID DISASTER

There's no shame in playing to here. The worst mistake is leaving a lengthy sand shot, so taking on that massive bunker on the right isn't always smart. The left side of this fairway sits below the green, so you won't be able to run one on from the tee. But you can chip your second shot close to set up an easy par; odds are you won't make worse than 4. If you're cruising along nicely, a bogey might be all you need to keep that good round going.



LOOK FOR THE HELP

When I can, I generally prefer to hit a long iron than any sort of hybrid or wood into a green. (My potential for dispersion is wider on my clubs with headcovers.) Because this downslope beyond the bunker will propel a ball towards the green, you can choose a shorter club. Into a strong wind, a low punch shot that just carries the bunker might be a smarter play than ballooning a longer club into the sky.

CARRY WITH CONFIDENCE

Standing on the tee, you might be having the day's first frank discussion about how far your fairway wood or longest iron – maybe even your driver – is carrying. That's good. Ball-striking is like the weather, even for great players. Only a stubborn fool believes his clubs fly the same distances every day. If you feel up to carrying the ball straight to the green, great. No need to make this hole any more complicated than one good swing.

**SOMETIMES
THE YARDAGE
TO THE GREEN
DOESN'T
MATTER.**

**EVERYTHING
IN THE BAG**

Sometimes the world's best have to swing serious lumber on par threes, too. On the PGA Tour, a good example is No. 4 at Riviera Country Club. That hole tips at 236 yards and has a giant bunker on the left, putting the lay-up shot to the right. In my days playing the L.A. Open there, it was usually a decision between my 1-iron and 3-wood. I liked the 1-iron, because I always felt the long irons were an advantage for me.



FIXED ON TWITTER
**BY HANK
HANEY**

PLAY YOUR BEST

**HOW TO VIDEO
YOUR SWING**

MAKE SURE YOU GET THESE DETAILS RIGHT

What are the things I get asked the most about on Twitter?

Tiger Woods and your golf swing.

We'll save Tiger for another day, but if you want help with your swing, here are a few tips for shooting it that will help me – or whoever's looking – provide useful advice.

The two main ways to look at the swing are face-on (directly across from the player) and down the line (aiming the camera downrange).

Both angles have their advantages.

Face-on shows some setup angles, the grip, body position and weight shift, but it isn't the best view for a thorough diagnosis.

If you're picking one angle, shoot down the line, from behind the player looking at the target (left).

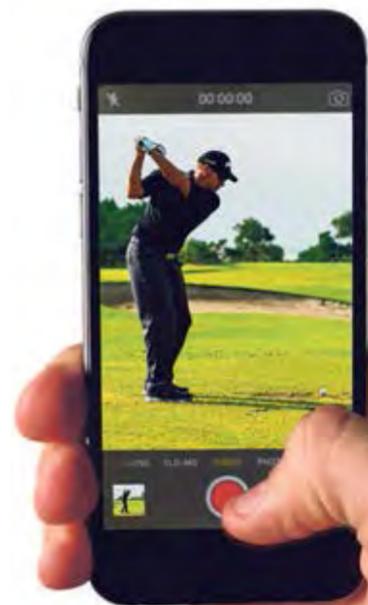
Set the camera about chest high and on an imaginary line halfway between the ball and the feet.

Make sure it's far enough back so the whole club is visible throughout the backswing. Have a friend hold the camera, or clip it to your bag or cart.

From there, you can see the club swing in relation to the target and where the ball starts in relation to where you're aiming.

I'm looking for the thing that causes your big miss. You don't have to see – or fix – everything, but an accurate video is important.

Hank Haney is based at the Hank Haney Golf Ranch, Lewisville, Texas. To get fixed in Golf Digest, send Hank your swing on Twitter: @HankHaney.



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