

Forget the new Big Four.

Don't spend time worrying about Jordan Spieth's 79 at Riviera, Rory McIlroy's missed cut at the Honda Classic, Rickie Fowler's third-round blowout at the same event and Jason Day's lacklustre start to the season.

The only man who still moves the needle, it seems, is Tiger Woods.

The golf world came to a near standstill last week when Woods took a swing, on an indoor simulator.

Yes, people, the man is back and can still swing a club without having to wear a back brace.

Woods' moment was captured and posted on his own Twitter account, probably to demolish rumours that he had hurt his problematic back once more.

So, the short video shows the former World No 1 swinging an iron on simulator, with the ball landing nicely on the green as a result.

You would think that would be the end of the matter, but no.

Website golf.com decided to analyse the swing, and put no less than the world's top-100 ranked coaches onto the task.

First up was former Woods coach Hank Haney, who watched the video and surmised that his "hips looked like they were pretty locked up and his arm went across his chest which is kind of what you see when somebody is a little hesitant to turn".

Also unconvinced was Tom Stickney who said: "It's a swing that was at partial speed with a short iron, so I'm not impressed. I want to see what happens at full-speed with the driver!"

Other coaches took it as a cue to decide what sort of Woods would emerge from the latest injury.

Chuck Evans, who liked the new "leaner" Woods, said: "With the thinner, not bulked up look of an NFL linebacker, I believe he will have a better chance of trying to get back to the swing he had in 2000."

Describing the swing as "ultra smooth", Mike Davis wondered if Woods could be able to keep the same tempo on the course. "Overall, it does look better and should help avoid injury."

But the analysis of the day surely should go to coach Oakmont Country Club's Eric Johnson, who, after describing it as a "soft, sore, slow-

CAN WE GET OFF HIS (SORE) BACK?



Tiger Woods' (above) indoor swing on his simulator — captured on video.

motion swing" surmised his views by adding "I say no chance for Augusta!".

Augusta? The US Masters? Next month? Seriously, Eric?

Is there someone out there paying you for views like that?

Goodness gracious. Can we give the man a moment to recover from an injury that he admitted could force him into retirement before deciding on his chances of winning next month's Masters?

No wonder Phil Mickelson recently said that there was no point trying to compare golf's new Big Four with Woods.

Even though it was just a simple swoosh on a simulator, the sport can't seem to get off one man's sore back.

've played through a lot of injuries, I've played through some situations I probably shouldn't have played, won some tournaments I probably shouldn't have won, but I've cost myself other tournaments by pushing through that and I've cost myself months

and years because of it. But that's what athletes do; we play through pain, we deal with injuries, it's a part of playing sport.

— TIGER WOODS

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