

Hold that Tiger! Hold that Tiger!
Yes, that 20-year-old golfing phenom,
Tiger Woods, passed through my
backyard last October.

'Tiger Tees' may get new meaning

For looking and acting like a nice young man, he sure did a rotten thing to my golf course. By bouncing second shots off of previously unreachable par fives, he changed forever the perception of difficulty on the venerable Magnolia Course.

When Jon Brendle and Mark Russell of the PGA Tour, told me Tiger was averaging over 300 yards on his drives to Big Bad John Daly's 288-yard average, I asked, "How? The USGA sees to it that we're all using the same equipment according to the laws of physics."

Well, according to the laws of physics, Tiger's got "The Technique." Translate that into a limber 20-year-old back. Coupled with good living and right thinking, Tiger's got the golf world and Madison Avenue by the tail.

If his lumbar vertebrae hold up, we'll all be retrofitting our courses with Tiger Tees.

It was amazing to see the impact that young Woods had on our tournament.

As soon as we had his signed commitment to play in our hands we doubled up on the hot dogs and Port-o-lets. I don't have final numbers and I couldn't print such state secrets anyhow, but suffice it to say, they were the largest

galleries and biggest sales we've had in a long time.

I've never seen security escorts walking a pro around 18 holes before. Of course, I've never seen a 20-year-old gazillionaire up close and personal before either.

Before Tiger mania sweeps the entire golf world, I did note with some interest that it was the veteran players Tom Watson and Fred Couples who walked off with \$360,000 in the recent Skins Game.

Tiger did manage to make my annual salary by earning one skin. I guess what they say really is true — "Drive for show. Putt for dough."

I wish young Mr. Woods well. He has brought a spark of interest and a new energy to golf with his game from another galaxy. He's going to break a lot of old records and write some new legends and folklore before he's done.

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Before I'm done, please note my new work phone number on the masthead page of the magazine. I am returning to Disney's Osprey Ridge Golf Course after the first of the year. We are reorganizing some of our roles at Disney under the leadership of Gary Myers, CGCS, our new manager of golf course maintenance. Gary comes to Disney from TPC Scottsdale in Arizona. In addition, Gary also had responsibilities for several TPC courses in the mid-Atlantic and southeast regions.

Happy New Year everyone, and remember: Keep the green side up!

Green Side Up



Joel D. Jackson, CGCS
Editor