Off The Fringe

Read This Book . . . to Combat Whining Hackers

**NEWTON ON THE TEE WILL GIVE YOU AMMUNITION TO USE AGAINST GOLFER WHO BLAME EVERYTHING BUT THEMSELVES FOR HIGH SCORES**

If you played a round with author John Zumerchik, you would learn plenty of things you never knew. But you also might want to wrap your nine-iron around his head when he yammered on about “coefficient restitution,” “kinetic chain events,” “gravitational acceleration” and “vibrational energy.”

Lucky for us (or maybe him), Zumerchik, the esteemed editor of the *Encyclopedia of Sports Science*, has given us all this science talk of golf in a surprisingly accessible book form — *Newton on the Tee: A Good Walk Through the Science of Golf* (Simon & Schuster, $23).

In a way, Zumerchik repeatedly points out the obvious — golf is really, really, really hard, and the slightest mistake in any one of myriad factors can lead to disaster. However, what Zumerchik does so nicely in this volume is explain not only the physics — and physiology — behind things such as backswings, follow-throughs, lofts, acceleration, friction and lift, but he also shows us how to use this knowledge to improve our game. He breaks all this down into interesting chapters that deal, by turns, with swing, muscle memory, equipment, conditioning, and statistics and probability.

He also rightly grumbles about subjective USGA rules and unrealistic claims by equipment manufacturers, and dispels a great many myths about physical conditioning's role in golf.

The information in *Newton on the Tee* will give superintendents some impressive ammunition to use against whining hackers blaming everything but themselves for carding 95s, as well as providing ample opportunities for mischiefous physics-based gamesmanship.

Next time you're on the tee-box of a par 3, try the following: "Hey Joe, your allowable angle of lateral error to get that 1.68 inch-diameter ball into that 4.25-inch diameter hole can be measured in the one one-thousandth degree range." Joe will ponder and surely shank, and you just make sure to quietly thank Mr. Zumerchik. — *Mark Luce*