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lower scores, shorter distances traveled on each hole and even fewer lost balls.

Let me share another perspective. A few months ago, I took a lesson from PGA Teaching Professional Marty Nowicki at Turning Stone Resort in upstate New York. He had his own ideas about getting golfers to play from the right tees, especially when they are starting out.

“Move up to the 100-yard mark and treat every hole like a par 5,” Marty suggested. “Scoring 5 for a new golfer with some good basic advice is a good score. If you can’t get down in 5, start from 50 yards or even 30 yards with the same objective. That is how people should learn this great game.

“If we applied this concept to other sports,” Marty went on, “you would never start a new skier on a double Black Diamond trail, for example. You

would start her learning how to put on the equipment, how to walk in those heavy boots, how to put on the skis. Once she accomplished that, you would teach her how to walk in skis, and so on.”

Which reminds me of the concept, taught by some golf pros and usually to kids, of beginning on the putting green with three-inch putts. Then moving further from the hole, then off the green, then back into the fairway, and so on.

I’ve seen studies that prove golfers who start this way – from the hole back – shoot lower scores faster than golfers who began on the driving range.

So we should all embrace whatever ideas get golfers playing better, faster, more intelligently and having more fun. Wherever you work, whatever you do, we should all have those goals in mind. **GCI**

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