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Golf Books

Golf Is An Easy Game. By Joe Novak. Published by Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J. Price \$4.95.

This is Novak's third book. Like all other good teachers, Joe is learning all the time from his pupils, other fine instructors and expert players. Joe, former PGA pres. and for many years a pro at Bel Air CC, Los Angeles, has long experimented with his pupils and by himself on every theory that has been propounded. He has been an uncanny picker of championship winners by appraising the few simple elements of their style.

Joe has the conviction that a forward press, a backswing that starts by cocking the wrists, a finger grip that promotes correct cocking of the wrists, and shifting the weight onto the right foot gets the backswing so well started that the rest is easy. Novak says the one-piece backswing is neither best nor easiest. He has made very good golfers of a lot of people who came to him clumsy and bewildered. Teaching pros are sure to see a great deal of value in Novak's new book.

Gary Player's Golf Secrets by Gary Player. Prentice-Hall. 192 pages. \$4.95. (Publication date: October 29.)

The young South African dwells on strategy as much as mechanics, saying that if he could caddy for the average golfer he'd save him strokes by handing him the right club for each situation. Gary adds that even the accomplished player should play the safest shot 99 per cent of the time because this is the way that double and triple bogies are avoided. "You only go for the miracle shot," he advises, "when you need it to win."

In his book, Player also tells how he added 30 yards to his drives by altering the length of his clubs. He has a section on chipping and pitching, tells how to read greens and includes some notes on playing in bad weather. The book is well illustrated, featuring photos as well as line drawings.

Mickey Wright's book, "Play Golf the Wright Way," which was published in August by Prentice-Hall is selling well. Mickey collaborated with Joan Flynn Dreyspool in penning the volume. It's aimed at the woman player but any male golfer would profit by reading it.