

# Scanning the Web

One of the questions publisher Pat Jones asked me before I took this job was whether I needed to have a great golf game. He said, "No, but you better be willing to learn." That got me to thinking: Where on the Web could I find tips to improve my game before I humiliate myself on the links as I play my way through my duties here? Here are a few Web sites I checked out that might help us all improve our games:

► <http://www.tagagolf.com> — TAGA stands for "The Amateur Golf Advisor," and for a serious duffer like me this site was golf tip Nirvana. Not only does the page begin with overall tips on bettering your golf game if you're a beginner, but it breaks the game down into grip, power, stance, balance and other topics for the more experienced player. You can also buy golf clubs, self-help books and other golf paraphernalia at this site. Bookmark it.



► <http://www.golf-edge.com/tips.html> — Designed by LPGA teaching pro Lisa Ann Horst, this site may not help more experienced golfers, but beginners will find it useful. Much of the site focuses on the mental side of the game, and the physical fitness and nutrition sections will help golfers at all levels stay in playing shape throughout the year.

► <http://espn.go.com/golfonline/index.html> — Given the high-powered name behind this site, I expected far more than I got. It's text intensive, and the pale, off-white background makes what's there hard to read. If you can find the tips, it might help your game, but it's a lot of work to get there.

Scanning the Web is compiled by Frank H. Andorka Jr., *Golfdom's* associate editor. When he's not out working on his golf swing, you can contact him at [fandorka@advanstar.com](mailto:fandorka@advanstar.com) with future column suggestions or sites you think he should visit.

## Greens Around the Gills

### RESEARCHERS DISCOVER CREEPING BENTGRASS DISEASE

University of Maryland researchers have discovered a new disease for superintendents to worry about on their creeping bentgrass putting greens.

The disease, at presstime unnamed, can easily be confused with copper spot and/or Microdochium patch. It more frequently attacks sun-exposed areas than shaded sites. Symptoms initially appear as small, red-dish-brown spots 1/2 inch to 2 inches in diameter. The centers of these spots are tan or gray and are often sunken, resembling ball marks.

While the disease was discovered in July

on a green at the Hartefeld National GC in southeastern Pennsylvania, it was also sighted in Virginia, Maryland, Ohio and Illinois, usually during the warm and dry conditions in August and September.

Researchers at the University of Georgia say they suspect the disease, which was also spotted there in July, is caused by fungus.

The disease, though spreading, has not affected all courses.

"We haven't experienced anything like that here," said Doug Davis, CGCS at the Broken Arrow GC in Lockport, Ill. "As a whole, our greens have been relatively healthy this year."

## Graffis Glorified

It's nice to know our bloodlines are impeccable, especially when the kudos come from a fellow industry magazine.

Herb Graffis, who started *Golfdom* magazine in 1927, was listed No. 3 on *Golf World's* Top 10 Golf Writers of the 20th Century in July. Graffis also started a second golf magazine called *Golfing*, as well as ghostwriting Tommy Armour's classic instruction book, "How to Play Your Best Golf All the Time." Most importantly, to those of us who write about the industry, he teamed with Grantland Rice to found the Golf Writers Association of America.

Graffis joined such esteemed authors as John Updike, P.G. Wodehouse and Bobby Jones on the Top 10 list. Only Wodehouse and Bobby Darwin ranked higher than Graffis.