

# If You Ain't Got Game, Then Read This Book

By Mark Luce

If you're tired of local sharks (like club pros) lining their pockets with your money every time you play a round of golf, don't get mad or make excuses — just get sneaky.

Those without the smarts or wit to participate in the mental side of the game will bark that gamesmanship, or in this case golfmanship, is ungracious, uncouth and uncool.

We hackers beg to differ. Golfmanship is an integral part of the game. Any yuckster with a club can swing it well with some practice, but it takes years of practice, discipline and a gentle honing to perfect the art of screwing with your opponent.

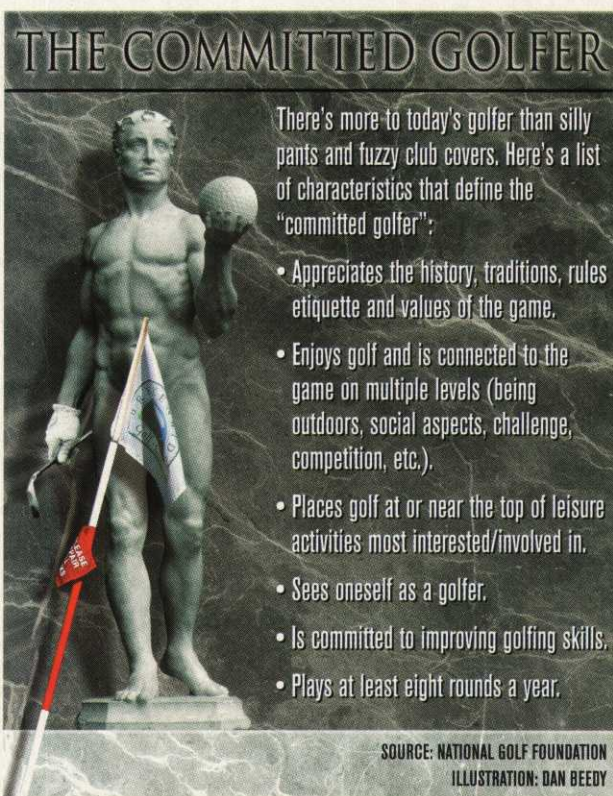
The original gamesman, droll Brit Stephen Potter, who unfortunately died 31 years ago, penned a nice series of books in the middle of the last century — *Gamesmanship*, *One-Upmanship* and *Golfmanship* — all aimed at winning without cheating with various “ploys,” “hampers” and “gambits.”

His indomitable, crafty spirit lives on in Jon Winokur's delightful new book, *How to Win at Golf Without Actually Playing Well*. From old standbys — like covering the club-head when pulling it from your bag, dressing shabbily (black socks ARE OK) against a Jesper Parnevik-type fashion maven, and telling your magnet-wearing opponent about the report linking copper bracelets and impotence — Winokur reaches deep and far to come up with his nuggets of wisdom.

No chapter is finer than “Conversation: The Fifteenth Club.” The key is to “keep your opponent mired in irrelevancies,” Winokur writes. What can you do? Sarcasm, false humbleness, loaded questions and non-sequiturs all come into play. Better yet, Winokur says, you could affect a foreign accent; refer to your clubs by their traditional Scottish

names (Winokur includes a glossary so you can remember them); tip your hat to an imaginary gallery after a fine shot; blatantly self-promote on less-than-spectacular shots (I'm

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## Quotable

**“I'm kind of embarrassed finishing 15 shots behind the guy.”**

— Ernie Els, who tied for a distant second place in the U.S. Open, behind that guy.

**“There was no such thing as a signature hole or signature course until dad ran an ad in (the old) *Golfdom*. He thought his signature**

**was neat-looking. That's where the term ‘signature’ course came about.”**

— Rees Jones, son of the late Robert Trent Jones, explaining how the term “signature course” came about. (Source: *Links*)

**“If you're trying to map something with a GPS and the United States is trying to blow someone up, you might have to wait a day.”**

— Terence McNabb, national sales manager of Tumwater, Wash.-based ReMetrix, drawing laughs from superintendents during a golf course mapping seminar.



## Off The Fringe

### They Clean Up Real Nice

You have to hand it to Hubbard, Ore.-based Turf-Seed — the company put its best face forward at its annual field day in June despite being the victim of an eco-terrorist attack 10 days before that caused between \$300,000 and \$500,000 in damage.



The “GE” stands for “genetically engineered” — and vandalism.

As journalists and distributors from around the country descended on the company’s Pure Seed Testing research farm — where the Anarchist Golfing Association struck — to sneak a peek at new grass varieties and party the night away at Turf-Seed’s barbecue, there was little evidence that there had ever been an attack.

“We didn’t want them to have the satisfaction of ruining our chance to show off the work we’re doing,” says Crystal Rose-Fricker, president of the company. “We cleaned up as fast as we could and got down to the business of rebuilding.”

The grass fields looked lush, and although there were a few spots that had obviously once been inhabited by the plants destroyed in the attack, the presentation went off without a hitch. Well, other than the giant “GE” (standing for “genetically engineered”) that the AGA spray painted across the company’s sign that marks the entrance to the company’s fields. The AGA targeted Turf-Seed because it claims the company is growing genetically engineered grass in its fields — a claim Turf-Seed vehemently denies.

## Scanning the Web

Frank Andorka reviews **language translation sites**

People called me insane when I took French instead of Spanish in high school. Was I? Mais oui! But it turns out I didn’t need to learn Spanish because there are Web sites that will now translate anything I need. If you have workers who speak different languages, here are some sites that might help you communicate better with them (all sites start with <http://> unless otherwise noted):

(\*\*\*\* – Bookmark it and return frequently; \* – Look at only if absolutely necessary)

\*\*\*\***translator.go.com** – The site gives you the opportunity to translate English into Spanish, French, German, Italian or Portuguese and vice versa. Its almost instantaneous conversion makes it an easy-to-use site, and it doesn’t stumble over phrases such as “sprinkler heads” and “3/16 of an inch.” It offers visitors the opportunity to buy a complete software package for their computers (geared to PCs) and offers the option of translating entire Web sites by typing in the URL. You can add the link to your Web site as well.



\*\*\*\***babelfish.altavista.digital.com/translate.dyn** – This translator speedily takes your English phrases and translates them into Spanish, French, German, Italian or Portuguese. It has an easy user interface and leaves your English words up on the screen so you can remember what you wrote. It warns that the translations are approximations and should not be taken as literal trans-

lations — a point proven when you take the translated text and put it back into English. Still, it’s far better to have an approximate translation than none at all.

**INCOMPLETE** **www.freetranslation.com** – Since I’d heard good things about this site from superintendents, I was psyched to try it. Unfortunately, the program didn’t adapt itself to my computer system (a MacIntosh G3 with Internet Explorer 5.0). I’d hate to pan a site just because my computer wouldn’t let me access it, so I suggest you try the site yourself and see how it works for you. Just be prepared that you might be frustrated by the results.

*Scanning the Web is compiled by Frank H. Andorka Jr., *Golfdom’s* associate editor, whose multilingual skills also include Pig Latin. You can reach him at [andorka@advanstar.com](mailto:andorka@advanstar.com) with future column suggestions.*

### Read This Book

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the man!); ask your opponent if he has heard the rumors about poor quality control at the factory that manufactures the brand he’s playing; and, one of my favorites, tell your opponent, “Well, sir, all you have to do is clear the pond (bunker, waste area, quarry, bar-

ranca) and you’ve got it made.”

A fiendish pleasure to read, “*How to Win at Golf Without Actually Playing Well*” won’t help improve your hitch-laden swing, but when properly executed it will drive your better-skilled opponent absolutely bonkers — thus ensuring your victory.

Let the games begin.