

Golf News And Notes

Equipment Tips That Can Improve Your Game

(NAPSA)—In order to enjoy a better round of golf, make sure your equipment is on par before you tee off. Here are a few suggestions from world-renowned golf instructor, David Leadbetter, on where to start:

1. Hit the new hybrid clubs.

Compared to a normal 3- or 4-iron, the forgiveness of a hybrid club is heaven. Though the designs and lofts vary from make to make, the generally small, compact head, wide sole and low center of gravity of a hybrid make it easy to get the ball airborne. Because of their unique design, your margins with shots hit fat or thin are greatly improved when using hybrids, which are also becoming increasingly popular among today's tour players.



David Leadbetter

2. Blade vs. cavity back club.

Don't play with equipment beyond your range. If you carry a single-digit handicap, make consistently solid contact with your irons and have no trouble getting the ball in the air, you would probably benefit from a forged blade. But for the overwhelming majority of players, a cavity back club will provide more forgiveness and has a bigger sweet spot. It will be easier to get the ball airborne, your shots will be straighter and your misses will be minimized.

3. Choose the right grip for your game.

Using the right grips and changing them annually will improve a golfer's game. Grip firmness, surface texture, moisture management and size drastically

affect a golfer's shot-making ability. Select the right grip by using the grip selector tool at www.golfpride.com. "Good golf begins with a good grip," as Ben Hogan once said, and my specifically designed David Leadbetter Training Grip manufactured by Golf Pride will help golfers of all levels achieve proper hand placement.

4. Get a custom fit.

Custom club fitting can greatly improve performance. Clubs that are fitted to one's body type and ability help promote great posture, straighter and longer drives, and more accuracy with your irons. Visit www.PlayGolfAmerica.com and insert your zip code to find a PGA Professional nearest you, to help ensure that the equipment you currently own, or the new equipment you plan to purchase, is the right fit for your game.

5. Experiment with shaft flex.

Flex is the amount a club will "pendulum" back and forth in a plane. If the shaft is too flexible, you'll have less control and will tend to hook. If it's too stiff, your shot will lose distance and tend to slice. Experiment and find what's right for you.

6. Check the sole.

When choosing golf shoes, pay attention to sole traction, flexibility, weight management and moisture resistance as you make your selection.

David Leadbetter is considered the world's No. 1 golf instructor. Coach to countless Tour players, he is known throughout the world for his innovative and creative teaching techniques. Leadbetter is the author of seven books, has written and produced more than a dozen DVDs and is the designer of several golf training aids.