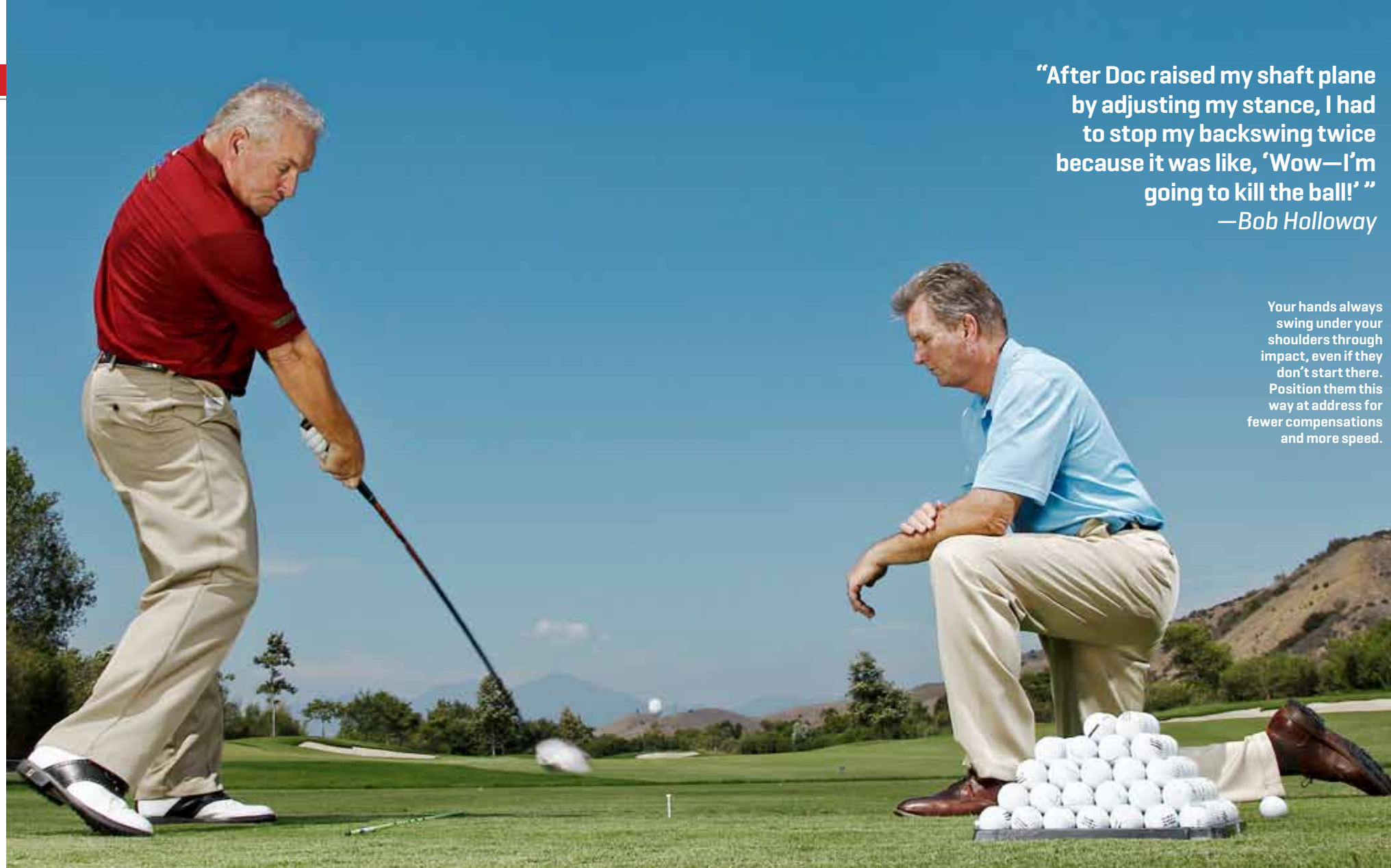




Strokes of Genius

A date with four top teachers helped four struggling players crush their demons and finally reach their scoring potential. Their stories—and the lessons that fixed their faults—are an inspiration for any player with lingering swing issues. Success can happen, whether your goal is to hit tee shots harder, fly the ball straighter, putt like crazy or cut your handicap in half. The secret? Accepting the fact that you need help and then go getting it.

By David DeNunzio
Photography by Angus Murray



“After Doc raised my shaft plane by adjusting my stance, I had to stop my backswing twice because it was like, ‘Wow—I’m going to kill the ball!’ ”
—Bob Holloway

Your hands always swing under your shoulders through impact, even if they don’t start there. Position them this way at address for fewer compensations and more speed.

Drill Add Power with Your Address Position



Step 1 Stand erect with your driver resting against your side.



FINAL ILLOS TK

Step 2 Flex your knees and bend forward from your hips. Allow your arms to dangle freely, and stop bending forward until your hands hang directly underneath your shoulders.



Step 3 Without moving out of this posture, grab your driver and sole it on the ground. Voila! Perfect shaft plane and stance.

SUCCESS STORY 1

The Senior Player who Added 30 Yards

Create the ideal impact position at address for a more efficient—and faster—swing

CARRY DISTANCE | 2012: 220 yards | 2013: 255 yards | **16% longer drives!**

The Fixed

Bob Holloway, 55
Occupation: Businessman
Residence: San Diego, Calif.
Playing since: 1963

“I could only fly my drives about 220 yards, and that was hurting my ability to hit greens—there’s only so much you can ask from your 5-iron. I have a great short game, so I’ve always been able to break 80, but I knew I could go lower with just

a few extra yards off the tee.”

The Fixer

Dr. David Wright
Facility: Wright Balance Golf Academy, Arroyo Trabuco G.C., Mission Viejo, Calif.
Top 100 Teacher since: 2005

“Here’s a little-known fact: Your hands and arms will always swing in line with your shoulders through impact, a phenomenon caused by the

rotational momentum of the club as it reaches the bottom of its arc. The fastest, most efficient golfers, then, are those who start with their hands and arms in line with their shoulders. Because of some grip and stance issues, Bob addressed the ball with his hands [or too close to his body], setting up an inefficient plane switch

that was robbing him of the speed he craved.”

The Fix

Dr. Wright switched Bob from a low shaft plane at address [hands inside shoulders] to a neutral shaft plane with his hands *under* his shoulders. “The trick,” instructs Dr. Wright, “is to set your posture and stance correctly and then sole your club

on the ground, not the other way around [see drill, right]. When you sole the club first, you allow its length and lie angle to dictate your stance and posture. With a club as long and flat as the driver, you’ll almost always miss the mark. An easy check is to get into your setup and then take your right hand off the club. If it dangles in the same place, you’re solid.”



A neutral shaft plane at address with the arms under the shoulders [white line] fuels a faster, more efficient swing.