

FROM THE LESSON TEE



DAVID C. SMITH, JR.
GOLF ACADEMY



IT'S SPRING AND TIME TO CHECK YOUR SWING!

Daylight savings time is here and with it, golf season approaches! Before the season starts, smart golfers do a quick check—not just of their equipment, but of their swing fundamentals. Just like a physical with your doctor, a few simple assessments can reveal whether your swing is working with you or against you.

If you pass all five tests below, your foundation is solid. If not, these assessments quickly expose what's costing you distance, consistency, and lower scores.

1

CAN YOU DRAW THE BALL?

The ability to hit a draw shows a functional swing path, proper release, and efficient power. If you can't shape one on command, your mechanics may be limiting your potential.

2

IS YOUR DIVOT IN FRONT OF THE BALL?

Great ball strikers hit the ball first, then the turf. A divot behind the ball points to poor impact control and lost posture.

3

CAN YOU LAUNCH THE BALL HIGH?

Low, weak ball flight often comes from poor setup or lost angles—leading to short carries and inconsistent distances.

4

DO YOU HIT FAT SHOTS?

Consistently hitting behind the ball is usually a balance or weight-transfer issue. Solid contact requires stability throughout the swing.

5

ARE YOU GETTING THE DISTANCE YOU SHOULD?

If you're swinging hard but not hitting it far—or finishing rounds tired and off balance—your swing is inefficient. Real distance comes from sequencing and rhythm, not effort.

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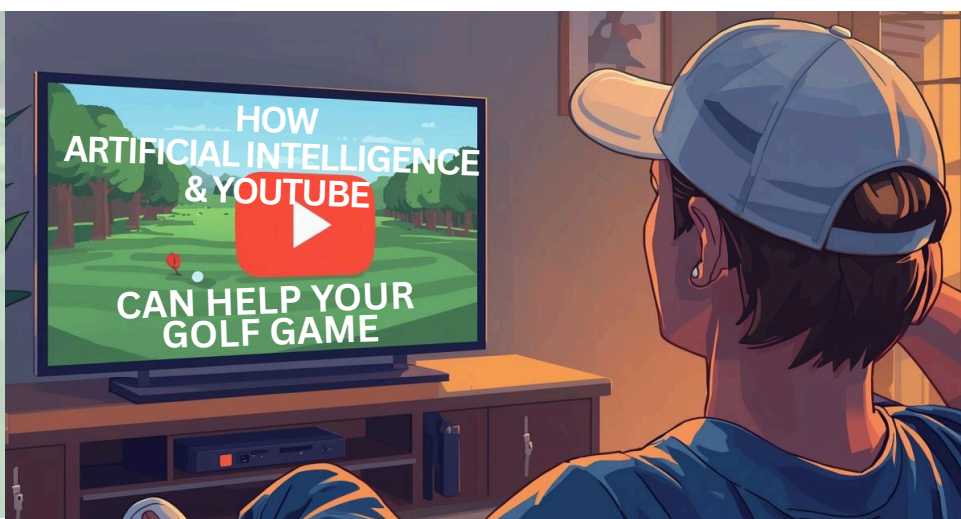
If you struggle with more than one of these tests, your swing is costing you strokes. The good news? Small, targeted changes can produce fast, noticeable improvements. That's where professional coaching makes the difference.

📍 Book a swing evaluation with me at DCSJR Golf Academy and get:

- A clear diagnosis of your swing flaws
- A personalized improvement plan
- Simple drills that translate directly to the course

Don't head into the season guessing. Let's fix the root issues now and start playing better golf when it matters most!

David



Artificial intelligence and YouTube are everywhere in golf instruction today. They promise faster learning, better technique, and lower scores—often packaged as quick, inexpensive solutions. Watch a video, ask AI a question, head to the range, and suddenly your swing is “fixed.”

But that’s not how golf works.

If you’re using technology to oversimplify the golf swing or treat improvement like a prepackaged solution, you’re not using AI—or YouTube—effectively. However, when used correctly, both can be powerful tools that complement high-quality coaching and accelerate learning.

Let’s explore how to do that the right way.

Why I’m Not Afraid of AI or YouTube

As a full-time PGA golf instructor and owner of a golf academy, you might assume I view AI and YouTube as threats to professional coaching. The opposite is true.

I encourage my students to explore new ways to learn. Great understanding comes from multiple avenues, and a coach who discourages curiosity isn’t serving their students well. AI and online instruction can expose golfers to new perspectives, help them understand their swing deficiencies, and deepen their overall knowledge of the game.

The issue isn’t access to information, it’s how that information is consumed and applied.

The Problem with “Surfing” for Swing Fixes

Many golfers approach AI and YouTube the same way they approach appetizers at a restaurant: sampling a little of everything without committing to a full meal. The result is variety without substance.

Consider this common scenario:

You’ve just played a frustrating round and sliced the ball all day. You go home, search “reasons for slicing the golf ball,” and instantly find dozens of videos. You watch one, then skip to another because the first doesn’t immediately resonate. Now you have conflicting advice from multiple instructors.

At the range, you try one fix. When it doesn’t work right away, you abandon it for another. Your frustration builds, your tempo speeds up, tension increases, and before you know it, you’ve burned through a bucket of balls without understanding why the ball is slicing in the first place.

This cycle creates confusion—not improvement.





Understanding Before Fixing

The core issue isn't the slice itself. It's the lack of understanding behind it.

Whether the problem is slicing, hooking, hitting fat shots, or shanking, true improvement requires understanding the physics and geometry of ball flight, not just copying a quick fix. Without that foundation, practice becomes random and inefficient.

That's where coaching matters.

Why Coaching Relationships Still Matter

A strong coach–student relationship provides context, clarity, and accountability. A qualified coach helps you:

- Filter information so it applies to your swing
- Explain cause-and-effect, not just symptoms
- Answer questions directly and adjust instruction as you progress

Technology delivers information quickly. Coaching ensures that information is applied correctly.

Years ago, finding golf instruction meant hours in a library or flipping through magazines. Today, information is instant—and that's a gift. But learning still requires seeing, feeling, understanding and DOING THE ACTIVITY. That learning quadrilateral is best supported by a trusted coach.

How to Use AI and YouTube Effectively for Golf Improvement

When used with intention, technology can significantly enhance your learning. Here's how to do it right:

- Ask AI specific, targeted questions
- Watch three to four YouTube videos on the same topic
- Identify the common theme across those videos
- Focus your practice on that single theme
- Prioritize instructors who provide clear drills, not just concepts
- Practice the drills consistently, not briefly
- If you take lessons, ensure online drills align with your current fundamentals
- Use AI for quantitative learning—ball flight laws, physics, and swing data
- Compare your swing metrics to elite players to identify realistic improvement areas
- Review online information with your coach and discuss how it applies to you

A good coach will welcome this process. If a coach discourages learning or tells you to avoid outside information entirely, that's a red flag.

Final Thoughts

Information empowers us. It sharpens our thinking, motivates improvement, and keeps us evolving. Avoiding learning—or searching only for shortcuts—is not progress; it's complacency.

The best coaching embraces technology while emphasizing trust, verification, and relationship-building. AI and YouTube are valuable tools, but they work best when paired with sound instruction and thoughtful practice. Stay curious. Ask better questions. Trust your sources—and verify them.

When you're ready, I'm here to help guide your learning and mentor your golf game.

Play your best!

David



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INTRODUCE YOUR CHILD TO GOLF

Turn your lesson into quality time

This March and April, I'm inviting parents to bring one child to a golf lesson at no additional charge. It's a fun, low-pressure way to share the sport together—your child gets a great first experience, and you still get a full, focused lesson.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Offer runs March–April
- Parent books a 1-hour lesson
- Lesson fee: \$155
- Bring one child (ages 9–16) at no additional charge
- Clubs are not required—your child can start without having their own
- This offer is separate from series packages



TEE IT UP TOGETHER

This program is designed for busy families who want to learn together without paying for separate services you may not use.

You'll improve your swing and understanding of the game, and your child will leave with the basics—and the confidence—to keep playing.

Ready to tee it up together? Book your 1-hour lesson for March or April and let me know you'll be bringing your child.

See you at the lesson tee!



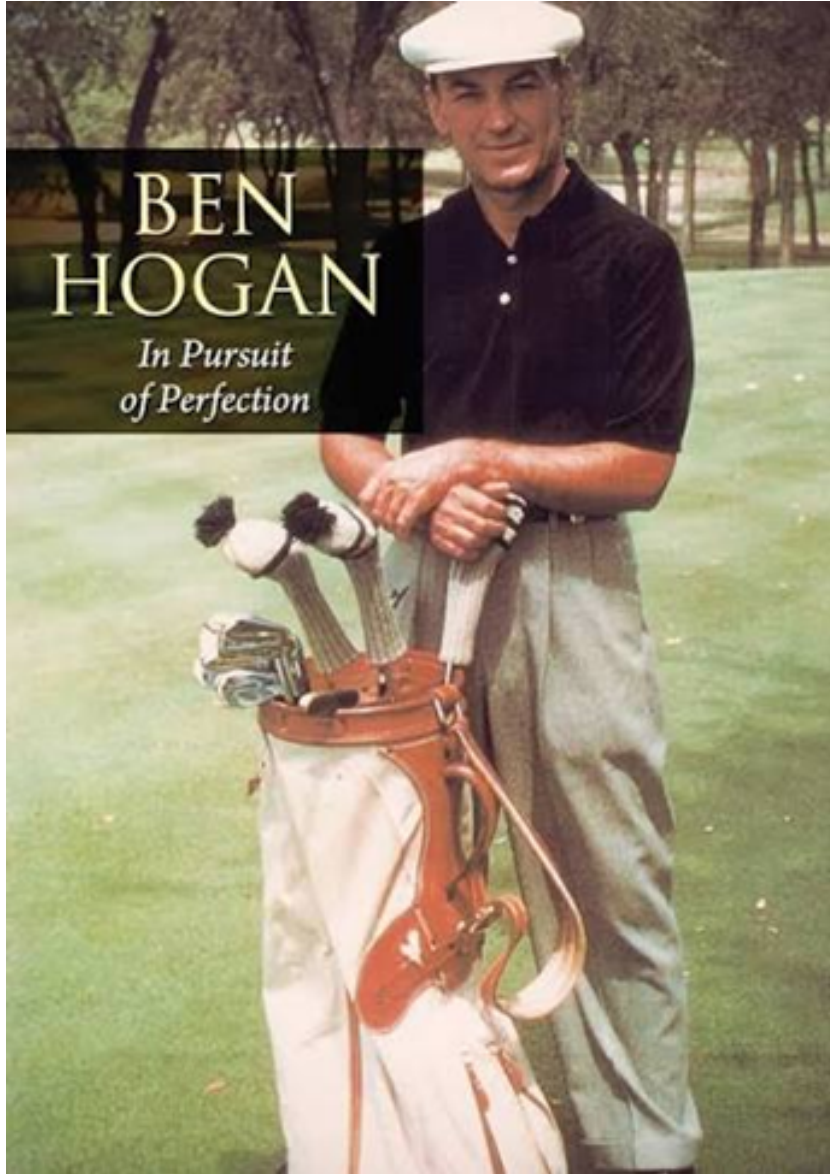
Click on the logo to book or call me directly!

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Arguably the greatest ball striker and competitor ever, Ben Hogan's achievements rank him only below Nicklaus, Woods and Snead for wins. He is fourth on the all-time major list with 9, behind Nicklaus (18), Woods (15) and Hagen (11). He is my favorite golfer and a genius at his craft.

This spring, I encourage you to get his insight by watching this 1989 video interview with him. Highlighted on this page are the 4 key takeaways I found interesting. You don't need to have the same intensity level as Mr. Hogan did when applying these principles, but you should try to apply these concepts if you are looking to better understand intentional improvement and self-actualization fulfillment.

4 motivating factors to Ben's Success



Necessity



Necessity to earn a living. He could not be mediocre and make a living playing the tour at the early stages of golf. He had to win to survive.

Camaraderie

He saw himself as a part of a bigger whole, it was a brotherhood striving to perfect their golf together (not alone)



Competition



He embraced competition because it refined his skills mentally, physically and emotionally to be the best

Pride

He was proud of himself and his work, which was the energy needed to fuel his desire to improve



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO](#)