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Dave Stockton was in the book on putting I did for the PGA Tour, so I can tell you Phil Mickelson made a great choice in asking for his help. Dave is a proponent of hands forward through the ball and that's how Phil also putted earlier in his life. Dave delofts the putter so much that his built-in putter loft has to be more than most players because he closes the face down. Dave showed me a drill his father taught him which I'm sure he gave to Phil. He has someone point a shaft at the back of his left hand (in this case it would be Phil's right hand). The shaft is low and about a foot away. He wants you to have the back of your hand impact the shaft insuring the hands stayed low and forward through the ball. Dave Stockton has been giving lessons to lots of great players on all the tours for years.

You may have heard that Tiger Woods gave Sean O'Hair a putting lesson during their practice round on Wednesday. Here's the tip. O'Hair injured his wrist earlier in the year and Tiger noticed he didn't have enough loft of the putter head on the backswing. Consequently O'Hair was not getting the blade firmly through the ball leaving him short. Those who only see the competitive Tiger Woods, the "keep to myself" dour individual, don't realize he enjoys the company of his fellow pros and has close friends on Tour. It's usually players he's battled with and O'Hair and Tiger have been in several Sunday pairings.

Rory Sabbatini wasn't picked for Greg Norman's Presidents Cup team even though he won the prestigious Byron Nelson Classic back in May. Rory was 10th until Y.E. Yang's PGA Championship win and wasn't a captain's selection. Instead Norman chose fellow Australian Adam Scott, and many of the world press and even other players are questioning that move. Sabbatini is not among them. "If I'd been playing well over the past couple weeks and didn't get picked, I might have something to complain about," he said. Leading up to the Captain's picks Sabbatini had missed four cuts in eight starts and had not finished in the top 30 since winning in Dallas.

Did you know that Schwab Cup points leader Fred Funk was given a two-stroke penalty last week because his caddy handed him a club from Mike Goodes' bag? Was he upset? Funk called it an understandable mistake because the two bags look alike, and the players use the same brand of clubs.

Here's a trivia question to ask your buddies while waiting for some slower players ahead to clear. Who besides Tiger has ever won seven times during a season, something he could have repeated with a victory this week? The answer: Vijay Singh won nine events in 2004 and is the only golfer other than Tiger to win more than seven in the past 35 years.



SST PURE Dominates FedEx Cup

Tiger Woods won his second FedEx Cup in three seasons this week, and with it a check for \$10 million. What's even more impressive is that seven of the top 10 players in the final FedEx Cup standings have asked SST to PURE their clubs. That's domination!

Does Tiger really PURE his clubs? I'm quoting from the Feb. 7 edition of Golfweek: "Golfweek has learned through sources at Nike that Tiger had his clubs checked and adjusted by SST. As revealed by Nike insiders, the company assembled a dozen sets of irons for Woods, with only two sets being PUREd. In blind testing, Woods selected one set of PUREd clubs as his gamers and the other set as his backups."

The total money won this year by players with PUREd clubs now climbs to an astronomical \$148 million to go along with 35 Tour victories. I added in Tiger's \$10 million and the money won by others based on their final FedEx Cup payouts. Eight players who have played with PUREd clubs were in the top 10: 1-Woods, 3-Steve Stricker, 4-Jim Furyk, 5-Sean O'Hair, 6-Zach Johnson, 7-Padriag Harrington, 9-Kenny Perry, 10-Scott Verplank.

The top 10 at The Tour Championship included 10 players with PUREd clubs due to ties. Tiger's second place gave him more than enough points for the overall championship. Others in the top 10 included Sean O'Hair, Padraig Harrington, Kenny Perry, Steve Stricker, Jim Furyk, Ernie Els, U.S. Open Champion Lucas Glover, Jerry Kelly and John Senden.

You may not realize that starting in 2010 the rules specify a change in the shape of the grooves on club faces. SST PURE chairman Dick Weiss was in Atlanta this week and sent me this message: "We also started PUREing dozens of iron sets for the new clubfaces that will go into play next season ... We will speak more about that in the future after the new sets are in play. It is my sincere wish that SST will PURE a minimum of 100 Tour players before the 2010 season starts and hopefully more."

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