



BILLY BURKE IN A FAULTY SWING

Rotofotos

Billy Burke shows here the fault common to a great many high-handicap golfers of starting to turn the shoulder around toward the left as the downswing is begun, instead of swinging down to the ball with the arms while the shoulders make only a very slight turn. This faulty action results in the clubhead coming to the ball on the arc indicated on the picture. Note at the same time bad balance indicated by the fact the left heel is still off the ground

## UNDER— NOT AROUND

Suggesting a Cure for One of Golf's Most Damaging Mistakes

By GRANTLAND RICE

**N**AMING the commonest fault in golf is not an easy matter. There are too many faults—and most of them are extremely common. Yet there is no question but that many of these faults could be cured with the right mental picture of what is taking place; with the correct mental picture of what is being done, and what should be done instead.

I believe one of the greatest of all faults is the incorrect arc of the swing—an arc that travels around—and not under. I put this matter up to several leading professionals, including MacDonald Smith, and all agreed with the general proposition. The great tendency in golf is to swing around, to swing or hit with the strong right side. This gets the right side around too quickly. It gets the right shoulder far out of position. At the moment of impact both right and left shoulders are out of position, where as Mac Smith says—"you can hit a ball in almost any direction except along the right line."

We are coming to the main point by gradual stages. In the correct swing the shoulders are just about parallel to the line of flight, with the right shoulder slightly under. You can watch the swing of any first class golfer to prove this point. In the cases of Bobby Jones and Joyce Wethered it is pronounced.

To carry out the point, I asked several golfers of various types, some who play badly most of the time, others who play well now and then, only to run into many bad rounds. They all admitted that possibly their most serious fault was getting the right side around too quickly—swinging around and not swing under.

"I know just what my main fault is," several said, "but I can't seem to stop it."

It can be stopped in only one way—and that is to think—to get a mental picture—of swinging UNDER in place of swinging AROUND. If you have this correct mental picture, the left hand and left arm will lead the down swing, and it will help more than a trifle to leave control of the swing in the left hand and left arm from the start.

Tommy Armour, Bobby Jones and Mac

Smith all start their back swings with the left in control. Gene Sarazen starts his back swing with the right in control. But all four will tell you they start the down swing with the left in control.

If you watch the swing of almost any average golfer, who hasn't improved in years, you will see the right shoulder coming AROUND on the down swing. If you watch the swing of any first class professional, or any star amateur, you will see the right shoulder coming under, with the right and left shoulder on a line parallel to the line of flight at the moment of impact.

How can the average golfer, the erratic and inconsistent golfer, cure this common fault? The best plan, beyond any doubt, is to think of swinging UNDER and not AROUND. Try to get a mental picture of this method; let it sink in, and have the feeling that you are swinging the club head-way on this UNDER arc.

Ernest Jones, one of the greatest of all teachers, has told you in this magazine that you must have a sense of feeling of what is happening to the club head. After all, it is the face of the club that hits the ball. If it is coming to the ball from the wrong direction, it will be only an accident if the ball flies truly on the right line. The thought of swinging under will help to kill the fault of the right side turning too quickly in a harmful circle.

You will find, in swinging under in place of around, that there will be a tendency to let the weight flow to the left leg on the down swing in place of keeping too much of it on the right foot. You will also find that it will loosen up the right side and give the hands and arms a better chance to handle the swinging of the club head.

Within the last ten days I have looked over at least a hundred action pictures of leading stars just before, or just at, the moment of impact, and in each case the right shoulder had swung slightly under instead of around with the right side leading. When the left hand, arm, and the left side lead the down swing, it is much easier to have the feeling of swinging under. In fact it is almost impossible to have this feeling unless the left hand and left arm lead the down swing.

It won't help, of course, to dip the right shoulder, to let the right arm and right shoulder lead the down swing. There must always be the feeling that the hands and wrists are swinging the club head, especially the left hand and wrist. The body functions in the swing, but only as a flexible accompaniment to the action of hands and wrists.

It will also help to have the feeling that you are hitting the ball away from you. This can be part *(Continued on page 41)*



BILLY BURKE IN A CORRECT SWING

Here is the correct way to swing the club down. The weight was transferred to the left foot as the downswing started. The shoulders turn gradually, as the arms swing down, with the right shoulder coming through on a level below that of the left. This results in the club-head coming to the ball on the arc indicated in the picture. Observe here that the left heel is well back on the ground; also that the head has not yet begun to turn toward the left



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### **UNDER — NOT AROUND**

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of the general mental pattern needed. Most slicers, for example, are afraid to swing out and away—towards the right. Yet that is the best way to cure a slice. This is a suggestion that is well worth trying. It is an easy mental pattern to fix in one's mind, and it is the mind that guides or directs the muscular action, after all.

This pattern must always be used with the thought of body ease and

clubhead control by the hands and wrists. With this thought in mind it is then a simple matter to think of swinging under, and not around. Anything that will help to break up that wrecking right side or right shoulder turn before impact is at least worth trying. If there is any doubt or vagueness in any reader's mind concerning the suggested plan, any queries on the subject will be answered in full.