



Big Play

WITH MARK WOOD

Mark Wood teaches at Hamilton Farm Golf Club in Gladstone, N.J., and is a Golf Magazine Top 100 Teacher.

To win the Ryder Cup, the U.S. must improve its driving accuracy by using more fairway metals and irons off the tee, as Tiger Woods did last week



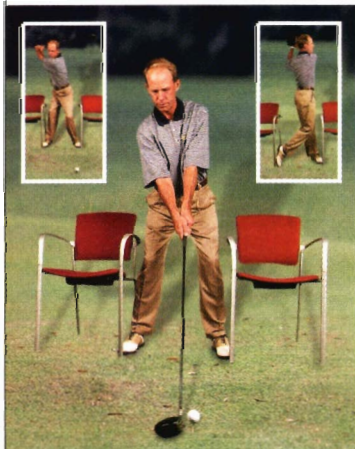
ANALYSIS

HITTING FAIRWAYS is essential to winning the Ryder Cup, especially on a tight course like Oakland Hills. That's bad news for the U.S. because the average driving accuracy rank of the American team's members this year is 108th, while the Europeans' rank is 59th. To overcome their driving deficiency, the Americans must adopt the game plan that Tiger Woods used while playing his best golf of the year at the Deutsche Bank last week: Unless absolutely necessary to hit driver, eschew it in favor of a fairway metal or long iron. On Sunday, Woods split the fairway at the 14th, a 495-yard par-4, with a three-wood (*above*), hit a mid-iron to the green and two-putted for an easy par. Golf like that will win the Cup.

THE TIP

Twist, Don't Sway, To Stay in Balance

BALANCE IS the key to good driving. Your torso should pivot around your spine, not sway back and forth. For better balance, try hitting drives while standing between two chairs. From address to the top of the backswing (*inset, left*), the gap between your right side and the chair shouldn't change. The gap between your left side and the other chair should be the same at the finish (*inset, right*) as it was at address.



AND ANOTHER THING ...

“IF IT'S TRUE that Tiger Woods has split up with Elin Nordegren, that's the worst news of the year for the other players on the PGA Tour.”

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“MOE NORMAN was golf's Rain Man. Told that a hole was driver-wedge, Moe drove with a wedge, hit a driver to the green and drained a 10-footer for birdie.”

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“MAKING A CUT isn't a comeback, but David Duval's showing in Boston is a glimmer of hope.”