



# LESSON TEE



by Rich Marik

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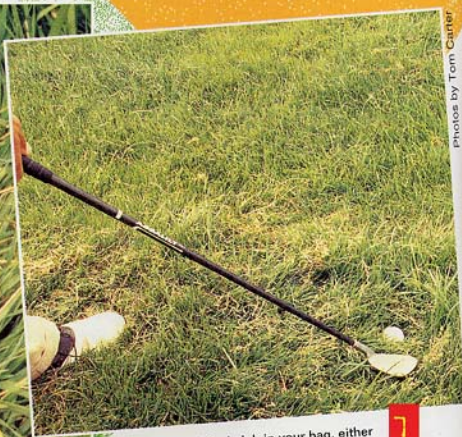
# GETTING OUT OF U.S. JUNIOR ROUGH

In 1982 I won the United States Junior Championship at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Indiana. I was fortunate to get some good advice about how to prepare to play a U.S.G.A. Championship golf course long before the tournament began.

Tom Sargent, my teacher, and now head professional at Mesa Verde Country Club in Costa Mesa, California, told me that the U.S.G.A. sets up its golf courses with fast greens, narrow fairways, and tall rough in an effort to reward good shots. Tom suggested before I went to Crooked Stick that I work on my short game for hours and hours everyday so that when I played in the U.S. Junior my short game would be ready. There is no substitute for having a good short game and good putting. I know now that without a good short game and putting during the week of the championship winning would have been impossible.

Tom Sargent helped me with short shots out of the rough around the greens in preparation for the national championship. The U.S.G.A. grows the rough very high for all of its championships. Your ball could be a couple of feet from the putting surface in the U.S. Junior and buried six inches deep in the rough. I found it very important to know how to play short shots out of the rough.

When your ball is buried deep in the rough a few feet off the green and not too far from the hole, a different shot is needed than if your ball were sitting on top of the grass with a good lie. When your ball is buried deep in the rough you need to get the ball up as quickly as possible. You need to hit a shot similar to a bunker shot. Open the face of your club to increase the loft. Take a long backswing and follow-through. Allow the speed of your swing, not the length of your swing, to determine the distance the ball will travel.



photos by Tom Carter

A typical lie your ball may be in when you miss the green by only a couple of feet in a U.S.G.A. Championship.

Use the most lofted club in your bag, either a sand wedge or a lob wedge. Open the clubface, which will aim the face of the club toward the sky.

