

The Theory of Relativity (for golf)

I marvel at people that can go low on the golf course.

I can't.

Or really, rarely have? I mean, its not that I can't, I just don't.

Does that mean the game can't be enjoyable if you aren't going low?

Of course not!

Many, many high handicappers love the game of golf infinitely more than the sub-five handicap who frets over missing five-foot birdie putts on the par fives.

What I discovered (by accident) was my own theory of relativity which says, "If a man (or woman) focuses on hitting the middle of the green on all shots, he will shoot his lowest potential score for that given day".

Simple. Right?

Think about it. Can you pretty much two putt every green? Most of us would say yes.

Can you go after a back pin, overshoot the green by five yards, chip from above the hole to three feet and make the putt - not likely.

Can you go after a front pin with a false front, miss by a yard and roll into a bunker, splash it to a foot or two (like every PGA tour pro) and earn yourself a "sandy"? Me neither.

What I can do though (and I bet you can do too), is hit the middle of most greens from 150 yards out. And if I don't, the worst place I'll be is probably still somewhere on the green where I can (more likely) two putt. Get it?

The reality of a typical course set up is: six pins will be on the front, six will be set in the middle, and six will be set towards the back of the green. Theoretically, you should have at least six (legitimate) birdie putts per round (or easy pars), and the other twelve holes should give you medium length two putt pars.

I know, I know, not everyone can hit *every* green in regulation...but aiming at the middle, instead of going for the flag all of the time should, for most, help you hit more greens which should lower your scores.

In theory, if you are a flag hunter (as a twelve handicap) from one hundred and twenty yards out, you probably have a wedge in your hand. Ask yourself how many times you

knock it to within ten feet vs. the times you barely miss the green? I'll bet you miss more greens than you think even with a short iron in hand.

Going for front and back pins...and not being able to consistently pull off the shot will leave you testy chips all day long and will essentially cut the green size in half.

Playing for the middle will (suddenly) make a thirty-five yard deep green...a full thirty-five yards instead of the fifteen yards you are currently shrinking it to by going for pins.

The plan isn't full proof, you still have to hit the shots, but I would rather have pressure on my seven iron through lob wedge from a distance I am comfortable with, than a chip sitting down in the rough from ten yards out, or a delicate bump and run from a sidehill lie...and I bet you would too.