



If You Are Not Failing, You Are Not Trying

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If you are a golfer at any level of play, you know that it is a game that tempts us toward an attitude of perfection. Even though we know perfection is not possible, we still strive for hitting every shot with purity and shape as well as every putt with soft hands and steadiness. We become upset after missing a simple putt or making a costly error anywhere on the course. We even think this way when we have not practiced enough to justify even an average round.

One thing you must realize well beyond the impossibility of perfection is that failing is a part of becoming a great golfer. Simply put, if you are not failing, you are not trying. Many golfers slow their progress down and success in tournaments simply because of being afraid to look the fool in front of their swing coach or others. This is not to say that failing feels good, but it does mean that you have the opportunity to improve.

If you want to realize your potential in golf in a more efficient way, you have to be willing to fail and fail miserably in front of others. Once this failure takes place and you stand up through the adversity, fear becomes less potent and progress takes place. One of the assets of professional golfers is the willingness to take risks and grow. Professionals have made more mistakes than any golfer on this earth – that is why they are top in the world. They failed and failed and then failed some more. You will always fail in any endeavor you undertake and if you are not doing so, your effort and passion are simply not enough.

I find many golfers attach scores to their self-esteem. You *try* to score lower, but only to the degree that your self-esteem will allow. You need to realize that this approach to becoming a better golfer will tremendously slow progress and never permit your potential to be achieved. You have to be willing to fail and make mistakes in order to become great. When you try your very best, are passionate, and put the possibility of failure on the back burner, you will succeed. In fact, if you are not failing, then you are not trying or setting high goals. Take an honest look at yourself. Are you taking the safe approach to learning golf, appearing “good” in front of coaches and others? Or are you putting yourself out there, doing everything in your power to become better, even if that means failure? An honest assessment will tell you how much you are trying, how much you are failing, and therefore, how much you will succeed.

