

The Last 6 Feet

When it comes to putting, you may have heard someone say that you missed on the Pro or Amateur side of the hole. What they were referring to was as the ball approach “The Last 6 Feet” of the putt, was it on the high or low side of the hole. For example, on a left to right putt a ball on the left side would be the Professional or high side whereas a ball on the Amateur or low side would be to the right. While this statement is not completely accurate, Professionals miss on the low or Amateur side all the time, it is statistically true. Professional players are more likely to miss on the high side.

The main difference comes down to how Professional players read their putts. All players look at the line from behind the ball. But here lies the difference...Professionals also take a look from behind the hole looking back towards the ball. From this vantage point, they are focusing on “The Last 6 Feet” of the putt. Why is this so important?

As a ball loses its speed, it becomes increasingly more effected by the slope of the green. Every putt has a minimum of 3 lines based upon speed:

1. Firm- no break
2. Medium- some break
3. Slow- maximum break

On a lag putt, the initial part of the roll will be carrying the most speed so the slope will be the least impactful. In the middle part of the putt, the ball will begin to lose speed and become increasingly more effected by the slope. In the final 6 feet, the ball is slowing up as it approaches the hole and will be most affected by the slope.

The Professional player is focusing on as the ball approaches the hole will it continue to break, straighten out or even go back the other way? This helps them adjust the overall read to better gauge how far out to start the putt.

So next time you are out playing, be sure to take a look from behind the hole and focus on the end of the putt, “The Last 6 Feet”.

For help with better understand how slope and pace effect a putt or any other area of your game please visit www.brianflugstad.com to book your next lesson!