



PLAYING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE

If you've played golf for any length of time, you are certainly aware that this situation takes place on a regular basis. What are different descriptions we can use for "difficult people"? Really, it could be anybody that has habits that are contrary to our own. Such as being fast, slow, noisy, fidgety, talkative, loud or many other things that you can add.

We don't have to play with people that are difficult though. That is why people tend to find those whom they enjoy playing with, and form a group that plays regularly. However, if we enjoy playing in tournaments, we have to be prepared to play with people that we would otherwise stay away from.

If we are not prepared, we set ourselves up to have a poor round of golf or at least a frustrating one. I have overseen many competitive rounds of golf over the years. Consequently, I hear the competitors' complaints or jubilation on a regular basis. Believe me, it is quite common for people to blame their poor playing on other people with whom they were playing.

I'm not going to tell you that they are incorrect in their assessment; in fact...they may have hit the nail on the head as to why they played poorly. Under normal circumstances, with their regular group, they may have played very well that particular day. It may well have been that someone with poor etiquette rattled them so much that they lost focus and from that point on, they were a basket case.

So...the reason why they played poorly that day may well have been because of a playing partner that was throwing them off their rhythm. However, it behooves us to not be so much at the mercy of other players' actions but in control of our own emotions and thought processes to the point that others simply do not rattle us.

Most people would be far better off if they approached such a situation as a challenge to their discipline. Can you stay focused while others behave or



act in a way that would normally rattle you? You might have to learn new ways of focusing or getting into pre-shot routines that will keep you focused on the task at hand.

However you choose to go about it, start out by considering it a challenge that you are up to. You will never be able to control others actions simply by wishing it so. You can however, control your own thoughts and thereby lessen the adverse effects that others have on you.

Because I do not know you personally, I am not aware of the idiosyncrasies that you have. Therefore this will take some work on your part to identify what you will have to do to effect improvement in these areas. You simply must pay attention to the elements around you while playing, so that you can define what distracts you and pulls you from your rhythm.

Then, you can take the necessary steps to overcome such obstacles. In the future...when you see others become distracted by playing partners, you can remember back when you fell victim to similar circumstances and take pleasure in knowing that you are stronger now and have other things more crucial to the task at hand to focus on.

Good golfing!

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