

## ***Putt to Win* by Dave Stockton and Al Barko**

*A golf book review by Tim Cotroneo*



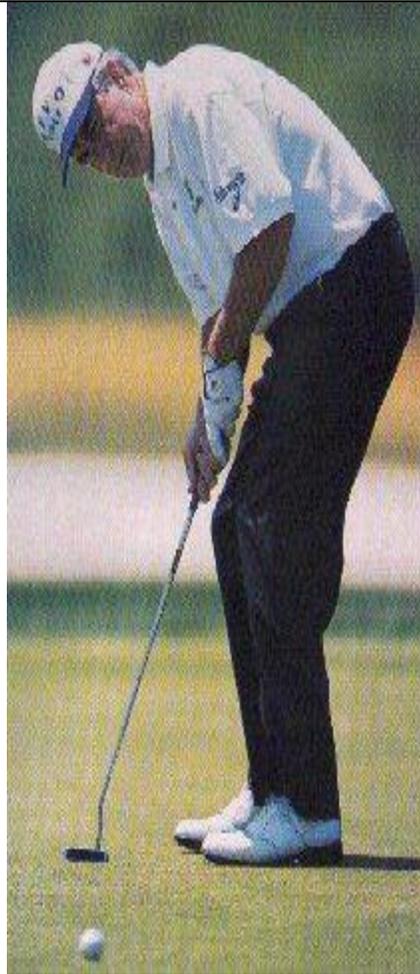
***Dave Stockton is a two-time winner of the PGA Championship.***

Imagine a phone rings, and it's Phil Mickelson calling. Phil explains that he is seeking help with his putting.

The phone rings again, and this time it's Rory McIlroy with the same plea for putting assistance. Five minutes later the phone rings, and Annika Sorenstam explains that she got this number from another player on the tour. Annika's putting could be better. Get the picture?

The person answering the phone, in each instance, is 71-year-old Dave Stockton, someone who is widely regarded as one of the best putters of all time. If Stockton wrote a book on putting, would you read it? Well, Stockton has written two books on his favorite subject. The first, *Dave Stockton's Putt to Win*, is a fast 154-page read that promises to reveal the "secrets for mastering the other game of golf."

**Below you'll find six tips from Stockton's *Putt to Win*.** Mastering one of these tips could shave significant strokes off your card and improve your putting confidence.



**Roll the ball, don't hit it.**

1. Don't hit your putt. Roll the putt. Stockton mentions this tip again and again. If you hit at the ball, you stop the flow and you'll almost always flip your hands and wrists at impact.
2. Address your putt like you're driving over a bridge. If you're on one side, how do you get to the other side? Pay special attention to the exit on the other end.
3. Stockton likes to break putts into thirds. Example: A 30-foot putt is broken into three 10-foot segments.
4. Pick a spot an inch or two in front of your ball with the intention of rolling the ball over this spot. Concentrate on the spot rather than the ball.
5. Tempo: Swing the putter back and forth as if there is no ball. The ball just happens to get in the way of your swing.
6. Stockton believes there is no need for a practice stroke. In his routine, he places the putter in front of the ball and aligns it perfectly. He then places the putter behind the ball, forward presses, and rolls the putt. He doesn't like his putter being stationary for any length of time. Think of the forward press as the beginning of your backstroke. Don't stop the process.

On Amazon, a new Stockton book sells for \$16.95 plus shipping. I purchased mine for \$6.98 at *Half Price Books*. If Stockton's teaching is good enough for Phil, Rory, and Annika, it's good enough for me.

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