



# Big Play

WITH MARK WOOD

Mark Wood teaches at the *Mark Wood Golf School* in *Princeton, N.J.*, and is a *Golf Magazine Top 100 Teacher*.

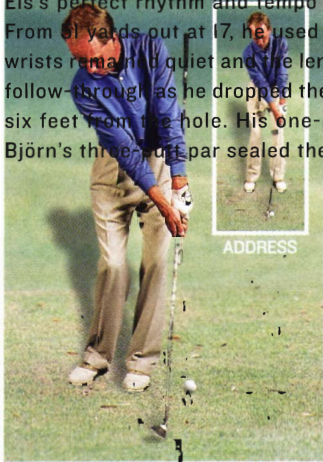
Leading by only a shot at the par-5 17th hole, Ernie Els executed a perfectly struck half-wedge to set up a clinching six-foot birdie



## ANALYSIS

Most amateurs know that the hardest play in golf is the partial shot—or one that doesn't require a full swing. Ernie Els's perfect rhythm and tempo are ideal for such delicate plays. From 51 yards out at 17, he used an effortless motion in which his wrists remained quiet and the length of his backswing mirrored his follow-through as he dropped the ball on the top shelf of the green six feet from the hole. His one-putt birdie coupled with Thomas Björn's three-putt par sealed the victory.

### THE TIP



## Extended Shaft Antiwrist Drill

The key to the half-wedge is keeping the hands and wrists quiet or very still. To do so, try this: Take a normal grip on a sand wedge, then add a long iron, holding it just above the