

Golf Swing Comparison

Between

Mr. Gary Player
&
Mr. Ben Hogan

Completed by:
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I am doing this side-by-side comparison between Mr. Player and Mr. Hogan to show Mr. Player the importance of getting to his left or front foot very early in the forward swing.

The swing sequence that I am using for Mr. Player was acquired during a visit to the Bears Club with Mr. Player's son Wayne in late February of 2002. While the select photos of Mr. Hogan's swing have been taken from various sources that I have at my home.

I hope that this analysis serves as a source of inspiration to Mr. Player as he will see from the side by side photos that Mr. Hogan was definitely a front foot hitter.

Swing Comparisons

During the analysis of Mr. Player's swing I will throw in a occasional picture of Mr. Hogan at the appropriate time. As I do not have a complete sequence of Mr. Hogan from exactly the same point of reference I can not do a complete side-by-side.

Mr. Player: Address



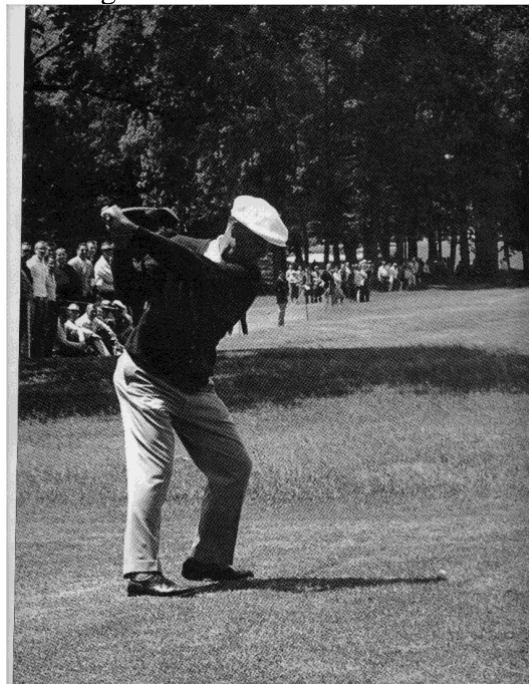
This position is pretty good, however I feel that it could be improved with a slightly wider stance – moving the left foot only – this would then place the ball a little deeper in the stance. I also feel that the arms could be a little wider and a bit more relaxed.

Mr. Player: Load Position



I believe this should be Mr. Player's completed load position – he looks very powerful and well poised to go forward from this position. Neither the right knee or the left knee has moved much from the address position.

Mr. Hogan: Load Position



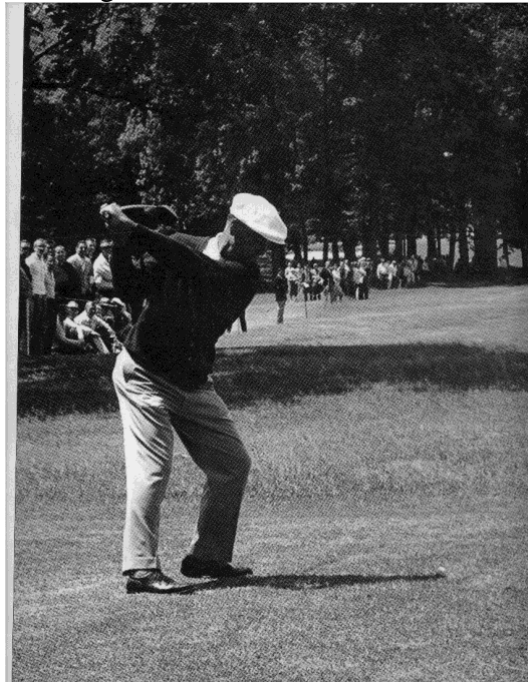
Notice how Mr. Hogan has wound his upper body with out moving his right knee – Mr. Hogan's stance is slightly wider than Mr. Player's and his body is a bit more erect – notice the plane of Mr. Hogan's shoulders – probably only 30 degrees from parallel to the ground.

Mr. Player: wasted portion of swing



Notice how Mr. Player has lost the look of power that he had on the previous page on the picture entitled load. To get to these two positions Mr. Player has actually lifted his upper body and moved it back slightly – thus losing the coil and sense of power he had created by getting the club loaded. There is no doubt that this is a much weaker position than the Load position on the previous page.

Mr. Hogan: Loaded



Hogan is able to wind his upper body so tightly against his lower because his shoulders are nearly parallel to the ground therefore he is less prone to lift the club. Although the camera angle is slightly different it is fairly easy to see that the plane of Mr. Player's shoulders are too close to vertical which makes it easier for him to lift the club instead of wind his upper body against his lower.

Mr. Player: Change of Direction



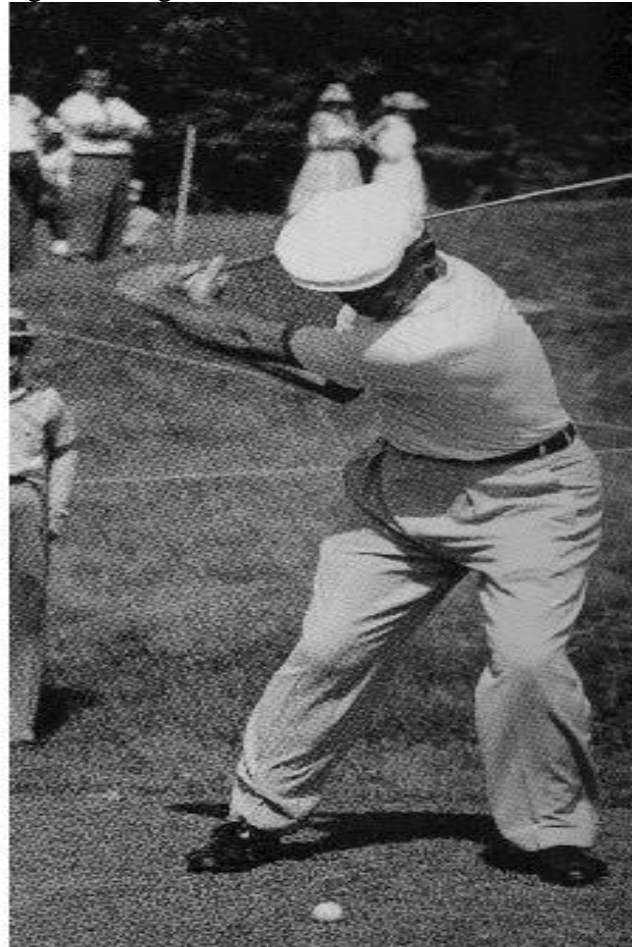
Does a great job getting his weight to his left side early – his upper body has move laterally forward by a good 5-6 inches for this to happen. It can already be seen that if Mr. Player's left foot were a little wider he would be able to move through the shot more completely. However, since the left foot is a little narrow the left leg will actually fight him from going forward.

Mr. Player: Early in the forward swing



Is in a great position here, vast majority of the weight is on the front foot and the upper body is moving forward laterally and rotating. However, the left foot not being wide enough will very soon create a problem.

Mr. Hogan: Change of Direction



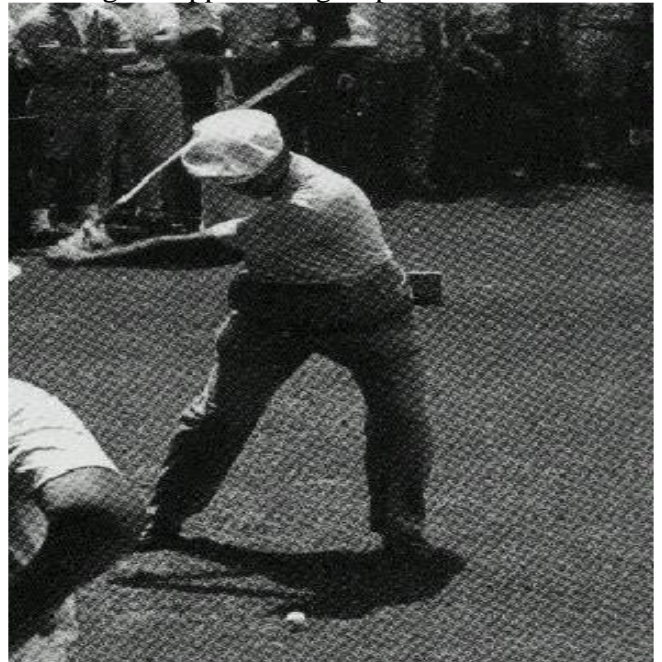
Notice how all of Mr. Hogan's weight is on his front foot yet he has lost none of the coil of his upper body. When compared side by side it appears as if Mr. Player is actually moving up and back and not as much forward as Mr. Hogan. Mr. Hogan's stance is slightly wider with the ball played noticeably deeper in the stance – this will promote more of a trapping action instead of taking the ball a little bit on the upswing.

Mr. Player: Approaching Impact



This is pretty good but it can readily be seen that Mr. Player is no longer moving forward – his left shoulder has moved nearly straight up – meaning that he is kind of throwing his hands at the ball. If his left foot would be a little wider he would be able to keep moving forward laterally and rotating his body through the shot.

Mr. Hogan: Approaching Impact



Mr. Hogan looks as if he is preparing to trap the ball, while Mr. Player looks as if he is going to hit the ball up in the air.

Mr. Player Approaching Impact:



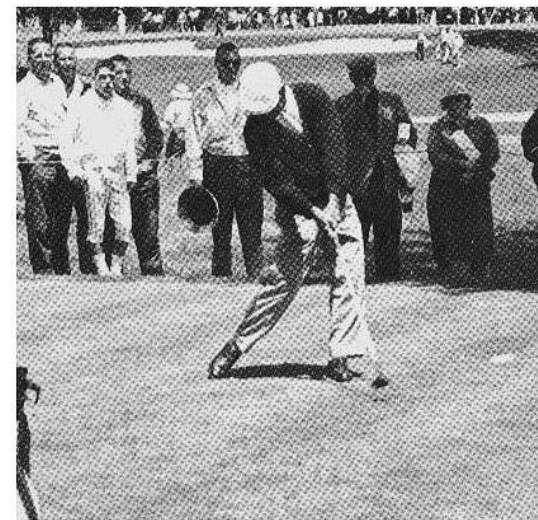
Mr. Player has run out of room for his body to go – his left foot is too narrow so at this point of his swing he has completely stopped the rotation of his body and is throwing the club at the ball. Notice how his spine is actually tilted away from the target.

Mr. Player: Just after Impact:



At this point the left leg is actually fighting Mr. Player from going forward – notice how it has straightened out and is pushing him backwards. It is clear that he is throwing the club at the ball. Both arms have actually straightened at this point while the left arm should be folding and the body should be rotating.

Mr. Hogan Approaching Impact:



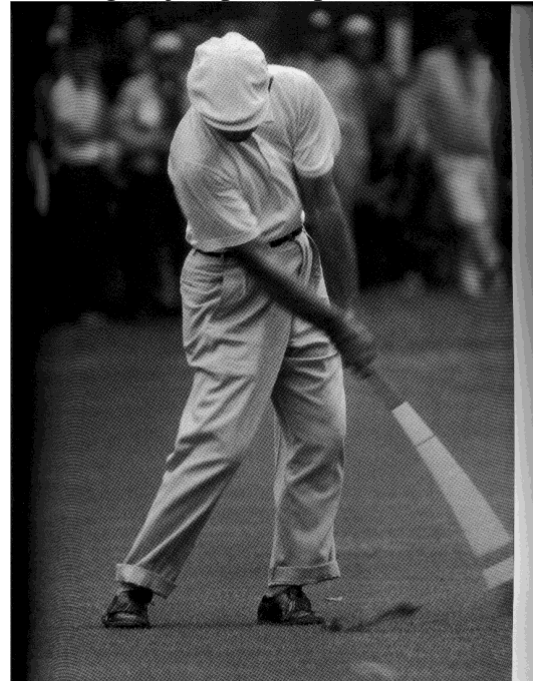
Notice how level Mr. Hogan's shoulders and hips are, also notice the width of his arms past impact. These are all characteristics of getting the weight to a fairly wide front foot and then just rotating through to the finish.

Mr. Player: just past impact



This is the same as the last picture – but I will give another side-by-side example of Mr. Hogan.

Mr. Hogan: just past impact



There is no hint of the body going backwards, notice how the front leg is flexed to catch the weight of the body and not straight to push the body back. Mr. Hogan has rotate his body his arms through at the same speed because the club is still right between the forearms and the spacing is the same as it was at address.