



aboutGOLF®

DANNY ELLIS ON LEARNING TO GOLF AT 60

HOW HE DROPPED TO A SINGLE-DIGIT HANDICAP

Danny Ellis is a gregarious socialite and proud grandfather who deeply values relationships with family and friends. In fact, Danny first developed a serious interest in golf because he wanted to connect more with his sons-in-law. As far as sports went, his two loves were baseball and tennis. He ranked in the southeast as a competitive tennis player.

Ellis didn't purchase his first set of clubs until the age of 60.

"The reason I took up golf at the time is I have two sons-in-law who are both avid golfers. They live elsewhere. One's in Richmond, Virginia. The other moves all over the world. He's a colonel, F-15 pilot in the Air Force, but like I said, they're both avid golfers and good golfers. One's a three handicap and the other is about a five," said Ellis.

"When they were in town, what they wanted to do was play golf. And I've always been a tennis player—a competitive tennis player for years. I thought, 'You know what? I'm going to give this game a try.' So I went to one of the big box stores and bought myself a set of golf clubs. I realized pretty quickly that golf is not a game you can teach yourself."

QUESTIONS?

Contact sales@aboutgolf.com or call 800-445-GOLF for more information.





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- Danny Ellis, aboutGOLF Customer

WHY AG?

“Of course I’d seen the aboutGOLF simulator on the Golf Channel and thought to myself, ‘That must be a pretty good one.’ I checked it out and started researching the competition,” said Ellis.

“I decided to start calling some of the indoor golf centers in the northern part of the country where they can’t play golf all year. I made some random calls to some of the golf centers that had multiple simulators and asked which products do they use. They’ve got different brands. Which is the most reliable? Which is the most realistic? aboutGOLF kept getting good reviews pretty much across the board. I thought, ‘Okay, let’s try aboutGOLF.’

“I have had nothing but great experiences with the people from aboutGOLF. Your sales people, your folks that do the maintenance on the machines, the technical guys—even when I need supplies, it’s been a very pleasurable thing. I work with a lot of companies and everybody I’ve worked with at aboutGOLF has always been friendly and they’ve done their best.

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DO GOLF SIMULATORS HELP PEOPLE LEARN GOLF?

We were impressed with Ellis’ answer:

“I started out having trouble making contact with the ball, and now I’m pretty close to a single digit handicap.”

“First of all, golf is a game of repetition. If you’re willing to hit a hundred 8-irons today, you learn after a while what you’re doing wrong. Of course, it helps to have that PGA pro come in every once in a while because they see things in your swing that you don’t. Even without that, when you hit that ball in the center of that club face in that sweet spot, you know it. You can develop good habits and get rid of those bad habits. You start to feel it, and that gives you confidence.”

Ellis’ instructor uses his simulator data to hone his game. “Now what I’m really working on is ball movement. If I want to bend it left or bend it right, I’ll hit a few shots. He’ll say, ‘Okay change your grip a little bit here or change your backswing.’ We’ll look at the trajectory of the ball and how the spin is different from one swing to the next. That’s how we’ve been able to fine tune some of these things.”

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PUTTING

"I think one of the things as far as scoring that has helped me more than anything else is learning to putt on my sim," Ellis said.

"When I'm playing a friend and I'm on the golf course, the first thing I do when I walk up to my ball is I mark it, then I step off the distance from my ball to the pin. I can feel it's 12 feet and a little uphill. I know how hard I have to hit my ball for it to roll about 12 feet.

"I putt differently than everybody because when I'm walking from my ball to the hole, I'm not only getting the distance, but I'm also feeling the undulation of the green. Is it up hill or bending left or bending right? I can out-putt just about everybody I play with because of that. I have a totally different mindset than the people I play golf with."

PITCHING AND CHIPPING

"I do almost all my chipping with the same wedge—a 57 degree wedge. I use the Green Target range on my sim because I can move the distance to wherever I want. Because of that, I can tell you exactly how much back swing and how much follow through I need at every distance using that 57 degree wedge.

"I learned it all on the simulator. If it's 20 yards, I know exactly how far I have to take that 57 degree wedge and I can put it right beside the flag or near the flag pretty much every time. I don't even have to think about it.

"The other thing we look at with my wedges is my spin rate. I can control the ball so much better. My instructor will say, 'Okay, we can get a little more spin out of that and you can stop it the ball or even back it up'. And we'll watch the spin rate. If I use my sand wedge or my lob wedge or whatever, I'm able to spin the ball a little better and control it on the greens better.

"One day you'll get old like me. Even though I certainly want to hit the ball as far as I can, if I can control where I hit it and stop it when I want to stop it, that makes me a better golfer than trying to kill every club."

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THE LONG GAME

“Like I said, I’m pretty close to 69 years. I have lost some swing speed. We’ve been able to use the data to pick up a little speed.”

Ellis went on to explain, “A year ago, my swing speed with my driver was only 85-87 miles per hour. We’ve been able to get that up over 90 miles an hour when I make a swing now. I’ll hit a ball and see what my swing speed was and he’ll give me a pointer and I’ll hit another ball and see what my swing speed is... I’ve been able to pick up a few miles per hour and thus I’ve been able to pick up a few yards on my drive.”

THE CONFIDENCE FACTOR

“Being able to repetitively hit that ball over and over again took away that fear when I got out on the golf course.”

Ellis said, “I wanted to learn but I don’t think I would have ever gotten into golf like I have had I not had the simulator. I’ve teed it up with some pretty good golfers pro golfers. In the past, I might have walked around behind them and carried their bags, but I never would have thought about stepping up and hitting my own shot.

“Now I wouldn’t hesitate a bit.”

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