




3rd*
SCRAMBLING
67.8%

SHORT-GAME CLINIC

HOW TO GET **UP & DOWN** EVERY TIME
BY **BRIAN GAY** PGA TOUR PLAYER WITH **RON KASPRISKE**



MAKE IT FUN

A big reason I've won three times on the PGA Tour, including twice this season, is that I've had a lot of success around the greens. Short-game practice is boring for a lot of golfers, but I always try to make it fun with competitions and games with other guys. I've picked up a lot of knowledge about how to save par. Here are some of the secrets I've learned.

THE FLOP HIT DOWN ON IT

Opening the face of a wedge at address and keeping it open when you swing will help pop the ball up, but you still have to fight the instinct to try to scoop the ball in the air. Don't just rely on the open face for loft. You still should feel as if you're hitting down on the ball and keeping the club low through impact. Your weight should stay on your left side throughout the swing to promote a downward blow.

LAG PUTT PRACTICE SPEED

I tend not to jam my putts in the hole. I like to die them in, especially from longer distances. I usually have a lot of tap-ins because of this distance control. A great way to improve control is to hit practice putts and see if you can tell how far they've traveled in relation to the target before you look up. By the way, I remove my glove for better feel on the greens and for all my short-game shots.

5th
PUTTS PER
ROUND
27.98 AVG.

MAKE ME

BETTER

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4th
**SCRAMBLING
FROM ROUGH**
69.2%

← DEEP-ROUGH CHIP

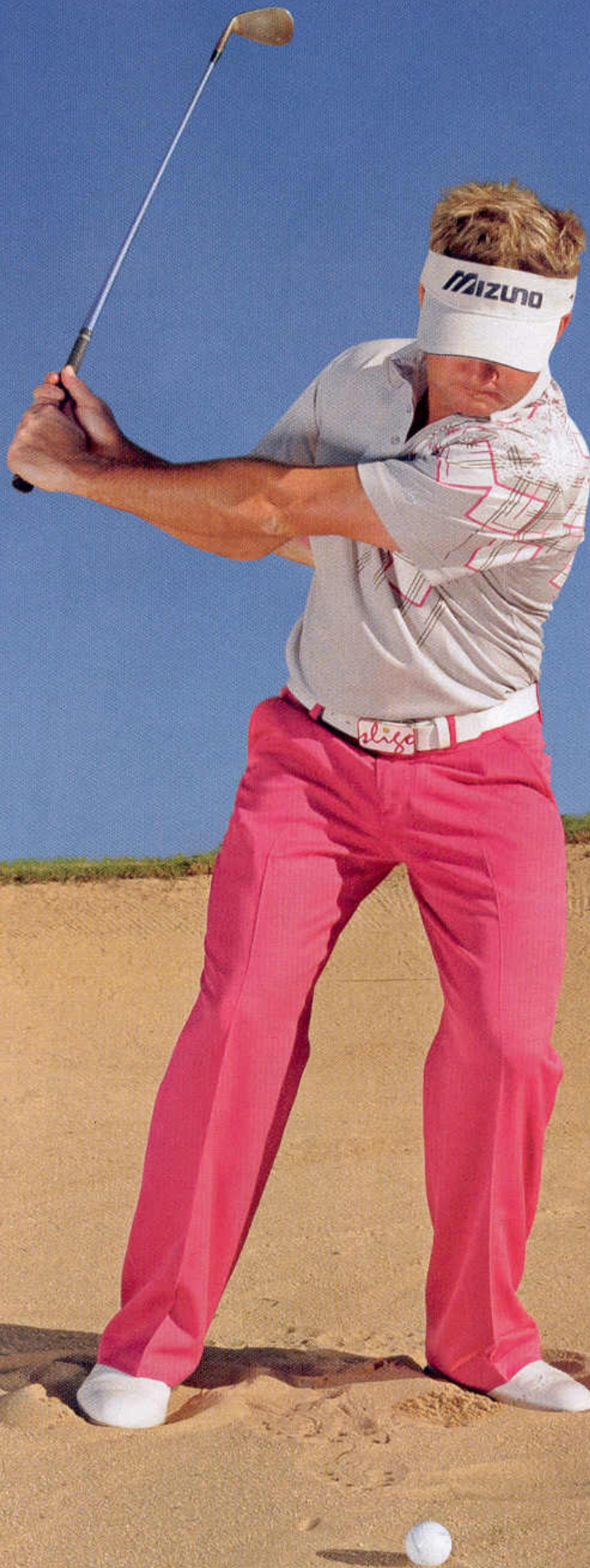
SLIDE UNDER THE BALL

When the ball's sitting down, you can't catch it clean. So play it like it's in the bunker—set up with the face open and the ball forward in your stance. Now make one adjustment: Angle the shaft behind the ball (*left*). Then pick up the club and drop it down right behind the ball while keeping the clubface open. It will slide under the ball and pop it out.

→ QUICK-STOP SAND SHOT

LEAN LEFT, SWING STEEP

When you need to get the ball up really fast and stop it quickly from a bunker, open the clubface, and lean your body toward the target at address. As you take the club back, hinge your wrists as much as you can. Combined with the leaning posture, this steep angle into the sand will make the ball fly high with a lot of spin. This is great for short-sided situations, when the pin is close. ■



ABOUT BRIAN

Gay, 37, learned to play from his father, Joseph, who was a scratch golfer. Brian led the University of Florida to an NCAA golf championship in 1993 and joined the PGA Tour in 1999. His breakthrough came last year when he won the Mayakoba Golf Classic. His two wins in the first half of 2009 were by 10 shots (Verizon Heritage) and five (St. Jude Classic).

5th
SAND SAVES
62.2%

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