

SMOOTH OUT YOUR STROKE

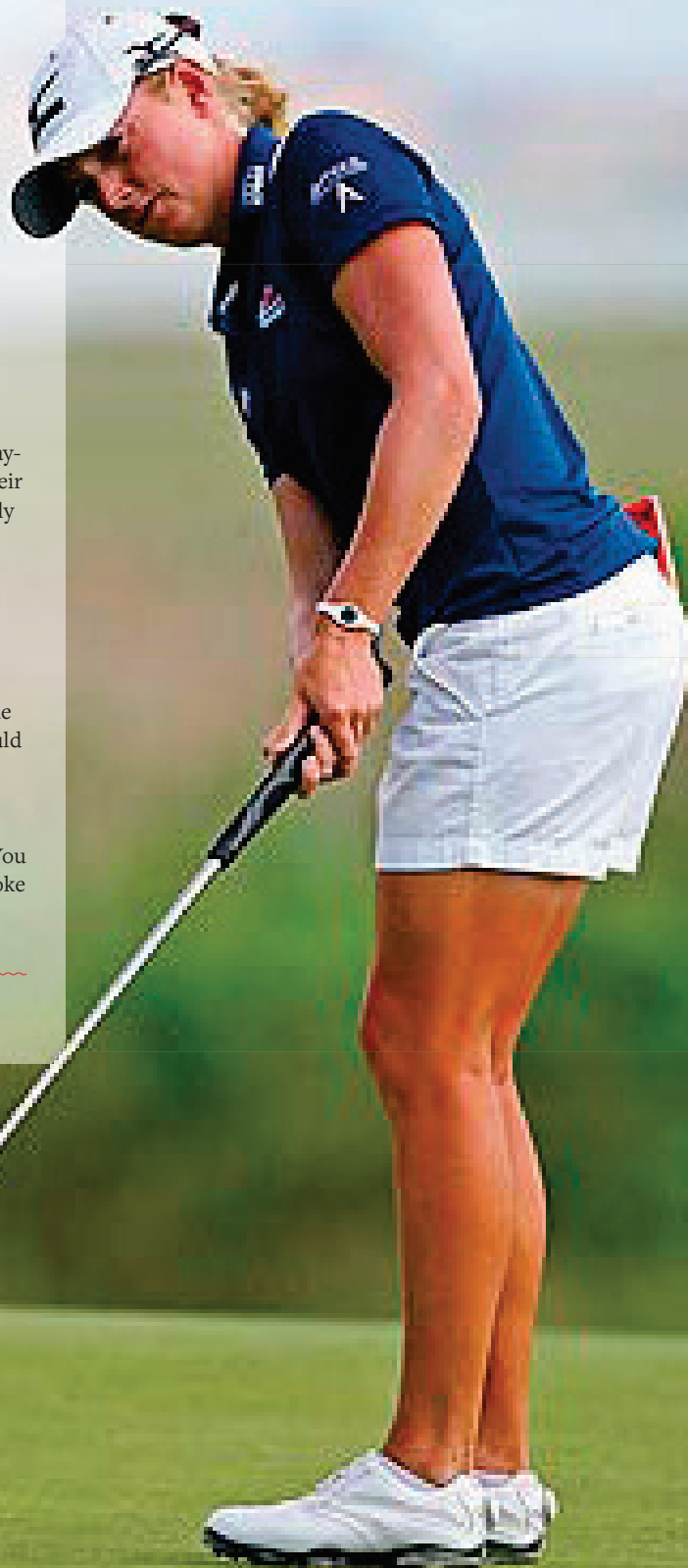
BY STACY LEWIS

ONE AREA WHERE most amateurs can easily shave strokes is eliminating three-putts. Players under pressure tend to get short with their backstroke and then jab at the ball, especially on putts of less than 10 feet. Making a little longer backswing will eliminate the need for a quick forward stroke. You want the same tempo back and through.

One drill that I do every day on the practice green can help you make a more consistent stroke. Set up to a 10-footer like you normally would, then place a tee just outside the toe of your putter. Going straight back on the same line, place another tee where your backstroke would end if you made a smooth, unhurried stroke. (Hint: It's probably longer than you think.)

Work on swinging the putterhead from the first tee back to the second, then let it release through the ball. You should feel no change in grip pressure because your stroke just flows back and through. You'll make better contact and bury more of these crucial putts. ♣

LEWIS ranks second on the LPGA Tour in birdie average (4.02) and is third in putting average (1.75).



LESSON TEE

STEAL
MY
FEEL