

SWING SEQUENCE

Watch Learn

Big, bad Belgian: **Thomas Pieters** has mean power moves—here's how to steal 'em.

1 He "pushes" his rear end behind his heels, "pulls" his shoulders back and down.



3 Starts his backswing by simultaneously rotating his right shoulder and hip.



9 Lower body unwinds while upper remains closed.



10 Checkpoint: shaft points at target line.



12 Now that his lower body is unwound...



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Analysis by Top 100 Teacher **Jon Tattersall**, Fusion ATL, Atlanta, Ga.



At 6' 5", Belgium native **Thomas Pieters** is one of the tallest players on Tour. The former Illinois Illini is one of the longest, too, though his balance and mechanics are typically what you expect from a "control" player. It's a potent combination that was on full display at the 2016 Ryder Cup (he went 3-1-1), and in three top-five finishes thus far in 2017, including a T-4 at the Masters. Pieters's primary asset is clubhead speed—and plenty of it. He's a young gun, but builds power the old-fashioned way by rotating everything on the backswing and timing

STATISTICS

THE LINE ON PIETERS

THROUGH THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

294.4 YDS

Driving Distance (62nd)

119.9 MPH

Clubhead Speed (19th)

4.3

Birdie Average (6th)

27

Official World Golf Rank



He holds nothing back, turning his lower body as well as his upper. Copy this.



He folds his right arm in line with his right shoulder—a secret ballstriker's move.



Shoulders flatter than arms. If you have long "levers," use them!



Watch his cap relative to the bridge—it doesn't move!



...he pours on the shoulder turn.



His rear end is still behind his heels—pure rotation.



Checkpoint No. 2: Shaft again points at target line, thanks to a "free" release.



16

the individual unwinding of key parts on the way down, while keeping his head rock steady and his upper body tilted toward the ground. He doesn't try to resist with his lower body going back a lá Jason Day or Rory McIlroy. He doesn't have to. Notice in frame 8 how much steeper his left arm sits compared to his shoulder plane. Because of Pieters's size, he can put those long arms to good use, creating extra width and more time to generate speed coming down. True, you can't copy height, but you can copy sequence. Follow frames 9-13 and you can't help but blast it.

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