

THE PGA  
PROFESSIONALS'  
LESSON  
BOOK

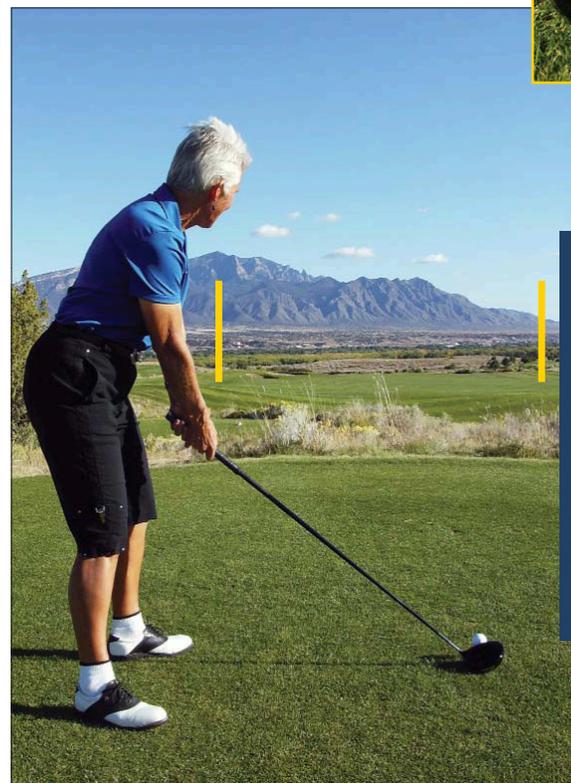
## Get more distance out of your drives when you play the high desert



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**HITTING YOUR TEE SHOTS** at a high altitude is as good as it gets for distance. Visitors to our high desert courses find that the ball travels farther in the thin air, which can be a lot of fun. Players of all skill levels – from beginners to the top players who'll compete at Twin Warriors in the 2009 PGA Professional National Championship – can take full advantage by making sure they're ready to maximize their driver distance.

**1 THE FIRST WAY TO INCREASE** your distance is to do an equipment check and make sure your driver has enough loft. The extra distance you get at altitude comes from the ball staying in the air longer, so a driver with more loft will make the effect even greater. Then tee the ball high enough that the top of the ball is above the top edge of your driver when you address the ball, which will help you hit the ball on the upswing for a nice, high launch.



**2 SOMETIMES DIRECTION** is more of a concern than distance, and many high-altitude courses emphasize a target golf style of play. When you need to be accurate with your driver, the key is to relax. One way to do this is to focus on how wide the fairway really is. I equate it to football – a kicker doesn't get more than three points if their kick is perfectly in the middle of the uprights. Pick a target on either side of the fairway and make those your uprights, and don't worry about hitting a perfect shot down the middle every time.