

What is the difference between Tiger Woods and everyone else?

I have often pondered the thought, “What makes Tiger Woods such a great player?” or “What makes Tiger Woods so much better than everyone else?”. Of course we can have our opinions or thoughts on the matter, but I thought that I would list those qualities that I feel set him apart from his competition.

- ***Tiger is always trying to get better.*** I have heard him say more than once “you can always get better”. He works as hard now, if not harder, than he ever has on his golf game. If he is not practicing or playing, he is conditioning his body to get into the best physical shape possible.
- ***“Nothing seems to bother him”.*** This is the answer that Tiger’s ex swing coach Butch Harmon said when asked what sets him apart in a recent interview. “Stuff rolls off of him like water on a ducks back”.
- ***He can putt from inside eight feet better than anyone in the game of golf.*** There is nobody on Tour or alive that makes more putts inside of eight feet than Tiger Woods. In 2006 he made over 500 four putts in row in competition without missing one! (*Go try to make 10 in a row on the putting green sometime!*)
- ***Tiger will be the first billion dollar athlete.*** Tiger has all the money he could ever want, need or spend in his lifetime. He is not driven or intimidated by money. How this helps him is the fact that does not get nervous over a \$750,000 putt. (*I think it would be safe to say that I would be pretty darn nervous as well as most of you!*) I am not saying that he does not get nervous as he has admitted to this before. He is just nervous about the money he is playing for.
- ***He is used to winning.*** Since his junior golf days he always played with kids his own age. As a result he got very used to winning. He was not moved up in the upper age groups and divisions for better competition. In a recent interview with Tiger he stated “there is an art to winning and I learned how to win at a very young age”.
- ***Tiger does not play for second place.*** Let’s face it, if you finished second in every PGA tournament that you played in you would be set for life financially and there are a lot of guys on tour doing just that. His goal in every tournament is to finish first. As a result he wins at a staggering rate at over 25% of the time!
- ***He knows when he has had enough and needs a break.*** In the recent Fed Ex Cup he sat out the first round of the playoffs stating he needed a break. This was shortly after his PGA Championship victory and was mentally exhausted. He was given a lot of grief for this but as mentioned earlier in this article, this does not bother him. What did he end up doing? He won the Fed Ex Cup \$10,000,000 annuity and season ending Tour Championship by 8 strokes!
- ***There is not a shot in golf that Tiger can’t or won’t hit.*** You name it he can and has hit it.

- **Course management.** He manages his game better than anybody else. He knows when to go for it and when to layup. He knows what he is capable of and what he is not on any given day at any given time. He won a British Open one year only hitting his driver one time in the entire tournament. *(The driver that he did hit was two fairways over and went sideways!)* Not only that; he knows exactly how far he hits every golf club in his bag. *(Do you?)*
- **No fear.** He is afraid of no one and nothing. He is not afraid of losing or winning.
- **A great support team from day one.** Starting with his mother and father. He has surrounded himself as a child and to this day with quality and successful people. If you hang out with winners, you increase your odds of being one.
- **Focus and concentration.** He has the ability as does Jack Nicklaus, to block out whatever distractions that are going on and focus his attention completely and intensely on the task at hand. He has one thought at a time intently on the target. *(How many things are you thinking about on the golf course?)*
- **He never give's up.** He tries as hard as he can on every shot no matter what.

Yes, I am a Tiger Woods fan and have been for a long time. My reasons are numerous, but probably more than anything else is the simple fact that he is the best, arguably the best to ever play the game. But more than that, Tiger Woods only concerns himself to be the best that he can be, not better than those before him or after him. And he does not sit on his laurels and tell everyone how great he is, he shows everyone how great he is. "I let my clubs do my talking" he said in a recent interview in regards to statements made by fellow tour player Rory Sabatini.

That compounded with the fact that as big as he is, he knows that he is not bigger than the game. It is safe to say that Tiger does as much for our great game of golf today, if not more, as anyone in the history of the sport. He has helped make the great game of golf better in more ways than one! And we get to see it happen right before our eyes!