

Golf: A great game for everyone

The evolution of the game of golf has shifted like a mean slice, drifting far off the traditional fairway that represented rich, white businessmen. A typical day on any golf course nowadays reveals that the sport is no longer dominated by men who wear Armani suits at their jobs and drive Cadillacs and BMWs. Not that the company CEOs and big-spending stock brokers have given up on the game — they still make up a big chunk of those who indulge in the challenging sport — they're just not the only ones trying to improve their

handicap and short game these days.

Everyone is playing the game — or the obsession — of golf. From housewives to children to teen-aged boys and girls to African Americans, everything typical about golf has faded away in the last few years.

Take, for example, Thomas Cameron. Cameron, a 10-year-old, was recently found working on his golf game at Carl's Golfland in Bloomfield Township. Yes. A 10-year-old refining his golf skills, believe it or not.

"Wouldn't you rather play baseball or



Long shot: Harold Hoffman, of Sterling Heights, follows his shot at the driving range at Carl's Golfland.

soccer or hockey?" he was asked.

"No," Cameron said matter-of-factly.

"What do you like about golf?"

"It's fun," he replied.

It doesn't get any simpler. If it's fun, why not? Thomas and his father, David, golf together on a regular basis. The elder Cameron finds that it's a great father-son activity.

"It's fresh air and a nice time for us," he said.

In the Cameron family, father didn't

force son onto the baseball field to work on his fielding skills, nor did he drive him to do lay-up drills on the basketball court. David wanted his son to golf, something becoming more commonplace since the inundation of young Tiger Woods and the stories of how his father, Earl, mentored him at a very young age.

"(Thomas) started when he was like three," David said. "Initially it was just

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