

Getting Into the Swing of Things:

Glennon Bazzle Teaches Golfers How to Master Their Swing

By Dean M. Shapiro, Senior Editor



From New Orleans to New York and from Beverly Hills to Palm Beach, Glennon Bazzle has traveled widely, perfecting the swings of golfers he's trained, helping them prevent or overcome golf-related sports injuries. As a Certified Golf Instructor and Master Masseur he has helped thousands of people who have come to him for physical relief and encouragement.

For over 55 years, Glennon has shared his love for the sport with golfers of all levels. He is the author of “Anatomy of the Perfect Golf Swing,” a practical guide featuring illustrations, photographs, and essential exercises that teach golfers how to master their swing through proper anatomical techniques and movements. The book is in its sixth printing and has been translated into Spanish and Japanese.

Glennon’s golfing and conditioning expertise earned recognition from the late former President George H.W. Bush. Copies of his book are owned by renowned pro golf champions Jack Nicklaus, Calvin Peete, Lee Elders and Dr. Renee Powell.

This spring Glennon will once again be overseeing the golf tournament benefit affiliated with the Danny Barker Guitar & Banjo Festival. Now in its second year, the Daniel Moses Barker Foundation’s Annual Golf Tournament tees off on Friday March 20 at 10:00 a.m. and runs through 3:00 p.m.

The tournament will take place on the Joseph M. Bartholomew Municipal Golf Course on Congress Drive adjacent to the Pontchartrain Park subdivision.

Recounting how the tournament originated, Glennon noted, “I was living in Birmingham after Katrina and my wife and I used to listen to the jazz station on cable TV. One day she said to me, ‘Did you know that the Smithsonian declared April as Jazz Appreciation Month?’ And then she said, ‘Why don’t you do a golf tournament combining jazz and golf?’ I said, ‘Oh baby, that’s a hip idea’ because in both of them the swing thing came to mind. You gotta swing.”

“You
gotta
swing”



Glennon with PGA Tour Director Donnie Wallace

Continuing, he said “She wanted to do it in Birmingham, but I told her ‘No, we need to bring that home to New Orleans’” and they did. “The concept of the golf tournament was to honor people who were in the music industry for fifty years or more,” Glennon said.

Persuaded by Danny Barker Festival founder, guitarist/banjoist Detroit Brooks, the tournament found a home at the festival. Coming from a family that includes his legendary 94-year-old jazz vocalist sister, Germaine Bazzle, Glennon has many friends in the New Orleans musical community. Some of them learned golf under him and will be participating in the tournament.

Born in 1943, Glennon grew up in New Orleans’s 6th Ward at Johnson Street and Lafitte Avenue. In school he was athletically active, taking part in the “running sports” of football, baseball and basketball. But not golf. That would come later.

“The area where I lived didn’t have any golf courses nearby, so we just played football, baseball and basketball,” Glennon said.

Once he was out of school, Glennon was ready to enter the workforce, but he was uncertain what field he was going to pursue. However it didn’t take long to find out. His first job led him in the direction he would follow up to the present.

“My first job was at the New Orleans Athletic Club and I worked in the area



they call the Turkish bath,” Glennon said. “From there I learned how to do massage. I went to school for massage and I spent 13 years working in country clubs and resorts. Some of the NOAC members were also members of the New Orleans Country Club, the Metairie Country Club or the Colonial Country Club, so I was invited to work in those places.”

Each of those country clubs had golf courses and some members who he massaged would give him golf shoes and golf clothing items which he would give to friends who played golf. But his actual participation in the sport would soon come to life, thanks to a family member.

“I had an older brother who played and he had a set of clubs,” Glennon said. “His wife bought him a new set for Christmas one year and he gave me his old set and I started working out with them.” From there his enthusiasm blossomed and his golf career began taking root.

As the years passed, Glennon’s skill levels improved to the point where he became a student of the game, paying close attention

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to the movements involved in the golf swing and memorizing how each part of the body involved in the process was interconnected with adjoining parts.

Over his golfing career Glennon has hit five holes-in-one, a feat that most recreational golfers haven't accomplished even once. After Hurricane Katrina his wife asked him to stop gambling, so now he plays for kisses from her. One kiss for par, two kisses for birdies, which are two strokes under par for a hole. His goal now is to shoot under 82, his current age.

"My approach to golf was based on the fact that I treated golf-related injuries," Glennon said. "I came at it from an anatomical, physiological structure and function. So I decided to write the book which is based on five principles. And the



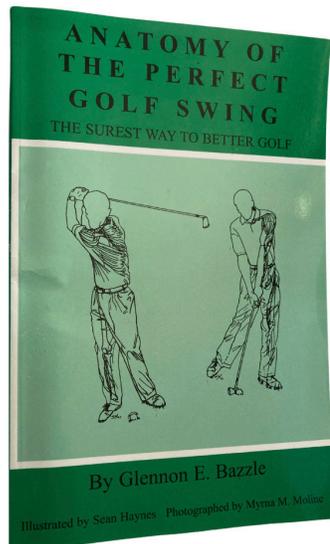
main thing is finding your center of gravity and making the movement from there.

"When some of the guys were telling me how I should swing the club I told them, 'No, I can't do it like that,'" Glennon continued. "This is how I make my living, fixing people who were coming to me with injuries caused by doing what they're telling me to do," he added with a laugh.

During the summers, Glennon would teach children how to play golf, stressing the anatomy and physiology of the sport, using the coloring book he designed.

"Sometimes I'd teach them in classrooms and sometimes we would go out in the field," he described. "I'd take them to different playgrounds where they weren't able to hit the ball that far."

Glennon's career as a masseur took him to New York City's famous Algonquin Hotel for 14 years. He enjoyed his stay



there and he also worked in Las Vegas, Florida and California but he eventually returned to New Orleans and resumed his golf teaching career and has been following that path ever since.

"My approach to teaching is that I consider myself more like a guide," Glennon stated. "You take a tour and I show you how the body works. That's my specialty.

"Your head and your mentality and your demeanor and your temperament: all that stuff is a part of the game that you don't hear about," he added. "Those pros have a hold on their skill to such an extent that it's a reflection of their inner selves.

"And this is what makes golf such a unique game," Glennon concludes. "These people misunderstand it and they say, 'It's a game you can play against yourself.' And I ask, 'Who do you think is going to win? The architect is your opponent.

"The golf swing is a matter of trusting your imagination!"

Glennon Bazzle may be contacted for golf lessons and fitness training, workshops, and seminars through the Global Golf Institute, LLC website: www.GlennonBazzle.com or by phone at (504) 583-6842, or by email: golfswing2000@gmail.com.

