

Golf Guide '87

Here's the latest golf equipment

By BRUCE ETHERIDGE
Beryllium copper golf club heads, putters with sights, a pull-cart that walks alongside the gol-

fer — all these and more are the latest innovations in giving golfers "the edge."
Allan Gooch, sales manager of

Dynamic Golf Centre in Thornhill, provided a technological tour of golf's latest hardware.

One of the newest things to hit golf — or rather to hit golf balls — is the use of rare metal alloys in club heads.

"The harder-striking surfaces help golfers hit the ball straighter and longer," Gooch said. But be prepared to pay through the nose for them.

While average clubs range from \$180-\$450 these clubs start at \$680 and can cost up to \$1,200. They are allowed on the pro tour and are very popular with the ladies for squeezing out extra distance, Gooch said.

Golfers have a variety of choices — from one-piece all-graphite clubs or titanium micro-tapered shafts to the beryllium copper club heads.

The graphite shafts "have more flex to them" which translates to greater distance. "They're good for people who need extra kick in the shaft," explained Gooch.

While graphite has been used in golf clubs before, there was a problem of "too much torque" in the shaft. "They kicked very well backwards and forwards but the ball wasn't always going straight," Gooch said. That problem has supposedly been corrected.

The micro-tapered titanium clubs are said to be lighter and stronger than any other club and provide more distance. It is the same material used in the space shuttle. Gooch wasn't sure whether that fact was a plus or a minus.

Not only do the balls fly further with the new metal heads, but



Dynamic Golf Centre Sales Manager Allan Gooch holds an array of today's high-tech clubs from the beryllium copper head iron and a couple of all-graphite clubs, to a micro-tapered titanium driver.

— Bruce Etheridge

they spin less too. That leads to greater control and a straighter shot, Gooch added. After Jack Nicklaus' win in the Masters two years ago, oversized putters "have become very popular", Gooch said. "It seems everybody's got one."



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