

Solheim Cup 2015

“Unforgettable” is the title of the official song written for the European Team by the Swedish band Trinity – it might also perfectly sum up the 2015 Solheim Cup.

Now that we have had time to reflect on arguably the most exciting Solheim Cup match ever, let's take a look at what really happened.

First of all the two teams representing the United States and Europe were probably the strongest teams to date, although Austin Ernst may have something to say about that. It was always going to be a closely fought battle with both teams claiming to be the under dog.

Obviously, the talking point is all about the incident on the 17th green when Alison Lee picked up a putt that was not conceded. From all the reports I have read so far, no one seems to be talking about the fact that this is a match play event. Match play has strategy involved, it is not a case of playing the golf course, it's about beating your opponent.

The Europeans play a lot more match play than Americans. It's in our blood from early on in our golf careers. For example, international events are usually in the form of match play whether it is the Home Internationals played in the UK or European events played on the continent of Europe. This is the format we grow up with at junior level and continue to play through to senior level. I believe it is the best format to decide international contests because of the excitement it creates (take note the Olympic committee!).

Going back to the match play mentality and the strategy involved, it's all about getting in your opponents head. This is why we are having a hotly debated dispute involving Alison and Suzann. Yes, putts may have been given early on in the game, but this is the whole point – make your opponents think you are getting putts early on and then when it comes to the crunch, make them putt it. This is match play, this is why there is strategy and this is why its fun.

Here are the facts about the incident the golf world is going crazy about. Brittany Lincicome was out of the hole after a visit to the water off the tee. We (the Euro's) were in for four. Allison had an eight footer for a birdie and the win. With her partner out of the hole, Alison could not be too bold with her putt. Unfortunately, she missed and with everything on the line, the Euro's wanted to see her putt out. Nothing wrong with that. All she had to do was mark the ball and hole out or look back at Suzann or Charlie with that “is this good” look. Even, Brittany was heard saying “don't pick that up” before she inexplicably scooped the ball up with her putter.

I would like to think that had Alison marked the ball and proceeded like anyone with experience would have done, Suzann would have watched from the side, made her sweat it out a little and given the putt. Sadly, Suzann was not given the chance because Alison made the rookie mistake of assuming it was given and picked up the ball.

If all the facts about this incident are not reported then the art of match play will be lost forever. Bottom line here is that Alison made the mistake but Suzann is being made out to be the villain. Even the referee in the game asked Suzann and Charlie "did you concede the putt?" No, was the reply from both. Plus, Miss Lee had been warned about picking up the ball prematurely the day before. Mmm...

Among all this hoopla, lets not forget the phenomenal golf that was on display during the 14th Solheim Cup encounter. In one of the four ball matches involving Mel Reid and Lexi Thompson, both teams were eleven under par. That is outstanding golf and a clear indication of how far the women's game has progressed over the years.

Maybe the US did not have an official song like the Europeans did going into the matches, but perhaps Allison Lee has a new favorite song in "Worth it" by Fifth Harmony, the first line for those of you who are not familiar with the song is, "Give it to me I'm worth it" She is worth it, both teams that played in Germany are worth it. Do we really have to wait two more years for the next Solheim Cup? Des Moines, Iowa can't come soon enough!