

“Carpe Diem” was the theme of the week under Captain Neumann’s leadership at the recent Solheim Cup with the only goal to make history and win.

When we look back on the thirteenth encounter of the Solheim Cup played over the Colorado Golf Club in Denver, Colorado we will read the score 18-10 in favour of the visiting European side. However, those playing and those who were avidly watching know that the match was far closer than the result suggests.

There is no doubt the turning point in the entire game came on Saturday morning when the granny of the team (aka Beany) holed a match changing putt in her foursomes game. Brittany Lincicome had the chance to close out Beany and Caroline Masson on the 17<sup>th</sup> but a five foot par putt that didn’t even sniff the hole will probably be replaying in Brittany’s mind in the shape of a horrible nightmare for weeks to come. This opened the door for the Euro’s to get a half and after Masson hit an incredible approach shot to 7 feet it was up to Beany to hole out and get an invaluable half point. Is there any one else you’d rather have to do this job? Needless to say, the putt went in and the momentum swung in our favour – “big time” as they in the States.

The ensuing afternoon 4-0 slaughter, capped off by an outrageous putt from Karine Icher at the 18<sup>th</sup>, left most people gob smacked and the realization that Europe would never have a better chance of creating history by winning for the first time in the US. What followed on Sunday was truly unforgettable and a fantastic day for women’s golf.

Charley Hull went out and charmed the golfing world with her carefree play and won many more adoring fans when she asked Paula Creamer to sign a golf ball after the game. Eh, what’s wrong with this picture – unknown captains pick goes out and thrashes golf legend 5&4 and then asks for an autographed ball! Great stuff if you ask me.

Then there is Caroline Hedwall who played in all five sessions and notched up five wins. It was the way she got her singles win that will be remembered for a long time. One down with three to go against Michelle Wie (who is arguably the most talented female player on the planet) was some how turned into a point for Europe thanks to a birdie – par – birdie finish. The birdie on the last was pretty impressive as she stuffed an iron into a sneaky right hand pin location then rolled in the putt to secure the 14 points needed to retain the cup.

Right after Hedwall’s game finished, Beany was turning her game around. She was never up in her game against Gerina Piller but managed to pull off a historic half as it was this game that gave the Euro’s the all important tally of 14 ½ points to make the win on US soil official.

This was undoubtedly a huge team effort from the European side but it would be remiss of me not acknowledge Lotta Neumann and her captaincy. First of all think of

the decisions she had to make with her captains picks. She could have easily picked players for their Solheim Cup experience in the shape of Laura Davies and Gladys Nocera and no one would have batted an eye. Instead, she went with her gut and picked the likes of Charley Hull and Giulia Sergas. She also could have panicked and played the three big guns on Saturday afternoon, even after Petterson, Beany and Nordquist asked to be rested. Lotta is a cool customer and true to form, she trusted the depth of her team and relied on her playing experience to know that a rested player for singles is best.

“We came, we saw, we conquered” might best sum up this great week for the European team and for women’s golf. Counting the days until Germany in 2015.....