

When I think of the recent USGA debacles at both the Men's and Women's US Opens, I can't help but think of the song "Video killed the Radio Star". The classic line from the one hit wonder declares, "pictures came and broke my heart". Pictures, or video evidence, could have broken DJ's heart at Oakmont and video evidence certainly broke Anna Nordqvist's heart last weekend at CordeValle. This is wrong on so many levels and something has to be done about it.

If the USGA is to stop this "annus horribilis" they should take a leaf from the International Tennis Federation's (ITF) book and understand how TV evidence is handled. In a tennis match players can challenge doubtful calls made by the umpire. However, if they do not challenge a close call and the broadcast replays the shot only to prove the call was wrong, they do not change the call. They certainly do not go back two matches and say, "eh, excuse me Mr. McEnroe but video evidence shows the ace that you thought you had to win game four in the second set was actually out". As ludicrous as this sounds, this is exactly what unfolded in golf terms at both Oakmont where the Men played their US Open and CordeValle where the Women played their National Championship.

Here is an idea the USGA should mull over as they gather for their annual committee meeting later this year. How about using video evidence only if someone in the group questions a ruling. If the rule is broken and penalties have to be given, the players must be notified before they tee off the next hole. In other words, once the hole is finished the score stands - period. This simple solution to all this nonsense would put an end to people calling in and or camera people spotting an infraction, which is impossible to see with the naked eye.

If nothing is done about all this video evidence that has dominated the golf talk of late, video will kill golf. Look how frustrated we all were as golf fans watching the Men's Open when we didn't really know what the heck was going on. Goodness knows what kind of revolt would have happened had DJ not won by more than one shot. It would have been carnage and then there is Bethany, oops I mean Brittany Lang - the poor girl didn't know what to do when she won. As golf fans we want to see the emotion, the fist pump, the tears, the dance round the green, the collapse to the knees after a major win. Instead we saw her awkwardly enjoy the moment. She clearly didn't want to win under the circumstances that prevailed down the stretch thanks to video evidence.

To compound yet another week to forget for the USGA, their president, Diana Murphy, put the icing on the cake when she called the newly crowned champ by the wrong name (hence the Bethany reference above) several times during the prize presentation.

With all that said I have one thing to say -Anyone for tennis?