

European Tour Golf and why it beats the \$%#* out of the PGA Tour

Rog: "It looks like this putt will break 11 inches, and should move from his left to right John".

John: "You sure Rog, I went down this morning after studying the shotlink stats over poached eggs and wheat toast...and thought the putt was 10 inches"?

Rog: "I guess we'll know in a few seconds..."

John: "This guys stroke would make Paul Runyan puke folks".

Rog: "WOW YOU WERE RIGHT JOHN, YOU WERE RIGHT!!!! 10 inches! HAVE YOU EVER IN YOUR LIFE"!!!!

Shot tracers, shot link, swing vision, the exact inches of putts, a highlighted line showing you the exact path the ball should travel...I wonder when they will get \$%#@ tracker up and running on the port-o-lets?

"Yeah John, looks like he didn't eat enough carbs or electrolytes according to \$%#@ tracker..."

Ever watched the European Tour on a Saturday over coffee and greasy bacon?

I do...every week...and it beats the crap out of listening to the drivel they put out on the PGA telecasts where it seems every announcer is trying to out-predict the other one by telling you exactly what will happen before it happens just so one of his on air colleagues can give him "mad props" for the call.

On the European tour, its all about the golf course, the land, and the people. Legendary announcer Renton Laidlaw never ruins a shot by talking over a players swing. He doesn't delve into a players mental state, nor does he care if Ben Hogan would approve of the 60th rank players swing plane...he simply lets the images speak for themselves and only adds enough to enhance what is already happening.

Laidlaw is the kind of guy you would actually *want* to play a round of golf with, grab a pint afterward, and probably sing bad Irish ballads into the wee hours.

Can you imagine *breakfast* with Johnny Miller? He'd probably break out an Emily Post book to help you with your manners and then replay the video of you dribbling free-range chicken omelets from your chin.

On the PGA tour, aside from maybe Rickie Fowler or Jim Furyk, everyone's swing looks exactly the same. They all share the same five swing coaches, the three same putting instructors, and the three same mental coaches.

The European tour players have swings that look like my buddies (+ 40 yards). Their courses look a little closer to the one's I play, and I've yet to hear a "you da' man" or "get in the hole" a millisecond after iron meets surlyn.

Look, I know Miller and company aren't going to give up the mic anytime soon but they have nothing on the European tour...in any area.

For me, I'll take the pastoral images of some par 70, 6,500 yard course I could probably play the rest of my life over watching the Byron Nelson...err....Shell Houston Open....and if you love the game, I hope you'll join me.