

By Jason Bruno



Team Europe celebrates another Ryder Cup triumph at Gleneagles.

Perthshire, Scotland - This edition, the 40th in Ryder Cup history didn't quite live up to the hype.

Team Europe took care of business on Sunday, dusting off team USA 16.5 to 11.5. The two very

lopsided foursomes sessions Friday and Saturday destroyed any hope for Sunday drama - the

alternate shot competition favored Team Europe 7 points to 1 - Game Over.

There was to be no Brookline like Miracle on Sunday, trailing 10-6 heading into singles play was too

tall an order for this group of Yanks that didn't have Tiger, Phil, Duval, Payne, Hal Sutton and Furyk

in their prime (Mickelson & Furyk were winless in 2014, and are both 44 years old now). A few Americans

managed to make a game of it Sunday, including Phil who handled native Scotsman Stephen Gallacher in

his match. Patrick Reed edged out Henrik Stenson 1 up, Kuchar took care of Bjorn 4 & 3 and Jimmy

Walker continued his solid play beating Ryder Cup stalwart Lee Westwood 3 & 2 . . . but little else went

the Americans way. Big comebacks by Graeme McDowell over Jordan Spieth, and Justin Rose (who was

Europe's MVP for the week) came from 4 down to earn a halve against Hunter Mahan. World number 1

Rory McIlroy absolutely blitzed Ricky Fowler 5 & 4. It was Welshman Jamie Donaldson who secured

the clincher on the 15th hole, when he routed Keegan Bradley 4 & 3.

Europe's continued dominance in the alternate shot (foursomes) format will continue to be the story.

It seems as if neither side has an answer for Team USA's incompetence in this format. Many have

speculated about the Americans lack of team chemistry as the reason, but that's an intangible that

Team Stars & Stripes haven't found the solution to (with the exception of Paul Azinger in '08 at Valhalla).

Granted, Captain Watson made a few blunders, first leaving Chris Kirk off the squad, then taking

Spieth & Reed out of the foursomes Friday afternoon . . . but when you get drubbed by 5 points,

these are minor reasons to blame. Perhaps a bigger factor was the loss of Tiger Woods (even in sub-

prime form), and being without ball striking dynamo Dustin Johnson (who took a leave of absence

after testing positive for an illegal substance this summer).

Talent is no longer the only element required to be victorious. Once upon a time it was said that the

Euro's needed to win in order for the Ryder Cup to grow, and it was treated as the main focus of the

European Tour - to beat America. It's now reversed, Team USA needs a system - their own template to

make this great event competitive again.

For all of the scores from the 40th Ryder Cup: <http://www.rydercup.com/>