

GOLF AND THE OLYMPICS NOT YET A SWEET SYMPHONY

The diehards among you probably know the answer but this is for the rest.

The Olympic gold medals for golf in Rio went to Justin Rose and Park Inbee.

And there you go. Golf returns to the Olympics after a 112-year break.

Were you excited? I wasn't for sure, probably because I caught almost none of the action from the four rounds.

Unlike the Majors, where you can watch nearly every drop of sweat trickle from a furrowed brow, golf at the Olympics was largely absent from television screens here.

In America, the final 90 minutes of the men's final round were shown to

fairly decent ratings.

I read that the men's game saw a dramatic finish with Rose beating Henrik Stenson on the final hole.

Park's victory was a little less heart-pumping as she coasted to a five-stroke victory.

To tell you the truth, however, neither event caught my attention or that of the sporting public at large.

Maybe the absence of Jason Day, Rory McIlroy, Jordan Spieth and Dustin Johnson played a part.

Or maybe we were all just too transfixed with the rest of the action going on at the Olympics.

With Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt

playing the part of superhumans and with Singapore's Joseph Schooling creating history, who really had the time for golf?

If you had asked me before the Games whether golf should be included, I would have probably said yes.

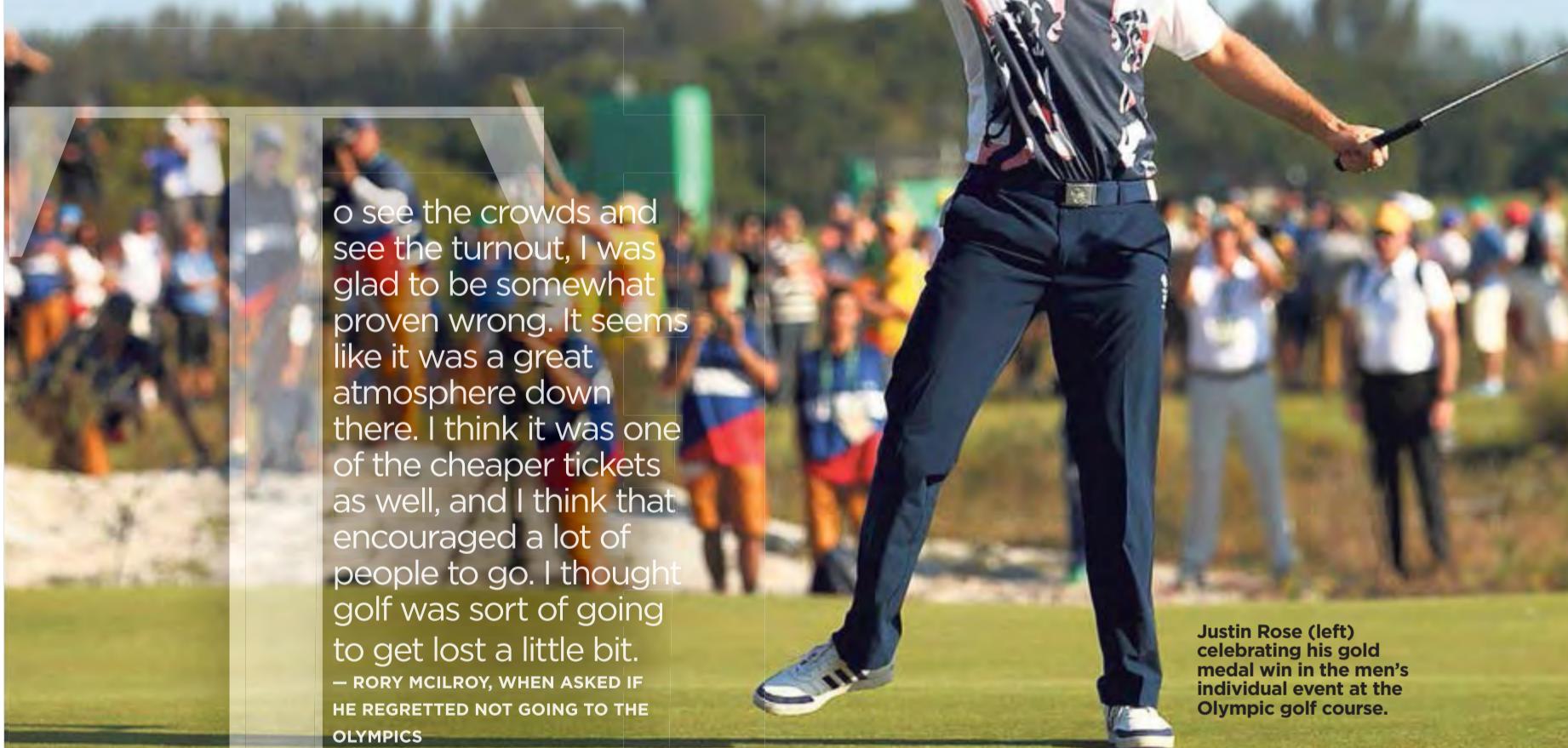
Now, I'm not so sure.

Not only are the big names uninterested, the sport itself has to take a backseat to the big events like swimming and athletics.

There are suggestions that if golf remains for Tokyo 2020, a team event could add spice to the mix but, to be honest, I cannot see myself getting excited over that.

Perhaps in some sports like golf, tennis and basketball, we all know where the real prizes lie, and they do not dwell within the Olympic rings.

Sure Andy Murray, Kevin Durant and Lydia Ko added some glamour to the parties in Rio but there was not enough pop to the fizz, if you ask me.



o see the crowds and see the turnout, I was glad to be somewhat proven wrong. It seems like it was a great atmosphere down there. I think it was one of the cheaper tickets as well, and I think that encouraged a lot of people to go. I thought golf was sort of going to get lost a little bit.

— RORY MCILROY, WHEN ASKED IF HE REGRETTED NOT GOING TO THE OLYMPICS

Justin Rose (left) celebrating his gold medal win in the men's individual event at the Olympic golf course.

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