How TrackMan changed my golf game

Golf has and forever will be a passion of mine. For me, there are few ways to better spend my
time than on the golf course with the smell of fresh grass and warm sun around me. My golf game over
the years is comparable to a rollercoaster, and I only began to see exponential growth once introduced to a
technological masterpiece named TrackMan. The technology that Trackman has brought to golf has not
only changed my game, but it even helps the games of the best players in the world. TrackMan helped me
become the competitive player I am today and changed the golf industry forever. TrackMan makes the
game more enjoyable, fun, and competitive for all golfers.

Golf originated in Scotland in the 15th century, and unlike many games that involve a ball, golf is
not played in a standard playing area. In fact, the area of play for golf changes based on where you play.
This area of play is called a golf course and is comprised of 18 different areas to play called holes in
which you play each hole one by one starting on hole one and ending on hole eighteen. In golf, you
compete against yourself trying to beat your personal best or against others, and the lowest score always
wins. Meaning that when you play a hole, you are attempting to hit the golf ball into the hole in the fewest
number of strokes possible. At the end of your eighteen holes, you take the sum of the number of strokes
it took you to get the ball in the hole on each hole, and that is your final score. In golf, you are only able
to advance the ball with your golf clubs meaning you cannot pick up the ball and throw it or kick it into
the hole. There are different types of clubs that a golfer will use at different times, and specific swings are
made with these clubs depending on the circumstances. The golf swing is very technical and hard to
master. One small move when you swing can cause the ball to go where you do not intend it to go and that is where TrackMan comes in.

Before I introduce TrackMan, I want to explain why I love golf and what drew me to it. I started playing golf when I was in the seventh grade. I was naturally horrible at it just like everyone is when they start playing a new sport, but I always loved the challenge it presented. Day in and day out I practiced with guidance from college kids at a public golf program. As I improved, I began to want more. I wanted to be able to compete at a high enough level to play for my high school golf team. The competition drew me in even further. That’s when my parents decided to put me into golf lessons with a former professional golfer and when I was first introduced to TrackMan.

TrackMan is, “a sturdy-looking gray box featuring TrackMan's distinctive orange logo, a small built-in camera and metal stand” (Shackelford). The idea behind TrackMan is that golfers can hit golf balls into a net while standing front of it and through its motion sensors, radar technology, and data collecting technology it collects data about the golf swing that tells you where the ball will go and why it will go there. What makes TrackMan more user-friendly is, “there is full integration via phone or tablet apps allowing a golfer to study his progress and review swings past or present” (Shackelford).

So by using Trackman, players can now analyze their swings, and with an understanding of the data TrackMan gives them, make changes to their swings allowing them to hit the ball straighter, farther, and more consistent than ever before. This technology is revolutionary in golf because before Trackman you would either pay for a swing instructor to get help or use video cameras and watch slow motion video of your swing to pick out the flaws. Now you can hit a shot, analyze your data and know why the ball is not flying in the direction you want it to fly. Instructors can now combine both their knowledge of the golf swing, slow-motion video, and Trackman to give their students the most accurate and exact advice so they can improve their swing. Another way TrackMan revolutionized my game was before I began using it, I only practiced my game by playing on a course and through competition. Once introduced to
TrackMan, it allowed me to take my practice indoors enabling me to practice year round which was a commodity in the golf world before TrackMan, given that golf is played and practiced outdoors and not year round. This can also be seen as a bad thing because if golfers spend to much time on TrackMan, they can miss out on the experience they get from playing different courses. This experience is crucial for competitive golfers and was pivotal for my game as I competed in high school. A steady balance of competition on the course and practice with Trackman became the remedy for this problem.

TrackMan has been around since the early 2000’s and can only continue to grow from here. It started with functions that just took data for analysis of a players swing and now has features for specific types of practice and even games to play that help golfers practice certain aspects of their game. I believe this technology will only continue to change the game of golf just as it already has. “More than 350 professional players carry a TrackMan with them, and the company has expanded to over 120 employees” (Craig). TrackMan is not a cheap piece of equipment either with retail around twenty thousand plus dollars. In the future, I would hope to see its technology and building materials advance and grow to the point where manufacturers could create and distribute the product at a more affordable cost so more golfers could access TrackMan.

In conclusion, TrackMan changed my golf career allowing me to play at the highest competitive level in high school and improving my game to a very respectable level. It drew me deeper into the sport and strengthened my passion. It also revolutionized the golf world and the level of competition at all stages of the game. Whether you are a professional, amateur, or beginner, TrackMan can and will help you reach the level of success and skill that it helped me achieve.
Works Cited


The FBI’s computer software

Throughout the drama series *Criminal Minds*, computer software is a vital piece to every episode and case the main characters, the FBI’s Behavioral Analysis Unit, have to crack. Throughout the series, the FBI seeks to help solve investigations related mostly to serial killing and abductions. The computer software’s role throughout the series is to help with the inquiry by tracking any traceable item within a suspect's possession. Also, by looking up records of a suspect to get leads and details on the case. This computer is incredibly advanced with a plethora of data analyzing and tracking software and operated by a former hacker. Without this software, the FBI would be without masses of intelligence necessary for the cracking of their cases.

To properly exhibit the importance of the computer software in *Criminal Minds*, taking a look at episode twenty-two in season eight titled “#6” is the best way to do so. In this episode, the team is searching for a suspect who kidnapped couples and forced them to kill each other as well as kidnapping women to do the same. By the end of the show, the team tracks down the killer using coordinates via his car plates and his former work records searching for where he would potential commit his crimes. They are only able to catch the killer because of their computer’s ability to track him down.

The computer has many similar characteristics to the one you could buy at home however it is much faster and operates with various software not available to the general public. The FBI has to keep most of its technology and software a secret for fear that it will get into the hands of potential criminals. In an article about the FBI’s censorship of its technology the author states, “FBI agents swore to federal judges that they must remain mum on a controversial surveillance program that nets large amounts of
cellphone and Internet traffic to keep criminals from figuring out how to evade the electronic dragnet” (Prine). This very technology or a similar version of it is used in episode twenty-two and throughout the series.

This type of software is solving lots of problems whether they are real world or in *Criminal Minds*. The software used on the computer in *Criminal Minds* is real-life software, and despite solving real-world problems, it has also created some real-world issues as well. Some of these issues include the rights of the FBI to censor what types of software and technology they use. One belief, voiced by Neil Gordon, states, “It's taxpayer money, so taxpayers have a right to know how it's being spent” (Prine). This is where the issue arises and where life-saving technology possessed by the FBI, is now seen as a dangerous and even intrusive tool used by the government in extreme ways.

Throughout the episode, the characters lives are made easier by the software as its tracking ability continually assists them. They are always lead to the suspects sooner and efficiently making their jobs easier and the world safer. The case would be no different in real life as well. Similarly, the FBI’s job of protecting people from these murders is made easier and more efficient, and the streets are safer with this technology in their hands. Regarding how ethical this technology is, I would say that when used for the right reasons the technology is very moral and even necessary. Without the tracking software, the world would experience more serial killers getting away with their crimes and a much more uncertain world. However, the issue of surveillance through this technology can become murky and questions of what is too much become vague. In the end, the technology as a whole is more ethical than not and complies with federal laws set in place to protect the rights of all citizens.

I think that in five to ten years there is a good chance that this technology will continue to be around and be more advanced in use and capability. For instance, I believe that it is possible that the FBI would still utilize this technology to track criminals but instead of sending agents to arrest them and find their whereabouts, they would program drones and robots to both track and stop these criminals. The need
for a hacker behind a computer with this software would diminish, and the drones and robots would be capable of communicating with those in charge via artificial intelligence and using the software via programming to get the job done.

In conclusion, the technology in Criminal Minds has its variance in real life but is used everyday by our FBI to saves lives. Without this technology the streets would not be safer and this tv show demonstrates that belief. Despite concerns, the technology and software used in *Criminal Minds* and by our FBI are necessary for the safety and security of our public.