

GOOD FEELING FILLS THE AMERICAS CUP

by

JOSEPH C. DEY, JR.

USGA Executive Director

MARIO RIVAS and Pedro Suinaga are old hands at both sports and international affairs.

Senor Rivas, Princeton '26, was on the soccer and swimming teams in college and a champion swimmer in his native Mexico; he is now President of the Mexican Golf Association. Senor Suinaga excelled at rugby and other sports during college days in Canada; he is now non-playing Captain of Mexico's amateur golf team and a former President of the Mexican Association.

Thus, with those two gentlemen in charge, it was no wonder that the Americas Cup Match in Mexico City last month completely fulfilled its object of advancing friendship and sportsmanship among the amateur teams of Canada, Mexico and the United States.

"Neustra casa es su casa"—"Our house is your house."

So Senor Rivas told the three Teams at a dinner in their honor after the Match. So, in fact, it had been for the Canadian and American visitors from the moment they arrived in Mexico.

Before the Match, the Mexican hosts arranged a novel and inspiring flag ceremony on the lawn of the Mexico City Country Club. The three teams lined up and each captain raised his country's flag while a military band played his national anthem. Those present included Ambassadors Francis White of the United States and Douglas Cole of Canada; representing President Adolfo Ruiz Cortines of Mexico was Prof. Antonio Estopier, President of the Mexican Confederation of Sports, an official Government agency under the Secretary of Education.

The formal symbol of the three flags flying together found warm human expression in Senior Rivas' gracious words "Our house is your house." When such a genuine feeling exists, one need have no concern for the state of relations between nations.

The fabric of international relations is woven of many different strands. Golf is fortunate to be able to contribute its small part.

The Competitive Side

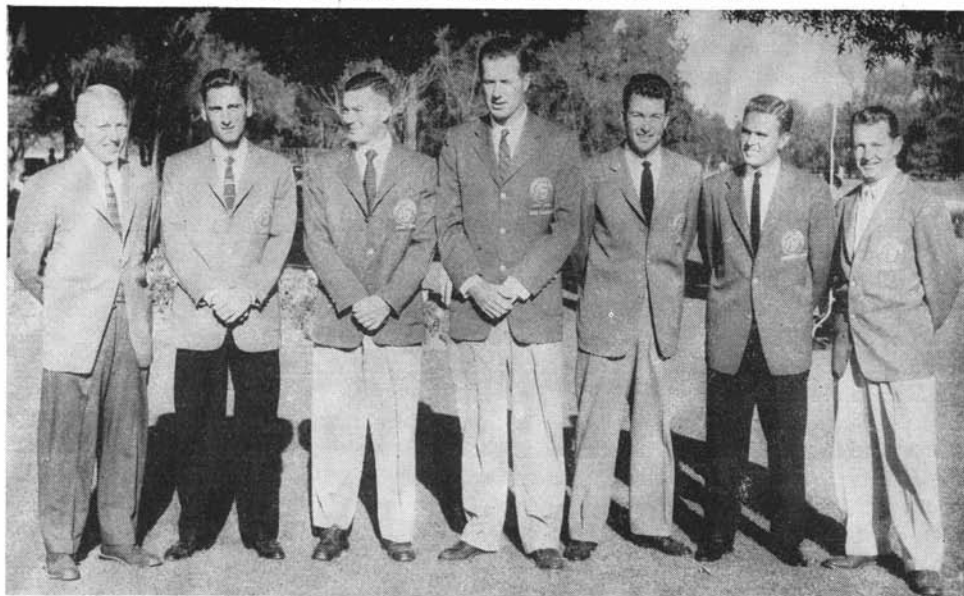
This was the third match for the Americas Cup, presented by Jerome P. Bowes, Jr., of Chicago, former President of the Western Golf Association. The event is held every two years, rotated among the three countries. It started in 1952 at Seattle; the second Match was played at London, Ontario, in 1954.

The USGA selects its Team of seven players by exactly the same criteria as used for the older Walker Cup series; that is, (1) playing ability as reflected by records in important tournaments; (2) unquestioned amateur status; (3) qualifications to represent our country internationally.

With the playing of the Match in Mexico City for the first time, a full cycle has been completed, and it is now possible to appraise the series as a competition. The U.S.A. has won all three Matches, and with our vast number of good players it is reasonable to expect that we shall continue to win most of the time. After all, our country has 5,300 golf courses and nearly four million players; Mexico has 24 courses.

But some important facts must be borne in mind about both of our friendly rivals.

OUR WINNING AMERICAS CUP TEAM



Left to right: Joe Campbell, Hillman Robbins, Jr., William J. Patton, Captain William C. Campbell, Kenneth Venturi, E. Harvie Ward, Jr., and Joseph W. Conrad.

Canada has many really good players. They gave us a close call in the first two matches, losing by two points the first time and one point in 1954. Jerry Magee, a strapping 22-year-old, lost only to Harvie Ward in singles at Mexico City; he was a semi-finalist in our Amateur Championship and runner-up in the Canadian Amateur this year. Magee had a round of 34-31-65 in singles. He defeated Joe Conrad of the U.S.A. in a classic match. Starting at the ninth hole, Magee had seven birdies and Conrad five.

The Canadian team at Mexico City was without the services of the Canadian Amateur Champion, Moe Norman, whose amateur status came into serious question ten days before the event.

Mexico is fast developing young players of skill. This was plainly apparent when Mexico defeated Canada and finished second to the U.S.A. Juan Estrada, aged 20, won all four of his singles in the Americas Cup, having 68-70 for the rounds concerned. Earlier in the season he had a phenomenal 29 for nine holes at Torreon, Mexico. He is the No. 1 player on the North Texas State College team. In Ignacio Lopez, Jr., and 18-year Tomas Lehman, Mexico has other youngsters of promise. With professional instructors like Roberto de Vicenzo and Percy Clifford, one may expect the Mexican Team to grow in skill.

Americans Clearly Superior

But the superiority of the American side was clear throughout, and the final scores were:

	<u>U. S. A.</u>	<u>Mexico</u>	<u>Canada</u>
Foursomes	11½	4½	2
Singles	18	8½	9½
Total	29½	13	11½

U.S.A. defeated Mexico by 14½ to 3½ and Canada by 15 to 3. Mexico defeated Canada, 9½ to 8½.

Play was over two days, with two 18-hole match rounds each day. Three-ball "sixsomes" were played the first day and three-ball matches (singles) the second. Pairings were arranged so that players did not meet each other twice.

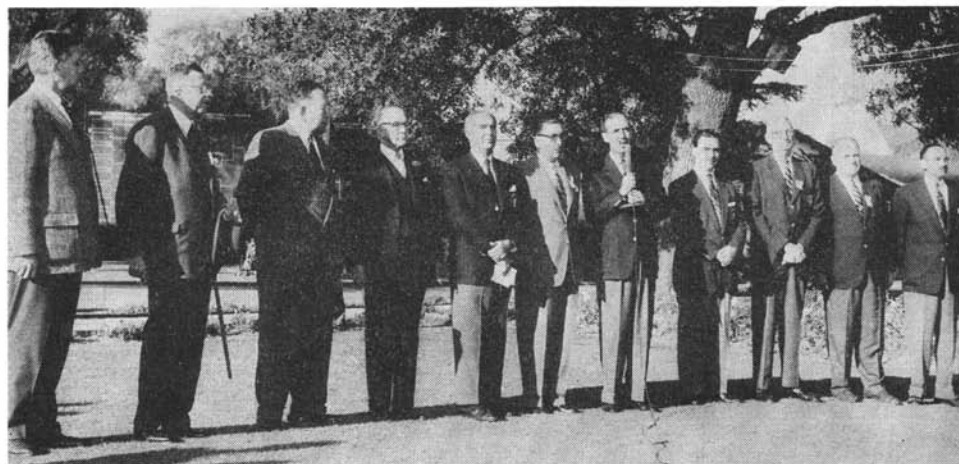
The two-time American Amateur Champion, Harvie Ward, distinguished himself and won all his matches. Ward's stature as a golfer continues to rise. In alternate stroke "sixsome" play he and Billy Joe Patton had a brilliant nine of 30, six under par. Patton was undefeated in "sixsomes" and singles; he was six under par for the 15 holes of his afternoon singles.

Kenneth Venturi and Joe Campbell won all three "sixsomes" points and had a brilliant 31 on the home nine despite painful, cramping indigestion suffered by Venturi. Venturi was unable to play in the three-ball singles the next day. The American Captain, Bill Campbell, who modestly had not intended to play, was obliged to place himself in the lineup and won all four of his points, even though he, too, had been sick the day before.

Members of the three Teams were:

<u>United States</u>	<u>Mexico</u>	<u>Canada</u>
Capt. William C. Campbell	Alejandro Cumming	Douglas Bajus
Joe Campbell	Juan A. Estrada	Robert Kidd
Joseph W. Conrad	Tomas Lehman	George Knudson
William J. Patton	Ignacio Lopez, Jr.	Joseph LaBlanc
Hillman Robbins, Jr.	Fernando Mendez	Jerry Magee
Kenneth Venturi	Antonio Rivas	Gordon MacKenzie
E. Harvie Ward, Jr.	Armando Rivero	Douglas Silverberg
	Non-playing Captain—	Non-playing Captain—
	Pedro Suinaga	James P. Anglin

AT THE AMERICAS CUP FLAG-RAISING



Officials of three countries were present at the flag-raising which inaugurated the Americas Cup Match at the Mexico City Country Club. Left to right: Joseph C. Dey, Jr., USGA Executive Director; Francis White, United States Ambassador to Mexico; William B. Richardson, President of Mexico City Country Club; Douglas Cole, Canadian Ambassador to Mexico; Mario Rivas, President of Mexican Golf Association; Prof. Antonio Estopier, President of Mexican Confederation of Sports; Raul Valdes, First Vice-President, and Roberto de la Garza, Committeeman, both of Mexican Golf Association; John G. Clock, USGA Vice-President; C. W. Benedict, USGA Executive Committeeman, Rodolfo Nagel, Secretary of Mexican Golf Association.