

Selecting the Walker Cup Team

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How is the Walker Cup Team selected?

Two main factors are weighed in considering candidates for America's amateur team:

1. Sportsmanship and general qualifications to represent our country.

2. Playing ability.

Both factors are matters of opinion. As important as is the first, it rarely creates a problem for the USGA Executive Committee, which selects the team. Few mistakes have been made in this regard. Golfers generally are just built right.

Playing ability is the difficult element to judge. In a country as vast as ours, leading players from all the various sections rarely compete against one another. The USGA Amateur Championship is the only real national get-together. How, then, can a team be chosen fairly?

There is no infallible method. There is no all-wise selection group. Over the years the USGA has developed the following method used at present; it works pretty well on the whole, but there may be other ways equally good:

Every member of the Executive Committee nominates as many candidates as he desires (there are 13 members of the Committee, and they are spread over the country). Competitive records of all nominees are considered. Every nominee is then rated by every member of the Committee. When the ratings are averaged a few players at the top are obviously certain of selection and so are temporarily disregarded, and several players at the end of the list are eliminated because they are out of the running. The remaining players are re-rated, in relation to one another.

This tedious procedure is spread over several months and is carried out mainly by correspondence. It is climaxed by a meeting at which each of the leading candidates is voted on individually. The

whole process is a good example of democracy in action.

Sectionalism not Considered

Since the 1951 team was selected, we have received only two letters commenting on the selections (see "It's Your Honor" on page 33). One approved the choices. The other criticized the omission of a certain individual and a certain state. In addition, we have seen a few press comments about the preponderance of Eastern players.

Should the team be selected primarily to insure representation to various sections of the country? If so, what sections, and what are their boundaries? Or should the team be the golfers who are considered best qualified, regardless of where they happen to live?

The Executive Committee feels obliged to select the most highly qualified representatives. If it were otherwise, and if some system of strictly sectional representation were slavishly observed, it is probable that some inferior representative would have to be selected; an unfairness would thereby be worked on a superior player who would have to be passed by simply because his section's quota of places was already used up. In 1949 two players were chosen who were clubmates in Los Angeles — John Dawson and Bruce McCormick. It would have been improper to have omitted either one.

It is true that the 1951 team is preponderantly Eastern. But Eastern players have unusually good records. As one example, in the five Amateur Championships held since the war, five of the ten finalists were Easterners, and three of them were from New York State. Four of the five post-war Champions were Easterners.

There has been minor criticism that undue importance has been placed on performance in the USGA Amateur

Championship. However, it is proper that much weight be given to play in this national event. It is the only occasion when practically all leading amateurs convene.

But general overall record is considered in selecting the team, not just performance in the Championship. Two of the nine members this year have never been to the Amateur semi-finals, but they have fine general records.

On the other hand, one 1949 Championship finalist was not selected. In personal qualifications he is an outstanding individual and would undoubtedly be an unbeatably good international representative.

The most amusing comment we have heard concerning this year's team was written by Merrell Whittlesey in the WASHINGTON STAR. He said in part:

"Walker Cup Teams seem to be chosen more for how they will look in their natty coats with the USGA emblem, what fork they'll use at the team dinner, and whether they have horrid professional aspirations than how they play golf. If this is to be a social affair, why not consult the social register book instead of the record book? Or has that been taken into consideration?"

That question can perhaps be answered best by introducing the members of the team. Here they are:

William C. Campbell

Mr. Campbell has made his presence heavily felt in amateur golf since his return from service in the last war.

He was a semi-finalist in the 1949 Amateur Championship, being defeated by Charles R. Coe, who went on to win the title. He went to the sixth round of the British Amateur last year before he was eliminated by a 19th hole

birdie by Joe Carr. Before that defeat, Mr. Campbell eliminated the defending Champion, Max McCreedy, and Willie Turnesa.

Three times in five years he reached the quarter-finals of the Western Amateur. Last year he won the North and South Amateur and the West Virginia Amateur and Open. He was the first amateur ever to gain his State Open crown, and did so by a margin of 13 strokes. He won the Tam O'Shanter Amateur tournament in 1948 and 1949.

Mr. Campbell will be 27 years old in May. He is active in church and civic enterprises in Huntington, W. Va., is a member of the Executive Committee of the West Virginia Golf Association, and serves on the USGA Amateur Status and Conduct Committee and "Golf House" Fund Committee. While at Princeton he won the 1946 Eastern Intercollegiate Championship and was co-winner in 1943.

He was a member of the West Virginia Legislature, conducts an insurance business, and is an officer and director of a radio broadcasting corporation.

Richard D. Chapman

The oldest member of the team at 40, Mr. Chapman is representing the USGA in Walker Cup competition for the second time. In 1947 he won a singles match from P. B. (Laddie) Lucas and lost in foursomes.

Mr. Chapman has twice been runner-up for the British Amateur Championship, and each time was stopped short of the title by a fellow-American — Willie Turnesa in 1947 and Frank Stranahan last year.

Mr. Chapman's greatest golf achievement came in the 1940 USGA Amateur, when he won both the Championship and the medal.

His other victories in recent years include the 1950 Massachusetts Amateur, the 1949 Canadian Amateur, and the English "Golf Illustrated" Gold Vase in 1948.

Mr. Chapman, who resides in Osterville, Mass., during the summer and Pinehurst, N. C., during the winter, combines management of an estate with farming. He was an Air Force major in the last war and has numerous hobbies, including photography and music.

Charles R. Coe

This will be Mr. Coe's second appearance in Walker Cup play. He took part in the singles two years ago and defeated Cecil Ewing, 1 up.

Two weeks later he reached the high point of his golf career thus far by winning the USGA Amateur Championship. Mr. Coe says his biggest thrill in golf came in that tournament when he won two extra-hole matches in one day, defeating Harvie Ward in the fifth round on the 19th and John Dawson on the 21st of their quarter-final round match.

Although he surrendered his Amateur title last year, he had a worthy triumph to console him, winning the Western Amateur. In 1949,

WALKER CUP ITINERARY

The American Walker Cup Team sails April 27 from New York on the SS Parthia. Its match with Britain's amateurs is to be played May 11 and 12 at the Birkdale Golf Club, near Southport, England.

The American Walker Cuppers all intend to compete in the British Amateur Championship May 21-26 at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, Porthcawl, Wales. Some of them will play in the French Amateur Championship.



William P. Turnesa
Acme Photo



Frank R. Stranahan



Sam Urzetta



James B. McHale, Jr.



Richard D. Chapman



William C. Campbell



Robert W. Knowles, Jr.



Harold D. Paddock, Jr.

Cleveland Plain Dealer



Charles R. Coe

he was low amateur in the Augusta Masters tournament. He won the Trans-Mississippi in 1947 and 1949 and was a semi-finalist in the 1948 USGA Amateur.

One of his notable feats was the winning of 23 consecutive matches in major competition at one stage of his career.

Mr. Coe is married, has one son, and is in the oil investment business in Oklahoma City. He is 27 years old. He attended the University of Tennessee and was graduated from the University of Oklahoma.

Robert W. Knowles, Jr.

Mr. Knowles, an insurance broker, divides his time between Boston and Aiken, S. C., and divides his golfing victories pretty much the same way. He won both the New England Amateur and the South Carolina Amateur last year.

A more gratifying feat than either, he says, was reaching the semi-finals of the 1950 USGA Amateur.

In 1949 he won the Massachusetts Amateur and was a semi-finalist and medalist in the

New England Amateur.

Mr. Knowles is 36 years old, is married, and has one daughter.

James B. McHale, Jr.

Although he has been prominent in major amateur competition for several years, including reaching the semi-finals of the British Amateur last year, Mr. McHale has attracted unusual attention for his play in open tournaments.

He was low amateur in the 1950 Open and second amateur in the 1949 Championship. In 1947 he broke the all-time Open record for a single round when he scored a 65 at the St. Louis Country Club. (This record was surpassed last year by Lee Mackey, Jr.)

In the Western Amateur, Mr. McHale was medalist last year, a quarter-finalist in 1949, and runner-up in 1948. He won the 1948 Philadelphia Open and was low amateur in the Western Open that year.

He was a member of the 1949 Walker Cup Team, winning in singles from Gerald Micklem, and reached the fifth round of the USGA Amateur the same year.

Service veterans of the European Theater recall how Mr. McHale dominated amateur golf in that area after V-E Day in 1945. Playing in combat boots, with a short set of clubs that Special Services had rummaged up and using an old English ball, he spread-eagled the field by about 20 strokes in the 13th Airborne Division tournament. Using the same equipment, he went on to win the 16th Corps tournament and followed by placing as low amateur in the ETO Championship, finishing only one stroke behind Lloyd Mangrum for the title.

An insurance broker, Mr. McHale resides in Philadelphia with his wife and three children. He will be 35 years old in April.

Harold D. Paddock, Jr.

Mr. Paddock, who is actively interested in several popular sports and also finds time to act as supervisor of an air defense filter center at Canton, Ohio, has a notable tournament record around Ohio. He declares his supreme satisfaction so far was reaching the quarter-finals of the USGA Amateur in 1949. He did almost as well last year when he carried to the fifth round before being halted; on the way he eliminated the defending Champion, Charles Coe.

Mr. Paddock won the Ohio State Amateur last season for the second time and set a record of 285 in winning the Cleveland District stroke play title. In 1949 he won the Cleveland District match play championship and the Youngstown Open, and was a Western Amateur quarter-finalist. He reached the semi-finals of the 1948 Western Amateur.

Other accomplishments include low amateur honors in the 1946 Canadian Open and several Cleveland District Amateur Championships.

Mr. Paddock, who is a partner in management of real estate and golf operations, is an alumnus of the University of Southern California and an active reserve in the Air Force. He lives in Cleveland Heights with his wife and one son, and is a member of the Cleveland District Tournament Committee. He is 30 years old.

Frank R. Stranahan

Mr. Stranahan, whose reputation as a weight-lifter has won him the sobriquet of "the Toledo strong man", came closer to a "little slam" last season than has any other amateur golfer since Lawson Little achieved the feat for the second time in 1935. He scored his second victory in the British Amateur and pressed Sam Urzetta to the 39th hole of the USGA Amateur final before bowing.

The Amateur is one of the few titles that has evaded Mr. Stranahan's ardent pursuit. Included in his collection, besides the British Amateur in 1948 and 1950, are double victories in the Western, North and South, Canadian, Mexican, Great Lakes Amateur Championships, numerous Tam O'Shanter tournaments, and several open events in which he competed against the leading professionals. In 1947

he tied for second in the British Open Championship and the Augusta Masters tournament.

This will be Mr. Stranahan's third appearance on the Walker Cup Team. He won his singles in 1947 and 1949 and helped win one of his foursomes matches; his only defeat was in the 1947 foursomes.

A bachelor, he is a salesman for his father's manufacturing company. He is 28 years old.

William P. Turnesa

The American team captain's playing achievements have won admiration exceeded only by that which he has earned for his sportsmanship.

Mr. Turnesa's two USGA Amateur Championships came ten years apart, the first in 1938, just after he was graduated from Holy Cross College.

Even before his second victory in 1948 his reputation as a great player was secure, for he is one of the few who have won both the USGA and the British Amateur Championships. He gained the British in 1947. As recently as 1949 he was runner-up in the British and a semi-finalist in the USGA Championship.

Mr. Turnesa is quite active in civic life. He is a village trustee of Elmsford, N. Y., and two years ago was candidate for mayor there. He also takes part in work for the Sister Kenny Foundation, the Red Cross and other such worthy projects. He is Secretary of the Metropolitan Golf Association and a member of the USGA Amateur Status and Conduct Committee.

This will be the third time Mr. Turnesa has carried USGA colors in Walker Cup competition. He scored both singles and foursomes victories in the 1947 match and was defeated in both in 1949.

He is the father of three children, is 37 years old, and is one of seven brothers, the rest of whom are professional golfers (one is deceased).

Sam Urzetta

There was great joy all over western New York last August as Sam Urzetta, to the surprise of most golfers but not to those who knew him best, survived the longest final in Amateur Championship history and defeated Frank Stranahan for the title on the 39th hole.

Mr. Urzetta is a popular figure in Rochester and nearby communities, but until that feat he was probably better known as a basketball player for St. Bonaventure University.

It was by no means his first golf achievement, however. He had won the New York State Amateur in 1948 and twice was Rochester District champion in addition to winning the Central New York Amateur, this last at stroke play.

Mr. Urzetta, the youngest member of the team at 25, is a Walker Cupper for the first time. He is a salesman for a lumber company. He likes music, all sports, and is much interested in sports programs for children. He is a bachelor.