

CAPTAIN'S CHOICE IN THE WALKER CUP

by

JOSEPH C. DEY, JR.

USGA Executive Director

SUPPOSE you had the opportunity to play for the United States in a Walker Cup Match against Britain. You were right on the scene — St. Andrews, Scotland, — you had been runner-up in the British Amateur Championship the year before, you were playing well in practice, and you were the only member of your Team who had ever competed over the Old Course at St. Andrews.

That would seem a tailor-made situation for you to win a sprig of golfing laurel.

Big Bill Campbell was in that situation last month. He did distinguish himself. But his distinction lies in the fact that he did *not* play in the Match.

As Captain of the United States side, he declined to put himself in the line-up for either of the two days of the Match. He used all the other eight members of the Team, even though he was one of the strongest and certainly the most experienced American player.

His self-denial resulted not from false modesty. It was an incident in the natural course of Bill Campbell's duties as Captain as he envisioned those duties.

Have you ever considered the duties of a captain in golf? It has many facets, but the main job is to lead a group of individuals — all of them skilled at a highly individualistic game — to view the enterprise as a team effort. In a brief period of time they must learn to approach the Match not as separate personalities, but as an integrated group, every member standing ready to subordinate and to make any necessary sacrifice for the common welfare.

Chance to Know Each Other

It is quite a trick to bring that about. That is one reason why USGA teams going overseas travel by ship rather than by

plane — to give them opportunity in several days of isolation at sea to get to know one another really well.

When the Team disembarked from the SS America at Southampton last month, it was a Team in fact. The team spirit was enhanced as the practice days passed at St. Andrews. Bill Campbell's briefing concerning the many subtleties of the Old Course had been so thorough that, as Bruce Cudd said, "All we had to do was go out and play."

But they had to learn to play in alternate rain and hail — in winds which, during one lunch period, swung round 180 degrees from due east to due west, at about 25 miles per hour. They had to learn to play with pajamas under their clothes to keep them warm, with rain pants and rain jackets on top, wearing newly bought fur-lined gloves between shots. They had to learn to play run-up shots with the small ball, from beautiful turf that gives the cleanest lie imaginable to tremendously large and fast greens, directly contrasting with our American pitch shots from lush, snuggly turf to soft greens.

After nearly a week of practice, one member of the Team was playing not too well, and Bill was on the point of scrapping all his plans for the foursome lineup for the first day of the Match. He had not planned to play himself in the foursomes, but now it almost seemed the thing to do.

But the player who was off form was an experienced golfer — one of the older members of the side — and Bill finally decided to nominate him.

"I have faith in him," Bill said simply.

Victory by Largest Margin

That player and his partner won their foursomes by the largest margin of all

THE VICTORIOUS WALKER CUP TEAM



Top row, left to right: Bruce H. Cudd, Dale Morey, Isaac B. Grainger (President of the USGA), William C. Campbell (Captain), James G. Jackson and Richard L. Yost. Below, left to right: William J. Patton, Donald R. Cherry, Lieut. Joseph W. Conrad and E. Harvie Ward, Jr.

four of the first-day matches, which America swept.

Captain Campbell scurried around all day, watching this match and then another, making sure that he had all available information on which to base his lineup for the eight singles matches on the second day. After checking with a couple of scouts, he made his decision.

"I just can't take one of those boys out. They'll all play tomorrow," he said. "They played their hearts out today, and every last one of them earned the right to play in the singles."

That is why Bill Campbell did not play in the Walker Cup.

It should be noted that the player who had been off form in practice shot the greatest golf in the morning round of the singles — he was out in 32 and home in 36, for a 68 over the Old Course. He won his match by 6 and 4.

And so the wheel turned a full cycle for Jimmy Jackson, of St. Louis. In the last match at Kittansett in 1953 he had

discovered sixteen clubs in his bag on the second hole of his foursomes, and he and Gene Littler had been penalized the loss of two holes — they nearly were disqualified. Now, at St. Andrews, he and Bruce Cudd won their foursome by 5 and 4 and he was brilliant in defeating Cecil Ewing in singles after that 68 in the morning.

It could not have happened if his Captain had not had faith in him.

American teams have been blessed with great leaders: Bill Fownes, Bob Gardner, Bob Jones, Francis Ouimet, Willie Turnesa and Charley Yates. Standing in worthy succession in that great tradition is Big Bill Campbell.

This was the fifteenth Walker Cup Match, and the fourteenth United States victory. It was unexpected in some quarters, and certainly the 10-2 margin was a surprise. The British had a rather veteran Team, steeped in knowledge of St. Andrews, and the United States side was young and almost completely untried at Scottish linksland golf. As a matter of

fact, only one American had gone as far as the final of the USGA Amateur — Dale Morey, who was runner-up in 1953.

Britain's only victory had come at St. Andrews. All its best showings had been made over the Old Course. Twice the score there was 6 to 5, with one match halved.

But it must be borne in mind that we in the United States, with 5,100 golf courses, have about three times as many courses and thrice the population of the British Isles. Moreover, we play more competitions, and our players are tournament-hardened.

In contrast, Ronnie White, who played No. 1 for Britain, is a Liverpool lawyer who cannot find the time to play in the British Amateur. He has never won the British Amateur, yet for many years he has been perhaps as fine an amateur golfer as there is in the world. Until this year he had never lost a Walker Cup singles, having defeated Dick Chapman, Charlie Coe, Willie Turnesa and Fred Kammer.

This time Harvie Ward, now at the peak of the amateur ranks, played brilliantly to defeat White by 6 and 5.

In view of the United States predominance, what of the future for the Walker Cup

series? It seems a pity that the series has been one-sided in total result. At St. Andrews some one suggested unofficially that the British team should include representatives from the Dominions. After all, an Australian, Doug Bachli, won the British Amateur last year.

Valuable Friendship Tie

Aside from past results and ideas advanced for the future, one central fact shines out from the history of the Walker Cup Match. It is a most valuable tie of friendship between Britain and the United States.

From a strictly selfish view, Americans who go overseas for golf competition are usually greatly enriched. We are a nation whose golfers are of first and second generations, occasionally third. The game abroad is much older. In "Golf House" we have a copy of Rules used about 1744 by the Honorable Company of Edinburgh Golfers. There is much we can still learn about golf from our British friends, even though our international teams are presently stronger than theirs.

That is what the Walker Cup really means.

1955 INTERNATIONAL MATCH FOR THE WALKER CUP

Held at St. Andrews, Scotland

May 20 and 21

FOURSOMES

GREAT BRITAIN		UNITED STATES	
	<i>Points</i>		<i>Points</i>
Joseph B. Carr and Ronald J. White.....	0	E. Harvie Ward, Jr., and Donald R. Cherry (1 up) ..	1
Gerald H. Micklem and John L. Morgan.....	0	William J. Patton and Richard L. Yost (2 and 1)....	1
Ian Caldwell and Ernest B. Millward.....	0	Joseph W. Conrad and Dale Morey (3 and 2).....	1
David A. Blair and J. Robert Cater.....	0	Bruce H. Cudd and James G. Jackson (5 and 4)....	1
Total Foursomes	0	Total Foursomes	4

SINGLES

Ronald J. White	0	E. Harvie Ward, Jr. (6 and 5).....	1
Philip F. Scrutton	0	William J. Patton (2 and 1).....	1
Ian Caldwell (1 up).....	1	Dale Morey	0
Joseph B. Carr	0	Donald R. Cherry (5 and 4).....	1
David A. Blair (1 up).....	1	Joseph W. Conrad	0
Ernest B. Millward	0	Bruce H. Cudd (2 up).....	1
R. Cecil Ewing	0	James G. Jackson (6 and 4).....	1
John L. Morgan	0	Richard L. Yost (8 and 7).....	1
Total Singles	2	Total Singles	6
Grand Total, Great Britain	2	Grand Total, United States	10

Non-playing Captain: G. Alec Hill

Captain: William C. Campbell