

The U.S. sets its team

Written by TMAC GOLF
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Five more players were added by the United States Golf Association to the 10-man squad of the 2015 United States Walker Cup Team. Scott Harvey, 37, of Greensboro, N.C.; Denny McCarthy, 22, of Rockville, Md.; Mike McCoy, 52, of Des Moines, Iowa; Jordan Niebrugge, 22, of Mequon, Wis.; and Robby Shelton, 19, of Wilmer, Ala., will represent the United States Team captained by John "Spider" Miller at Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf Club in Lancashire, England, Sept. 12-13.

These five players chosen by the USGA's International Team Selection Committee join those who were determined on Aug. 10: 2015 U.S. Amateur champion Bryson DeChambeau, 21, of Clovis, Calif.; Beau Hossler, 20, of Mission Viejo, Calif.; Lee McCoy, 21, of Athens, Ga.; Maverick McNealy, 19, of Portola Valley, Calif.; and Hunter Stewart, 22, of Lexington, Ky.

"The addition of these five outstanding gentlemen to the 2015 United States Walker Cup Team is a source of great pride for us," said Diana M. Murphy, USGA vice president and chairman of the USGA's Championship Committee. "We are confident that this group of 10 who will represent the USA will form a competitive and cohesive team in the true spirit of the Walker Cup and prove to be an amicable and formidable opponent for Great Britain and Ireland."

Following are biographies of each of the five players chosen on Sunday by the USGA's International Team Selection Committee:

Harvey won the 2014 U.S. Mid-Amateur by defeating Brad Nurski in the final, which earned him an invitation to the 2015 Masters, where he missed the cut. He and partner Todd Mitchell reached the semifinals of the 2015 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball at The Olympic Club. He won the 2015 Gasparilla Invitational, advanced to the match-play quarterfinals in the 2015 Japan Amateur and tied for sixth in the Porter Cup earlier this month. Harvey, who is a property manager for S&K Triad Properties, won the 2015 South American Amateur, in Lima, Peru, by two strokes. He attended the University of West Florida and High Point University. He won the Carolinas Player of the Year Award in 2011 and 2012. Harvey has played in 17 USGA championships, including five U.S. Amateurs. Harvey's late father, Bill, who taught him the game, played in 18 U.S. Amateur Championships.

McCarthy, who recently completed his senior season at the University of Virginia, earned All-America honors for the third year in a row and became the first Virginia player to be chosen

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All-Atlantic Coast Conference four times. McCarthy tied for 42nd in the 2015 U.S. Open at Chambers Bay. At the 2014 World Amateur Team Championship in Japan, he finished fifth in the individual scoring at 19-under-par 267 to lead the USA to the gold medal. He shot a final-round 64. He won the 2015 Porter Cup by defeating Carter Jenkins on the first playoff hole after they tied at 11-under 269 for 72 holes. In 2014, he finished sixth as an individual at the NCAA Championships. He has played in seven consecutive U.S. Amateurs, advancing to the semifinals in 2014 and to the Round of 32 in 2015.

McCoy was low amateur in both the 2014 and 2015 U.S. Senior Opens, tying the record for lowest 72-hole score by an amateur (282) in 2015. He won the 2013 U.S. Mid-Amateur, becoming the second-oldest champion at age 50 and played in the 2014 Masters, where he missed the cut. He advanced to the semifinals of the U.S. Mid-Amateur in 2005 and 2008. In 2015, he won the Crane Cup and the Coleman Invitational. A 10-time Iowa Player of the Year, McCoy works in the insurance business and is an Iowa Golf Hall of Fame member (2011). A collegiate golfer at Wichita State University, he has played in 45 USGA championships, including 16 U.S. Amateurs. He has four children, one of whom, Nate, plays professional golf.

Niebrugge, who was a member of the winning 2013 USA Walker Cup Team, tied for sixth in the 2015 Open Championship at St. Andrews. He won the silver medal and posted the lowest score (11-under 277) by an amateur in the championship's 144 years. In 2015, he was a quarterfinalist in the Western Amateur. Niebrugge, a senior at Oklahoma State University, won the East/New Haven NCAA Regional with a score of 203 and was an honorable mention All-America choice. Chosen All-Big 12 Conference for the third consecutive year, he had a stellar 2013 campaign, winning the U.S. Amateur Public Links, Western Amateur, Wisconsin State Amateur and Wisconsin State Match Play. As the Public Links champion, he played in the 2014 Masters, where he missed the cut. He also tied for 27th in the PGA Tour's John Deere Classic in 2014. He has played in three U.S. Amateurs and seven USGA championships.

Shelton, who turns 20 on Aug. 25, is a junior at the University of Alabama, where he earned first-team All-America and first-team All-Southeastern Conference recognition for the second consecutive year. A semifinalist for the 2015 Ben Hogan Award, Shelton received the 2014 Phil Mickelson National Freshman of the Year Award and helped the Crimson Tide capture the 2014 NCAA Championship. He tied for third in the PGA Tour's Barbasol Championship in July 2015, becoming the first amateur to post a top-three finish on Tour since Mickelson in 1991. He was the medalist in the 2015 Western Amateur, advancing to the semifinals. He was 4-0 in his matches in the 2015 Palmer Cup to help the USA defeat Europe. He has played in seven USGA championships, including three U.S. Amateurs. In 2015, he advanced to the Round of 16.

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“It is an honor to be the captain for this group of talented men as we represent our country in the Walker Cup Match,” said John “Spider” Miller, captain of the USA Team, who won two U.S. Mid-Amateur Championships and played on the 1999 United States Walker Cup Team. “They are all very team-oriented and also committed to the spirit and tradition of the Match. I believe they will compete to their maximum but also develop friendships that will last for their entire careers in golf.”

The alternates are Matt NeSmith, 21, of North Augusta, S.C., and Scottie Scheffler, 19, of Dallas, Texas.

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