

# U.S. Amateur Championship

**Sunday, August 20, 2023**

**Cherry Hills Village, Colorado, USA**

**Cherry Hills Country Club**

## Mike McCoy

**United States Walker Cup Team Captain**

### Quick Quotes

**Q. Can you just give us a statement about the team selection.**

MIKE McCOY: Well, it was a two-year process. It was a long time coming, and obviously we've got a short time frame to turn it around. We've blessed in America to have a lot of great young players, and I'm very happy with the 10 that we selected.

We're leaving for New York on Thursday, and we'll be in Scotland Saturday morning.

**Q. What course are you looking forward to playing the most before you get on the actual competition course at St Andrews?**

MIKE McCOY: We're going to play Dumbarnie and Kingsbarns on the weekend before just to get adapted to the time change and a little links golf. Monday we'll start our work at the Old Course.

**Q. You have a four-time Walker Cupper on your team, Stewart Hagestad. What does he bring to the team? Is he almost like a second captain?**

MIKE McCOY: Yeah, we're certainly looking for some leadership from Stew in the room. We've got a young team, and I would expect that we'll be asking him to wrap his arms around a couple guys and hopefully lead them to winning a few points.

**Q. Was there anybody who specifically this week may have been kind of on the bubble that played their way on to the team?**

MIKE McCOY: You know, it was a very -- there was just a couple really close -- it was really a difficult decision I think for the committee. I don't have a vote, but I know they struggled with making that final selection or two.

I'm happy with who they selected, but I certainly -- I've been there. I've gotten the call where you're not selected, and it's a disappointment.

I feel for the guys who weren't selected.

**Q. Your last Walker Cup was 2015, right?**

MIKE McCOY: 2015, yes.

**Q. What do you remember about that and the taste you had in your mouth leaving there, and how much more does that make you want to get after it in a couple weeks?**

MIKE McCOY: Yeah, that was a real disappointment, not just for the team, but we really loved our captain, Spider Miller. I felt terrible for him.

I was happy he was able to get another opportunity to win in Los Angeles.

Obviously we're going to go over there -- we want this to be a great week for the players, but we certainly hope to retain the Cup.

**Q. What's your captain style?**

MIKE McCOY: You know, I think we're just bringing 10 individuals together as a team. I think that's the most important thing I'm trying to do is get everybody working as one and pulling for each other.

I think we'll get that accomplished.

**Q. What Nick has accomplished this week, you've got to be excited to have an opportunity to coach him.**

MIKE McCOY: Yeah, Nick has had a great summer. I've been watching him all summer. I'm not surprised he won. Just a tremendous talent, and probably one of golf's future superstars.

**Q. Can you talk about the process the whole two years of traveling around. You've been involved in the process as a player.**

MIKE McCOY: Right, it's a big commitment really for the players and the captain. You know, when you're a player you feel like you're running the gauntlet. There's certain tournaments that you have to be at and you have to perform well at, and then as a captain you want to watch those tournaments and see how people respond to the opportunity.

I've enjoyed it. I attended all the NCAAs, the U.S. Opens, the U.S. Amateurs, the Western Amateurs and on and on. It's been a lot of fun for me, and I've gotten to know a lot of these families and their college coaches. They're a great group, and it's been -- certainly enriched my life getting the opportunity.

**Q. How would you describe the makeup of the 10 that were chosen, and what kind of a team could this be?**

MIKE McCOY: You know, they're all proven winners. They've all won. They've been on big stages.

I think this is going to be -- I feel this is really going to be a talented team. Only time will tell how talented, but I feel blessed that we're going over there with the group we are.

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