

LIBERTY CORNER, N.J. (Nov. 15, 2022) – The USGA’s International Team Selection Committee has invited 16 players to attend a practice session Dec. 15-18 for the 2023 Walker Cup Match. The three days of practice will be held in Jupiter, Fla.



The following 16 players have accepted invitations to the practice session (with college affiliation):

- **Evan Beck**, 32, of Virginia Beach, Va. (Wake Forest, class of 2013)
- **Michael Brennan**, 20, of Leesburg, Va. (Wake Forest, junior)
- **David Ford**, 20, of Peachtree Corners, Ga. (North Carolina, sophomore)
- **Nicholas Gabrelcik**, 20, of Trinity, Fla. (North Florida, junior)
- **Stewart Hagestad**, 31, of Newport Beach, Calif. (Southern Cal, class of 2013)
- **Derek Hitchner**, 23, of Minneapolis, Minn. (Pepperdine, graduate student)
- **Palmer Jackson**, 21, of Murrysville, Pa. (Notre Dame, senior)
- **Benjamin James**, 17, of Milford, Conn. (Virginia, freshman)
- **Bryce Lewis**, 22, of Hendersonville, Tenn. (Tennessee, junior)
- **Dylan Menante**, 21, of Carlsbad, Calif. (North Carolina, senior)
- **Maxwell Moldovan**, 20, of Uniontown, Ohio (Ohio State, junior)
- **Gordon Sargent**, 19, of Birmingham, Ala. (Vanderbilt, sophomore)
- **Cole Sherwood**, 20, of Austin, Texas (Vanderbilt, senior)
- **Ross Steelman**, 21, of Atlanta, Ga. (Georgia Tech, senior)
- **Caleb Surratt**, 18, of Indian Trail, N.C. (Tennessee, freshman)
- **Michael Thorbjornsen**, 21, of Wellesley, Mass. (Stanford, junior)

Hagestad, a two-time USGA champion (2016 and 2021 U.S. Mid-Amateur), is the only player with previous Walker Cup experience (2017, 2019, 2021) to be invited to the practice session.

“This serves as another step in the process of team selection and is an opportunity for all involved to become more familiar with each other and begin to build team camaraderie,” said John Bodenhamer, USGA chief championships officer. “These decorated amateurs represent a talented group of potential team members, but we expect others will also be considered as the selection process moves toward its conclusion.”

Mike McCoy, of Des Moines, Iowa, will captain the USA Team for the 2023 Walker Cup Match. He won the 2013 U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship, becoming the second-oldest champion in the event’s history at age 50. He has competed in 65 USGA championships, including 20 U.S. Amateurs, and was a member of the 2015 USA Walker Cup Team at Royal Lytham & St. Anne’s Golf Club in England. Earlier this year, McCoy won the R&A Senior Amateur Championship at Royal Dornoch in Scotland.

“The young golf talent in this country is impressive, and I’m thrilled to gather with this group for a practice session next month,” said McCoy. “We have a strong list of young men attending; a mixture of seasoned veterans as well as up-and-coming stalwarts of the amateur game. I’m excited to spend more time with this group.”

An invitation to the Walker Cup practice session does not guarantee selection to the team. Players not invited will also be considered for inclusion on the team. Ten of the 16 players from the December 2020

“*“This serves as another step in the process of team selection and is an opportunity for all involved to become more familiar with each other and begin to build team camaraderie. These decorated amateurs represent a talented group of potential team members, but we expect others will also be considered as the selection process moves toward its conclusion.” - John Bodenhamer, USGA chief championships officer*”

Walker Cup practice session competed on the USA Team in May 2021, when the USA defeated Great Britain and Ireland, 14-12, at Seminole. Seven of the 16 players who attended the December 2018 practice session made the 2019 USA Team that defeated GB&I, 15½-10½, at Royal Liverpool (Hoylake), in Merseyside, England.

The 49th Match will be played on the Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland, Sept. 2-3, 2023. The Match is played over two days with 18 singles matches and eight foursomes (alternate-shot) matches. The USA leads the overall series that began in 1922, 38-9-1, but it has been tremendously competitive over the last three decades, with the USA holding just a 10-7 advantage in the Match since 1989. The R&A will select the 10 members of the GB&I Team, which represents England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

About the USGA

The USGA is a nonprofit organization that celebrates, serves and advances the game of golf. Founded in 1894, we conduct many of golf's premier professional and amateur championships, including the U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open Presented by ProMedica. With The R&A, we govern the sport via a global set of playing, equipment, handicapping and amateur status rules. The USGA campus in Liberty Corner, New Jersey, is home to the Association's Research and Test Center, where science and innovation are fueling a healthy and sustainable game for the future. The campus is also home to the USGA Golf Museum, where we honor the game by curating the world's most comprehensive archive of golf artifacts. To learn more, visit usga.org.

For further information: Jonathan Coe, USGA Communications, jcoe@usga.org

<https://mediacenter.usga.org/press-releases?item=122983>