

The 1927 Ryder Cup

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The Ryder Cup has grown into the world's premier international golf match, complete with wire-to-wire television coverage, a dedicated website featuring an abundant amount of merchandise for sale, and even an iPhone app.¹ Unlike most golf tournaments, the Ryder Cup's popularity is derived from the unique blend of individual skill, teamwork, and national/regional pride that is on display one weekend every two years. It has even inspired the creation of the President's Cup which is played in the interleaving years. But the origins of the Ryder Cup are far more humble, springing from a series of informal matches in an era where international competition was in its infancy; an age shaped by war and rapid industrial progress but lacking the transportation and communication advances that we take for granted in the twenty-first century. It is also a story of how some of the greatest names in golf history descended on Worcester, Massachusetts to begin a golfing tradition.

1926 was a pivotal year in the history of professional golf. The Professional Golf Association (PGA) had held its first championship ten years earlier, but an exhibition match between Walter Hagen and Bobby Jones in February-March 1926 would redefine the relationship between pros and amateurs.² At the turn of the century, the term "golf pro" did not have a positive connotation. Most golf courses were built for and by their financially well-off members, not for the general public, and "pros" were usually former caddies from working-class backgrounds. They were hired to give lessons, make clubs, sell clubs and other equipment – and speak only when spoken to. Walter Hagen helped break this stereotype. The son of German immigrants, Hagen began his career as a nine-year-old caddy³ at the Country Club of Rochester, New York in 1900, and later served as golf pro there and at the Oakland Hills Country Club in Detroit. In 1913 Hagen entered his first U.S. Open and finished tied for fourth, three shots behind the triumvirate of Francis Ouimet, Harry Vardon, and Ted Ray (Ouimet, a 20-year-old American amateur, then defeated Vardon and Ray, a pair of British pros, in an 18-hole playoff). A year later, Hagen won the event, and by 1926 had won two U.S. Opens, two British Opens, and three PGA Championships while earning a reputation as a drinker and womanizer who invited comparisons to Babe Ruth. Hagen also earned his way into the upper class by making somewhere between \$45,000 and \$75,000 a year during the roaring twenties. His income was enhanced by his own line of sporting goods; Hagen was reportedly paid \$500 a year for each club he carried, leading him to carry as many as 22 clubs.⁴ Golf experts criticized his swing as unrefined, which contributed to his relative lack of prowess off the tee, but Hagen was not lacking in confidence. He would frequently enter a clubhouse at the start of a tournament and ask who was finishing second.⁵

In contrast, Bobby Jones was the consummate well-bred amateur. Jones came from a wealthy Atlanta family, graduated from Georgia Tech and Harvard, and worked for Adair Realty and Trust in his hometown when he was not on a golf course. Jones had won just one major so far, the 1923 U.S. Open, but had finished second in 1922, 1924, and 1925, and would go on to win both the U.S. and British Opens later in 1926. Therefore, the Hagen-Jones match that year was expected to be a closely played

affair. Played in a match play format over two consecutive Sundays in Florida, the first at Jones's home course at Whitfield Estates in Sarasota, and the second at Hagen's home course in St. Petersburg, the event was supposed to last 72 holes, but Hagen won 12 & 11 (12 holes ahead with 11 holes to play). With an estimated 1,200 people in attendance the first day, and 2,400 the second, Hagen took home \$5,000 in prize money plus another \$6,800 in his share of gate receipts, along with a boost for his reputation and pro golf in general.⁶ Hagen loved the match play format because of the scrambling and gamesmanship involved, which made him an ideal candidate for playing in the Ryder Cup... except that the event didn't exist yet.

International matches between golfers from the United States and Great Britain took place periodically during the first half of the 1920's, either in the form of team play or a series of matches featuring visiting players out on tour. In April 1926 Samuel Ryder of St. Albans, twenty miles northwest of London, announced that an "annual competition between teams of British and American professionals"⁷ would begin at the Wentworth Golf Club on June 4. Ryder was not a life-long golfer and reportedly had hated the game until his persistent friend Rev. Francis Wheeler suggested that he take up golf when Ryder's health began to decline in 1908 – at age 50.⁸ Within months, the man who had cofounded the Heath and Heather Seed Company⁹ with his brother James and built a fortune from selling mail order penny seed packets – and driven himself to exhaustion along the way – became so enamored of golf that he worked at it with characteristic zeal at the nearby Verulam Golf Club. Ryder soon had a 200-yard hole installed on his estate, complete with landscaping to create a more realistic experience.¹⁰

By 1920, Ryder's fascination turned to pro golf, possibly as a result of his summer vacations at Weymouth along the south coast of England. The local golf course, Came Down Golf Club, was staffed by the soon-to-be famous Whitcombe brothers – Charles, Ernest, and Reginald – who despite being skilled players were still subject to the unofficial rules governing golf pros. Ryder listened intently as they related details about their low pay, especially when compared with Walter Hagen, and their second-class status which forced organizers of pro tournaments to work around the schedules of their amateur members. But Ryder was more than a wealthy businessman. He had served as mayor of St. Albans and was also a church deacon who deeply believed in caring for the working-class and the poor. Even his seed company had been built around the idea of making gardening affordable for the masses. Ryder's response to the Whitcombe's story was to start his own pro tournament at Verulam in 1923, with generous purses sponsored by Heath and Heather, and then, two years later, he hired Abe Mitchell as his personal golf instructor, and paid him 750 pounds a year so he could play in as many tournaments as he wished.¹¹

Ryder's 1926 announcement was inspired by the earlier decision by The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, in response to an overwhelming number of potential players, to require golfers to qualify for the British Open by playing in sectional qualifying rounds at Sunningdale in Surrey, St. Anne's Old Links in Lancashire, or Western Gables in Glasgow. American competitors were slated to qualify at Sunningdale, so Ryder naturally scheduled his competition to take place at Wentworth – about three miles away – in between the conclusion of those trials and the start of the Open on June 22. But the plans for the event were complicated by the General Strike in Great Britain from May 3-12. It was

unclear how many Americans would be able to arrive in time for the “Ryder Cup” and as it turned out, four players were unable to make the trip: Gene Sarazen, Johnny Farrell, Bobby Cruickshank, and Macdonald Smith. The United States team would still be led by Walter Hagen, but would feature two native Scotsmen (Fred McLeod and Tommy Armour) and two Englishmen (Jim Barnes and Joe Stein) who had immigrated to America. The British team won handily, 13.5 to 1.5, but felt that they had not defeated a truly “American” team. The PGA of America agreed, and they mutually decided that the 1927 event would be the first official Ryder Cup.¹²

One notable irony about the Ryder Cup is that its founder did not attend the first official event. Samuel Ryder loved golf but hated crossing the Atlantic Ocean onboard a ship. Of course, in a later time, the ocean voyage would no longer be necessary. As the players were taking the course in Worcester to begin play in the first week of June 1927, Charles Lindbergh was starting his voyage back to the United States on the USS Memphis, less than a month after completing his historic solo non-stop flight from New York to Paris. The age of the ocean liner was about to give way to the airplane.¹³

In hindsight, Worcester, Massachusetts seems an unlikely home for an historic golf tournament. But in 1927, it was perfectly logical. The Worcester Country Club had been the site of the 1925 U.S. Open, so many of the players from both countries were familiar with the course, and Willie Ogg, the head professional at Worcester, was a vice president of the PGA of America.¹⁴ The course, referred to in newspapers at the time as the “Summit links” due to its elevated location and proximity to the local landmark Summit Station stop on the Boston & Maine railroad, is located in the northeast corner of the city, adjacent to the West Boylston town line. Work on the course began in 1913, when the members of the original club (whose course was located on Lincoln Street) purchased the 210-acre Jabez Rice estate from Mr. George C. Rice. George F. Fuller of the Club’s Board of Directors announced the purchase on January 7, stating that the course “will be second to none” and cited professional golfers Tom McNamara and Mike Brady as having given their approval of the site off Mountain Street.¹⁵ Donald J. Ross, who participated in the design of hundreds of courses during his legendary career, was selected as the architect; Worcester has been cited as an example of one of his better courses.¹⁶ As work on the course progressed, the ranks of the club’s membership did as well, reportedly doubling during the first half of the year.¹⁷ The large two story clubhouse (172 by 106 feet) also drew rave reviews for its English country house styling, red tile roof, and elegant interior.¹⁸ The first nine holes of the course opened in October 1914, and former President William H. Taft was on hand to make some remarks and hit the first drive in front of a well-dressed crowd of Worcester’s finest ladies and gentlemen.¹⁹ The remainder of the course opened the following year.

The American team for the 1927 Ryder Cup was selected in April and featured the top pros in the country. Hagen was an obvious choice as captain, having added two more PGA Championships to his resume – four in a row, five overall – since his exhibition against Bobby Jones. Leo Diegel was a Detroit native who had been tied for the U.S. Open lead after two rounds in 1925 before finishing eighth, one of

his five top ten finishes during the decade, and had acquitted himself well at the 1926 PGA by reaching the finals before losing to Hagen in the championship match.²⁰

	1925	1926
Leo Diegel	8	T3
Johnny Farrell	T3	T3
Johnny Golden	T18	T32
Walter Hagen (captain)	T5	7
Bill Mehlhorn	T15	T3
Gene Sarazen	T5	T3
Joe Turnesa	T11	2
Al Watrous	T13	WD
<i>Alternates:</i>		
Mike Brady	7	T16
Al Espinosa	T9	T13

1927 United States Ryder Cup Team and recent U.S. Open finishes²¹

An aggressive, yet nervous player, Diegel adopted the “arms-akimbo putting stance”²² popularized by George Gadd in Great Britain, and for the Ryder Cup he planned to use a new “centre-shafted” wood putter.²³ 26-year-old Johnny Farrell was the second-youngest player on the squad, only older than Sarazen, but was in his prime as a golfer. Farrell had finished third in each of the last two U.S. Opens after placing fifth in 1923, and would go on to achieve eight top ten finishes, including a win at Olympia Fields in 1928. He went into the Ryder Cup playing well, having captured the Metropolitan Open at Wygakyl Country Club in New York on May 27, besting a field that included six of his Ryder Cup teammates.²⁴

Johnny Golden, club pro at the North Jersey Country Club in Paterson, New Jersey, was selected on the basis of his strong match play record. Golden had reached at least the quarterfinals in three of his last five PGA Championship tournaments, losing in the semifinals to Emmett French in 1922 and Diegel in 1926.²⁵ Bill Mehlhorn had never won a major, but finished in the top ten in both the U.S. and British Opens in 1926. “Wild Bill” was the opposite of Hagen on the course; Mehlhorn could outdrive Hagen but was less proficient as a putter.

Gene Sarazen had burst onto the pro golfing scene in 1922 by becoming the first golfer to win both the U.S. Open and the PGA Championship in the same year – and at 20 years old was the youngest to ever win the PGA. The “diminutive”²⁶ Sarazen stood just 5’5” but could outdrive many of his taller and larger contemporaries.²⁷ Sarazen could also be quite generous with his caddies, a pattern that began even before he had signed with Wilson Sporting Goods as a spokesman or had cemented his legend by dominating golf in the 1930’s. In 1922 he reportedly gave his caddy \$150 after winning each of his two majors,²⁸ and at Worcester in 1927 Sarazen would pay his 17-year-old caddy Fred Hill \$80. Hill later recalled that Sarazen was pleasant company and frequently took his advice as they walked the Summit course that Hill had worked at for the previous eight years.²⁹

Joe Turnesa and Al Watrous, the runners-up at the 1926 U.S. and British Open championships, respectively, rounded out the team, with Al Espinosa and Mike Brady, a native of Brighton, Massachusetts who had won three Massachusetts Opens and nine PGA events during the past decade, selected as alternates. The 40-year-old Brady would eventually decline the invitation, with local newspapers speculating that he was upset he had been given only an alternate position.³⁰

The British team was announced in March, and was unchanged from the 1926 squad except that Charles Whitcombe had replaced his brother Ernest.³¹ The next challenge was to raise the money to send the team to America and to help compensate the players for their loss of income while away from their home courses. George Philpot, editor of *Golf Illustrated*, fell 600 pounds short of his 3000 pound goal, as only twelve percent of the golf clubs in Great Britain responded to his call for donations – consistent with the traditional lack of respect for golf pros that also existed across the pond. Instead, most of the funds came from private individuals.³² As in 1926, the event was scheduled to coincide with a major championship, in this case the U.S. Open at Oakmont in Pennsylvania, which would take place from June 14-17, allowing the British players to enter that tournament as well.

Unfortunately, the British team then unexpectedly lost their captain. Abe Mitchell, who – not surprisingly, given his job as Samuel Ryder’s personal golf instructor – served as inspiration for the figure that adorned the top of the new Ryder Cup trophy, suffered an appendicitis attack after winning the *Daily Mail* tournament in London in mid-May. Mitchell was forced to stay home and could not accompany the team when it sailed from Southampton on the *S.S. Aquitania* on May 21. Ted Ray was selected to replace him as captain.³³ The loss of the affable Mitchell, arguably the best British player at the time, with five top ten British Open finishes to his credit, would cast a partial shadow over the upcoming event. The British PGA then selected Herbert Jolly to replace Mitchell on the team; Jolly would leave for America four days later on the *S.S. Majestic*. Ironically, the delay allowed Jolly to have a pleasant five-day voyage to New York, while the rest of the team had spent six days struggling with seasickness in second-class accommodations as the *Aquitania* fought rough seas.³⁴

	1925	1926
Aubrey Boomer	T26	CUT
Archie Compston	T2	DSQ
George Duncan	T28	T21
Arthur Havers	T20	T28
Herbert Jolly	DNP	23
Ted Ray (captain)	T2	T30
Fred Robson	T11	T18
Charles Whitcombe	WD	T24
<i>Alternate:</i>		
George Gadd	DNP	T24

1927 Great Britain Ryder Cup Team and recent British Open finishes³⁵

The British team featured several players from golfing families. Aubrey Boomer's father was originally a school teacher, and then became a golf pro after retiring at age 60; Aubrey's brother Percy would also take up the game, and eventually author a book on the subject.³⁶ George Gadd of Roehampton, who had won the prestigious *News of the World* match play championship in 1922 (the British equivalent of the PGA Championship in the United States) and placed second in 1924 and 1925, was one of three brothers who were golf pros.³⁷ Gadd was also the chairman of the British PGA in 1927, which entitled him to officially take ownership of the Ryder Cup trophy from Mrs. Helen Ryder at a team send-off ceremony hosted by the Ryders at the Verulam Golf Club on May 18.³⁸ But the rotund Gadd fared so badly on the turbulent voyage to New York that he pulled himself out the lineup soon after arriving.³⁹ Charles Whitcombe was one of the three golfing brothers who had struck up a friendship with Samuel Ryder. Charles was the middle brother in age but arguably the most accomplished; he would eventually play in six Ryder Cups and serve as captain four times. In 1935, all three brothers were named to the team at the same time.

Ted Ray was a natural choice as captain once Mitchell was unable to fill the role. Ray had turned 50 in March and had played in every British Open since 1899, winning in 1912, and from 1906 through 1920 (except for a five year gap when the event was cancelled by World War I) Ray finished in the top ten every year. Ray cut a unique figure on the course with his Homburg hat and ever-present pipe, and was familiar to Americans due to his tours of the country's courses; in 1920 he played over sixty exhibitions in North America with fellow Briton Harry Vardon, and Ray won the U.S. Open that year in just his second attempt.⁴⁰ Ray was aggressive on the course and well-mannered off of it, once telling Grantland Rice about his putting strategy: "I don't want to see any of them stop short and if I make any mistake it is in being over too far. If you give 'em all a chance, then a lot of them will drop. I don't believe, either, in wasting too much time over a putt. Get your line, take a stance, and then hit it."⁴¹

The most literate member of the British team was George Duncan, who had written a series of instructional articles in *Golf Illustrated* starting in the 1910's, and then teamed with legendary golf writer and broadcaster Bernard Darwin to write the book "Present-Day Golf" in 1921. Born at Methlick in Aberdeenshire in 1883, Duncan worked as a carpenter before becoming a golf pro at seventeen. He was consistently in contention at the British Open starting in 1906, finally breaking through with a victory in 1920. Match play also suited his game, as Duncan won the *News of the World* tournament in 1913 and had two other finals appearances and two semifinal appearances, most recently in 1925. In 1921 he had toured America with Abe Mitchell; the duo regularly routed their competition.⁴² Duncan's day job was as golf pro at Wentworth, which had hosted the unofficial 1926 "Ryder Cup" event.⁴³ Archie Compston, 1925 *News of the World* champion, Arthur Havers, and Fred Robson rounded out the British team.

Twenty-first century readers might find some of the terms in Duncan & Darwin's "Present-Day Golf" confusing or just plain humorous. A 1920's golfer would have a putter and a driver in his bag, but would not be familiar with a "9-iron" or a "pitching wedge." The clubs of that era had more colorful names. "I say generally of all shots with iron clubs, except the *cleek*, 'Push them' ... If one plays a push-shot with a cleek one is apt by leaning on the left foot to take off the small amount of loft that there is on the face, and so hit the ball too high up and get no under-spin."⁴⁴ Duncan also sings the praises of a new club

called the “mashie-niblick” which was essentially in between a “mashie” and a “niblick.” “No golfer should be without one in his bag,” Duncan wrote. “You cannot get enough stop on the modern heavy ball with the ordinary mashie, especially if the greens are hard.”⁴⁵ Duncan recommended using a niblick for shorter shots, especially as a means of lofting shots out of bunkers. A player might also have a brassie or jigger in their bag; the following table is an approximate conversion chart that compares the club names of the 1920’s with today’s terms, though many of the old clubs do not have an exact modern equivalent.

1927	Today
Driver	Driver
Brassie	2 wood
Spoon	3 wood
Baffie, Wooden cleek	4 wood
Driving iron, Cleek	1 iron
Mid iron	2 iron
Mid mashie	3 iron
Mashie iron, Jigger	4 iron
Mashie	5 iron
Spade mashie	6 iron
Mashie niblick	7 iron
Lofting iron	8 iron
Niblick	9 iron
Jigger, Chipper	Wedge
Putter	Putter

Comparison of golf club names⁴⁶

An elaborate welcome for the British team was planned in New York, but the weather en route delayed the *Aquitania’s* arrival until late in the afternoon on Friday, May 27, prompting the cancellation of a meeting with Mayor Jimmy Walker and a trip to the Metropolitan Open at Wygakyl. Instead, they went directly to the Westchester Biltmore Club (minus Herbert Jolly) for a reception with the American team and a weekend of practice before their trip to Worcester. The festivities that night included a putting contest under the light of 1000-watt bulbs.⁴⁷ That weekend, the players engaged in some informal matches, including a “three ball sixsome match” that featured Hagen against Havers and Farrell against Compston, along with former U.S. Open champion Willie Macfarlane versus Bobby Cruickshank.⁴⁸

Then the teams slowly made their way to Worcester. Compston and Duncan played a Memorial Day match in Philadelphia on Monday and arrived at the Bancroft Hotel in Worcester the next day, along with Jolly and the British team manager George Philpot.⁴⁹ Philpot had the Ryder Cup trophy with him, and handed it over to Worcester Country Club vice president Harold B. Chase. The solid gold trophy, standing 17 inches tall atop a rosewood base, was then passed to local Postmaster James F. Healy, who delivered it to John P. Hughes, the merchandise manager of the Denholm & McKay department store. Denholm & McKay was the largest retailer in Worcester, featuring a wide array of products including men’s suits, living room furniture sets, and “refrigerators” (with room for 100 pounds of ice to keep

their contents cool). The store proudly displayed the trophy in one of its many windows along Main Street, directly across from City Hall.⁵⁰

While the British team spent Tuesday and Wednesday practicing, playing 36 holes a day, the Americans were still arriving. The British played a mixture of stroke play and match play, and sometimes included Americans in their warm-up matches, such as a best ball match on Tuesday featuring Boomer and Watrous who defeated Havers and Gadd 3 & 2, while Willie Ogg joined Ted Ray to defeat Robson and Whitcombe 1 up.⁵¹ It was not until Thursday, June 2, that the entire American team had checked into the Bancroft, a luxury hotel whose elegant façade had faced the Common in the center of the city since opening in 1913; its proprietors confidently billed the 320-room Bancroft as “The Rendezvous of Discriminating Automobile Parties” in travel guides.⁵² On Thursday night, both teams met there for a banquet with a high-class guest list featuring U.S. Senator Frederick Gillett, Worcester Mayor Michael O’Hara, Massachusetts Lt. Governor Frank Allen and Secretary Frederick Cook (Governor Alvan Fuller sent his regrets; he was busy evaluating clemency requests that [unsuccessfully] tried to stay the executions of Sacco and Vanzetti, whose trial had gripped the nation). The PGA of America was represented by its president Alex Pirie and vice president Willie Ogg. Sir Adrian Baille, Secretary of the British Embassy, represented the British government.⁵³ As promised to the British team, the party ended at 9:30pm to give the visitors time to sleep before matches began the next day.

Hole	Yards	Par	Hole	Yards	Par
1	375	4	10	155	3
2	570	5	11	400	4
3	375	4	12	430	4
4	235	3	13	195	3
5	450	5	14	350	4
6	180	3	15	555	5
7	400	4	16	395	4
8	175	3	17	460	4
9	405	4	18	335	4
3165		35	3275		35
			6440		70

Worcester Country Club yardage - 1927⁵⁴

Friday, June 3 was an unseasonably cool day, with a temperature of 63 degrees by the time the matches teed off at 10am.⁵⁵ A crowd estimated between 2,000 and 3,000 traveled up the newly repaved Mountain Street and paid two dollars a head to follow the players around the course.⁵⁶ The format for the first day would be four, 36-hole, foursomes matches, in which the players on each team would alternate shots; the American PGA had made a last-minute attempt to substitute a fourball format (in which each player would play his own ball, with the team taking the lower score), but George Philpot rejected the move.⁵⁷ The Americans need not have worried.

The first match featured Johnny Farrell and Joe Turnesa for the Americans against George Duncan and Archie Compston.⁵⁸ The Americans won four of the first five holes and led 3 up, despite just one birdie (on the fifth). Compston “developed a tendency to be wild as the day wore on”⁵⁹ and the duo

combined to shoot 81 over the first 18 holes in the morning, the worst 18-hole score of the day. 4 down at the lunch break, the British then lost four holes in a row early in the afternoon as Farrell and Turnesa won the third through sixth holes. “Time after time Turnesa nursed the ball from distances of 20 and 30 feet to within inches of the hole,” the *Worcester Telegram* reported, “and not once did he leave Farrell with a second putt of more than 18-inches.” Despite dropping the seventh and tenth holes, the latter when Compston “sank a difficult putt” from ten feet for a birdie two with Farrell in position to tap in for a par, the Americans won 8 & 6 to score the first official Ryder Cup point.⁶⁰

Aubrey Boomer and Charles Whitcombe dropped the first two holes of their match against Leo Diegel and Bill Mehlhorn, but then rallied to claim the first point for the British in a 7 & 5 rout. This match highlighted captain Walter Hagen’s early frustration with his team; after enduring complaints about his lineup choices, he agreed to let Mehlhorn tee off on the even numbered holes, which featured four of the five par 3’s on the course.⁶¹ But the Diegel-Mehlhorn team would play those eight holes at 6 over par that day, resulting in a net 2 up advantage for the British. And Mehlhorn’s erratic putting – described by the *Telegram* as “sad at times” – was on full display, as “Wild Bill” missed an estimated five puts of six feet or less. After Diegel’s thirty-foot birdie putt on the second hole gave the Americans a 2 up lead, it took them just four holes to fall back to All Square, and they never led the match again. Mehlhorn missed short putts on the tenth and eleventh as the British took a 2 up lead, and by the end of the morning round, the lead was five. In the afternoon, with Boomer exhibiting power off the tee “that was reminiscent of Babe Ruth in his most restless mood,”⁶² according to the Associated Press, the British extended their lead to 8 up before stumbling on the eighth and ninth holes, conceding both as double bogies. The match ended with a fifteen-foot birdie putt by Boomer on the thirteenth.

Meanwhile, Captain Walter Hagen and teammate Johnny Golden were scrambling to overcome an early 3 down deficit against fellow captain Ted Ray and Fred Robson after the British won the fifth, sixth, and seventh holes in succession. The score remained the same after an exchange of pars on the eleventh, but the Americans then turned the match around by winning the next four holes, including a pair of birdies. The highlight was on the par 3 thirteenth, when Hagen’s tee shot bounced off the flagstick and landed just twenty inches from the hole, giving Golden an easy tap in for the team’s first birdie on a par 3 of the day. Hagen then overcame a poor pitch shot with a par saving putt on the fifteenth, putting the Americans in front for the first time. They dropped the next hole, and the match remained All Square through the rest of the morning. In the afternoon, the Americans won three of the first five holes to take a 3 up lead, but Ray and Robson roared back with three straight wins – all pars – to square the match again. A birdie on the par 3 tenth put the Americans ahead, and the teams then halved the next five holes, including the fourteenth, where Robson missed an easy birdie putt that could have squared the match. Instead, the Americans won the sixteenth with a par and when the seventeenth was halved, the match was over.

One point of controversy on the first day was the status of Al Watrous, who was slated to pair with Gene Sarazen against Arthur Havers and Herbert Jolly in the final match of the day. Watrous had injured his thumb during a practice round, but when Hagen attempted to replace him with Al Espinosa, Ted Ray objected. After trying a different grip to take pressure off the injury, Watrous reverted to his natural style and played through the pain.⁶³ The morning session was dominated by the Americans, who

lost only two holes, including the sixth, when Watrous's tee shot missed the green while Havers and Jolly made par. With Jolly struggling with his game – to the point where William Richardson of the *New York Times* wrote that Havers had to play “almost single-handed” – the British were 6 down after sixteen holes. When the teams resumed play the British rallied with three wins on the front nine to cut their deficit in half. But over the next seven holes they got no closer, as the Americans maintained a 3 up or 4 up lead throughout. The 3 & 2 victory gave the Americans a 3-1 edge in points after day one.

During the day, reporters did plenty of scrambling of their own, rushing to file their stories with updates for the evening papers or complete recaps for the Saturday morning editions. The local *Worcester Telegram* and *Gazette* papers had their own dedicated telegraph wire at the course, but out-of-town correspondents took advantage of the extra circuits that Western Union had set up for the coverage of the event.⁶⁴ Unlike today, where every shot of the tournament is broadcast live, the age of radio had not yet matured to that point, so newspapers were the only way to follow the tournament. But times were changing. 1927 was the year that the BBC began to cover sporting events live on radio, and had broadcast the British Amateur Golf Championship a week earlier.⁶⁵ And the fifty-one NBC radio stations in the United States who had agreed to provide live coverage of Charles Lindbergh's triumphant return to Washington the following week, forming the “largest network ever connected for a broadcasting event,”⁶⁶ was another indication that national – and even international – live coverage of important events was becoming possible.

On Saturday both teams rolled out the same eight players for the singles matches. Mehlhorn had considered stepping aside so his friend Al Espinosa could get into the lineup, and the *New York Times* preview even listed Espinosa as being expected to play, but Hagen stuck with Mehlhorn, placing him second in a match against Archie Compston.⁶⁷ Once again, Johnny Farrell played in the opening match, this time against Aubrey Boomer. The morning round was tightly played, with both sides failing to hold small leads. Right from the start, Boomer had the advantage off the tee, but Farrell's putting was superior. On the first hole, Boomer's drive found the fairway and he was safely on the green with his second shot. Meanwhile, Farrell hit into the rough and was unable to reach the green; but he chipped his third shot to within four feet and made his subsequent putt for a par. Boomer then missed a three foot putt, giving Farrell a 1 up lead. On the seventh, Boomer watched Farrell make a sixty-foot birdie putt to win the hole and square the match. After losing three out of four holes, Boomer fell behind 2 down but squared the match with back-to-back wins on the fifteenth and sixteenth, winning the latter when Farrell lost his ball. Then Farrell hit a twenty-foot putt on the eighteenth to save par, halve the hole, and keep the match All Square.⁶⁸ However, when the match resumed in the afternoon, Farrell proceeded to slowly put Boomer away, regaining a 2 up lead on the fifth when Boomer's drive went out of bounds, and went to the fourteenth tee 4 up with five to play. Farrell then ended the match with a birdie, giving the Americans their fourth point, moving them within two and a half points of the Cup.

The next player to claim a point for the United States was Johnny Golden, who had gone out last against Herbert Jolly but made quick work of him, building a 6 up lead through eleven holes that held up through the rest of the morning. In the afternoon, Jolly halved the first four holes and won the fifth, but

lost the next two to fall 7 down. Golden clinched a half point with a birdie on the tenth, giving him an 8 up lead with eight holes to play. Jolly extended the match with a win on the next hole, but the players halved the twelfth, giving Golden a 7 & 6 victory.

While Golden was finishing up, Leo Diegel was polishing off Ted Ray, who shot 41 on the front nine in the morning, causing some of the sizable gallery, estimated as large as 4,000 overall, to desert the match. Ray had won the ninth to get to within 4 down, but was unable to get any closer. Diegel sank a spectacular putt on the tenth to extend his lead, curving his ball around Ray's, which, consistent with the rules of the day, was allowed to remain on the green because the two balls were further than six inches apart (this was referred to as a "stymie" because one ball would block the other's route to the cup).⁶⁹ At the end of the morning, Diegel, playing "remarkable" golf according to the *Telegram*, led 6 up, and led by five on the fifth tee in the afternoon, before Ray drove into a brook and lost the hole. Ray also got within 5 down after the tenth, but Diegel won the eleventh and thirteenth to close out the match. Diegel's victory left the Americans a half-point shy of clinching the Cup.

The spotlight then turned to the battle between Bill Mehlhorn and Archie Compston. Neither player had more than a one-hole advantage over the other throughout the day, and were all square after 16 holes. Then on the seventeenth, Mehlhorn won the hole to go 1 up to earn at least a half-point and victory for the United States team; Mehlhorn and Compston then halved the final hole, with Mehlhorn overcoming an errant tee shot and poor second shot by blasting his way out of a greenside bunker to within seven feet of the hole before making his putt for par.⁷⁰

The overall outcome was no longer in doubt, but the rest of the day featured four well-contested matches which kept the large galleries entertained, despite the cloudy skies and increasingly raw wind that had replaced some pleasant morning sunshine. Gene Sarazen rallied from 5 down after fourteen holes to square his match with Charles Whitcombe just seven holes into the afternoon session. Sarazen then took his first lead since the third hole that the morning with a bogey on the thirty-fifth hole. On the final hole, both reached the green in two, but Sarazen three-putted, allowing Whitcombe to win the hole with a par and halve the match.⁷¹ Meanwhile, Walter Hagen pared the seventeenth hole to close out Arthur Havers 2 & 1 after having trailed for much of the morning. Al Watrous, his thumb still sore, defeated Fred Robson easily, 4 & 3, benefiting from a lucky bounce at one point as his tee shot on the tenth hit a spectator and landed on the green. The lone victory for the British in singles came from George Duncan, who needed all thirty-six holes to defeat Joe Turnesa 1 up, on a birdie putt on the final hole.

The Ryder Cup trophy was presented to the Americans at the conclusion of the matches, and the team decided that each of its nine members, including Al Espinosa, who had not played, would keep the Cup for 1/9th of the coming year.⁷² The next competition would actually be held in 1929 at Moortown in Leeds, England, establishing the Ryder Cup's two-year cadence, and many of the players would be back. Most would go on to play in multiple Ryder Cups, but their participation would be limited by the onset of World War II which suspended play from 1939 until 1947.

	1927	1929	1931	1933	1935	1937	Overall	Singles	Foursomes
Hagen	C	C	C	C	C	C	7-1-1	3-1-0	4-0-1
Sarazen							7-2-3	4-1-1	3-1-2
Diegel							3-3-0	2-1-0	1-2-0
Espinosa							2-1-1	1-0-1	1-1-0
Farrell							3-2-1	1-2-0	2-0-1
Golden							3-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0
Turnesa							1-2-1	0-2-0	1-0-1
Watrous							2-1-0	1-1-0	1-0-0
Mehlhorn							1-1-0	1-0-0	0-1-0

	1927	1929	1931	1933	1935	1937	Overall	Singles	Foursomes
Whitcombe			C		C	C	3-2-4	1-2-1	2-0-3
Compston							1-4-1	1-2-0	0-2-1
Duncan							2-3-0	2-0-0	0-3-0
Robson		C					2-4-0	0-3-0	2-1-0
Havers							3-3-0	2-1-0	1-2-0
Boomer							2-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Gadd							0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
Jolly							0-2-0	0-1-0	0-1-0
Ray	C						0-2-0	0-1-0	0-1-0

Lifetime Ryder Cup records for the 1927 United States and Great Britain teams
(Team wins in color, [C]aptain)⁷³

Analysis of the first Ryder Cup was relatively light, focusing on the British Team's poor putting and why a healthy Abe Mitchell would not have been enough to alter the outcome.⁷⁴ A week later at the U.S. Open in Oakmont, Compston and Havers were the only British Ryder Cup golfers to crack the top fifteen, while six of the Americans were near the top of the final leaderboard, led by Sarazen, who finished third, one shot behind Tommy Armour who went on to defeat Harry Cooper in an 18-hole playoff. The Americans had proved that their Ryder Cup victory was not a fluke. The British would claim Ryder Cups in 1929 and 1933, but the rest of the pre-World War II Cups were all won by the Americans. After the war, the United States would hold the Cup for thirty-eight years with the exception of a British victory in 1957. Eventually, in 1979, the British Team would be expanded to include all of Europe, which helped balance the scales and has greatly increased the level of competition. The Ryder Cup is big business now, but in 1927 it was just a match for national pride on a small course in Worcester, Massachusetts.




















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1927 Ryder Cup Scorecards⁷⁵

Day One – Foursomes

First Match




















Farrell and Turnesa (US) 8 & 6

Morning		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	Par	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Farrell and Turnesa (US)		5	6	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	6	4	4	5	5	4	4	76
Duncan and Compston (BR)		6	5	6	4	5	4	4	3	6	3	4	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	81
																				
		1 up	AS	1 up	2 up	3 up	3 up	3 up	3 up	4 up	4 up	4 up	4 up	3 up	3 up	4 up	4 up	3 up	4 up	4 up

Afternoon		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	Par	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Farrell and Turnesa (US)		4	5	3	3	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	4							45
Duncan and Compston (BR)		4	5	4	4	5	4	4	3	5	2	4	5							49
																				
		4 up	4 up	5 up	6 up	7 up	8 up	7 up	7 up	8 up	7 up	7 up	8 up							

Second Match

Boomer and Whitcombe (BR) 7 & 5




Morning		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	Par	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Diegel and Mehlhorn (US)		4	4	4	4	5	3	5	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	78
Boomer and Whitcombe (BR)		5	5	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	73
																				
		1 up	2 up	2 up	2 up	1 up	1 up	AS	AS	AS	AS	1 up	2 up	2 up	2 up	3 up	3 up	4 up	5 up	5 up

Afternoon		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	Par	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Diegel and Mehlhorn (US)		4	5	5	4	5	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	3						51
Boomer and Whitcombe (BR)		4	5	4	3	5	3	4	5	5	3	4	4	2						51
																				
		5 up	5 up	6 up	7 up	7 up	8 up	8 up	7 up	6 up	6 up	6 up	6 up	7 up						

Third Match


Hagen and Golden (US) 2 & 1


Morning		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Hagen and Golden (US)		4	7	4	4	5	4	4	3	5	3	4	5	2	3	5	4	4	5	75
Ray and Robson (BR)		4	5	4	5	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	6	4	4	6	3	4	5	75
																				
		AS	1 up	1 up	AS	1 up	2 up	3 up	2 up	3 up	3 up	3 up	2 up	1 up	AS	1 up	AS	AS	AS	

Afternoon		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Hagen and Golden (US)		5	5	5	2	5	4	5	5	4	2	4	5	4	4	6	4	4		73
Ray and Robson (BR)		5	7	5	3	6	3	4	3	4	3	4	5	4	4	6	5	4		75
																				
		AS	1 up	AS	2 up	3 up	2 up	1 up	AS	AS	1 up	1 up	1 up	1 up	1 up	2 up	2 up			

Fourth Match

Sarazen and Watrous (US) 3 & 2

Morning		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Sarazen and Watrous (US)		5	5	4	4	4	5	4	3	4	2	4	5	3	3	5	5	5	5	75
Havers and Jolly (BR)		5	5	5	4	5	3	5	3	4	4	5	5	3	4	5	6	5	4	80
																				
		AS	AS	1 up	1 up	2 up	1 up	2 up	2 up	2 up	A3	4 up	4 up	4 up	5 up	5 up	6 up	6 up	5 up	












Afternoon		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Sarazen and Watrous (US)		4	6	5	3	4	4	5	3	5	3	5	5	4	4	6	4			70
Havers and Jolly (BR)		4	5	5	3	5	3	4	3	5	4	4	5	6	4	5	4			69
																				
		5 up	4 up	4 up	4 up	5 up	4 up	3 up	3 up	3 up	4 up	3 up	3 up	4 up	4 up	3 up	3 up			

















1927 Ryder Cup Scorecards

Day Two – Singles

First Match








Farrell (US) 5 & 4

Morning		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	Par	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Farrell (US)		4	5	4	4	6	3	3	3	4	3	5	4	3	4	5	6	4	4	74
Boomer (BR)		5	5	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	72
		  	 									   								
		1 up	1 up	1 up	AS	1 up	1 up	AS	AS	AS	1 up	AS	1 up	2 up	2 up	2 up	1 up	AS	AS	AS

Afternoon		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	Par	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Farrell (US)		4	6	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	5	4	4	3					55
Boomer (BR)		4	6	5	3	6	3	4	4	4	3	5	5	4	4					60
			               																	
		AS	AS	1 up	1 up	2 up	2 up	2 up	2 up	3 up	3 up	3 up	3 up	4 up	4 up	5 up				

Second Match














Mehlhorn (US) 1 up










Morning		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	Par	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Mehlhorn (US)		5	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	4	5	4	77
Compston (BR)		4	6	5	4	5	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	5	77
			    																	
		B1	AS	1 up	1 up	1 up	1 up	AS	AS	1 up	AS	AS	AS	AS	AS	AS	AS	1 up	AS	

Afternoon		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	Par	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Mehlhorn (US)		4	6	4	3	5	3	3	4	4	3	5	4	3	5	6	4	4	4	74
Compston (BR)		4	6	3	4	5	2	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	74
			 		 		  					 				 		 		
		AS	AS	1 up	AS	AS	1 up	AS	1 up	1 up	AS	AS	AS	1 up	1 up	AS	AS	1 up	1 up	

Third Match



Halved

















Morning		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Sarazen (US)		4	5	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	6	5	4	4	4	77
Whitcombe (BR)		5	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	5	5	5	74
																				
		1 up	AS	1 up	AS	1 up	AS	AS	AS	AS	AS	1 up	2 up	3 up	4 up	5 up	5 up	4 up	3 up	2 up

Afternoon		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Sarazen (US)		5	6	5	3	5	2	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	78
Whitcombe (BR)		5	6	5	3	5	3	5	3	4	3	4	5	4	4	5	5	6	4	79
																				
		2 up	2 up	2 up	2 up	2 up	1 up	AS	AS	AS	AS	1 up	1 up	AS	AS	AS	AS	AS	1 up	AS

Fourth Match














Hagen (US) 2 & 1












Morning		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Hagen (US)		4	6	4	4	5	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	3	5	4	5	5	4	77
Havers (BR)		5	5	4	4	4	3	5	4	4	3	4	5	3	6	5	5	6	3	78
																				
		1 up	AS	AS	AS	1 up	2 up	1 up	AS	AS	1 up	2 up	1 up	1 up	AS	1 up	1 up	2 up	1 up	

Afternoon		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Hagen (US)		5	6	4	5	7	2	4	3	5	3	5	5	4	4	5	5	4		76
Havers (BR)		5	6	6	3	6	3	5	2	5	4	5	5	3	4	6	4	5		77
																				
		1 up	1 up	2 up	1 up	AS	1 up	2 up	1 up	1 up	2 up	2 up	2 up	1 up	1 up	2 up	1 up	2 up		

Fifth Match




Watrous (US) 3 & 2













Morning		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Watrous (US)		5	4	4	2	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	5	5	78
Robson (BR)		4	5	4	3	4	4	4	3	6	3	6	5	4	4	6	5	5	4	79
																				
		1 up	AS	AS	1 up	1 up	2 up	2 up	2 up	3 up	2 up	3 up	3 up	2 up	1 up	1 up	AS	AS	1 up	

Afternoon		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Watrous (US)		4	5	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	3	4	3	4	5	4	4			66
Robson (BR)		5	6	4	4	5	4	5	3	4	3	5	4	5	4	5	4			70
																				
		AS	1 up	1 up	1 up	1 up	1 up	2 up	1 up	AS	AS	1 up	2 up	3 up	2 up	3 up	3 up			

Sixth Match


Duncan (BR) 1 up


Morning		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Turnesa (US)		4	5	5	4	4	4	5	6	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	5	4	77
Duncan (BR)		4	4	5	3	5	4	5	4	4	3	4	5	4	5	5	4	5	4	77
																				
		AS	1 up	1 up	2 up	1 up	1 up	1 up	2 up	2 up	3 up	3 up	2 up	1 up	AS	1 up	1 up	1 up	1 up	

Afternoon		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Turnesa (US)		5	5	5	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	6	4	5	5	5	5	4	79
Duncan (BR)		4	6	3	5	6	3	4	3	4	4	4	5	3	4	7	5	5	3	78
																				
		AS	1 up	AS	1 up	2 up	1 up	2 up	1 up	1 up	2 up	2 up	1 up	AS	1 up	AS	AS	AS	1 up	

Seventh Match


Diegel (US) 7 & 5


Morning		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Diegel (US)		4	4	4	2	5	3	4	3	5	2	4	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	70
Ray (BR)		5	7	4	3	5	3	5	5	4	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	79
																				
		1 up 2 up 2 up 3 up 3 up 3 up 4 up 5 up 4 up 5 up 4 up 4 up 4 up 5 up 5 up 6 up 6 up 6 up																		

Afternoon		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Diegel (US)		5	4	6	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	3						51
Ray (BR)		4	5	4	3	6	4	4	2	4	3	5	4	4						52
																				
		5 up 6 up 5 up 5 up 6 up 7 up 7 up 6 up 6 up 5 up 6 up 6 up 7 up																		

Eighth Match

Golden (US) 7 & 6

Morning		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Golden (US)		4	6	4	3	5	2	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	5	6	4	5	4	76
Jolly (BR)		4	6	5	4	5	4	5	3	6	4	5	4	3	6	5	6	5	4	84
																				
		AS	AS	1 up 2 up 2 up 3 up 4 up 3 up 4 up 5 up 6 up 6 up 5 up 6 up 5 up 6 up 6 up 6 up																

Afternoon		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	<i>Par</i>	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	70
Golden (US)		4	6	4	3	6	3	4	3	4	2	5	4							48
Jolly (BR)		4	6	4	3	5	4	5	3	4	3	4	4							49
																				
		6 up 6 up 6 up 6 up 6 up 5 up 6 up 7 up 7 up 7 up 8 up 7 up 7 up																		

Sources

¹ See <http://www.rydercup.com> and <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/2012-ryder-cup/id392186427?mt=8>

² Evans, Alun. *From Old Tom to the Tiger: The Golf Majors, 1860-2010: The First 150 Years*. Evanstar, Milton Keynes (England): 2011. p70. Evans's book is an essential reference. Much of the "pro vs. amateurs" comparison section based on "Change, Continuity and Golf's Battle of the Century", by Stephen R. Lowe, published in *Journal of Sport History*, Volume 26 Number 3, Fall 1999, p521-543. (Downloaded from LA84 Foundation web site <http://la84.org>)

³ "He Set the Pace," New York Times, October 7, 1969 by Alden Whitman (obituary-related article)

⁴ Gadd, Bert. *To The Brink of Fame*. Self-published, 2003. p22.

⁵ Lowe, p532.

⁶ Hagen ended up donating \$5,000 of his \$11,800 share to the St. Petersburg hospital (possibly to counterbalance Jones, who gave his entire share to charity). Lowe, p529. In my research, I also saw references which placed this match in 1925, but articles such as "Walter Hagen-Bobby Jones Match Is Arranged," *St. Petersburg Times*, February 11, 1926 by Robert E. Harlow (Hagen's manager, who arranged the match) leave little doubt that the match took place on February 28 and March 6, 1926. This article also states that the idea originated in 1925 but was then "dropped."

⁷ *The Times* of London, April 26, 1926, quoted in "The Lost Ryder Cup – 1926" downloaded from <http://tourontap.com/ryder-cup-2012/the-lost-ryder-cup/> by David Feherty and James A. Frank, which is adapted from their book "David Feherty's Totally Subjective History of the Ryder Cup", published in 2004.

⁸ Ryder preferred the action of cricket, but Wheeler was worried the strain would be too much. Concannon, Dale. *The Ryder Cup: Seven Decades of Golfing Glory, Drama and Controversy*. Pelican, Gretna, Louisiana, 2002. p3; "Ryder had faith in his idea," *Boston Globe*, September 22, 1999 by Bob Duffy.

⁹ The company was founded in 1898, later expanded to sell medicinal herbs, and is still in business today.

<http://www.heathandheather.co.uk/about-us.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.rydercup.com/2010/usa/history/index.cfm>

¹¹ Concannon, p3; "Ryder had faith in his idea," *Boston Globe*, September 22, 1999 by Bob Duffy. The three brothers gradually left Came Down; Charles in 1920, Ernest in 1925, and Reginald in 1927. See

<http://web.archive.org/web/20080313133734/http://www.camedowngolfclub.co.uk/history/whitcombes.htm>

¹² Concannon, p4-6; Feherty, "The Lost Ryder Cup -1926"; "Ryder had faith in his idea," *Boston Globe*, September 22, 1999 by Bob Duffy. The PGA made the formal decision to require American players to be native-born on April 5, 1927 at a Selection Committee meeting in Chicago; see <http://www.rydercup.com/2010/usa/history/index.cfm>

¹³ Lindbergh had landed at Le Bourget Field in Paris on May 21 after taking off from Roosevelt Field in Garden City (Long Island), New York the previous day. Lindbergh would receive a hero's welcome in Washington on June 11 and in New York on June 13. See "Pour Into Capital To Greet Lindbergh," *New York Times*, June 9, 1927 and many others. Note that Worcester did not have an airport of any kind until October 3, 1927; <http://www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=286>

¹⁴ "Worcester Country Club to display replica trophy," *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, December 7, 2010 by Bill Doyle, retrieved from http://www.mgalinks.org/about-us/news/2010/news_2010_120610.html Also see "The perfect host: It's only fitting that Worcester CC had the honors in '27," *Boston Globe*, 9/22/1999 by Jim McCabe.

¹⁵ "Eastern Department – New England Notes," *The American Golfer*, February 1913. According to census records, George Calvin Rice was a farmer who lived on the site - along with a hired hand, a housekeeper (who had immigrated from Sweden), and her daughter - until he was approximately 80 years old. The section of Mountain Street that runs by the club is labeled as "Mountain Street East" on some period maps, but was called "Mountain Street" in Worcester newspapers in June 1927. The street is now officially named East Mountain Street. Summit Station is gone, but the railroad tracks still divide the course in two today.

¹⁶ Donald Ross was based in Little Compton, Rhode Island, and designed many courses in Rhode Island and Massachusetts (<http://donaldross.com>). His profile page for the World Golf Hall of Fame (<http://www.worldgolfhalloffame.org/hof/member.php?member=1100>) mentions that several of his course designs were done via "mail order", using topological maps, in order to satisfy the demand for his services. But architect Ron Prichard, who designed a major restoration of the course early in the 21st Century, told Chris Millard of *Golf World*, "Not all Ross courses are great, but Worcester is a really, really good one. It has everything, and even the members don't know it. I keep telling them they have so much to be proud of." See "Worcester CC still relishes its role as the Ryder Cup's first host," *Golf World*, September 2012. (viewed at <http://www.golfworldmagazine.com/playerclubmember/20120917rcp?pg=73#pg73>)

¹⁷ "Eastern Department – New England Notes," *The American Golfer*, June 1913 puts the number at "about 400" while earlier articles place the number at 150-167 at the time that the purchase announcement was made.

¹⁸ "Eastern Department – New England Notes," *The American Golfer*, March 1914. Also see modern photos on the club website, <http://worcestercc.org>

¹⁹ "The Month at a Glance," *Golf Illustrated*, October 1914. Mike Brady and Francis Ouimet played the featured match against Sam Sterne (of Worcester) and Tom McNamara. The article includes the following note about how the sod was installed: "Instead of having the rollers press down the sod, thereby running the chance of leaving a few depressions which later would sink when the storms came, the tramping has been done by a large force of workmen stamping it down in their stocking feet. In this way every inch of turf receives a firm pressure."

²⁰ Hagen's win over Diegel featured his gamesmanship at its best; Hagen conceded six and eight foot putts to Diegel early in the match, but later, refused to concede a two foot putt. Diegel, thinking that it must be more difficult than it appeared, missed it. "He Set the Pace," *New York Times*, October 7, 1969 by Alden Whitman.

²¹ In 1925, Willie MacFarlane defeated Bobby Jones in a 36-hole playoff to win the tournament. In 1926 Jones won the tournament. MacFarlane was a native of Scotland, and Jones was an amateur, so neither was eligible for the U.S. Ryder Cup team. (WD = Withdrew)

²² "Leo Diegel Dead; In Golf 2 Decades," *New York Times*, May 9, 1951. On putting style, also see Gadd, p22.

²³ "Farrell Put First For Today's Rounds," *New York Times*, June 4, 1927.

²⁴ "Golf Stars Begin Met. Open Today," *New York Times*, May 25, 1927, "Met. Golf Champions Took Different Paths," *New York Times*, May 29, 1927.

²⁵ "John Golden Dies; A Noted Golfer," *New York Times*, January 28, 1936. Golden died of pneumonia at age 39. His best finish in a major was fifth in the 1930 U.S. Open.

²⁶ Photo caption in article in *Golf Illustrated*, September 1921.

²⁷ <http://www.worldgolfhalloffame.org/hof/member.php?member=1102> Sarazen profile.

²⁸ Caddy is referred to as "Dominick" who caddied for Sarazen at both the U.S. Open and the PGA. See "Current Comment," *Golf Illustrated*, September 1922.

²⁹ "Walk in Ryder Cup past Sarazen's caddie says first event a totally different bag," *Boston Globe*, July 29, 1999 by Jim McCabe.

³⁰ For Brady and alternate status, see "Ryder Cup Golfers Await First Round," *Worcester Evening Gazette*, June 2, 1927, p14. In the previous day's edition, the paper was still expecting Brady to show up – see "British Cup Team Prepare for Test," *Worcester Evening Gazette*, June 1, 1927, p1.

³¹ "British Golfers to Sail for U.S. May 21 With Mitchell Captain," *New York Times*, March 15, 1927.

³² Concannon, p8-9.

³³ "Abe Mitchell Is Ill," *New York Times*, May 14, 1927. "British Ryder Cup Team Sails; Mitchell Bids Players Farewell," *New York Times*, May 22, 1927.

³⁴ Concannon, p10.

³⁵ Evans, p85-86. The 1926 event was dominated by Americans, as Bobby Jones, Al Watrous, and Walter Hagen finished in the top three. (WD = Withdrew, CUT = Failed to make the cut, DSQ = Disqualified, DNP = Did not play)

³⁶ "Boomer Book Shows Pro Task in Teaching 'Feel Habit'," *Golfdom*, August 1946 by Herb Graffis. The book was entitled "On Learning Golf."

³⁷ The *News of the World* tournament was the unofficial pro championship of Great Britain, with purses that exceeded those awarded by the British Open. Bert Gadd's book mentions himself and their brother Charles.

³⁸ "The Ryder Cup: from small acorns" by Peter Alliss.

http://www.golftoday.co.uk/golf_international_mag/editorials/peter_alliss_april_2009.html

³⁹ Concannon, p11.

⁴⁰ "British Preparations for the American Invasion," *Golf Illustrated*, March 1921 by J.H. Taylor. Ray defeated Vardon and three others by one stroke.

⁴¹ "Interviews With Great Golfers," *The American Golfer*, October 9, 1920, by Grantland Rice.

⁴² *Golf Illustrated*, May 1921 and September 1921. An August 27, 1921 article in *The American Golfer* states that their record was 20-3-1 through their first 24 matches.

⁴³ <http://www.wentworthclub.com/club/15/3016> Duncan was golf pro from 1926-1929. Archie Compston would fill the same position from 1945-1948.

- ⁴⁴ Duncan, George and Bernard Darwin. *Present-Day Golf*. New York: George H. Doran Company, 1921, p54. Accessed via Google Books. Emphasis is mine.
- ⁴⁵ Duncan, *Present-Day Golf*, p55.
- ⁴⁶ Taken from a variety of sources, but primarily from http://www.golftoday.co.uk/golf_a_z/articles/old_golf_club_names.html
- ⁴⁷ "British Ryder Cup Team Meets Its American Rivals at Dinner," *New York Times*, May 28, 1927.
- ⁴⁸ "News Of Golf Clubs In Metropolitan Area," *New York Times*, May 29, 1927 and "Farrell-Compston Tie a Rival Team," *New York Times*, May 30, 1927.
- ⁴⁹ "British Cup Team Prepare for Test," *Worcester Evening Gazette*, June 1, 1927, p1.
- ⁵⁰ "International Golf Trophy To Be Contested For Here", *Worcester Evening Gazette*, June 1, 1927 has details of the trophy presentations. The 1927 and 1928 Worcester City Directories list the officers of the Worcester Country Club (available at the Worcester Public Library). Denholm & McKay Ad in *Worcester Evening Gazette*, June 6, 1927; also see Hultgren, William O, and Eric J. Salomonsson, and Frank J. Morrill. *Images of Worcester, 1880-1920*. Arcadia, Charleston, South Carolina, 2003 for a photograph of the store on p22.
- ⁵¹ "Boomer Gets A 73 At Worcester Club," *New York Times*, May 31, 1927.
- ⁵² "Official Automobile Blue Book 1917, Volume 2," p397, viewed on Google books. The L-shaped building still stands today, but is now an upscale apartment complex named Bancroft Commons: <http://www.bancroftcommons.com/> The Americans practiced during the afternoon of June 2; Farrell-Turnesa def. Mehlhorn-Diegel 5 & 4, Sarazen-Espinosa def. Hagen-Golden 1 up. See "U.S. Golfers Drill on Eve of Matches," *New York Times*, June 3, 1927.
- ⁵³ See articles in *Worcester Evening Gazette*, June 2, 1927 and June 3, 1927, and "U.S. Golfers Drill on Eve of Matches," *New York Times*, June 3, 1927.
- ⁵⁴ "U.S. Leads Britain 3-1 For Ryder Cup," *New York Times*, June 4, 1927 has the hole-by-hole yardage figures; Totals of 6440 yards / Par 70 also stated on Worcester Country Club website page for the 1927 Ryder Cup: <https://worcestercc.memberstatements.com/tour/tours.cfm?tourID=77771>
- ⁵⁵ Weather information in *Worcester Evening Gazette*, June 3, 1927, observation at Clark University (temperature in Fahrenheit); it may have been colder at the more rural confines of the Worcester Country Club.
- ⁵⁶ *Worcester Evening Gazette*, June 2, 1927, p1 has a summary box with the tee times (10am, 2pm) and admission price. No cars were allowed on the course; they had to park in a special lot off Mountain Street. Repaving detail from "Worcester Country Club to display replica trophy," *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, December 7, 2010 by Bill Doyle.
- ⁵⁷ Concannon, p11. The American PGA also tried to make the fourball matches worth two points instead of just one, and wanted to continue matches that were tied after 36 holes instead of declaring them halved. Philpot turned them down, but conceded that the teams could substitute a player in singles on the second day. In the end, just one match was halved, and neither team made a substitution on the second day.
- ⁵⁸ The order of matches is taken from articles in the *Worcester Telegram*, *Worcester Evening Gazette*, and *Worcester Sunday Telegram*, June 3, 1927 – June 5, 1927, with supporting articles from the *Boston Globe*, *New York Times* and wire stories in various other newspapers. The Worcester papers (the *Telegram* was the morning paper, the *Gazette* the afternoon paper) also published complete hole-by-hole results, though there are some inconsistencies (see later notes). Where possible, other sources, which published incomplete hole-by-hole results, have been used to confirm and/or reconcile the results as much as possible.
- ⁵⁹ "Americans Take Lead in Ryder Cup Tournament," *St. Petersburg Times*, June 4, 1927, AP story by Brian Bell.
- ⁶⁰ Unless noted, day one quotes and play-by-play details from *Worcester Telegram* June 4, 1927, additional details from "U.S. Leads Britain 3-1 For Ryder Cup," *New York Times*, June 4, 1927 by William D. Richardson.
- ⁶¹ "Farrell Put First For Today's Rounds," *New York Times*, June 4, 1927.
- ⁶² "Americans Take Lead in Ryder Cup Tournament," *St. Petersburg Times*, June 4, 1927, AP story by Brian Bell.
- ⁶³ "Farrell Put First For Today's Rounds," *New York Times*, June 4, 1927.
- ⁶⁴ "Wires Kept Busy Sending News of Big Golf Event," *Worcester Evening Gazette*, June 4, 1927, p15.
- ⁶⁵ Briggs, Asa. *The History of Broadcasting in the United Kingdom: Volume II: The Golden Age of Wireless*. Oxford University, New York, 2000. p 76. Bernard Darwin provided commentary on the broadcast.
- ⁶⁶ "14 Stations Added To Lindbergh Hook-Up," *New York Times*, June 10, 1927. The previous high was 42 stations for President Coolidge's address on George Washington's birthday on February 22, 1927.
- ⁶⁷ "Farrell Put First For Today's Rounds," *New York Times*, June 4, 1927.
- ⁶⁸ "Americans Lead British Golfers," *The Miami News*, June 4, 1927 AP story.
- ⁶⁹ Stymie rule from 1926 Rules of Golf, clipping found on http://www.leaderboard.com/glossary_stymiegaugue

⁷⁰ My interpretation of the order of victories is based on the reading of several articles from the Worcester papers, the *Boston Globe*, *New York Times*, and AP stories.

⁷¹ The *New York Times* reverses this outcome, saying that Whitcombe three-putted the last hole while Sarazen two-putted. I decided to use the *Worcester Sunday Telegram* version, since the hole-by-hole results presented in the paper match this description.

⁷² "Each Ryder Winner Will Keep Cup a Ninth Part of Year," *New York Times*, June 6, 1927. Article states that they drew the order out of a hat: Diegel, Turnesa, Golden, Sarazen, Watrous, Espinosa, Hagen, Farrell, and Mehlhorn.

⁷³ Charles Whitcombe was also a non-playing captain in 1949. <http://www.rydercup.com/europe/history/2014-ryder-cup-team-records>

⁷⁴ For example, "Poor Putting Lost for British, View of Ryder Cup Gallery," *New York Times*, June 6, 1927, by William D. Richardson.

⁷⁵ Scorecards are primarily taken from tables printed in the *Boston Globe*, *Worcester Telegram*, *Worcester Evening Gazette*, and *Worcester Sunday Telegram*, June 4, 1927 – June 5, 1927. Where possible, the corresponding stories in these papers, along with information drawn from *New York Times* and AP wire stories was used to confirm and/or correct the figures to the best of my ability. Note that the Golden-Jolly match is listed as a 7 & 6 victory in the *Boston Globe* and both the *Worcester Sunday Telegram* and the *New York Times*, but a United Press story in the June 5, 1927 edition of the *Pittsburgh Press* (which provided hole-by-hole scoring results only for the morning rounds) and the official RyderCup.com results state it was 8 & 7.