

# WILL BRITAIN WIN THE RYDER CUP MATCH?

## The Shadow of John Goodman

By A ROVING PLAYER

**E**VENTS in the recent American championship, in which a lone amateur, John Goodman, a young man twenty-three years of age, scattered the entire field of professionals, including all the ten Ryder Cup players, suggest a victory for Great Britain in the contest against the United States, at Southport, on Monday and Tuesday. There is justification for the popular view that what an amateur can accomplish should not be beyond the capacity of our picked professionals.

I do not suppose for a moment that this view is shared by Walter Hagen and his men; on the contrary, they regard Goodman's amazing success as an accident. But was it an accident? An examination of the facts scarcely support this contention. The beginning of the story goes back four years, when Goodman, then a youth of nineteen, and absolutely unknown, except for a local reputation in his native town of Omaha, turned up in the U.S. Amateur championship at Pebble Beach, on the Pacific coast.

In order to get there he worked his passage on a cattle train, and to the astonishment of the entire world of golf knocked out the great Bobby Jones in the first round. As my friend, O. B. Keeler, put it: "While Omaha doubtless regards Johnny Goodman as a prime hero, California considers him a painful accident that came over 2,000 miles to happen. This, of course, is all wrong, for Goodman, a good game kid, showed sufficient stuff to knock off the champion in round 1."

Nothing more was heard of the youth until last autumn, when he arrived at Baltimore, and fought his way to the final of the Amateur championship, in which he was beaten by the Canadian, Ross Somerville, after being two up with nine holes to play. Now we come to Goodman's crowning achievement—the winning of the American Open against an army of experts. His aggregate of 287 places him alongside the best of the modern winners, and his 66 for the second and a 70 for the critical third round indicate that he is capable of doing the "inspirational stuff" without which American championships cannot be won.

Golf continues to be the most paradoxical of all games. The new U.S. Open champion was not considered good enough for a place in the Walker Cup team which beat us last autumn. Even American selection committees, like others, are sometimes wise after events. Anyhow, Goodman is certain to be in the Walker Cup side which meets Britain in this country next year. A youngster who can beat Bobby Jones and bring about the downfall of all the American professionals should prove a most interesting personality.

It is only natural, of course, that the experts should consider that their dignity has been hurt by this intrusion on the part of Goodman just as it was hurt when Jones began to invade their sacred territory. But they need have no fear that the youth from Omaha will develop into as big a menace to their interests as the wonder from Atlanta.



A CLOSE-UP of the English Close golf champion. Mr. John Woollam, who won the English Close championship at Ganton last April, is here seen inspecting the portrait of himself painted by Mr. John A. A. Berrie, R.C.A. This artist's portrait of H.M. The King was recently exhibited at the Royal Academy.

**T**HE United States team is completed with the inclusion of W. Burke, around whose head a storm has been raging because of his omission in the original selection. At one time a worker in a blast furnace, Burke won the championship two years ago, after beating Compston in the Ryder Cup match by the decisive margin of 7 and 6. When his name was omitted Sarazen was so indignant that he offered to forego 10 per cent. of the sum allowed for expenses if other members of the team would do likewise, in order that Burke should accompany the side. Public opinion, whether right or wrong, has forced the hands of the selectors.

While the American championship found most of the members of the team somewhere near the top, it most certainly showed that they are by no means super-golfers. The fact that five men of them are making their first visit to this country is a point in our favour, for past experience shows that no man does himself justice when making his debut on this side. The five are: Craig Wood, Densmore Shute, Olin Dutra, Paul Runyan and Burke.

**M**UCH depends on the disposition of the forces at the command of the respective captains, and though neither has, as yet, made any definite plans, I should not be surprised if, in the foursomes, Hagen again joined forces with Densmore Shute, at one time a well-known amateur player. In the last match, at Scioto, they were a conspicuous success, the couple defeating Duncan and Havers by the overwhelming margin of 10 and 9. The two Americans followed it up by victory in the singles, Hagen accounting for C. A. Whitcombe by 4 and 3, and Shute disposing of Hodson by 8 and 6.

In the past it has been usual for the rival captains to oppose each other, but on this occasion, owing to the fact that Britain has a non-playing skipper, Hagen must, perforce, take on anyone who happens to come along. Personally, I hope it will be Mitchell, for he has an old score to wipe out.

**I**T is possible to give a shrewd guess as to who will be left out of the American team. One is almost certain to be Edward Dudley, a tall handsome fellow with a beautiful, lazy type of swing. Curiously enough, he has been hopelessly out of form since the day he was selected.

Another may possibly be Leo Diegel, the most eccentric and yet the most earnest golfer of modern times. Recently he went round a Californian course in 76, playing every shot while standing on the right foot only.

As for the British team, one of the problems will be to find a suitable foursome partner for Mitchell, now that Robson is no longer available. In my opinion, Whitcombe is the man best suited for the job.

Without being swayed by a sense of patriotism, I believe that Britain will win.



THE ROYAL AND ANCIENT CAPTAIN. The Earl of Lindsay, who has been appointed Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. His country seat is Kilconquhar House, Fife.

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