Report (14 players)

Ryan Gerard

Things To Know

- Returning to the PGA TOUR for the 2025 season following a top 30 finish (No. 12) on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List. Graduated to the PGA TOUR via the Korn Ferry Tour for the first time, doing so off the strength of his first Korn Ferry Tour title at the 2024 BMW Charity Pro-Am just outside Greenville, South Carolina.
- Earned Special Temporary Membership on the PGA TOUR amid the 2022-23 season. Open qualified for the 2023 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, gaining entry to the event via a 5-for-3 playoff Tuesday morning. Finished solo fourth that week at PGA National Resort and followed it with a T11 at the Puerto Rico Open a week later. Secured Special Temporary Membership after the 2023 Valero Texas Open.
- Played five seasons at University of North Carolina (2017-22), winning once individually and garnering 2022 All-America Second Team and All-Atlantic Coast Conference honors. Also broke Ben Griffin's program record for career scoring average, finishing with a mark of 71.65.
- Enjoyed playing "Impossible Chipping Contests" with his friends -- a group which included the late Grayson Murray (two-time PGA TOUR winner), as well as fellow professionals Doc Redman and Carter Jenkins -- at Wildwood Green Golf Club in his hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina. They would intentionally give each other the worst lies possible and then see who could get the ball closest to the pin.
- Although the Wyndham Championship was closer to his family's home in Raleigh, North Carolina, the PGA TOUR event he most frequently attended and considers his "home" TOUR event is the Truist Championship at Quail Hollow. The first PGA TOUR event Gerard attended was the 2007 Truist Championship, and he remembered following Tiger Woods (eventual winner) and Vijay Singh in the final groups. Gerard was also in attendance for the 2011 Wyndham Championship, which was won by fellow Raleigh native Webb Simpson.

Background

- Received his first set of golf clubs at age 2. Parents said he tried to sneak out of the house whenever he could to hit balls in his yard. Gerard also noted, "I apparently just loved golf. I was told that as a little kid, I would take shovels and rakes I found at daycare and swing them around like golf clubs. I always got in trouble for doing it, because I nearly took the heads off other kids. Anything that could be turned into a ball or a club was fair game for me."
- Remembered sneaking out of his room after his bedtime as a youngster to watch the conclusion of the 2012 U.S. Open, which was won by Webb Simpson at The Olympic Club. Ryan and Webb -- both Raleigh natives -- played a couple practice rounds together on TOUR in 2023.
- He was passionate about playing both basketball and baseball growing up, but his interest in baseball harmed his golf swing. He said he imitated the golf swing too closely in the batter's box, leading to "too many strikeouts."
- Graduated from Ravenscroft School in his childhood hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina. Notable alums of Ravenscroft School include actor Michael C. Hall (Class of 1989), best known for his award-winning performance in the television series Dexter, and former NFL

safety Antwan Harris (Class of 1996), who won three Super Bowls with the New England Patriots.
- Junior golf victories included the AJGA's 2015 Polo Golf Junior Classic, a match play tournament contested at PGA National Resort in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida - which hosts the PGA TOUR's Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches. Gerard defeated fellow Korn Ferry Tour graduate Norman Xiong in the semifinals, and fellow professional Cooper Dossey in the championship match. Other past champions of the event include Stewart Cink (1989), Tiger Woods (1991), Trevor Immelman (1995), Brian Harman (2003), Cameron Young (2013), Akshay Bhatia (2018), and Nick Dunlap (2021).
- Named a 2016 AJGA Rolex Junior All-America First Team selection alongside fellow Korn Ferry Tour graduates Ricky Castillo, Noah Goodwin, John Pak, and Norman Xiong.
- Majored in economics and minored in geography at University of North Carolina.

Family

- Father, Robert (also goes by Bob), played collegiately at Florida Atlantic University and professionally in the 1980s. One of Robert's college teammates was Joseph Vogel, father of Korn Ferry Tour winner T.J. Vogel.
- In 2009, Robert co-founded the Tarheel Golf Foundation, a non-profit organization which operated the Tarheel Junior Golf Tour (for middle school and high school players) and Tarheel Future Stars Series (for elementary school players). Robert co-founded the non-profit with Eric Murray, father of two-time PGA TOUR winner Grayson Murray (who tragically passed away in 2024). Robert said of establishing the Tarheel Golf Foundation, "Basically there was nothing (in Wake County) for kids who were competing and wanted some acknowledgement of where they stood against other players in the state and region." The foundation had more than 1,000 members by its second season. Robert is no longer involved with the Tarheel Golf Foundation, which sold to Drip Golf and was rebranded as what is now the Tarheel Junior Golf Tour in 2022.
- Mother, Judy.
- The Gerards are a dog-loving family. Judy named one of their dogs Stevie in honor of Steve Stricker, her second-favorite golfer (behind Ryan, of course) because both went to University of Illinois. They also have a Cavapoo puppy named Brookline, a nod to The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, where Ryan made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2022 U.S. Open.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Music. Knows how to play the piano and has 14 years of experience playing concert violin. Also enjoys listening to hip hop.
- Devoted fan of the Carolina Panthers (NFL football) and the New York Yankees (MLB baseball).
- Enjoys cooking when at home.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Good friends with fellow University of North Carolina alum Ben Griffin. Gerard grew up playing junior golf against Griffin, and the two lived in the same apartment complex during Griffin's hiatus from golf in 2021. The two also spent a lot of time together when Gerard was a PGA TOUR rookie with Special Temporary Membership in 2023.
- Met fellow University of North Carolina alum Michael Jordan. Jordan gifted him a pair of golf shoes, which he keeps in a case.

- Former University of North Carolina men's basketball coach Roy Williams has been an influential figure in his career. Gerard said Williams helped him find competitiveness through happiness and positivity.

Other

- Used to play custom golf balls numbered 19 because he wanted to win more majors than Jack Nicklaus.

Rico Hoey

Things To Know

- Earned his first PGA TOUR card via the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour season, with the highlight of the year being his victory in May 2023 at the Visit Knoxville Open.
- Lost Korn Ferry Tour membership following the 2020-21 season and sustained a shoulder injury, which, on the advice of doctors, left him unable to play golf for an extended period of time. Needing work and figuring it would be a good idea to explore careers in the golf industry in case professional golf did not work out, Rico sought out his longtime mentor Ross Fisher, director of golf at Goose Creek Golf Club, a parkland-style course in Mira Loma, California (just outside Rico's hometown of Rancho Cucamonga) Rico grew up playing. Fisher intentionally gave him the toughest jobs with the hope Rico would return to pro golf. The first week on the job, Fisher had Rico set up tee markers at 4:30 a.m. Rico recalls, "I feel like I'm a humble guy, but it was very, very humbling, because I'd never really had a job. Working with the maintenance crew, waking up that early, it was pretty tough." After a month, Rico quit the job and returned to golf, eventually playing his way through the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament to earn membership for 2023.
- While Hoey did not enjoy the early-morning course setup at Goose Creek, he loved the opportunity to work youth clinics, saying, "Seeing the smiles on the kids' faces, seeing them light up when the hit a great shot... it reminded me of why I love the game."
- Known for wearing square diamond earrings, Rico got his ears pierced and began wearing earrings when he was in second grade. Rico jokingly "bluffed" his mom and said he wanted earrings, and she actually called Rico on it and took him to a nearby Claire's to get his ears pierced.
- Has a "15th club" in his bag: driver off the deck. Hoey's driving prowess also earned him the nickname "World's Greatest Driver" from Chris Zambri, who was head coach at University of Southern California for the entirety of Hoey's collegiate career.

Background

- Born in the Philippines but grew up in Rancho Cucamonga, California, where he and his two older sisters (Kay and Simone) grew up playing Goose Creek Golf Club, a parkland-style public course in nearby Mira Loma.
- Began to work with Ron Stockton, son of 10-time PGA TOUR winner Dave Stockton and brother of Dave Stockton Jr., around the time he turned 10 years old; the biggest lesson Ron taught young Rico was to imagine shots and be creative because "there's no such thing as a straight shot," so he taught Rico how to cut and draw the ball as he told him to "go curve the ball and have a good time."
- Played four seasons at University of Southern California (2013-17), earning three All-America accolades, including a first-team selection as a senior in 2017, as well as four All-Pac-12 Conference First Team honors, and the 2014 Pac-12 Freshman of the Year award. Also recorded sub-71 scoring averages each of his final three seasons.
- Notched three collegiate victories at USC, including two as a senior en route to 2017 All-America First Team honors.
- Finished second to Oregon's Aaron Wise at the 2016 NCAA Championship, which was contested at Eugene (Oregon) Country Club. Hoey notably finished ahead of Arizona State's Jon Rahm (T3), Texas' Beau Hossler (5th), Alabama's Robby Shelton (T8), Illinois' Thomas Detry (T10), Cal's Collin Morikawa (T10), and USC teammate Justin Suh (T10).

- Representing the United States, earned two points (two halves and a win) at the 2014 Arnold Palmer Cup, and earned three points (all wins) at the 2016 Arnold Palmer Cup.
- Won the 2012 Callaway Junior World Golf Championships (Boys 15-17 Division) at Torrey Pines over runner-up Beau Hossler and third-place finisher Aaron Wise.
- Turned professional in 2017 and spent a season on PGA TOUR Canada, winning once and finishing No. 5 on the Order of Merit for Korn Ferry Tour membership in 2018.
- Following the 2017 season on PGA TOUR Canada, played the next three seasons on the Korn Ferry Tour (2018, 2019, 2020-21). Hoey finished No. 71 on the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour Points List to earn fully exempt status for 2019, but finished No. 97 in 2019 and was outside the top 100 at end of the 2020-21 season, losing membership entirely.

Family

- Older sisters, Kay and Simone, played college golf at Long Beach State University. Kay (2004-09) was a two-time All-America Second Team selection, two-time Big West Conference Golfer of the Year, and set a school record with seven individual wins. Simone (2009-13) won twice and was a two-time All-Big West First Team honoree.
- Rico's parents met in the Philippines; his father is of Irish descent, while his mother is Filipino.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Played two seasons at USC alongside Justin Suh (2015-16, 2016-17 seasons); the two often roomed together on team road trips.
- Teammates at the 2014 Arnold Palmer Cup included Wyndham Clark, Trey Mullinax and Robby Shelton.
- Teammates at the 2016 Arnold Palmer Cup included Will Zalatoris, Will Gordon and Doug Ghim.
- As a junior golfer, PGA TOUR winner Sahith Theegala also frequented Goose Creek Golf Club -- where Rico and his family honed their games.

Other

- Prior to the start of the 2024 season, Hoey changed his nationality from the United States to the Philippines.

Erik van Rooyen

Things To Know

- Represented South Africa alongside Christiaan Bezuidenhout at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Bezuidenhout finished 16th, while van Rooyen finished 17th. It was the first Olympics for van Rooyen and second for Bezuidenhout.
- Born in Bellville, South Africa, a suburb of Cape Town, but spent most of adolescence in Pretoria; Still has an apartment in Johannesburg but purchased a home in Jupiter, Florida in fall 2018, with it being a "golfer's heaven" and easy access to Europe. Plays out of The Bear's Club.
- Father of two: Daughter, Valerie (born in July 2021) and son, Gabriel (born in December 2022). Valerie was born a month before his first PGA TOUR title at the 2021 Barracuda Championship. Dedicated the win to his wife and daughter. The family got to participate in their first Par 3 Contest together at the 2022 Masters, where baby Valerie slept through much of it.
- First played golf at age seven, and started competing at age 14; Wanted to play college golf in the United States where he could play competitive golf and earn a degree. Was recruited by three schools (Kennesaw State, Liberty and Minnesota) and chose the University of Minnesota where he competed for the Gophers from 2009-2013.
- Turned professional in 2013 and has played on the Sunshine Tour, Challenge Tour, and DP World Tour, with wins on each tour.
- Earned his first professional win on the Sunshine Tour at the 2017 Eye of Africa PGA Championship where he defeated two fellow South Africans in a playoff, including good friend Dylan Frittelli. Would later team with Frittelli to represent South Africa at the 2018 World Cup of Golf (T18 out of 28 countries represented).
- Won the 2021 Barracuda Championship for his first PGA TOUR title, which moved him inside the top 125 and secured full status for the 2021-22 PGA TOUR season.
- Won the 2023 World Wide Technology Championship at El Cardonal at Diamante in Cabo San Lucas in November 2023. The win was especially emotional as he had just learned his close friend and college teammate was losing his ongoing battle with cancer. Days after Van Rooyen's victory, Jon Trasamar died of Stage 4 melanoma at age 33. Van Rooyen learned his friend's condition had worsened just days before the start of the tournament. Upon winning, Van Rooyen said "Every shot out there today was for him, and when you're playing for something bigger than winning some silly trophy, it puts things in perspective." After the win, Van Rooyen and caddie and fellow college teammate Alex Gaugert (GAW-gert) flew from Mexico to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota to visit with Trasamar. Trasamar was first diagnosed with melanoma in May 2022, but the cancer returned and eventually spread. Trasamar, a native of Blue Earth, Minnesota, played four years of college golf at the University of Minnesota (2010-14) and was part of the 2014 Big Ten Championship-winning team. He made eight career starts across the Korn Ferry Tour and PGA TOUR Americas from 2015 to 2021. Van Rooyen met Trasamar in 2009 at the University of Minnesota. Trasamar and his family were the first to greet van Rooyen at the airport. They were freshman roommates and quickly became friends.

Family

- Father (Wim) is a business executive and his mother (Elize) works at a high school; they reside in South Africa; he has two siblings, an older brother (Francois) and a younger sister (Marlean).

- Met his wife, Rose, a Minnesota native, while both were students at the University of Minnesota. Rose earned a degree in Retail Merchandising, while Erik earned a degree in Marketing. They married in 2014. Three years into marriage, Rose caddied for Erik for about half his last season on the Challenge Tour.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Has a very distinct look on the golf course, at times rocking a full handlebar mustache and wearing joggers. He says people either love it or hate the joggers, but he finds them to be comfortable and fashionable, "A little different, but still neat and clean."
- Designed his own Ecco golf shoe, the Biom H4 "Erik van Rooyen Edition," but is not a big shoe collector compared to other Tour players. Was first introduced to the Danish shoe company during a 2017 Challenge Tour Pro-Am, and they officially became a sponsor of his in 2019.
- Lifelong guitarist and music lover; has been playing the guitar since he was 14 and is essentially self-taught. He grew up listening to Dire Straits, Neil Young and the Rolling Stones, but he loves to play Foo Fighters, AC/DC and Guns N' Roses. Favorite band is Scottish rock band, Biffy Clyro. He's recently started getting into blues, thanks to his father-in-law's extensive music collection.
- Follows the "Springboks," South Africa's Rugby Team, who won back-to-back World Cup titles in 2019 and 2023.

Tom Vaillant

Hayden Springer

Things To Know

- Earned his first PGA TOUR card in 2023 after rounds of 66-69-68-69 for a T4 finish at Final Stage of PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry. This was just weeks after the passing of his first-born child, three-year-old Sage, and he said "It's an interesting kind of thing mentally thinking about her when you're trying to play and there's pressure and all of that because it is emotional. But it's happy thoughts. I can just close my eyes and think about her smiling, and it's kind of a grounding, kind of gets you back to neutral. Not thinking about golf, not thinking about the last shot, the next shot, just thinking about her and her smile." He made his first start as a PGA TOUR rookie at The American Express in 2024 and, in only his fourth start of the 2024 season, finished T3 in the Puerto Rico Open.
- Won PGA TOUR Canada's season-ending Fortinet Cup Championship in 2023 by five strokes for his second victory in three weeks, which secured a No. 1 finish in the 2023 Fortinet Cup standings and fully exempt membership for the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour season. Springer also earned sponsor exemptions for the 2023 Fortinet Championship (MC) and 2024 RBC Canadian Open (MC).
- Springer is no stranger to taking down some of golf's biggest names, as he won the Big 12 Championship in 2018 while at Texas Christian University - knocking off Oklahoma State's Viktor Hovland in the process. This accomplishment earned him a spot in the 2019 Military Tribute at The Greenbrier (MC).
- Made his PGA TOUR debut as a 19-year-old amateur at the 2016 FedEx St. Jude Classic (MC).
- Advanced from local qualifying (Lakeside Country Club in Houston, Texas) and final qualifying (Dallas Athletic Club in Dallas, Texas) to earn his first U.S. Open start in 2021 (MC).
- Became the 13th different player (14 times) to shoot a sub-60 round on the PGA TOUR with his 12-under 59 in the first round of the 2024 John Deere Classic. He also became the first player in TOUR history to play his final two holes in 3-under par en route to a sub-60 after holing out from 55 yards for eagle from the left rough at the par-5 17th and draining a 12-foot, 8-inch birdie putt on 18. He started his round with an eagle on the par-5 second hole and a string of six birdies over his next seven for a frontside score of 27 (a TPC Deere Run tournament-record). He then had six straight pars on the backside, but made an 18-foot, 6-inch birdie on the 15th hole, parred the 16th, holed out for eagle on the 17th and made a birdie putt on the 18th. He finished the tournament T7/-21 (59-71-66-67) after missing the cut in 7 of his last 8 starts.

Background

- Attended and graduated from Byron Nelson High School in Trophy Club, Texas, a school named for the World Golf Hall of Fame member who lived two miles from the campus.
- Started college at Texas Tech University (2015-2016, 2016-2017), then transferred to Texas Christian University (2017-2018, 2018-2019). He majored in Finance.
- Favorite golf memory is spending eight-plus hours per day in the summer at the club where he grew up, Victory Golf Club. His mom would drop him off in the morning and pick him up at night.
- Remembers attending THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson as early as the age of 5 for practice round days on Tuesday and Wednesday with an empty hat and having his dad shove him towards the pros to ask for autographs, telling him, "Don't be afraid." And Hayden would leave with his hat covered in autographs from everybody. Hayden recalls following Tim Herron, a

favorite of his father's, having Corey Pavin jog over to sign for him the year Springer had fractured his ankle and hobbled his way, and watching past major winners Sergio Garcia and Vijay Singh groove their swing on the range.

Family

- Married to Emma. The couple has three daughters, Sage*, Annie, and Isla.
- As freshmen at Texas Tech University, Hayden met his wife Emma, who was also a golfer at the school. The pair got married on August 2, 2019 and became pregnant not long after. In July 2020, however, the pair learned their firstborn child, Sage, had Trisomy 18, a genetic disorder where 50% of babies with it are stillborn. The other 50% are unlikely to live past two weeks. Sage, however, was born by C-section on Oct. 1, 2020, and was a fighter. Four months after she was born she had a multi-hour heart surgery and spent more than two months in the hospital as she recovered. She required around-the-clock care, with Springer's parents helping the couple while Hayden played professionally and Emma worked as a nurse. Sage passed away at age 3 on Nov. 13, 2023. Their second daughter, Annie Claire, was born on October 17, 2022.
- Has one sister, Allyson.
- Hayden's father, Neyland, is a U.S. Navy veteran who is now a pilot for American Airlines.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Marks his ball with the same ball marker using the same side of the coin each time.
- Enjoys basketball.
- At The American Express in 2024, Hayden stamped Sage's name into his wedges in rainbow ink and wore a pink shirt, her favorite color.

Charity

- Has a non-profit with his wife, Emma, called "Extra To Love" to honor their late daughter, Sage, and aims to empower the Trisomy 13 and Trisomy 18 communities through connection, financial support and education.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Shot 74-71 to tie for third at the 2014 UIL 4A State Championship, 7 shots behind the champion, Scottie Scheffler, and five shots ahead of Chandler Phillips (T9).
- He attended THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson for seven or eight years in a row, and later served as a volunteer with his high school golf teammates from Byron Nelson High School, where Byron Nelson's widow, Peggy, kept tabs on the team and showed Springer his Masters medal. In an interview in 2023, Hayden said his mother and Peggy still keep in touch via email.

Vince Whaley

Things To Know

- Born in Lexington, Kentucky but moved to West Palm Beach, Florida at age 4, then moved to and grew up in McKinney, Texas. Played the Texas golf circuit alongside Jordan Spieth and childhood friend Scottie Scheffler.
- Turned pro in 2017 after graduating from Georgia Tech with a degree in Business Finance. Has always been interested in the stock market and financial management. Has aspirations to start a hedge fund.
- Immediately found success on the All Pro Tour and was named Rookie of the Year in 2018; earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for 2019 via Q-school and finished No. 25 on the Regular Season Points List as a rookie to earn the last available PGA TOUR card via the Korn Ferry Tour's 2019 regular season.
- Played Augusta National his senior year of college and threw up on the 16th and 17th holes with suspected food poisoning from Waffle House prior to arrival. "It was a very memorable first time (laughs). It was a tough way to end the round. I wasn't even looking at the golf course ... I was in the trees, trying to make it to the clubhouse. It was a very unique first experience."
- Currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Background

- Advanced through Korn Ferry Tour Q-School in 2019 and went on to make 16 out of 24 cuts including two top-3 finishes (2nd at The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic and T3 at the Memorial Health Championship). This led him to finish 25th on the Korn Ferry Points List, earning his PGA Tour card for the 2019-20 season.
- His decision to play at to Georgia Tech was influenced by his coach and golf courses. "It was really Coach (Bruce) Heppler, and the golf courses they get to play. East Lake Golf Club (host of the TOUR Championship) and The Golf Club of Georgia are just awesome. Once I got there and saw that, it was tough to turn down."
- At Georgia Tech, won twice and garnered All-ACC and 2016 and 2017 Academic All-America honors in 2016 and 2017.

Family

- Married Katherine on September 28, 2024 at The Golf Club of Georgia.
- Neither of his parents play golf. He was introduced to the game when his parents sent him to a golf camp during the summer.
- His grandfather, Louis Whaley, who lives in Danville, Kentucky, was in attendance when he placed fifth at the 2022 Barbasol Championship. Louis, age 97 at the time, followed his grandson all 18 holes despite being in a wheelchair.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Hobbies include basketball and fishing. Considers basketball his true love.
- Enjoys the stock market and anything in the tech space.
- Always marks ball with a quarter heads up.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Good friends with Scottie Scheffler and Michael Gligic.
- His freshman year at Georgia Tech played with Seth Reeves and Richy Werenski.

Other

- Four courses he believes his first PGA TOUR victory could happen on: Colonial Country Club (host of Charles Schwab Challenge), Innisbrook (Valspar Championship), Quail Hollow (Wells Fargo Championship) and Torrey Pines (Farmers Insurance Open). He says of these selections, "Harder the better and more drivers the better."
- Despite not being able to bet, admitted he is a big fan of DraftKings.

Jason Scrivener

Family

- Jason & wife, Simone, welcomed their second, a boy, Charlie Scrivener, born 02/08/2023

Dale Whitnell

Jackson Suber

Things To Know

- A 2025 PGA TOUR rookie who earned TOUR membership for the first time with a top 30 finish (No. 20) on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List.
- As a Korn Ferry Tour rookie in 2023, finished No. 37 on the Points List after he began the season with poor conditional status and played his way into the top 20 with seven events remaining. Suber made six starts across the final seven events of the 2023 season, totaling three missed cuts and only recording one finish higher than T46, which left him on the wrong side of the PGA TOUR card bubble (the top 30 earned cards). Suber, who entered the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Championship at No. 30 on the Points List, said of the late-season slump, "That was a pretty tough way to go out. Obviously, I wasn't ready. That was as upset as I've ever been over golf. I don't know that I've ever let the tears flow and been emotional, except for that day. That really stung. The whole month leading up to (Korn Ferry Tour Championship) was a struggle, trying to tread water and figure it out. I needed to mature, obviously, and figure out things that would help me be more professional, mature, and have my game more consistent."
- Finished No. 9 in the PGA TOUR University Class of 2022 after four seasons at University of Mississippi. Through the PGA TOUR University performance benefits at that time, Suber earned PGA TOUR Canada membership for the 2022 season and an exemption to Second Stage of the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament (now PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry). Suber qualified for Final Stage and earned Korn Ferry Tour membership, but a T101 finish left him with poor conditional status to begin the 2023 season.
- Moved to Jacksonville, Florida in 2023 to play and practice at TPC Sawgrass.
- Born and raised in Tampa, Florida, where he grew up playing at Palma Ceia Golf & Country Club; he continued to play and practice there until 2023, when he relocated to Jacksonville, Florida. As kids, Jackson and childhood friend Gunnar Raney would typically play a constant loop of Nos. 1 and 2 (the second hole essentially brought them back to the clubhouse) in the early evening until it got too dark. Suber's mom, Elayne, would oftentimes sit in a rocking chair and read magazines as they went round and round the two-hole loop. Suber says of the loop, "I've definitely played those two holes more than any holes in the entire world." Gunnar, who played collegiately at the NCAA Division III level, attended the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Championship, where Jackson earned his first PGA TOUR card.
- Estimated he attended the Valspar Championship, his hometown PGA TOUR event, five times as a kid; he also attended THE PLAYERS once. Later made his PGA TOUR debut as a sponsor exemption at the 2022 Valspar Championship.
- Played the 2009 U.S. Kids Golf World Championship at Pinehurst (finished 131st in the Boys 9 Division). Other notable names from the Boys 9 Division included fellow Korn Ferry Tour graduates Frankie Capan III (T5), Ryan Gerard (T27), and Noah Goodwin (T77). Suber returned to Pinehurst for the 2024 U.S. Open, where he was the last man into the field U.S. Open via Jon Rahm's withdrawal; he played in a featured group alongside Jordan Spieth and Hideki Matsuyama and finished 73rd.
- Played four seasons at University of Mississippi (2018-22), amassing five career wins, earning 2022 All-America Second Team recognition as a senior, and garnering back-to-back All-Southeastern Conference First Team honors as a junior and senior.
- Developed a friendship with former PGA TOUR member and fellow Ole Miss alum Jonathan Randolph. The two met at Ole Miss, where Randolph was as a volunteer assistant coach during Suber's time on the team. Randolph, who graduated from the Korn Ferry Tour for the first time in 2014, was the first Ole Miss alum to earn a PGA TOUR card. Suber and Braden

Thornberry followed Randolph as the second and third Ole Miss alums to earn TOUR membership via the Korn Ferry Tour in 2024.
- Favorite sports teams are the Tampa Bay Lightning (NHL hockey) and Ole Miss football.

Family

- Parents are Jack and Elayne Suber.
- Younger brother, Mac, played one year of golf at Troy University in 2021.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Close friends with fellow Korn Ferry Tour graduates Pierceson and Parker Coody.

Will Gordon

Things To Know

- Often plays pickleball during off weeks in St. Simons Island with fellow TOUR member Davis Thompson as well as Spencer Ralston and John Augenstein, who play on the Korn Ferry Tour. Moved to St. Simons in October 2021.
- Growing up in Davidson, North Carolina, his family served as a host family for three different Davidson Wildcats men's basketball players from overseas that had no where to go during school breaks. This, along with his parents' (Norman and Sally) relationship with coach Bob McKillop, led to a connection between Will and Davidson star Stephen Curry. They played a handful of rounds of golf together when Curry was in college, and Curry got tickets for the Gordon family to attend the Warriors' Christmas Day game in Phoenix in 2021.
- Recorded a pair of PGA TOUR top-10s as a sponsor exemption during the 2019-20 season (RSM Classic, Travelers Championship), joined the PGA TOUR as a Special Temporary member, and eventually earned enough non-member FedExCup points to earn his PGA TOUR card for the 2020-21 season.
- Played four seasons at Vanderbilt University (2015-19), closing with a phenomenal senior season, earning First-Team All-America honors and being named 2019 SEC Player of the Year. As a junior, won the 2017 Tom Cousins Award at the East Lake Cup by a selected panel of industry leaders for his accolades both on and off of the golf course (won Medalist honors that year).

Background

- Grew up in Davidson, North Carolina.
- Early in his professional career, lived in "Uptown" Charlotte, residing there until relocating to St. Simons Island, Georgia in October 2021. Gordon's favorite hangout spots were the U.S. National Whitewater Center and Noble Smoke, where his go-to order is brisket, onion rings, and mac & cheese.
- Favorite golf course in the Charlotte area is Charlotte Country Club because "you can really go low, but the greens are tough enough to challenge you." Jay Bilas is notably a member of Charlotte Country Club and the two crossed paths numerous times at the club.
- Lost to Doug Ghim in the Round of 32 at the 2013 U.S. Junior Amateur. Ghim went on to defeat Cameron Young in the quarterfinals before he fell to eventual champion Scottie Scheffler in the semifinals.
- Reached the quarterfinals at the 2018 U.S. Amateur at Pebble Beach Golf Links (eventually won by Viktor Hovland).
- Represented the United States at the Arnold Palmer Cup in 2016 and 2019. Teammates in 2016 included PGA TOUR members Doug Ghim and Will Zalatoris, while he competed in 2019 alongside fellow TOUR members Austin Eckroat, Alex Smalley and Brandon Wu. Defeated Kevin Yu, 2 and 1, in Singles in 2019.

Family

- Parents at Norman and Sally Gordon. Has one sister, Ellen.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Favorite place to visit is the Caribbean. Enjoys snorkeling.
- Fan of the Carolina Panthers (NFL football) and Davidson College Wildcats basketball. Favorite athletes are Cam Newton and Stephen Curry.
- Favorite artists are Eric Church, Mat Kearney and Elevation Worship.

Charity

- Supports Turner's Heroes, a pediatric patient support non-profit based in Nashville, Tennessee. Will knew Turner Cockrell, the non-profit's namesake, at Vanderbilt before Cockrell passed away from melanoma at the age of 21. Cockrell played football at Vanderbilt. Throughout 10 tournaments in the spring of 2021, Will highlighted a patient who designed his golf towel for that tournament.
- Was a Play Yellow Ambassador. Play Yellow is a Children's Miracle Network Hospitals campaign with support from Jack and Barbara Nicklaus and the PGA TOUR to bring the entire golf world together to help the 10 million kids treated at local children's hospitals each year. In June 2021, Will hosted a virtual tournament for Play Yellow and Turner's Heroes in an effort to win the battle against pediatric cancer.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Played golf a handful of times with multi-time NBA champion and MVP Stephen Curry while Curry played for the Davidson College men's basketball team.
- Gordon recalls how, "When I was growing up, my family had been a host family for several Davidson basketball players through the years. When they made that Elite Eight run (in 2008), we were a host family for one of the players, so the team was over at my house a lot. I was probably 10, 12 and playing a lot of golf, and Steph and I went out and played 10-12 times when I was growing up from probably 11 to 15 or 16. He's super supportive. After the (2019) RSM (Classic), he texted me and told me he was proud to see me doing my thing. It's amazing that a guy like that is able to take a minute out of his day to think about me. It's been inspiring for me to see somebody who was playing college basketball at Davidson, where nobody really knew... was able to get to the very top."
- When he lived in Charlotte, Gordon often practiced and played with PGA TOUR members Webb Simpson, Seamus Power and Mackenzie Hughes.
- Played on the 2016 Arnold Palmer Cup team alongside PGA TOUR winner Will Zalatoris and fellow Korn Ferry Tour alum Doug Ghim, among others.

Other

- Missed several months during the 2024 PGA TOUR season between February and July due to nerve inflammation in the neck and thoracic area that radiated down his arm. Was able to treat it through intense physical therapy and a dedicated approach. He really had to change how he moved his body in the golf swing.

Jacques Kruyswijk

Patrick Fishburn

Things To Know

- Played two seasons on the Korn Ferry Tour prior to earning his first PGA TOUR card at the end of the 2023 season; he finished No. 71 on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, followed by a No. 49 finish in 2022.
- In June 2019, became the first player to receive a grant from the Tony Finau Foundation; he received a $40,000 donation from Finau, with the Tony Finau Foundation receiving the grant from the Korn Ferry Tour's Utah Championship and Utah Sports Commission. The funds were to be used to mentor up-and-coming golfers from Utah.
- Across two events in July 2023, broke the Korn Ferry Tour record for consecutive holes without a bogey, as he played the final 44 holes of the Price Cutter Charity Championship (Springfield, Missouri) and first 64 holes of the NV5 Invitational (Glenview, Illinois, just outside Chicago) without a bogey, Fishburn's streak of 108 consecutive holes without a bogey broke the previous record of 106 set by Heath Slocum in 2001.

Background

- Born, raised, and continues to reside in Ogden, Utah, which is roughly 40 miles north of Salt Lake City.
- Grew up playing a lot of golf at Ogden Golf & Country Club, where he later shot a course-record 59 (with a bogey) in June 2020.
- Prepped at Fremont High School, where he was the starting point guard for the varsity basketball team and earned All-State recognition in 2011. Fishburn actually wanted to play college basketball, but he sustained a foot injury his junior year and did not feel the same upon returning, so he turned his attention to college golf.
- Played four seasons at Brigham Young University (2011-12 season, 2015-18 seasons) in Provo, Utah. Following his freshman season, served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Nashville, Tennessee for two years, and returned to BYU as a sophomore for the 2015-16 season.
- Fishburn said of his mission and returning to golf, "It's a hard decision... but it's what I felt I needed to do. I was better because of it. A lot better mentally. I could handle things on the course better. But it took me a full year to get my game back. My first qualifying round at BYU (after the mission), I shot 91. It took a long time to figure out how to play again... definitely pushing things back a little bit, but I probably wouldn't be here if I hadn't gone on a mission." He was not allowed to pick up a club during this two-year span.
- Won two collegiate events in his four seasons at BYU, in addition to earning the 2017-18 West Coast Conference Player of the Year award, as well as a 2018 All-America Third Team selection, and back-to-back All-WCC honors in 2017 and 2018.
- While playing for BYU, won the 2016 Utah State Amateur Championship, the longest continuously running golf tournament in the United States. Fishburn won the 118th playing of the tournament at Alpine Country Club in Highland, Utah.
- Turned professional out of BYU in 2018 and played the 2018 and 2019 seasons on PGA TOUR Canada; he finished No. 5 on the 2019 Order of Merit to earn Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2020-21 season.

Family

- Patrick and his wife, Madison, share three young sons -- Bo, Ty, and Freddie.

- Madison is a nurse in the family's hometown of Ogden, Utah.
- In the offseason leading into the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour season, Patrick spent more time at home in Utah during the winter as opposed to Scottsdale, Arizona, where he typically sharpens his game during the winter months, because his infant son, Ty (born December 2022), had some breathing problems and spent time in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Ty is doing great now.
- Father, Steve, played college football for Weber State.
- Mother, Peggy.
- Patrick's family is in the ranching business and own horse ranches in both Utah and Idaho.
- Patrick has two older sisters - Tori and Gretchen - and an older brother, Andy. Tori and Gretchen both played golf at Weber State and were also talented basketball players.
- Patrick's oldest sister, Tori, was a coach for his high school golf team.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Has a podcast, Fishin' For Birdies, hosted by Rob Despain. Patrick gives an all-access look into the life of a PGA TOUR professional, discussing his journey on the PGA TOUR.
- Enjoys fishing and tennis.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Grew up playing junior golf with future BYU teammate and PGA TOUR member Zac Blair.
- Teammates at BYU with Korn Ferry Tour member Peter Kuest.
- Friends with professional football player and fellow BYU alum Taysom Hill.

Other

- Made his PGA TOUR debut as a sponsor exemption at the 2019 Butterfield Bermuda Championship (finished T41).

Kevin Roy

Things To Know

- Returning to the PGA TOUR for the 2025 season after a top 30 finish (No. 13) on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List. Previously earned his first PGA TOUR card via the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season, finishing No. 24 on the Points List (with only 25 available TOUR cards) after he spent the final month of the season on the bubble.
- In 2023, moved from Tampa to nearby Lakewood Ranch, Florida, where he now plays and practices out of Concession Golf Club. Typically plays with fellow Korn Ferry Tour graduate Erik Barnes. Kevin noted Nelly Korda is also a member at Concession, and he's hoping he will have an opportunity to play with her.
- Credits his father, Jim, as his biggest golf influence and supporter. Jim played a full PGA TOUR season in 1983 and a full PGA TOUR Champions season in 2010. Jim notably qualified for two U.S. Opens (1983, 1989), three U.S. Senior Opens (2010, 2018, 2022), and the 2010 Senior PGA Championship. Jim played collegiately at University of South Florida in Tampa and was inducted into the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame in 2007.
- Kevin says one of his biggest thrills was caddying for his dad, Jim, in the 2018 U.S. Senior Open. His other golf thrills include making his first hole-in-one at 16 years old using a friend's iron, and shooting 9-under par for a course record with his dad on the bag at pre-qualifying for 2012 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry.
- An important lesson Kevin's father taught him through the years is to, "value par," and "fall in love with your wedge and putter".

Background

- When not on TOUR, Kevin mostly plays with his father, Jim, and older brother, Kyle, as well as friends who played college golf. Kevin jokes he and his brother have a $20 bet every time they play, but "I've never seen the money, and don't know if I ever will."
- Grew up in Syracuse, New York and attended Bishop Ludden High School. In the winter, Kevin mostly focused on basketball but would occasionally go to an indoor golf practice facility at Turning Stone Resort Casino, which was about 45 minutes from home.
- Originally committed to University of Hartford, as Kevin was lightly recruited since he played mostly local tournaments in upstate New York as opposed to the AJGA circuit. About four months before Kevin was set to enroll and start school at Hartford, head coach Bill Poutre resigned and accepted the same position at Long Beach State University. Bill called Kevin and asked if he wanted to come with him to Long Beach State. After a visit to campus with his dad, Kevin decided Long Beach State would be the best place to further his golf career.
- Played four seasons at Long Beach State University (2008-12), with Kevin's senior season (2011-12) being a peak for him and the program. Kevin earned a 2012 All-Big West Conference First Team selection and, along with 2012 Big West Freshman of the Year Xander Schauffele, helped Long Beach State win five tournaments as a team, which set a single-season school record.
- [Note: This story was well documented in 2022, when Kevin earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time.] In 2015, following nine missed cuts in 10 starts on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica and credit card debt building up, Kevin quit professional golf and went to work for his brother as a medical sales representative for much of 2016. Kevin drove to patients' houses in southwest Florida either setting up or retrieving the medical device his brother sold. Kevin said of the work, "Was it fun? No. But I was making a little bit of money, and at the end of the year I had the itch again." Kevin went 11 months without playing competitively, only

deciding to make another run at professional golf after winning a West Florida Golf Tour event in October of 2016. Kevin earned conditional status for the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour season but only made seven starts. At Final Stage of the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, Kevin finished high enough for guaranteed starts for the 2020-21 combined season, which saw him play all 46 events and finish No. 48 on the Points List for fully exempt status in 2022.
- Kevin says of his decision to walk away from pro golf, "I think it was probably one of the better decisions I've made. I was playing such bad golf. It was mentally draining on me. I was just having no fun on the golf course. Racking up credit card bills isn't much fun either. It was a decision that had to be made, and it was the right decision."

Family

- Kevin and his wife, Annie Sabo, wed in December 2021 in Lakewood Ranch, Florida. The couple welcomed their first child, a daughter named Mia, born June 2023. They also have a Shiba Inu puppy, Corona (or "Roni"), named after the beer.
- Annie graduated from the University of Michigan and works with Bally Sports Ohio as a TV sports reporter/host for the Cincinnati Reds (MLB). She goes back and forth between their home in Lakewood Ranch, Florida and Cincinnati for work.
- Annie and Kevin met in Tampa in 2018 through a mutual friend, after which Kevin told his friends he was going to marry Annie one day. They went on their first date eight months later and dated for close to two years before Kevin proposed in September 2020 on Lake Minnetonka in Minneapolis.
- Kevin's father-in-law, Chris Sabo, played third base for the Cincinnati Reds (MLB) and was the 1988 National League Rookie of the Year, a three-time All-Star, 1990 World Series champion, and Reds Hall of Famer.
- Parents are Jim and Cheryl Roy.
- Kevin has an older brother, Kyle, who played college golf at NCAA Division II Tampa University (2007-11), as well as one sister, Lauren.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Prefers being out on the course far more than being on the range unless he is working on a specific swing change; he finds such range work exhausting, and says he starts searching or tinkering with his swing. Also tries to avoid range sessions after tournament rounds. He prefers to do that kind of work during off weeks.
- Huge fan of the Buffalo Bills (NFL football) and he would love to be on the field for a game.
- When not golfing, enjoys the outdoors: boating, fishing, pickleball and time with his daughter, his wife, and their dog.
- During competition, he always carries with him a rosary, a small angel and a quarter from the 1960s. While Annie was pregnant in early 2023, she had a ball marker made for him that had their baby's sonogram image on it.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- As a senior at Long Beach State University, Kevin played the 2011-12 season alongside true freshman Xander Schauffele. Kevin led the team in scoring average that year (72.42), while Schauffele was second (72.52), and the duo led the team to five tournament wins, which set a single-season program record.

- Kevin's father, Jim, occasionally gave longtime Syracuse men's basketball head coach Jim Boeheim lessons. On one particular occasion during the 2002-03 season, Boeheim invited Jim and Kevin to a shootaround, where Kevin got to go on the court and shoot baskets with Carmelo Anthony, who led Syracuse to the national title as a true freshman that season and became the No. 3 overall pick in the 2003 NBA Draft.

David Lipsky

Things To Know

- He is the definition of a foodie. Has mentioned a range of eating at Michelin three-star restaurants to eating bugs in Thailand and Cambodia (silkworms, grasshoppers, even a deep-fried tarantula once). Quote: "My whole family is in the restaurant industry so it's something that's really dear to me. I've always been very adventurous with food. I remember eating street food in Bangkok to super nice sushi in Tokyo, to pasta shops in Italy...the list goes on and on. I'll eat anything."
- Has competed professionally all across the world, including extended stints on the European Tour and Asian Tour. Noted he traveled internationally more than 30 weeks a year from 2012-19 and estimates he has visited 40-50 countries and has played golf on every continent conducive to golf, saying of his experiences, "I learned a lot about myself and my game traveling all around the world. I've just made so many friends all around the world, seen so many places, eaten so many different things. I wish on was on the PGA TOUR... but it's not too bad of a consolation being able to travel all around the world and see so many different things."
- Attended Northwestern University, where he majored in political science and history. Individual champion of the 2010 Big Ten Championship and an All-American in 2011. Upon graduation, he left Northwestern having tied the school record for low 54-hole tournament score, a record previously established by Luke Donald, Team Europe Captain for the 2023 Ryder Cup. The record has since been broken. Also caddied through college.
- Went to the same high school as Collin Morikawa (La Canada High School) and earned his first win (TPC San Antonio Challenge at the Canyons) on the Korn Ferry Tour less than one hour after Morikawa earned his second win on the PGA TOUR at the Workday Charity Open (July 12, 2020). The two are friends and were frequent practice partners when they were in Los Angeles, and they texted each other the night before, each telling the other to go out and take care of business.
- One of 28 members of the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour graduating class who qualified for the 2022 FedExCup Playoffs. The 28 graduates in the Playoffs were the most since 2013, the first year the Korn Ferry Tour Finals began awarding 25 PGA TOUR cards in addition to the 25 awarded via the Korn Ferry Tour regular season.

Background

- Picked up golf at three or four, but didn't play tournaments until he was 10 years old.
- Due to his extensive golf travel over the years, he has told stories of troubles with customs/immigration due to his passport being so worn down/weather-damaged.
- Favorite golf memory is making a hole-in-one at No. 7 at Pebble Beach.
- Currently lives in Las Vegas.

Family

- Lipsky's father, Aaron, is Jewish while his mother, Yon Suk, is Korean. His whole family is in the restaurant industry, including his brother who has worked at multiple Michelin three-star restaurants.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Fan of the Los Angeles Lakers, Los Angeles Kings and Las Vegas Raiders.
- Has an airplane tattoo on his forearm that he shares with other TOUR caddies and LPGA player Danielle Kang. They all grew up together and it signifies how close they are and their bond - and all the travel they do.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Former roommate of fellow professional Alex Kang in Las Vegas.