

Report (10 players)

Robert MacIntyre

Things To Know

- Qualified for the 2024 FedExCup Playoffs and advanced to the 2024 TOUR Championship as a first-year member.
- Won the 2024 Genesis Scottish Open in dramatic fashion to become the first Scot since Colin Montgomerie (1999) to win his national open. Birdied the 72nd hole to edge Adam Scott by one stroke at The Renaissance Club. Finished runner-up to Rory McIlroy in 2023. "It's the one I wanted and it's the one I got. It's just, I've watched it as a kid growing up, and it meant a lot. It was really the only one that I could go and watch. Yeah, it's just, I can't believe it's happened."
- Captured his first PGA TOUR title at the 2024 RBC Canadian Open with his father, Dougie, on the bag after openly sharing his struggles of dealing with homesickness and loneliness while trying to acclimate to playing full-time in the states. He called his father the Saturday before the RBC Canadian Open and asked him to caddie.
- Elected to return home to Oban to celebrate with family and friends following his victory at the 2024 RBC Canadian Open as opposed to playing in the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday, which he qualified for following his victory.
- Qualified for his first appearance at the 2023 Ryder Cup for Team Europe at Marco Simone Golf Club in Rome. Earned the spot on Captain Luke Donald's team as one of six automatic qualifiers.
- Won his first DP World Tour title at the 2020 Aphrodite Hills Cyprus Showdown. He added a second title at the 2022 DS Automobiles Italian Open, defeating Matt Fitzpatrick on the first playoff hole at Marco Simone Golf Club, site of the 2023 Ryder Cup.
- Did not start to focus on golf until he was 17 years old. He grew up playing his favorite sport, shinty. Between the ages of 13 and 17 he played for his local club, Oban Camanachd, in his native Scotland. His late grandfather, Dougie MacIntyre Sr., is considered one of the best to ever play. His father (Dougie) and uncle (Gordon) scored all three goals when Oban Camanachd won its last league title in 1996, the year Robert was born.
- Shinty is a Scottish game resembling field hockey, played by two teams of 12 with curved sticks and a leather-covered cork ball. As a rookie on the DP World Tour in 2019, he was fighting loneliness on the road after 12 tournaments and decided to return home to Oban and play shinty in between starts on Tour for two weeks. He finished runner-up at both the British Masters and the Made in Denmark while playing shinty on the weekend leading into each tournament.
- Earned his spot on the DP World Tour in 2019 following one season on the Challenge Tour in 2018. In 2019, he finished 11th in the Race to Dubai and picked up the Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year award after a season that included three runner-up finishes and a T6 in his major debut at The Open Championship.

Background

- Born and grew up in the small coastal town of Oban, Scotland on the western edge of the Scottish Highlands, where his family still resides. His house overlooked the 12th hole at the par-62 Glencruitten Golf Club, where his father is the groundskeeper.

- In 2013 he became the first player to win the Scottish Youths' Championship and Scottish Boys' Open Stroke Play Championship in the same year.
- Played at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana from 2014-15 and was named the Southland Conference's Freshman of the Year. Won his first collegiate title at the Sam Hill Intercollegiate at the start of his sophomore year in 2015 before electing to return to Scotland in November.
- Won the Scottish Amateur in 2015 at Muirfield after being 4-down to Daniel Young halfway through the 36-hole final. In 2016, fell in the final of the 2016 Amateur Championship to Scott Gregory, 2 and 1, at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. Represented Scotland at the 2016 Eisenhower Trophy.
- Represented Great Britain and Ireland in the 2017 Walker Cup at Los Angeles Country Club; he notably defeated Cameron Champ, 6 and 4, in Singles.

Family

- His father, Dougie, is the head greenskeeper at Glencruitten Golf Club, where he learned how to play golf. His first memory of golf is of his father taking him golfing at age 6. He had four holes-in-one at this course. His dad is also a firefighter.
- Mom, Carol.
- Has two older sisters, Gill and Nicola, and a foster brother, Thomas.

Scottie Scheffler

Things To Know

- A four-time winner in 2025 with a victory at THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson, a successful title defense at the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday, and major championship victories at the PGA Championship and The Open Championship (third and fourth major championship titles, respectively). Followed Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods as the third player in the modern era to earn 15-plus PGA TOUR wins and three-plus major championships prior to turning 29 years old. Also followed Woods as the second player in history to win consecutive titles at the Memorial Tournament (2024 and 2025 for Scheffler; 1999, 2000, and 2001 for Woods).
- Following his victory at the 2025 Open Championship, Scheffler said of his priorities in life, "My faith and my family. Those come first for me. Golf is third in that order. I've said it for a long time, golf is not how I identify myself. I don't identify myself by winning tournaments, chasing trophies, being famous or whatever it is. I try to live as normal of a life as possible because I feel like a normal guy. I have the same friends I had growing up. I don't think I'm anything special just because some weeks I'm better at shooting a lower score than other guys are." Scheffler added, "It's something I actually talked to Shane (Lowry) about this week... just because you win a golf tournament or accomplish something, it doesn't make you happy. Maybe for a few moments, maybe for a few days, but at the end of the day, there's more to life than playing golf."
- In his pre-tournament press conference at the 2025 Open Championship, spoke openly about what does and does not fulfill him in life, saying, "To win the (CJ CUP) Byron Nelson at home, I literally worked my entire life to become good at golf to have an opportunity to win that tournament. You win it, you celebrate, get to hug my family... it's such an amazing moment. Then it's like, 'What are we going to eat for dinner?' Life goes on. This is not a fulfilling life. It's fulfilling from the sense of accomplishment, but it's not fulfilling from a sense of the deepest places of your heart. That's something I wrestle with on a daily basis. We work so hard for such little moments. I love playing golf. I love being able to compete. I love living out my dreams. I love being a father. I love being able to take care of my son. I love being able to provide for my family out here playing golf. Every day when I wake up early to go put in the work, my wife thanks me for going out and working so hard. When I get home, I try to thank her every day for taking care of our son. This is not the end all be all. This is not the most important thing in my life. I'd much rather be a great father than I would a great golfer."
- On where his trophies and awards are displayed at home, Scheffler says, "I have a room in my house called 'The Golf Room,' and that's where all my crap goes. Literally. It's just a room full of all my golf junk. I've got some trophies in there as well... I'd like to say that (The Golf Room) is nicely presented, but it's not."
- Following his victory at the 2025 PGA Championship, said of playing golf, "When I think about the game of golf, my favorite thing to do is... when I can be by myself and I can just practice, it's one of the most fun things for me. It's so peaceful, and I love the pursuit of trying to figure something out. That's what I love about this game. I feel like you're always battling yourself, and you're always trying to figure things out. And you're never going to perfect it. In golf, there's always something you can figure out, there's always something you can do better. It's a great challenge, and it's a lot of fun."
- Earned his 14th PGA TOUR title at the 2025 CJ CUP Byron Nelson, where he previously made his PGA TOUR debut as a 17-year-old amateur in 2014. Scheffler tied the lowest 72-hole score in PGA TOUR history (31-under 253), equaling Justin Thomas (253 / 2017 Sony Open in Hawaii) and Ludvig Aberg (253 / 2023 RSM Classic). Said of winning the event, "This

tournament means a lot to me. I grew up coming here to watch. It's very special to have won this tournament. It's really fun to be able to play here in my hometown, in front of the hometown fans. This was my first start on the PGA TOUR when I was in high school. The girl I was dating at the time (Meredith) is now my wife. We have one son. My sister (Callie) was caddying for me at the time; she was here today, she has two kids. We have a lot of great memories as kids coming to watch this tournament. I just dreamed to be able to play in it, and it's more of a dream to be able to win it."

- Played the 2014 CJ CUP Byron Nelson via a sponsor exemption as a 17-year-old amateur, finishing T22 with sister Callie on the bag. Carded an ace in the third round, holing his tee shot with a 5-iron from 221 yards at TPC Las Colinas. The high school grad was heading to the University of Texas later that summer to embark on his college career. Asked about not receiving the \$50,000+ that would have come with his finish, Scheffler joked: "Jordan (Spieth) told me I would be mad when I get down to Austin next year and I don't have any money. I guess I'll be mad then. I'm not too upset right now."
- Following the 2024 PGA TOUR season, was named PGA TOUR Player of the Year for a third consecutive season (2022-24), following Tiger Woods as the second player in history to earn the accolade in three straight seasons. Scheffler was surprised with the award in December during a FedEx charity event at a local PGA TOUR Superstore, where he and wife Meredith hosted the Dallas-based charity, Behind Every Door. In honor of Scheffler's historic year, which saw him win the 2024 FedExCup title, FedEx donated \$50,000 to the non-profit, as it is close to the Scheffler's heart. Behind Every Door is committed to creating pathway opportunities of hope for individuals to realize their God-given potential, fostering lasting change in their lives and communities.
- Reached No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking for the first time in his career on March 27, 2022 after winning the World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play. At just 25 years old, he became the sixth-youngest player to reach No. 1 since the OWGR was established in 1986.
- On becoming World No. 1: "It's not something that I didn't want to achieve or didn't believe that I could do. I grew up wearing long pants to go practice because I wanted to be a professional golfer. That's what I dreamed of. I dreamed of being out here. I've always been, I would say, fiercely competitive, and so for me getting out here was a goal per se, and being out here, I like competing and I enjoy the challenge of playing out here every week. The rankings never really crossed my mind. It was always just about being out here and competing."
- Returned to the Player Advisory Council (PAC) in 2025, having previously served on the 16-member council in 2024. The PAC advises and consults with the PGA TOUR Policy Board (Board of Directors) and Commissioner Jay Monahan on issues affecting the TOUR.

Background

- Born in Ridgewood, New Jersey; moved Dallas when he was six.
- Was a Ewing Automotive North Texas PGA Junior Tour member from 2002-2010, competing in 136 tournaments and winning 90 (66.2 percent). Often played in the older divisions, which included players such as Jordan Spieth.
- Attended Highland Park High School in Dallas and won three individual state titles in golf - the only other person to have done that was Jordan Spieth. Notable alumni of Highland Park include Super Bowl champion quarterback Matthew Stafford, World Series champion pitcher Clayton Kershaw, and Pro Football Hall of Fame members Bobby Layne and Doak Walker.
- Won the 2013 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship, defeating Davis Riley in the championship match, and was named the 2013 AJGA Rolex Junior Player of the Year.

- Played collegiately at the University of Texas from 2014 to 2018, where he helped the team win three Big 12 Conference Championships and was named Freshman of the Year in 2015; member of U.S. Walker Cup Team in 2017. At UT, was teammates with future PGA TOUR members Beau Hossler, Kramer Hickok and Doug Ghim.
- After turning professional in 2018, competed on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2019 and earned two victories en route to being named the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year. Within the next two seasons, Scheffler was named 2020 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year and represented the United States at the 2021 Ryder Cup.
- Breakout season on the PGA TOUR was the 2021-22 season, when he won his first four PGA TOUR titles in a span of six starts, including his first major championship title (2022 Masters Tournament). Scheffler was named 2022 PGA TOUR Player of the Year at season's end and set the single-season earnings record with \$14,046,910 (previous record was held by Jordan Spieth, who amassed \$12,030,465 in 2014-15).
- Became the first back-to-back winner of THE PLAYERS Championship (2023, 2024) in the 50th playing of the tournament.

Family

- Married to high school sweetheart, Meredith Scudder. The pair first crossed paths at Highland Park High School in Dallas, where they began dating as seniors. They stayed close despite attending different colleges - he at University of Texas and she at Texas A&M. The couple wed in December 2020 in a winter wonderland-themed wedding. Meredith was unaware of Scottie's fledgling golf career until 2014, when he received a sponsor exemption into THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson: "We were hanging out with her dad and (THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson) commercial came on TV. And she was kind of looking around, she was like, 'Wait a minute. Isn't that next weekend? Isn't that what you're doing?' And I was like, 'Yeah, that's what I'm doing.' She's like, 'Wow, that's cool.'"
- Scottie and Meredith welcomed their first child -- a son, Bennett (Bennie) -- in May 2024.
- Father, Scott, played high school basketball at the same school Vince Lombardi attended -- St. Cecilia High School of Englewood, New Jersey. Mother, Diane, went to high school with and was friends with the late James Gandolfini at Park Ridge High School in Park Ridge, New Jersey. While Scottie was growing up, Scott was a stay-at-home father for four Scheffler children while Diane was (and still is) Chief Operating Officer at a law firm.
- Three sisters: Callie, Sara and Molly. Callie played golf at Texas A&M.
- Scottie says of his parents and sisters: "A lot of my personality probably comes from my dad. My dad is fiercely competitive like I am. My parents, they made a lot of sacrifices to put me in a position where I'm able to do this for a living, and they made a lot of sacrifices when I was a kid. My sisters as well. They've seen a lot of golf tournaments in their lifetime, probably a lot more than they've wanted to. I'm very grateful for the sacrifices they made and obviously had such a huge impact on my life."
- Grandmother, Mary DeLorenzo, lives in the greater Jacksonville area and was notably in attendance for wins at the 2022 Arnold Palmer Invitational and 2023 PLAYERS Championship.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Makes himself coffee every morning at home in Texas (double shot of espresso with a little honey and cinnamon), but does not drink coffee prior to tournament rounds, and only occasionally before practice rounds. Scheffler developed his at-home coffee routine in summer 2022, when he bought an espresso machine and taught himself how to use it.

- Basketball; excellent shooter but was small (5-2) in seventh grade so focused on golf. Loves to play pickup basketball.
- Wearing the Green Jacket, threw out the first pitch at a Texas Rangers-Houston Astros MLB game on April 27, 2022. In addition to meeting players and coaches, he and wife Meredith were both presented personalized Rangers jerseys. "I love Dallas. It's my home. It's probably where I will live the rest of my life. I don't root for any teams outside of Dallas. We grew up going to a lot of Mavs games in high school and I've become a bigger Rangers fan in the last couple of years. A lot of my buddies from college love the Astros, so it's fun to be a Ranger fan. We have a good rivalry. Hopefully, the Rangers start winning some championships."
- Pickleball. Scheffler teamed up with Jordan Spieth on October 13 of 2022 in Frisco, Texas for the Celebrity Battle of the Paddle against Dallas Mavericks legend Dirk Nowitzki and American tennis star John Isner. Despite a massive disadvantage in reach - Nowitzki and Isner are listed at 7-feet and 6 feet 10 inches tall, respectively, with wingspans to match - Spieth and Scheffler held their own and flashed some skills before ultimately losing 11-6.
- During the 2023 TOUR Championship, announced his co-ownership of the Texas Ranchers, one of the eight founding Major League Pickleball (MLP) teams in the U.S. Pickleball is one of Scheffler's favorite activities outside of golf. Other notable Texas athletes investing in this new venture include Dallas Cowboys star Micah Parsons, Houston Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud, and former Texas A&M standout Myles Garrett.

Charity

- Close to a non-profit -- Triumph Over Kid Cancer -- founded by his late friend James Ragan who was from Corpus Christi, Texas. The two met while playing on the Texas Legends Tour. Ragan had been diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer, in June 2006, when he was 13. He went on to become a public advocate and fundraising force for pediatric cancer. When Scheffler won the U.S. Junior Amateur in 2013, he choked up during a Golf Channel interview when asked about Ragan. Scheffler said he thought about his friend several times during the final match. Ragan passed away at the age of 20 in 2014.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- At University of Texas, played under longtime head coach John Fields, who took over the program in August 1997. One of the biggest lessons Fields taught Scheffler was staying in the present, with Scheffler explaining, "When I first got to college, I was trying to date this girl whose name was Meredith [now his wife], and I would come out to the course and if she shot me a text or gave me a call, I would pick it up. And I would get a little distracted when it came to practicing. Coach [Fields] sat me down and said, 'Hey, listen, when you're at the golf course, you need to be focused on what you're doing at the golf course. When you're in class, you need to be paying attention in class. When you get to do your social stuff, you need to be present where you are.' It's a daily battle to try and focus on the task at hand... when you're thinking about what you're doing, I think that's when you're living."
- Began working with famed instructor Randy Smith at Royal Oaks Country Club after moving to Dallas around the time he was eight years old. Smith guided Scheffler through the pain and adjustments of going from 5-foot-2 in seventh grade to 6-foot-3 by the time he headed to University of Texas. Smith says of his earliest days with Scheffler: "He hit low and high. Here's this tiny little kid who could hit every shot. He could shape it, move it, and he was doing it by feel." Smith says Scheffler has a "blue-collar work ethic with an artist's imagination and high intelligence."

- Randy Smith is a PGA of America Hall of Famer. In a career spanning more than four decades, he developed a reputation as the go-to instructor for young players in North Texas, including 12-time PGA TOUR winner Justin Leonard, four-time TOUR winner Ryan Palmer, three-time TOUR winner John Rollins, TOUR winners Harrison Frazar and Cody Gribble, and 2007 U.S. Amateur Championship winner Colt Knost.
- Scottie says one of the most important things Randy Smith taught him was patience, explaining, "When you're younger and things aren't going the way they're supposed to, Randy always did a really good job of reminding me that it was a long journey to become good at golf. You're going to have ups and downs. I wasn't always the best player. I felt like I could be the best player. Randy was always by my side helping me stay patient, and teaching me little things along the way."
- Agent, Blake Smith, is the son of Randy Smith.
- Good friends with Sam Burns, who he faced in the 2023 Charles Schwab Challenge playoff (Burns won). The pair have known each other since they were teenagers, playing AJGA golf events together. Along with spouses Meredith (Scheffler) and Caroline (Burns), the group has vacationed together, including a trip to Greece after the 2022 Open Championship, and are members of the TOUR's Bible study, as faith is a shared foundation of their friendship.
- Scheffler hired veteran Ted Scott to caddie for him starting with the 2021 RSM Classic and won in their fourth official start together at the 2022 WM Phoenix Open -- which was Scheffler's first PGA TOUR title. The two met through a Bible study composed of players and caddies.

Other

- Featured in the latest season of Netflix's Full Swing, an immersive documentary that follows life on the PGA TOUR. Season Three features returning favorites and new faces offering a look on and off the course across a relentless 2024 season.
- During THE NORTHERN TRUST in 2021, penalized himself one stroke for surpassing the three-minute time period (Rule 18.2) allowed in search of an errant second shot on the 15th hole of the opening round. After the round was over, Scheffler talked with fellow competitor Daniel Berger and PGA TOUR Rules Officials to determine what to do. "We couldn't figure it out", Scheffler said. "They didn't have ShotLink data or anything, so just went with it was over 3 minutes. Just too long."
- Won The Genesis Invitational Collegiate Showcase in 2018 as a senior at the University of Texas at Riviera Country Club. Previous winners included Will Zalatoris (2015) and Sahith Theegala (2017).
- Won The East Lake Cup in 2018. The East Lake Cup is a collegiate competition featuring top-performing teams from the NCAA Men's and Women's Golf Championships.
- Played three times in The Junior PLAYERS Championship conducted by the AJGA and played annually at TPC Sawgrass, home of THE PLAYERS: (2011/5th, 2012/T33, 2013/6th).

Ludvig Åberg

Things To Know

- PRONUNCIATION: LOOD-vig OH-berg
- Featured in the latest season of Netflix's Full Swing, an immersive documentary that follows life on the PGA TOUR. Season Three features returning favorites and new faces offering a look on and off the course across a relentless 2024 season.
- Represents The Bay Golf Club alongside teammates Wyndham Clark, Min Woo Lee, and Shane Lowry in the inaugural TGL presented by SoFi, a primetime golf league in partnership with the PGA TOUR that launched in January 2025 on ESPN. The new golf league was created by TMRW Sports whose co-founders include Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, and fuses advanced technology, innovation and live action for ESPN's primetime television audience. The Bay Golf Club is led by Avenue Sports Fund with Marc Lasry (former co-owner of the Milwaukee Bucks) and Stephen Curry; Limited Partners include Andre Iguodala, Klay Thompson, Alex Albon, Leonardo Fioravanti, Kanoa Igarashi and John Stones.
- Won the 2023 RSM Classic, becoming the first PGA TOUR University alum to win on the PGA TOUR; turned professional following the NCAA Championship in May 2023 and became the first player to join the TOUR directly out of college by finishing No. 1 in the PGA TOUR University Ranking.
- Represented Team Europe at the 2023 Ryder Cup and went 2-2-0, highlighted by a record-setting 9-and-7 victory with partner Viktor Hovland in Foursomes over Brooks Koepka and Scottie Scheffler.
- Rose to No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking on September 21, 2022, and became the first Swedish male golfer to be the top-ranked amateur. Was No. 1 the last 10 weeks of his amateur career -- from March 29, 2023, through the NCAA Championship in May, after which he turned pro.
- Swept the three NCAA Division I national player of the year awards -- Jack Nicklaus Award, Ben Hogan Award, Fred Haskins Award -- in 2023, becoming the seventh player to sweep those honors since the creation of all three awards. Followed John Pak (2021), Sahith Theegala (2020), Patrick Rodgers (2014), Ryan Moore (2005), Bill Haas (2004), and Hunter Mahan (2003) as players to sweep the trio of awards.
- Won back-to-back Ben Hogan Awards in 2022 and 2023 as a junior and senior at Texas Tech University, following Arizona State's Jon Rahm (2015 and 2016) as the second multi-time winner of the prestigious award since its inception in 1990. The Ben Hogan Award -- which was given to a player exhibiting academic and college golf excellence for the first 12 years of its existence -- is one of the three national player of the year awards at the college level and annually recognizes the outstanding male amateur and collegiate golfer of the year.
- On his decision to leave Sweden and play college golf in the United States (four seasons at Texas Tech University from 2019-23), Åberg says, "My game improved hugely during my time in college. The courses in America are harder, as is the competition. The players are better. I've been exposed to difficult courses and tough players. It would have been impossible to simulate that in Sweden. It's a long winter. The courses are not in great shape much of the time, so it's hard to work on your game."
- Says of facing pressure and big moments on the golf course, "It's so much fun because it's so much tension and everyone is so stressed out, but if you just take a step back and look at it from the outside, it's hilarious. I just enjoy those kind of situations."

Background

- Born and raised in Eslov, Sweden (pronounced ES-lov), a town in the southern third of the country with a population of roughly 20,000. Among the town's top tourist attractions are a toy museum and a handful of castles and churches.
- Grew up playing Eslov Golf Club in his hometown; he returns there every time he is back home in Sweden. In the winter months, Aberg often carries a broom in his bag in order to sweep snow off a patch of grass to hit balls.
- Given the cool, snowy weather and significantly shortened window of daylight in the winter in Eslov, Aberg notes, "Summers... we just played, played, played, practiced, and all of a sudden it was 10 p.m. and it was still bright. In the wintertime, with the limited daylight we have, you have to find ways to get creative." When Aberg is back in Sweden during the winter, he also trains in a small gymnasium at the national sports high school he attended in Helsingborg (roughly a 45-minute drive from his hometown), hitting balls off a mat and into netting while focusing on fundamentals and the line his ball starts on. There were also mats set up for chipping and putting, and a corner mat with a TrackMan.
- Applied to the national sports high school in Helsingborg -- which acts in conjunction with the Swedish national team -- upon entry to high school, but was denied the first year. After Aberg attended a traditional high school in his hometown for a year, he gained admission to the national sports high school in Helsingborg and moved there. The daily routine was practice in the morning, academic studies thereafter, and practice again in the evening.
- Credited the Swedish National Team for a large part of his development as an amateur player; he represented Sweden in a number of international amateur competitions, including the 2017 European Boys' Team Championship, where he was the individual co-medalist, the 2018 Toyota Junior Golf World Cup in Japan, where he finished third individually behind Danish twins Rasmus and Nicolai Hojgaard, three European Amateur Team Championships (2018, 2019, 2021), and the 2022 Eisenhower Trophy.
- Went 4-1 in match play as he helped Sweden win the 2019 European Team Amateur Championship in Hollviken, Sweden, which is roughly 40 miles from Aberg's hometown of Eslov. It was Sweden's third victory at the event, though the previous wins came in 1959 and 1961.
- Helped Sweden to a runner-up finish at the 2022 Eisenhower Trophy, contested at Le Golf National in France, which hosted the 2018 Ryder Cup and the 2024 Olympic Men's Golf Competition. Sweden finished second to Italy, but notably finished ahead of a third-place United States team featuring Michael Thorbjornsen, Gordon Sargent, and Austin Greaser.
- Played four seasons at Texas Tech University (2019-23) and departed as the most decorated player in program history, sweeping the three national player of the year awards in 2023, garnering three consecutive All-America First Team honors from 2021 thru 2023, earning Arnold Palmer Cup International Team selections in 2020 and 2022, and amassing eight individual wins in collegiate events. Under the direction of longtime head coach Greg Sands, Texas Tech frequently signed Scandinavian recruits, which influenced Aberg's decision to sign there.
- Eight collegiate wins -- two as a sophomore in 2020-21, two as a junior in 2021-22, four as a senior in 2022-23 -- included back-to-back Big 12 Conference Championships in 2022 and 2023, following Oklahoma State's Morgan Hoffmann (2009 and 2011) as the second multi-time medalist in the event's history.
- At the 2022 Big 12 Championship, Aberg finished two strokes ahead of runner-up Chris Gotterup -- winner of the 2022 Jack Nicklaus, Fred Haskins, and Big 12 Player of the Year awards -- at Whispering Pines Golf Club (Trinity, Texas). Aberg won the 2023 Big 12 Championship by eight strokes at Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, Kansas, totaling 15-under 265 to shatter the tournament 72-hole scoring record of 276 shared by Oklahoma State's Morgan Hoffmann (2009) and Texas' Cole Hammer (2019).

- While back home in Sweden amid the COVID-19 pandemic, won back-to-back starts in professional events on the Swedish Golf Tour, a circuit whose events are played on the Nordic Golf League, a tour recognized by the Official World Golf Ranking since July 2015. Aberg soared from No. 2,075 to No. 529 in the ranking following the pair of OWGR-sanctioned wins in July 2020.
- Additional amateur victories included the 2019 Sun Bowl Marathon All-America Golf Classic in El Paso, Texas (finished four strokes ahead of runner-up Matti Schmid), along with the 2021 Jones Cup Invitational at Ocean Forest Golf Club in Sea Island, Georgia, where he finished a stroke ahead of Cole Hammer, defending champion Davis Thompson, and Alex Fitzpatrick (younger brother of 2022 U.S. Open winner Matt Fitzpatrick). Past winners of the Jones Cup include Akshay Bhatia (2019), Beau Hossler (2016), Corey Connors (2014), Justin Thomas (2012), and Luke List (2007).
- Greg Sands, a Golf Coaches Association of America Hall of Fame member and head coach at Texas Tech since summer of 2000, said of Aberg, "He's got a consistent personality. He's got a consistent work ethic. He's really unflappable on the golf course. That just speaks to his demeanor. Everything about him is just pretty consistent. I think that is what makes him special, not (making) things bigger than they are, kind of staying in the moment."

Family

- Parents, Johan Ungesson (father) and Mia Aberg (mother).
- Johan was a frequent recreational golfer and often brought Ludvig to the course around he was 4 or 5 years old. In the early days of Ludvig going to the course, there was typically a bribe of ice cream to either get him there, or to stay a little longer.
- Sister, Linnea, is his only sibling.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Grew up playing soccer, his first sports love, until shifting his focus to golf at age 13; he played central midfielder, a position he enjoyed because it was involved in so much of the action and gave him a sense of control. Favorite sports team is Liverpool, favorite athlete is Steven Gerrard, who played for Liverpool from 1998-2015 and served as captain for both Liverpool and England's National Team. Gerrard is considered one of the best midfielders of all-time.
- Despite Sweden's reputation for their love of candy, Ludvig enjoys candy but loves ice cream above all else. He also enjoys coffee.
- As an amateur, kept his own Strokes Gained stats and journaled after every tournament to reflect on his performance, noting everything from technique to emotions; he produced English and Swedish versions to share with his coaches in each country.
- Studied economics in high school in Sweden and later majored in marketing at Texas Tech University, where he attended the Rawls College of Business.
- When asked who he looked up to growing up, he mentioned Tiger Woods "because of what he did for the game, just the pure dominance that he had." He also mentioned while growing up in Sweden, Henrik Stenson was a big deal for him. "He had a lot of success both here on the DP World Tour and on the PGA TOUR. He's probably the one that I looked up to the most."
- During competition, loves seeing the leaderboards and knowing exactly where he stands and what he needs to do.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- When asked who is favorite player on TOUR: "I say Scottie, not only because of the way he plays golf and hits the golf ball, but the person he is and how he handles a lot of those things. I'm very -- I'm admiring him as a person because of those things, and I think that's pretty cool."
- From December 2023 through fall 2024, lived in Tallahassee with friend and fellow Swede/PGA TOUR member Vincent Norrman and Vincent's girlfriend and LPGA player, Frida Kinhult. Later moved to Ponte Vedra, Florida.
- Represented the International Team at two victorious Arnold Palmer Cups in 2020 and 2022; his teammates in 2020 included fellow Swede Vincent Norrman, Germany's Matti Schmid and England's Alex Fitzpatrick.
- Teammates on the Swedish team which won the 2019 European Team Amateur Championship in Hollviken, Sweden (roughly 40 miles from Aberg's hometown of Eslov) included PGA TOUR member Vincent Norrman and Korn Ferry Tour member Pontus Nyholm.

Other

- Made his PGA TOUR debut as an amateur and sponsor exemption at the 2021 Butterfield Bermuda Championship. He finished T51 on the day of his 22nd birthday (October 31st).
- Finished T7 at the 2018 Junior PLAYERS Championship, contested across three rounds at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.
- Finished atop the Swedish Teen Tour Order of Merit in 2016 to earn the Annika Sorenstam Trophy.
- Underwent knee surgery in early September 2024 to repair a torn medial meniscus in his left knee. Returned at the 2024 RSM Classic to defend his title.

Sam Burns

Things To Know

- Qualified for his fourth consecutive TOUR Championship in 2024.
- On the same day as his World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play win in 2023, his childhood idol David Toms won the Galleri Classic on the PGA TOUR Champions. "Growing up watching him play, I can remember sitting on the back of the range and just watching him hit golf balls. It's still one of the most amazing things I've ever seen, just the way he could hit it. So straight and just like his tempo is amazing. Still is. To be able to win on the same day is really cool."
- Three wins during the 2021-22 PGA TOUR season included a playoff victory over good friend Scottie Scheffler at the 2022 Charles Schwab Challenge. Burns said of the victory, "We're probably best friends. But at the same time I can assure you, he wanted to beat me more than anybody else and I wanted to beat him more than anybody else, and it just happened to be the two of us at the end." The win held added meaning given the fact Burns' childhood hero, David Toms, is a past champion of the event. Burns says watching Toms win the 2011 Charles Schwab Challenge remains his favorite golf memory from his youth.
- Owns a house in Choudrant (SHOE-drint), Louisiana, which doesn't even qualify as a 'town,' it's actually a village. With a population of less than 1,000, one stoplight (and a Subway), Burns bucked the trend of his fellow PGA TOUR professionals who set up in popular destinations like South Florida or Scottsdale. He instead decided to buy a home in The Orchards at Squire Creek, a housing development adjacent to Squire Creek Country Club, a private Tom Fazio design about an hour from Shreveport, Louisiana - where Burns grew up.
- A returning member of the Player Advisory Council (PAC) in 2025. The 16-member PAC advises and consults with the PGA TOUR Policy Board (Board of Directors) and Commissioner Jay Monahan on issues affecting the TOUR.

Background

- Named the 2014 AJGA Rolex Junior Player of the Year. Past recipients of the award include Scottie Scheffler (2013), Jordan Spieth (2009), Brian Harman (2003, 2004), Tiger Woods (1991, 1992), David Duval (1989), and Phil Mickelson (1986, 1987, 1988).
- Decorated junior career included a victory at the 2014 Junior PGA Championship, contested at Miramont Country Club in Bryan, Texas. Burns' victory came one year after a runner-up finish at the 2013 Junior PGA Championship.
- Played two seasons (2015-17) at Louisiana State University, electing to turn professional after a breakout sophomore season which saw him earn the 2017 Jack Nicklaus Award, in addition to being named the 2017 Southeastern Conference Player of the Year.
- In two seasons at LSU, earned four collegiate victories (tied for the second-most career wins in school history, only behind David Toms' six wins in the 1980s), and broke school records for single-season scoring average (70.047 as a sophomore in 2016-17) and career scoring average (71.127).

Family

- His mother, Beth, insisted his brother Chase, who was 12 at the time, teach 4-year-old Sam how to hit golf balls in the backyard. Chase handed Sam an 8-iron from a brand-new junior set he received for Christmas and dropped a ball for Sam to hit. Chase expected Sam to whiff, but Sam instead launched the ball 70 yards with a 5-yard draw. He did that five times in a row

before their father Todd walked outside to watch for himself as Sam hit a perfect sixth ball in a row.

- Brother, Chase, and father, Todd, played football at Louisiana Tech. Chase redshirted in 2007 as a freshman and was a member of the scout team in 2008. Todd played in the early 1980s but is not listed on any historical roster.
- Sam played football like his dad and brother but gave it up to pursue golf. Mostly played strong safety and some at quarterback.
- Proposed to girlfriend of four years, Caroline, Friday night of the 2019 RBC Heritage. The two both grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana and met in a class at church when they were little kids. They went to different high schools and didn't start dating until Sam was a freshman at LSU. Caroline was Sam's first Valentine at 5 years old. The two stayed in Palmetto Bluff, South Carolina outside of Hilton Head during tournament week, and he decided to propose there because Caroline had spent a lot of time there as a kid. They wed on December 14, 2019 in Palmetto Bluff.
- Sam and his wife, Caroline, welcomed their first child, a son named "Bear," in April 2024. Regarding the name: "It was one area where I had some say," Burns joked. "But we both like the name. We wanted to do something a little different."

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Grew up and enjoys hunting, and said during Barstool's Fore Play podcast that he has a pretty good turkey call. Has been on hunting trips with David and Carter Toms. The first time they hunted together, Sam was placed in a prime position to shoot but missed everything. Sam calls David "The Godfather of Duck Hunting".
- Is able to participate in several outdoor activities around his home in Choudrant and loves bow hunting and fresh-water fishing
- Big fan of college football and is passionate about his LSU Tigers.

Charity

- For a period of time early in his career, Sam donated a portion of each tournament paycheck to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He has never visited the hospital before, but he first became passionate about it through the work his wife Caroline's sorority did in college.
- Passionate about charities helping those with Juvenile Diabetes. His best friend is a type 2 diabetic.
- In both 2021 and 2022, hosted the Sam Burns Classic at The Landings Club, an AJGA event in Savannah, Georgia. The 2022 event was won by Kyle Haas, son of longtime Wake Forest University men's golf head coach Jerry Haas, nephew of nine-time PGA TOUR winner Jay Haas, and cousin of 2011 FedExCup champion Bill Haas.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- David Toms is a big supporter of Sam's. Growing up in Shreveport, Louisiana, Sam grew very close with David and his son, Carter, who was his teammate at LSU. Sam used to practice at Toms' 265 Golf Academy in Shreveport. Sam and David are still very close and go duck hunting together during their off time.
- Grew up with APGA Tour player Ryan Alford, who received a sponsor exemption to compete in the 2022 Farmers Insurance Open. The two met when they were 6 years old and lived five minutes away from one another in Shreveport, Louisiana. They competed together in a nine-hole junior league and later as high school teammates at Calvary Baptist Academy.

- Was paired with Tiger Woods in the final round of the 2018 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches. Burns shot 68, Tiger shot 70. As they walked off the first tee, he put his hand on Tiger's shoulders and told him: "Can you believe all these people came out here just to watch me?"
- Represented the United States at the 2014 Junior Ryder Cup; his teammates included future PGA TOUR winner Davis Riley, and Korn Ferry Tour graduate Cameron Young.
- Burns graduated from Calvary Baptist Academy (Shreveport, Louisiana) in 2019. Another notable Calvary Baptist Academy graduate is Addison Rae (Class of 2019), who rose to prominence as one of the most-followed individuals on TikTok and launched careers as both a singer and actress. Rae also briefly attended LSU. Another notable name with ties to Calvary Baptist Academy is Super Bowl-winning NFL head coach Doug Pederson, who began his coaching career at Calvary Baptist Academy, spending four seasons (2005-08) as head coach before accepting his first NFL coaching position with the Philadelphia Eagles in January 2009.

Other

- Finished T5 at the 2014 Junior PLAYERS Championship.

Harry Hall

Things To Know

- Earned his first PGA TOUR title at the 2024 ISCO Championship, holing a 45-foot chip on the third hole of a five-man playoff to emerge with the win. In the days following his win, Harry and his wife, Jordan, welcomed their first child, daughter Lilah Anne (July 2024).
- Part of the inspiration behind Harry golfing in his traditional driving cap was fellow West Cornwall Golf Club representative and four-time major championship winner "Long" Jim Barnes, as well as his grandfather (mother's side), Brian Bowden, both of whom wore the same style of cap. Harry's cap for the first two rounds of the Charles Schwab Challenge was gold and black, a nod to his home county of Cornwall, England.
- Represents Cornwall, a county in the far southwest of England along the Celtic Sea and English Channel, both of which flow into the North Atlantic Ocean. Cornwall is known for its pasties, a pastry filled with beef steak, onion, potato, and turnip. Harry traditionally wears black and something with a tint of gold on Sundays in honor of Cornwall's colors and flag. Harry also grew up wearing a lot of black and gold on junior teams while representing Cornwall.
- Grew up playing West Cornwall Golf Club, which was founded in 1889 and overlooks the St. Ives Bay. The course is a par 69, measures less than 5,900 yards long and did not have a driving range. The club only had a short game area and 190-yard patch of fairway to practice on, facilities which Hall cites as the reason for his strong short game. Hall holds the course record with an 8-under 61 but his goal is to one day shoot a 57 there. Hall's 2019 Walker Cup bag is on display at the club alongside memorabilia from four-time major championship winner and World Golf Hall of Fame inductee "Long" Jim Barnes, who, according to the club, learned to play the game at West Cornwall Golf Club and spent four years as an assistant pro from 1902-06. Hall's biggest goal aside from earning a Ryder Cup bag for display is to win the Masters Tournament, as he believes it would make West Cornwall the only club in the United Kingdom to have its representatives win all four major championships.
- Played nearly every Saturday at West Cornwall Golf Club from age 6 until he turned 18. The club charged its junior section, which consisted of about 85 players, just 1 pound (about \$1.20 U.S. dollars) for a lesson with a pro and 18 holes. Harry's mom would drop him off at 8 a.m. and pick him up at 8 p.m.
- West Cornwall Golf Club had both junior and men's competitions every Saturday, and by the time Harry turned 10 and displayed great talent, the junior organizer would often let Harry play the men's competition if someone was a no show. Harry's goal was to play 18 holes with the junior section and finish in time to play the men's competition. Harry would often win the men's competition, with bottles of wine being the top prize. Harry would trade the bottles of wine for 10 pounds, saying, "From the age of 10 to 16... that'd be my pocket money. Next time I'd go on a Saturday, I'd have loads of cheesy chips (fries), put loads of salt and vinegar on them and have unlimited money every week because I'd win the men's prizes. By the time I was 16, I think they decided juniors couldn't win the men's prizes anymore."
- As a rookie for the 2022-23 season, finished fourth on TOUR in Strokes Gained: Putting. Harry chooses to feel the slope with his feet rather than using traditional green reading methods, saying, "If you can really hone in your feet, it's a lot more reliable when you go from different course to course, different sceneries. Your eyes, they don't lie to you, but I trust my feet a lot more now. It's a lot more repeatable week in and week out." Harry practices by throwing a tee randomly on the practice green, using his feet to guess the percentage of slope, and checking his accuracy with a level.

- Earned his first PGA TOUR card via the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season, which saw him win on Tour for a second consecutive year. As a Korn Ferry Tour rookie the season prior, Hall had very low conditional status from a T114 at Final Stage of the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament. Earned his first start of what became the 2020-21 combined season by winning a 4-for-3 playoff in the Monday qualifier for the Korn Ferry Challenge at TPC Sawgrass, the first event of the Return to Golf in June 2020; he missed the cut and remained ineligible for the reshuffle. Two weeks later, Hall Monday qualified into the Utah Championship, finished T36, and climbed the priority ranking. A T2 at the Memorial Health Championship in early September 2020 set him up to play the rest of the season, which saw him win the 2021 Wichita Open on Father's Day and gain fully exempt status for the rest of 2021 and all of 2022.

Background

- Continues to reside in Las Vegas, Nevada; he moved there in summer 2015 when he enrolled at University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Frequently plays at Spanish Trail Country Club, in addition to Shadow Creek with college teammate and fellow Korn Ferry Tour Class of 2022 graduate Taylor Montgomery whose father, Monte, is the GM. Also a member at TPC Summerlin, but mostly practices there as opposed to playing.
- Harry was born and raised in Camborne, a town along the northern coast of West Cornwall. Camborne was formerly a rich cooper and tin mining area. Richard Trevithick, credited with inventing the first steam engine, notably grew up in Cornwall and attended school in Camborne. Harry and his family moved from Camborne and to Hayle around the time he turned 13. Hayle is a popular holiday destination known for its beaches (also referred to as three miles of golden sand). FOR CLARITY: both Hayle and Camborne are towns in Cornwall.
- Harry's family home as a youngster had about 40 yards of yard space (he refers to it as a garden) and he got into golf by chipping around there, recalling how, "Dad dug a hole and put a stick in it. I was at the bottom of the garden chipping up to it all the time. I loved sport. I never had a PlayStation or Xbox growing up. I'd be outside every night while my mum and sister were inside watching TV. I'd be out there until dark just chipping that ball."
- Harry said the family never had the Sky Sports channel when he was growing up, so he had no way to watch PGA TOUR events. He said the only golf on "normal cable" he could see as a youngster were highlights of the Masters Tournament and The Open Championship, so the majors have added significance to him.
- With only a 190-yard hitting area for a "driving range" at West Cornwall Golf Club, Harry had his bag of practice balls and would try to hit them about 130 yards with a tight dispersion. This served two purposes: he wouldn't lose any golf balls and he could pick them up quickly and hit them all over again.
- Harry says of West Cornwall Golf Club, which is a par 69 and measures less than 5,900 yards, there are a lot of drivable par 4s but it's not always the smartest play to try and drive them and, "What you rely on around that golf course is a lot of good bounces and a bit of luck, because it's so firm and fast most of the time. Harry holds the course record with an 8-under 61 but believes he can shoot a 57 there. For that score to count, however, Harry said it has to be in some form of club competition.
- Through the junior section and men's competitions at West Cornwall Golf Club, Harry met practically all the members, who he said became like family to him. Harry's father, Philip, and grandfather (mother's side), Brian, were members of the club.
- Recruited to the University of Nevada-Las Vegas by fellow West Cornwall Golf Club representative Philip Rowe. Rowe joined the UNLV staff as an assistant coach in summer 2014 after J.C. Deacon accepted the head coaching position at the University of Florida. Rowe played collegiately at Stanford University, making four Palmer Cup appearances and

playing the 1999 Walker Cup alongside Luke Donald. Rowe's Walker Cup bag was on display at West Cornwall Golf Club, and Hall said of Rowe, "I tried to tick everything off his resume that he achieved. That was my goal growing up and, luckily, he helped me come to America and play." Rowe's final season on staff at UNLV was 2019-20, after which he became head coach at Cal Poly.

- Played collegiately for four seasons (2015-19) at University of Nevada-Las Vegas, winning twice individually and earning 2018-19 Mountain West Conference Player of the Year recognition as a senior.
- Playing college golf in the United States was a bit of a rude awakening early on for Harry. Given the fact he honed his game on such a short course growing up, Harry never focused on hitting it far. Harry has worked hard on increasing his swing speed since college; he was at 105 mph clubhead speed when he started college, increased to about 112 mph when he finished college, and got up to 130 mph in his three years on the Korn Ferry Tour (2020-22).

Family

- Wife, Jordan. The two wed in December 2023 in Las Vegas.
- Met his wife, Jordan, at UNLV. They got together in September 2017. They met in Harry's first-ever class at UNLV, "Introduction to College." Harry remembers walking in to the 8:30 a.m. class about 15 minutes late, wearing leather skinny jeans and brown loafers. There was an empty seat at the front of the classroom, and Jordan was in the chair next to him. Jordan initially rebuffed Harry because she was dating someone else at the time, but two years later they got together.
- Harry and Jordan share a dog, Buster, a mini goldendoodle.
- Harry is the youngest of four siblings. From oldest to youngest, they are his sister Rachel, brother Matthew, and sister Georgia. All his siblings live in Cornwall.
- FOR CONTEXT BUT NOT PUBLIC STORYTELLING: Harry's parents are divorced but have become amicable the past few years.
- Harry's father, Philip, spent 30 years in the police, followed by 11 years after as a driving instructor. Today he works at the marina in Plymouth (about an hour and a half from Cornwall) where he maintains and lives on his boat.
- Mother, Anne, was a nurse and retired in August 2022. She still lives in Cornwall.
- The first professional event Anne ever watched Harry play in person was the 2021 Shriners Children's Open, where Harry finished T8 for his first PGA TOUR top-10.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Raves about the cheesecake at Lago at The Bellagio; he sometimes will get dinner at Prime Steakhouse, then goes next door and gets to-go cheesecake at Lago.
- Huge fan of the hit Netflix series Peaky Blinders, saying the show's setting reminds him of Camborne, where he grew up. Harry also loves to tell the story of how, when the Korn Ferry Tour's Wichita Open asked for "walk-up" songs to its par-3 17th, a spinoff of the par-3 16th setup at the WM Phoenix Open, he selected the show's theme song "Red Right Hand" and they played it Sunday as he walked to the green on the verge of his first Korn Ferry Tour win.
- Keeps an eye on the Premier League and Las Vegas Raiders (NFL football), and goes to a few Vegas Golden Knights (NHL hockey) games but does not follow a particular team religiously.
- Became a casual fan of NBA basketball and NFL football after moving to the United States, and he enjoys watching star players manage pressure in the final five minutes of games.

- Attended his first NFL football game in January 2022 (Las Vegas Raiders versus Los Angeles Chargers in the final week of the 2021-22 regular season). His dad was in town at the time; they saw Bruno Mars on New Year's Eve and then went to the NFL game on January 9, 2022.
- A Knight's Tale is one of his favorite movies of all time, and a quote he lives by, "A man can reach his stars," is a slight moderation of the film's iconic quote, "A man can change his stars."

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- West Cornwall Golf Club, Harry's hometown course, was where four-time major championship winner "Long" Jim Barnes learned to play and eventually spent four years as an assistant pro from 1902-06. Barnes won the first two PGA Championships ever contested in 1916 and 1919, respectively, the 1921 U.S. Open, and The Open Championship in 1925. Barnes was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1989.
- On July 6, 2025, Hall represented West Cornwall in a match against Prestwick to commemorate the 100th anniversary of "Long" Jim Barnes' victory at the 1925 Open Championship -- contested at Prestwick Golf Club, which hosted the first Open Championship in 1860. The match featured eight players apiece from West Cornwall and Prestwick; they played 18 holes of best ball in the morning, then all 16 players competed a nine-hole elimination match (with one team being eliminated each hole) in the same group in the afternoon.
- Made his professional debut at the 2019 Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and played alongside Rory McIlroy in the final round at St. Andrews. The night before the round at a dinner party, fellow Englishman Matt Wallace offered Harry advice given the fact he previously played with Tiger Woods at The Open Championship. Wallace told Harry he got so caught up trying to observe and learn from Tiger, but he wished he'd just tried to play well and show how good he was in his own right, then reflect on it after the round. Hall shot a 7-under 65 in the final round.
- Frequently plays with fellow Class of 2022 Korn Ferry Tour graduate and former college teammate Taylor Montgomery at Shadow Creek in Las Vegas. Montgomery's father, Monte, is the general manager. Hall and Montgomery played two seasons together at UNLV (2015-16, 2016-17) and remain close friends. The two roomed together at First and Second Stages of the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, which saw them both reach Final Stage and earn Korn Ferry Tour membership for the first time.
- Harry says of his friendship with Montgomery, "Taylor is like a brother to me, and with his dad, Monte, at Shadow Creek... I'm very fortunate they've treated me as part of the family over the last few years, and I don't think that will ever change, whether we're competing for (a PGA TOUR) trophy, or maybe the Ryder Cup."
- Teammates at UNLV for one year (spring and fall 2018) with multi-time PGA TOUR winner Garrick Higgo.
- Played in the 2019 Walker Cup at Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake with fellow Englishman Alex Fitzpatrick (younger brother of 2022 U.S. Open champion Matt Fitzpatrick) among his teammates.
- Played the 2017 and 2018 Arnold Palmer Cups alongside future FedExCup champion Viktor Hovland.

Other

- Emphasizes "the value of every shot," noting it was a lesson his coaches at UNLV (head coach Dwaine Knight and assistant Philip Rowe) impressed upon him. Hall cited his experience on the Korn Ferry Tour and how, in terms of scoring average, his "bad golf and good golf really is

separated by just a shot and that the importance of choosing the right club or the right line, or hitting the putt that correct speed... it's a fine line between playing good and excelling (on the PGA TOUR)."

Maverick McNealy

Things To Know

- Returned to the Player Advisory Council (PAC) in 2025 after serving on the 16-member council in 2024. McNealy and Keith Mitchell were elected as co-chairmen for the PAC in 2025, and the two will replace Peter Malnati and Webb Simpson on the PGA TOUR Policy Board on January 1, 2026. McNealy will serve a four-year term on the PGA TOUR Policy Board. The PAC advises and consults with the PGA TOUR Policy Board (Board of Directors) and Commissioner Monahan on issues affecting the TOUR.
- Born in Portola Valley, located on the San Francisco Peninsula. He grew up playing the Stanford Golf Course where he later played collegiate golf.
- Oldest of four brothers, who all played ice hockey for the San Jose Jr. Sharks (Maverick was a four-time captain) and all played competitive amateur golf. All four are named for American cars: Maverick, Dakota, Colt and Scout, because of their family's connection to Detroit. Maverick's grandfather, Raymond William McNealy Jr., was vice chairman of American Motors, which was headquartered in Detroit from the 1950s through 1970s.
- Writes down the details of every shot he hits on his pin sheet. Said he can go back to any pin sheet – which he saves and scans and has them all stored – and be able to remember every shot he's hit at every golf course.
- Since he turned professional, has a deal with his grandmother, Marm, (father, Scott's mom), that for every \$50,000 check he earns, he sends her flowers, and for top-10s she gets chocolates. He says its her "bragging rights around her retirement home." He calls her his biggest fan "I know that her watching my golf in a lot of ways keeps her going, gives her something to look forward to to the point where she won't let people talk to her when she's watching me play. It's pretty special." Marm notably attended the 2021 CJ CUP @ SUMMIT to watch him play for the very first time. She wore a hat that said 'team MAV.'
- Quotable: "The golf ball doesn't care who you are. You take full responsibility for every shot. If you hit a terrible one, you have to take ownership. Your caddy, coach, or even the cameraman who clicked a few seconds too early didn't hit that shot. You did. But if you hit a great one, you can take ownership of that too. Golf is the ultimate meritocracy and an exciting way for me to work hard and see what I can do -- because nothing in golf is ever given to you."
- Passed the necessary exams to receive his private pilot's license in 2023. Took an instrument-check ride in September 2023 which certified McNealy to fly solo through adverse weather conditions.
- Married wife, Maya, on December 6, 2023 in an intimate elopement overlooking Las Vegas with just their parents in attendance. Held a ceremony with friends and family a year later.

Background

- Represented the United States on two Walker Cup teams (former teammates include Cameron Champ and Collin Morikawa).
- Won the Ben Hogan, Fred Haskins and Jack Nicklaus awards as collegiate player of the year, the Mark McCormack Medal as the world's #1 amateur and the Byron Nelson award for golf, academics and community service.
- By the time he graduated, he shared Stanford's school wins record with Tiger Woods and Patrick Rodgers (11). In 2015 as a sophomore at Stanford, he won six titles and earned Player of the Year honors.
- Majored in management science and engineering at Stanford.

- Won the Mark H. McCormack Medal as the leading men's player in the 2016 World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR).
- Stanford head coach Conrad Ray, says that being a part of the Stanford golf program is like a slow-moving train. You get on for four years, then you get off; you have only that time to make your mark.
- Said, "Coach Ray took a huge chance on me. I was an unranked, unknown junior golfer, was "recruited" by only one other school, and was the last addition to the top-ranked recruiting class in the country. I was joining the team's stacked top five of Patrick Rodgers, Cameron Wilson, David Boote, Viraat Badhwar and Jim Liu, all of whom had impressive golf pedigrees."

Family

- Growing up, Maverick and his family spent most of their time together either on the golf course or at the dinner table.
- Father Scott McNealy is the former co-founder of Sun Microsystems, a company he sold in 2010 for \$7.4 billion. Maverick has always faced the perception that he's a silver spooner, but he and his three brothers were never raised as children of privilege. Maverick and his three brothers shared a bedroom - had 4 twin beds lined up. Scott has a rod he takes with him to every golf course to fish out balls from ponds. Maverick said his father never bought golf balls for any of them. The same rules applied for all of the boys: their parents would cover costs through college, and then three months of free room and board at home after graduation. But after that they were on their own.
- Maverick on being taught to respect the value of money: "My brothers and I never got an allowance, and we were told that once we graduated from college, we'd have one summer to find a job and then we'd be on our own....My dad would've made me pay rent to live at home after school--I'm not kidding!"
- On learning "discipline": "You'd think my dad is the intimidating one, but my mom was strict. "Good grades, good attitude, good effort" is her mantra. She always said I had to do my homework before I got to play sports. Bad grades meant taking away my golf and hockey gear."
- Maverick says of his father, "My dad was (and still is) my hero. And I always thought that if I could work half as hard as he did, and accomplish a fraction of the things he did, I could make the world a better place."
- At 5 years old, Maverick was with his father, Scott, while he played in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, and when he drained a long putt, the crowd went wild and it scared Maverick, so he ran and jumped in his father's arms.
- He first beat his dad at golf at the age of 12. Maverick shot 87, and Scott - who was just recovering from a broken leg - shot 89. Whenever one of his sons would beat him for the first time, Scott would lay down on the 18th green and have someone take a photo with their foot on Scott's stomach and their arms in the air.
- Maverick's grandfather, Raymond William McNealy Jr., was vice chairman of American Motors (hence, his four grandson's names), and an avid golfer who had 8 holes in one to his credit.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Considers himself an avid reader (audio books when he travels).
- Collects golf pencils and hotel room keys.
- Favorite basketball team: Dallas Mavericks
- Favorite music artist: Jason Aldean

- Vacations at Incline Village, Nevada, a place McNealy describes as "my favorite place in the world."

Charity

- Maverick has worked with Curriki, a non-profit created to make high-quality education free and available for everyone.

Other

- On his upbringing: "Since I was little, my parents have always told me "to whom much is given, much is expected." My background is not something I should run from, ignore, be embarrassed about, or fall back on. I have to work harder than everyone else to prove I earned my success -- that it wasn't given to me. I just wasn't sure if golf was the way for me to do this."
- On ice skating: "I think it's one of the best cross training you can do because it makes your hips stable and strong in every plane, every motion. There's a lot of rotational strength and stability. That's all fantastic for golf."
- On how often he hears Top Gun references: "I'd say more than a quarter of the people I meet for the first time reference "Top Gun."

Tommy Fleetwood

Things To Know

- Represents the Los Angeles Golf Club alongside teammates Sahith Theegala, Collin Morikawa and Justin Rose in the inaugural TGL presented by SoFi, a primetime golf league in partnership with the PGA TOUR that launched in January 2025 on ESPN. The new golf league was created by TMRW Sports whose co-founders include Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, and fuses advanced technology, innovation and live action for ESPN's primetime television audience. Los Angeles Golf Club was founded by Alexis Ohanian, Seven Seven Six, Serena Williams, and Venus Williams. Limited partners include The Antetokounmpo brothers, Alex Morgan, Servando Carrasco, Michelle Wie West, Tisha Alyn, Carolyn Tisch Blodgett and Shonda Rhimes.
- Wife and manager, Clare. The couple married in The Bahamas on the Tuesday following the 2017 Hero World Challenge. They have one child together, a boy named Franklin ("Frankie"), and Tommy is stepfather to two older boys (Oscar and Mo).
- At the 2024 Summer Olympics at Le Golf National, Fleetwood won a silver medal after finishing the tournament 18 under par, one shot behind gold medalist Scottie Scheffler
- Known for his flowing mane, grows out his hair because his father, Pete, is bald and he wants to grow hair while he can.
- Tommy's a football (soccer) fan and supports Everton (based in Liverpool) in the Premier League.
- Drama was his best subject in school. Likes attending musicals and has a great appreciation for the performers. Counts "The Lion King" as a favorite.
- Loves books, especially detective stories, historical books and biographies.

Background

- Born in Southport, a popular golfing area and coastal town in the North West of England in January 1991. He learnt to play on his local municipal course before showing promise as a junior at Formby Hall under the tutelage of Norman Marshall.
- When he was younger he used to sneak on to the course at Royal Birkdale with his father, Pete. Years later, Tommy made the cut at the 2017 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale.
- He enjoyed a stellar amateur career finishing runner up in the 2008 Amateur Championship and representing Great Britain and Ireland in the 2009 Walker Cup before turning professional the following year.
- In 2011, as a 20 year old, he became the youngest player to win the European Challenge Tour.
- He claimed his first DP World Tour title in 2013 at the Johnnie Walker Championship at Gleneagles. His second title came at the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship in 2017 finishing a shot clear of Dustin Johnson and Pablo Larrazabal. That win was the catalyst for a great 2017 season, which saw him win the DP World Tour's season-long Race to Dubai.
- Tommy enjoyed a record-breaking debut at the 2018 Ryder Cup in Paris, winning four points out of four alongside close friend Francesco Molinari. The partnership was affectionately dubbed 'Moliwood'.

Family

- Frankie became a viral phenomenon at the 2022 Masters when the four year old appeared as Tommy's caddy in the Par 3 contest, sprinting from hole-to-hole to a rapturous applause.

Charity

- Announced in May 2019 the founding of the Tommy Fleetwood Golf Academy at Formby Hall (near Southport). He grew up playing at Formby Hall with fellow juniors in Sefton (borough that Southport is in) on Monday nights and wants the kids today to have as much fun as he did.

Rickie Fowler

Things To Know

- Represents New York Golf Club alongside teammates Matt Fitzpatrick, Cameron Young and Xander Schauffele in the inaugural TGL presented by SoFi, a primetime golf league in partnership with the PGA TOUR that launched in January 2025 on ESPN. The new golf league was created by TMRW Sports whose co-founders include Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, and fuses advanced technology, innovation and live action for ESPN's primetime television audience. New York Golf Club is owned by Steven A. Cohen and Cohen Private Ventures.
- Purchased Murrieta Valley Golf Range in January 2023, the driving range where his grandfather, Yutaka, gave him lessons every Wednesday. "I always wanted the range to be around and it to be open for the next generation," Fowler said to Golfweek. "I wanted kids to have the same opportunity as me if they were interested."
- Fowler was inducted into the Oklahoma State University's Hall of Honor in September 2023. During his careers at OSU, Fowler became the first freshman to win the Ben Hogan Award, received the Phil Mickelson Award and earned All-American honors in both seasons he played for the OSU Cowboys.
- Before missing the 2020-21 FedExCup Playoffs, Fowler had never missed the Playoffs or finished outside the top 100 in the FedExCup standings in 11 prior seasons on TOUR. Finished among Top 125 in the FedExCup eligibility points list to qualify for the 2021-'22 Playoffs.
- One of 16 members on the Player Advisory Council (PAC) for 2025. The PAC advises and consults with the PGA TOUR Policy Board (Board of Directors) and Commissioner Jay Monahan on issues affecting the TOUR.

Background

- Was born and raised in Murrieta, California; currently lives in Jupiter, Florida
- Played college golf at Oklahoma State University; won the Ben Hogan Award and Phil Mickelson Award as the nation's top freshman in 2007-08; two-time All American before turning professional in 2009. Originally committed to UCLA.
- In 2018, teamed with Golf Channel to executive produce, "Driven," a four-part documentary series on the Oklahoma State men's golf team, one of college golf's most storied programs.

Family

- Wife, Allison, married in October 2019. The couple began dating in 2017 and became engaged in June 2018 ahead of the 2018 U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills. Stokke, from Newport Beach, California, was a track and field star who broke several American records for high school pole vaulting; she continued her career at the University of California, Berkeley; She attempted to make the American Olympic team in 2012, but failed to record a height. She continued vaulting at national level meets up to 2017.
- Rickie and Allison have two daughters: Maya (November 2021) and Nellie (August 2024).
- Maya Fowler was born just four days after Jordan Spieth welcomed his first child, Sammy.
- Father, Rod, owns a trucking company and is a former dirt bike racer. Father and son used to race bikes together prior to a high school accident that caused Rickie to give up the sport to focus on golf.

- Mother, Lynn, is of Japanese and Native American (Navajo) descent. During the 2015 PLAYERS Championship, Lynn and Fowler's sister, Taylor, were on their way to the airport as Fowler finished playing his last holes at TPC Sawgrass. As Fowler started a comeback, the family turned around from the airport and headed back to the course. Ultimately, they missed their flight but were able to celebrate Fowler's win.
- Grandfather, Yutaka Tanaka, is Japanese. Was a young boy taken with his family to a World War II Japanese internment camp in Heart Mountain, Wyoming. He was displaced from Pomona, California where his father had a small poultry business after emigrating from Japan. "I was so young, I didn't understand the hardship," Tanaka says. "Even after the war, we weren't allowed to come back to California for two years and ended up going to New York state. My father was able to keep a business going and bring us back, but some of our friends lost everything. My parents hardly ever mentioned it, and I never talked to Rickie about it."
- Family calls him "Taka." Fowler's middle name is Yutaka. Among Fowler's at least seven tattoos, he has a tattoo on his bicep of his grandfather's name in Japanese script.
- Taka would take Fowler to the Murrietta Valley Driving Range after school when he was young
- Fowler broke down in tears when he lost the lead at the 2016 WM Phoenix Open as he hoped that tournament would have been the first time his father and grandfather were there for one of Fowler's professional wins. Fowler finally accomplished his goal of having his grandfather and father present for a win, when he won the 2019 WM Phoenix Open, three years later.
- Taka and Jeannie, Fowler's grandmother, try to travel to about half a dozen tournaments a year, although it is harder as Fowler's galleries have grown.
- Fowler on his grandfather: "Being around him gave me an attitude toward life. He's always in a good mood. He loves having people around him. He treats people the right way. Loves life. He's just ... happy. It's the way I try to be."
- Sister, Taylor, played college golf at Cal State Fullerton; Fowler officiated her wedding to Dave Lawrence in February 2017; Fowler became an uncle when Taylor gave birth to twin boys, Maze and Ty, on February 12, 2019.

Charity

- Announced as an official Play Yellow Ambassador on Sunday of the 2024 Memorial Tournament presented by Workday. "For years I have had the privilege of seeing firsthand the incredible commitment Barbara and Jack have had towards children's healthcare. They are the gold standard and it's only natural for me to offer my support. As parents, Allison and I fully understand the love and support needed to ensure our kids are safe and healthy. It's an honor to join Barbara and Jack as 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.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- His first tattoo - on his wrist - is the signature of Barry McDonnell ("Big B"), Fowler's first coach, who passed away in 2011. McDonnell had a very old school approach to teaching the game. Always had Hogan's Five Fundamentals in his back pocket. If Fowler was slicing it or hooking it too much he would just have him hit draws or fades to combat that. Parents used to drop him off and he'd spend all day with "Big B". "Big B" used to do pencil and charcoal

drawings - drew Ben Hogan a lot. Fowler has some of his work at home. Took the signature from one of the pieces and had it tattooed on his wrist.

Other

- During the 2023 U.S. Open, Fowler was seen carrying around a large metal water bottle, covered in stickers. He started carrying it around at the beginning of 2023. "I drink more if I'm carrying it, and it's also heavy when it's full... the real reason is I drink more water and electrolytes when I carry it." Fowler has several stickers on his water bottle. "I have a few different stickers on there, friends of friends or connections in one way." His favorite is "a little lightbulb logo, it's kind of a cool logo for kind of a cool brewery in St. Louis called Side Project."
- Told reporters at the 2021 Memorial Tournament that he has taken to wearing prescription sunglasses. Said: "Now I can actually see the ball land." Also told reporters, that he has "always struggled with seeing more than, say, 150 yards."
- "It's not enough to where I really wanted to try going to Lasik [surgery] or anything like that," Fowler said. "I've always been able to see up-close fine, I don't have any problem with that. The only time I start to struggle with some depth perception is in low-light situations, so early morning or as the sun's going down. And so I just wanted to try another option before going to Lasik down the road."

Viktor Hovland

Things To Know

- Ended what was nearly a 19-month victory drought (18 months, 24 days to be exact) with his seventh PGA TOUR title at the 2025 Valspar Championship, which marked his first TOUR victory since he captured the 2023 FedExCup with a win at the 2023 TOUR Championship.
- After his victory at the 2025 Valspar Championship, which came amid a rocky multi-year period of swing changes, posted on Instagram: "Stupid, stupid game." Hovland elaborated in his press conference, "It's been quite the struggle for the past year and a half, so for me to come back and win this tournament is quite incredible, because I was not very hopeful with my game leading into this week. Just goes to show this game is pretty crazy. But the last year and a half... I know my golf game is not very good, I know I have some issues, and just because you have one bad round of golf or one bad tournament, you would like to think, 'Next week is another week, you'll figure it out.' But when the problems remain and linger, you don't become more hopeful. It's like you keep drowning and you're running out of air. It's tough to get excited to go and play, because you just don't feel like you have the confidence to succeed. I'm extremely proud I can show up at a PGA TOUR event, at one of the hardest golf courses we play all year and still win with not my best stuff. That's something I'm extremely proud of, but at the same time it makes this game a lot more stressful than I think it should be."
- One week after winning the 2023 BMW Championship with a final-round 61 (the lowest final round in FedExCup Playoffs history), Hovland secured the 2023 FedExCup with a five-stroke victory over Xander Schauffele at the 2023 TOUR Championship.
- One of two PGA TOUR members from Norway for the 2025 PGA TOUR season, with the other being Kris Ventura, who regained TOUR membership with a top 30 finish on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List.
- Still owns his house in Stillwater, Oklahoma, though he relocated to Jupiter, Florida for better practice weather. Hovland shared, "I love Oklahoma. Summertime it's great, and I certainly miss the people there. I do find it easier, if I want to go back home to Norway, it's a direct flight from Miami. I can have family and friends come down and hang out. It's a little bit harder for them to come to Stillwater, and, yeah, there's not much to do there either, so at least in Florida there's a little bit more we can do."

Background

- Grew up in Oslo, Norway and was the first Norwegian to compete in several marquee golf events, including the Masters Tournament (2019 as an amateur) and the Ryder Cup (2020 at Whistling Straits). Became the first player from Norway to win the U.S. Amateur (2018), to win on the PGA TOUR (2020 Puerto Rico Open) and to win on the DP World Tour (2021 BMW International Open).
- Winner of the 2018 U.S. Amateur at Pebble Beach Golf Links, where he became the first player from Norway to win the event. Longtime Oklahoma State University head coach Alan Bratton caddied for him during the victory.
- Became the first Norwegian to participate in the Masters Tournament in 2019 and earned low amateur honors at the event. Also earned low amateur honors at the 2019 U.S. Open, becoming the first player to earn low amateur honors at the Masters and U.S. Open in the same year since Matt Kuchar in 1998.
- Reached No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking for the first time in April 2019. Totaled 10 weeks at No. 1 in WAGR and ceded the top spot upon turning professional in June 2019.

- Played three seasons at Oklahoma State University (2016-19), where he earned four collegiate victories and was named the 2019 Ben Hogan Award winner (one of three collegiate national player of the year awards). Also a two-time All-America First Team selection (2018, 2019) and the 2019 Big 12 Conference Player of the Year.
- Went 3-0 in match play as he helped Oklahoma State win the team national title at the 2018 NCAA Championship, contested at Oklahoma State's home course -- Karsten Creek. Hovland's teammates on the title-winning team included future PGA TOUR winners Austin Eckroat and Matthew Wolff, as well as future PGA TOUR members Kris Ventura and Sam Stevens (a reserve player during the title run), and Korn Ferry Tour member Zach Bauchou (pronounced BOH-shoo). Hovland notably defeated future PGA TOUR member Chandler Phillips of Texas A&M in the quarterfinals, and defeated future PGA TOUR winner Lee Hodges of Alabama in the championship. Future PGA TOUR winner Davis Riley was also on the Alabama team Oklahoma State defeated 5-0 to win the title.

Family

- Son of Galina and Harald Hovland.
- Father worked in St. Louis for one year as an engineer and brought back a set of golf clubs, introducing then-11-year-old Viktor to the game.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Often hears fans' connections to Norway shouted from the gallery, saying "That happens quite a bit. There's a lot of Norwegian ancestry here in the states. Yeah, I do hear it quite a bit."
- Once described as "maybe the most publicly curious pro golfer." Hovland says of this reputation, "I'd like to think of myself as a thinker. Mysteries get my attention a little bit. I just like learning, figuring stuff out." Tends to be a night owl known for binge-watching streaming platforms, with Hovland saying, "I just end up freakin' binge-watching stuff, and then I look at the clock and it's way too late, and I just can't go to bed. So I end up finding these rabbit holes." One of his more notable binges was the Netflix documentary series Ancient Apocalypse, hosted by British writer Graham Hancock. Hovland was so fascinated by it he took a trip with his mother to see a few of the sites featured in the series. Another memorable quip came during an appearance on The Smylie Show podcast, when host Smylie Kaufman sarcastically asked Hovland about the Roman Empire. Hovland responded, "I think the history is really cool, but I'd like to think more about event wayyy further back. A thousand years ago is not interesting enough."
- Huge fan of metal music, saying he likes to "get out all of the frustration" by listening to it. Favorite band is Vildhjarta, a Swedish progressive metal band. Hovland's deep dive into metal music came about early in his high school years, specifically after a road trip to Sweden for a golf tournament. Hovland's coach at that time was a "classic 80s heavy metal guy" and played a lot of Black Sabbath, Metallica, and Iron Maiden in the car. Hovland, who mostly listened to house music / electronic dance music to that point, enjoyed the coach's selection and followed up with some research of his own after the trip. Hovland searched "Best Metal Songs" on YouTube and remembered the top result being "Chop Suey!" by System of a Down. Although Hovland initially wasn't a huge fan of "Chop Suey!" he listened a couple more times and it grew on him, which effectively sent him down the metal music rabbit hole. Hovland noted there are "a lot of Scandinavian metalheads" and that Norway is famous for black metal music, which is not a genre he enjoys.

- At the 2023 Ryder Cup, members of Team Europe listened to part of one of Hovland's favorite songs -- "Instill" by Humanity's Last Breath -- and the reactions ranged from "brutal" to "not even music" to "what is wrong with Viktor?"
- Said in a 2022 interview he "probably averaged (watching) a movie per day" during his high school years. He and a group of friends would watch the Lord of the Rings trilogy together a few times per year. Also learned some English from historical dramas like Lincoln, the Steven Spielberg-directed biopic.
- For a period of time in the early 2020s, got into poker and scoured YouTube for tips on how to improve, saying, "I've gotten to know a few people within the poker community. Maybe I'll get into some games some day."
- Is not superstitious, but noted at the 2022 Arnold Palmer Invitational that he always has his marker in his left pocket because, "When I was a kid, I would put it in my right pocket but I would also put my glove in the right pocket. When I would pull out my glove, the coin would fall off. Even though now I keep it in my back pocket, I always have it in the left pocket."

Charity

- At the 2022 BMW Championship, recorded a hole-in-one at the 206-yard par-3 6th. The shot meant BMW would sponsor a four-year, \$125,000 scholarship for an aspiring college student in the player's name. "That's incredible," Hovland said. "The hole-in-one obviously was nice for me, and while it didn't move me up the leaderboard that much, for it to actually mean something is really cool. I hope that goes a long way."

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Attended the same Norwegian sports academy as tennis star Casper Ruud, the highest-ranked tennis player in history from Norway. While the pair do not know each other that well, Ruud, who is an avid golfer, said, "I probably watch more of his golf than he watches of my tennis."
- Oklahoma State coach Alan Bratton first watched Hovland at the 2013 European Boys Team Championships in Scotland, where he was actually scouting another Norwegian -- Kris Ventura. Bratton recalled, "I saw something I thought was special. As soon as I could recruit Viktor, I did. Went back two summers in a row." Ventura later hosted Hovland on his recruiting visit to Oklahoma State. Ventura and Hovland, who remain close friends today, also represented Norway together at the 2016 and 2017 European Amateur Team Championships, 2016 World Amateur Team Championship (Eisenhower Trophy), and 2024 Olympic Men's Golf Competition in Paris.
- During his college years at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, Hovland rented a room from teammate Austin Eckroat's parents, who had bought a place there to keep up with their son. Hovland returned the favor after he bought a house in Stillwater early in his PGA TOUR career, and Eckroat lived there as one of Hovland's two housemates. Eckroat, who earned his PGA TOUR card via the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season and won his first two PGA TOUR titles in 2024, said of his two years as Hovland's housemate, "He's about as easy a roommate as you can have. He eats popcorn and smoothies all day and watches movies. Not much that goes on in his life besides golf. He's very easygoing, and I think that's something that everybody can take a part of from him. Just being stress-free, taking life easy."
- Became the sixth Oklahoma State player to win the Ben Hogan Award, accomplishing the feat in 2019. Previous Cowboys to win the national player of the year award were Kevin Wentworth (1990), Trip Kuehne (1995), Hunter Mahan (2003 -- co-recipient with Arizona's Ricky Barnes), Rickie Fowler (2008), and Peter Uihlein (2011).

- In his first Ryder Cup appearance (2020), faced Collin Morikawa in singles. Morikawa clinched the victory for the United States with a tie against Hovland.
- A day after defeating Denny McCarthy in a playoff to win the 2023 Memorial Tournament presented by Workday, Hovland caddied for Zach Bauchou (pronounced BOH-shoo) in a U.S. Open qualifier. Bauchou, who failed to qualify, was Hovland's former roommate at Oklahoma State. Bauchou said of the pairing, "We went to dinner on Saturday and I jokingly said, 'Why don't you come caddie on Monday?' He said, 'Dude, I will.' If he says he's going to do something, he'll do it."

Other

- Represented Norway at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and 2024 Paris Olympics, saying of the experience, "We have a very rich Olympic tradition, and now with golf being an Olympic sport, it would be great for people back home to just get into the sport."
- Collegiate victories included the 2018 East Lake Cup at East Lake Golf Club (home of the TOUR Championship) and the 2019 Prestige (played at PGA West's Greg Norman Course, which is NOT in the current rotation of courses at The American Express).
- Finished T2 at the 2018 European Amateur Championship, which was won by Nicolai Hojgaard. Hovland was also the runner-up finisher at the 2016 European Amateur Championship, where he fell to Italy's Luca Cianchetti on the seventh hole of a sudden-death playoff.

Michael Kim

Things To Know

- Earned his first PGA TOUR title in record-setting fashion at the 2018 John Deere Classic, which he won by a tournament-record eight strokes at 27-under 257. The victory earned him the final spot in the following week's 2018 Open Championship at Carnoustie Golf Links.
- Of his well-documented struggles following his breakout victory at the 2018 John Deere Classic, Michael says he was not fully comfortable with his swing even when he won on TOUR. After he began working with swing coach Sean Foley in September 2021, Michael developed a swing and technique which has provided him great comfort, with his ball striking being the biggest benefactor.
- Entered the final two events of the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour regular season at No. 31 on the Points List, six spots away from the last available PGA TOUR card, and posted back-to-back T5s to earn a place in the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour graduating class, thus securing a return to the PGA TOUR. Closed the regular season with top-25s in seven consecutive starts.
- Of his struggles and road back to the PGA TOUR, Kim said prior to the first event of the 2022-23 season, "I don't think I'd be as excited and have a fresh perspective on playing the PGA TOUR. You go through the ups and downs and you appreciate it more."
- Born in Seoul, South Korea, where he and his family lived until Michael was 7 years old, at which time the family relocated to the United States. Grew up in Del Mar, California (roughly 20 miles northwest of San Diego), where he attended Torrey Pines High School and frequently played Torrey Pines' North Course, the shorter and less expensive alternative to the South Course, which hosted the 2008 and 2021 U.S. Opens. Kim made his professional debut as a sponsor exemption at the 2014 Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines.
- Given the fact he spent his formative years playing Torrey Pines, Kim said of the Farmers Insurance Open in a 2018 interview, "Other than the majors, this is the one I want to win the most. If I were to break through, it would be great anywhere, but to do it here would be pretty special." Some of Kim's favorite early golf memories were following Tiger Woods' groups around Torrey Pines at the Farmers Insurance Open. Also remembers multi-time PGA TOUR winner Aaron Baddeley throwing him a golf ball one year; Michael later recounted the memory with Aaron while playing on TOUR.

Background

- As a senior, led Torrey Pines High School to a team state title at the 2011 CIF State Boys Golf Championship at Poppy Hills Golf Course. Xander Schauffele, then at Scripps Ranch High School, won the individual title.
- Played two and a half seasons at University of California-Berkeley (2011-13) and turned professional in December 2013, midway through his junior season. As a sophomore the season prior, Kim won both the Haskins and Jack Nicklaus Awards to become the program's first National Player of the Year, in addition to earning 2013 Pac-12 Conference Player of the Year and an All-America First Team recognition. Kim actually maintained his amateur status through Final Stage of 2013 Q-School, where he finished T56 and earned conditional membership for the 2014 Korn Ferry Tour season. Kim said the call to his coaches at Cal was "the toughest call I've ever had to make," but also noted he "didn't have that much to gain from college" at that point in his career.
- In his two seasons at Cal, Kim (along with Max Homa and Brandon Hagy) helped the Golden Bears win back-to-back Pac-12 Conference and NCAA Regional Championships, in addition to helping Cal break an unofficial NCAA record for team wins in a season (11 in 2012-13). Cal

fell in the semifinals of match play at both the 2012 and 2013 NCAA Championships in Kim's two seasons.

- Qualified for the 2013 U.S. Open at Merion Golf Club via open qualifying as an amateur; he finished T17 for low amateur honors.
- Earned his first PGA TOUR card after two seasons (2014, 2015) on the Korn Ferry Tour. Qualified for the 2016 FedExCup Playoffs as a PGA TOUR rookie, followed by a second consecutive FedExCup Playoffs appearance in 2017, and his breakthrough victory at the 2018 John Deere Classic.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Very active on X (formerly Twitter), using his @Mike_kim714 handle to provide in-depth updates on his game, detailed analysis of PGA TOUR venues and course setups, as well as life on TOUR. Kim decided to lean into social media when he returned to the TOUR in fall 2022, as he saw the droves of fans who attended TOUR events and followed his former college teammate Max Homa, who surged in popularity through his own social media channels. Kim says of his approach to social media, "I try to help other people. I thought it could be a cool way to put my name out there a bit more."
- Avid player of Call of Duty: Warzone. He mostly plays online with college friends. Occasionally plays with Si Woo Kim, who he jokes is terrible. Also says he is a "terrible Marvel Rivals player."
- If not a professional golfer, would like to be an ESPN golf analyst.
- Favorite athletes are Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan and Aaron Rodgers.
- Cites The Dark Knight as one of his all-time favorite movies.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- In his two seasons at University of California-Berkely, Kim's teammates included multi-time PGA TOUR winner Max Homa (two years ahead of him) and Brandon Hagy (one year ahead). Kim and Homa were often roommates on the road when they were together at Cal, and the two remain close friends today.
- Maintains a friendship with Si Woo Kim. The two played together for two seasons (2014 and 2015) on the Korn Ferry Tour. Both earned their first PGA TOUR card via the 2015 Korn Ferry Tour regular season.
- Kim said of his game when he initially turned professional in December 2013, "I want to be Zach Johnson - hit it down the middle and then kill it with my short game and putting." Funnily enough, Johnson actually became a mentor of sorts early in Kim's professional career.
- Represented the United States at both the 2013 Walker Cup and Arnold Palmer Cup, playing alongside Justin Thomas (both teams), Daniel Berger (Palmer), college teammate Max Homa (Walker), and Patrick Rodgers (both), among others.
- Graduated high school in 2011, putting him in the same grad class as future PGA TOUR stars Daniel Berger, Xander Schauffele, Jordan Spieth, and Justin Thomas. Following Kim's win at the 2018 John Deere Classic, he said of being in the star-studded high school class, "I had a really, really good career at Cal... but you compare it to some of the guys from that [high school] 2011 class - Jordan, Justin, Breger, Xander - you can't help but feel like you're being left behind. It was just more motivation than anything. Without them doing so well, I might not be holding this trophy right now."

