

Report (15 players)

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.

Justin Rose

Things To Know

- On his longevity and the pride he takes in contending at PGA TOUR events in his 40s, Rose said at the 2025 Memorial Tournament, where he previously earned his first TOUR win in 2010, "I'm getting to the stage of my career where... having pride of performance and trying to buck the trend of what is a natural kind of aging process." Also cited 12-time PGA TOUR winner Steve Stricker, who earned nine TOUR wins in his 40s, as a source of inspiration for him, with Rose saying, "He did it living in the Midwest, locking things up for winter, having a great family, didn't sacrifice the world in order to do it. He's a really good role model from that point of view. If you could have a career like his in his 40s, I think that's what I would say is doable but aspirational."
- On what still keeps him energized now that he's in his 40s, Rose said in a press conference two days after his runner-up finish at the 2025 Masters Tournament, "The belief I still can have these special moments in the game. Little things like holing the putt on the Friday at the (2023) Ryder Cup with all the team around me, that's a moment I'll remember. That's a special moment. Even the (2024) Open Championship was special walking down No. 18, being right in it, holing the putt at Augusta on No. 18 on Sunday (of the 2025 Masters) and seeing the crowd stand up. Those are special moments. The reason I'm playing is to sort of feel those moments that really matter in your career and in your life."
- Following a runner-up finish at the 2025 Masters Tournament (lost a playoff to Rory McIlroy) -- which came roughly nine months after his T2 finish at the 2024 Open Championship -- Rose said of moving on from the disappointment of defeat, "There's no point in being too despondent about it. You can't skip through a career without a little bit of heartache. It's not going to happen. If you're willing to lift the big championships, you've got to put yourself on the line. You have to risk feeling this way to get the reverse."
- Named the 2021 Payne Stewart Award recipient recognizing his Character, Charity and Sportsmanship. He was officially presented the award by Commissioner Monahan on the Tuesday of TOUR Championship. Surprise taped messages from well-wishers/friends in the live show included Premier League footballer Harry Kane and former One Direction star Niall Horan.
- A proud Olympian, he became golf's first Olympic champion since 1904 when he won the gold medal at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. In addition, he also made history when he recorded the first hole-in-one in Olympic Golf. Did not compete in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games or the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.
- Won the 2023 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am by three strokes over Brendon Todd and Brandon Wu, earning his 11th career PGA TOUR title and first since the 2019 Farmers Insurance Open.
- Won 2013 U.S. Open at Merion; 2018 FedExCup Champion.
- 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 Los Angeles Golf Club alongside teammates Sahith Theegala, Tommy Fleetwood and Collin Morikawa in 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.

Background

- Born in South Africa but moved to England when he was 5, which is when he started playing golf. First swung a club, however, at 11 months old when his dad, Ken, handed him a plastic club. The two were incredibly close until his father passed in 2002.
- Of his biggest inspiration as a golfer, Rose said in April 2025, "My dad early in my career was a big, big inspiration for me. He taught me the game, and I think very subtly guided me down a little path where I began to realize what I was capable of, or what it might look like to be a pro. I think I always felt like I had a talent to play the game, but that talent was always -- it's a double-edged sword. It's great to have a talent for something, but I always felt like it was a burden to have it as well. I never wanted to see it as a burden. I guess my inspiration has always been to maximize the potential that I've had in my game, and the potential my dad saw in me, not waste it, squander it... put in the requisite work, put in the work that's required to make talent worth it. I guess that's been my inspiration... getting the most out of yourself."
- Earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time upon conclusion of the 2003 season (finished 125th on the 2003 money list as a non-member) and won his first PGA TOUR title at the 2010 Memorial Tournament. Rose recalls of his first TOUR win, "It definitely took me quite a bit of time to break through on TOUR. The image I have is my little son Leo kind of messing around in a bunker behind No. 18."

Family

- Wife: Kate | Son: Leo | Daughter: Charlotte
- The family relocated their home base back to the U.K.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Tennis (often attends Wimbledon, which he calls "one of my favorite days of the year"), Chelsea football fan, cars, architecture, movies
- Likes to unwind with activities involving the water, such as fishing, snorkeling and diving.
- Incredibly passionate about health, wellness and recovery and reconfigured an RV to assist his efforts while traveling on-site at tournaments.

Charity

- The Kate & Justin Rose Foundation (KJR) provides nutrition, books and educational experiences to children in Central Florida, where the Rose family initially set up their U.S. home base. The KJRF hosts an annual Bay Hill Day at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, creates a VIP experience for 20 kids from Orange Center Elementary - a KJRF beneficiary via Blessings in a Backpack, BookTrust, and an annual field trip (which was featured on The CUT). To date, the foundation has raised more than \$3 million, provided more than 500,000 hunger-free weekends, and more than 300,000 books to 29,000 kids.
- In February 2021, The Kate and Justin Rose Foundation donated \$1 million to the Blessings in a Backpack, Orlando chapter, also known as Rose Blessings Orlando.
- Kate and Justin Rose Foundation donated \$100,000 to Lend a Hand Bahamas, which helped rebuild an orphanage following the devastation of Hurricane Dorian.

- In June 2020 following the onset of COVID-19, Justin and Kate Rose stepped up to sponsor a new women's golf series called "The Rose Ladies Series," which provided opportunities for British women professionals to compete in a tournament series throughout England. With the LET and LETAS schedules back to full operation post-COVID, the Rose Ladies Series condensed its schedule to provide a competitive warm up for the official season, as well as strong prize money. The Series has taken place at courses like Wentworth, The Berkshire, West Lancs, Bearwood Lakes, Southport & Ainsdale, Sunningdale, Royal St George's, Royal Birkdale and Hillside over the years.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Friends with Niall Horan (and his 10s of millions of social media followers) of One Direction fame. Their "Horan & Rose 2018" event in June 2018 raised 1.5 million for Cancer Research UK Kids and Teens. He listens to "all of" Niall's music.
- Has teamed up with Justin Timberlake at both the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (on the PGA TOUR) and Alfred Dunhill Links Championship at St. Andrews (on the DP World Tour).

Other

- Was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 2017 for his services to sport. Other PGA TOUR players to receive an MBE include Rory McIlroy and Luke Donald.
- Dream foursome would include his late father, President Nelson Mandela and Roger Federer.
- If he had to choose one course to play for the rest of his life it would be Royal Birkdale. "Links courses play differently depending on the weather and I have great memories finishing fourth at The Open as an amateur."

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).

J.J. Spaun

Things To Know

- Received an autographed skateboard from Tony Hawk in the weeks following his victory at the 2025 U.S. Open. Also received congratulatory messages from comedian George Lopez and professional baseball player Mookie Betts, among many others, following the U.S. Open victory.
- Earned his second PGA TOUR title at the 2025 U.S. Open at Oakmont Country Club, sinking a 64-foot, 5-inch birdie putt on the 72nd hole of regulation to clinch a two-stroke victory. Became the first player since Webb Simpson (2012) to win the U.S. Open in his second start at the event (previously missed cut at 2021 U.S. Open, contested at Torrey Pines). Spaun bogeyed five of his first six holes in the final round, then (after a mid-round suspension of play due to inclement weather) rallied to victory with a 3-under 32 on the back nine.
- Three days after his victory at the 2025 U.S. Open, told media members at a Travelers Championship press conference his golf career embodied a Confucius quote. The quote Spaun referenced is: "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but rising every time we fall."
- Following a missed cut at the 2024 RBC Canadian Open in early June, stood No. 183 in the FedExCup. With the potential of losing PGA TOUR status looming, Spaun adopted a more thankful mentality with regards to his career, which he expanded on following his victory at the 2025 U.S. Open. "I just started saying... I'm just happy to have the career I've had. That kind of took a lot of pressure off my back as far as expectations on the golf course." Spaun later drew inspiration from the 2004 movie Wimbledon, which he watched on an international flight in December 2024. Spaun said of the movie, "It was this... not washed up but like older tennis player and he's thinking of quitting, he wants to retire at Wimbledon, and he wins Wimbledon. And it kind of resonated with me... you can't give up yet. I was watching it and was like, 'Maybe that can be me.'"
- Spaun was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes at the end of 2018 after unexplained weight loss and fatigue impacted him throughout the year. After nearly three years of exercising and adjusting his diet, Spaun still felt lethargic and kept losing weight (by that point he had lost nearly 50 pounds), which led him to a specialist. In February 2021, Spaun learned he was misdiagnosed, as he was actually type 1, late onset. Spaun said, "When I got re-diagnosed -- and diagnosed correctly -- it gave me new life. I started to feel better, started to keep weight on, get muscle mass back." Spaun is approved by the TOUR to wear a Libre blood-sugar monitor and check his levels while competing. If his blood sugar is low, he can faint. If it gets too high, his vision starts to blur.

Background

- Grew up playing Arroyo Seco Golf Course, a par-3 course in South Pasadena, California.
- Attended San Dimas High School in San Dimas, California, the same high school that Bill and Ted attended in the movie "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure."
- Played four seasons at San Diego State University (2008-12), where he was credited with five collegiate wins, earned two All-America honors, and was named the 2012 Mountain West Conference Golfer of the Year.
- While at San Diego State University, the men's golf team annually worked at the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines, with team members cleaning shoes of the TOUR pros in the locker room to raise money for the program. Spaun recalled, "It was good memories to go from cleaning shoes to now playing in the tournament."

- Spaun detailed his journey to professional golf throughout the week of his runner-up finish at the 2025 PLAYERS Championship, saying, "I didn't have the pedigree of a junior golfer growing up. I wasn't raised or groomed to be a professional golfer. I walked on to a California state school (San Diego State University). I kind of blossomed as I took on this journey... I didn't know what my ceiling was. If you were to say before I turned pro, 'Hey, you're going to win a PGA TOUR event and you're going to play nine, 10 years out there, you're going to make some good money, and you're going to have fun doing it,' that would be a great accomplishment in my terms."
- Turned professional in 2012 and spent his first three professional seasons on PGA TOUR Canada (2013-15), eventually finishing atop the 2015 Order of Merit for a promotion to the Korn Ferry Tour. Spaun needed only one season on the Korn Ferry Tour to earn PGA TOUR membership, as he finished in the top five of the 2016 Korn Ferry Tour standings to earn his TOUR card.
- After a No. 174 finish in the 2020-21 FedExCup standings, regained PGA TOUR membership for the 2022 season via the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals (a system which, from 2013-22, awarded a second set of 25 PGA TOUR cards through a season-ending series of three or four events featuring the top 75 players from the Korn Ferry Tour Points List and Nos. 126-200 from the FedExCup standings). Spaun regained his TOUR card with a T2 finish at the Albertsons Boise Open (the first of three Finals events that year) in August 2021, and earned his first PGA TOUR title less than six months later at the 2022 Valero Texas Open.

Family

- He and wife, Melody have two daughters, Emerson Lili (November 2020) and Violet (June 2023).
- According to J.J., his mother's side of the family is predominantly half Filipino and half Mexican.
- Mother, Dollie. Father, John.
- When Dollie was pregnant with J.J., she asked her doctors if she could still play golf. They approved, so Dollie got her exercise playing rounds at Arroyo Seco, a par-3 course in South Pasadena, California. She played until she was eight months pregnant. Dollie says, "People would always tell me that my son was going to be a golfer when he grew up." Dollie also recounted, "(J.J.) used to watch TV as a little kid and he'd tell me, 'Mom, I don't want to watch cartoons. I want to watch Golf Channel.'"
- As a baby, J.J. would watch from his stroller as his father, John, hit range balls. When J.J. was old enough to walk, he'd go into the family's garage and hit whatever he could into a hitting net (balls, tees, even sockets from the toolbox) John had hung up. Following his victory at the 2025 U.S. Open (on Father's Day), J.J. said, "My dad introduced me to the game and always supported me every step of the way. What better gift to give him than being able to win the U.S. Open." John was on site and following J.J. the entire week at Oakmont.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Huge Los Angeles Dodgers (MLB baseball) fan. He played with Mookie Betts at the 2022 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.
- Grew up skateboarding and dreamt of becoming the next great skateboarder, with his icons being Tony Hawk, Andrew Reynolds, and Erik Ellington. Around the time he was five years old, a skating accident led to Spaun to rethink his dream. Spaun recalled, "I kind of went right under this car (reversing down a driveway) and literally was sitting under it. The lady thought she ran over a cat. Everyone is screaming, dad pulls me out, I have all this grease and oil all

over me. That freaked me out. I definitely had scar tissue on what I was trying to accomplish skateboarding." Spaun continued to skateboard and, in April 2020, he landed a backside flip and posted the video to his social media channels, explaining it was "at least 15 years since I've landed one of those." Although he will occasionally "cruise around the neighborhood" on his longboard, Spaun essentially gave up skateboarding in his early 30s, saying, "Falling now is like falling off a 10-story building."

- Plays the guitar and has an interest in music. Can play Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" on the guitar. Previously used custom Led Zeppelin headcovers early in his professional career.
- Previously a season-pass holder for Disneyland. His trips to Magic Kingdom typically began with a ride on the Pirates of the Caribbean attraction.
- He had a practice putting and chipping green installed in his backyard.

Charity

- Finished second in the 2018 RSM Birdies Fore Love competition, allowing him to donate the \$150,000 prize to charity. He selected Los Angeles United Way to support Disaster Relief and Creating Pathways out of Poverty Funds.
- At the 2020 Travelers Championship, won The Umbrella at 15 1/2 (15 and a half) Challenge. The annual closest to the pin contest awards a \$10,000 charitable contribution to a charity of the winner's choosing. Spaun chose Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (now known as Breakthrough T1D), which, according to its website, aims to "lead the way to more effective solutions by connecting the brightest minds to advance treatments, influence policy, and improve access to care." Upon learning of Spaun's choice for the donation, Andy Bessette (at the time an Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer for Travelers) introduced himself and told Spaun his son had been diagnosed as Type 1 before college. This led Bessette and his wife, Cherrie, to match Spaun's donation to what is now known as Breakthrough T1D.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Friendly with fellow multi-time PGA TOUR winner Max Homa, as the two are both members at Whisper Rock Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- Played the 2016 Genesis Invitational as the recipient of the Charlie Sifford Memorial Exemption.

Andrew Novak

Things To Know

- Earned his first PGA TOUR win alongside Ben Griffin at the 2025 Zurich Classic of New Orleans. Novak and Griffin were frequent playing partners for a three-year stretch from 2022-25 when both were St. Simons Island, Georgia / Sea Island residents (Griffin relocated to Jupiter, Florida in March 2025). The kinship between the two also dates back to their teenage years, as Griffin (grew up in Chapel Hill, North Carolina) and Novak (born in Raleigh, North Carolina but grew up in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina) competed against one another in Carolinas Golf Association events in their early teens.
- Enjoys living in St. Simons Island, Georgia because of the restaurants in the area, with a common favorite amongst himself and other players being Southern Soul BBQ.
- Earned his first PGA TOUR card upon conclusion of the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour season -- which was a two-year, 46-event season as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Followed William McGirt as the second golfer in Wofford College history to earn PGA TOUR membership. Previously played the 2017 season on PGA TOUR Canada, followed by three consecutive seasons (2018, 2019, 2020-21) on the Korn Ferry Tour.
- Played four seasons at Wofford College (2013-17) in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Novak was credited with four collegiate victories and was a three-time All-Southern Conference selection, as well as the 2017 Southern Conference Player of the Year. In 2022, Novak was inducted into the Wofford Athletic Hall of Fame.
- Once made the SportsCenter Top 10 with a 100-plus-foot putt at the 2016 NCAA Tuscaloosa Regional.

Background

- Born in Raleigh, North Carolina. Earliest golf memory was former North Carolina State Wolfpack star and five-time PGA TOUR winner Carl Pettersson giving him a golf ball (with an N.C. State logo on it) at a college tournament when he was three years old. Novak still has it at home.
- Got started in golf after his uncle got him a set of plastic clubs. Andrew used flower pots in the backyard for target practice. Novak did not begin using real clubs or actual golf balls until around 12 years old.
- Spent his formative years in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, where he tried out for the Wando High School golf team as a seventh- and eighth-grader, though he did not make the team either year. During his middle school years, he took golf more seriously and made drastic improvements. Novak "dropped 20 shots in two years" once he began working on his game.
- Attended Academic Magnet High School in North Charleston, South Carolina.
- First job was a range assistant at 16 years old.

Family

- Wife, Maddie (wed in December 2020). Maddie is the daughter of Randy Myers, a renowned golf trainer and the longtime Director of Fitness at Sea Island.
- Andrew and Maddie have a dog (F1b Cavapoo) named Teddy; they run an active Instagram account (@thebestboy_teddy) for Teddy.
- Father, Ralph; Mother, Sarah.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- 2017 Wofford Intramural Basketball champion alongside teammates from the men's golf team.
- Says his football knowledge is second to none.
- Avid Carolina Panthers (NFL football) fan. Also a fan of the Carolina Hurricanes (NHL hockey) and Atlanta Braves (MLB baseball).

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Novak was inducted into the Wofford Athletic Hall of Fame in 2022. Another notable men's golfer in the Wofford Athletic Hall of Fame is P.J. Boatwright Jr., who played at Wofford College in the 1940s and was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 1979. Boatwright is most known for succeeding Joseph Dey as Executive Director of the United States Golf Association in 1969, when Dey left the organization to become the first commissioner of the PGA TOUR. Boatwright was later acknowledged as one of the world's foremost experts on the Rules of Golf, which he helped revise in 1984. Boatwright passed away in 1991 at the age of 63. Shortly after his passing, the USGA established the P.J. Boatwright Internship Program, which is "designed to give experience to individuals who are interested in pursuing a career in golf administration."
- Started a fantasy football / NFL football gambling podcast (The ScreenPlay Podcast) with Evan Grenus, a former men's golf teammate at Wofford College, in September 2023.

Ben Griffin

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."

Chris Kirk

Things To Know

- **PGA TOUR COURAGE AWARD:** Received the PGA TOUR Courage Award during a surprise announcement on Tuesday at the 2023 RSM Classic. The PGA TOUR Courage Award is presented to a person who, through courage and perseverance, has overcome extraordinary adversity, such as personal tragedy or debilitating injury or illness, to make a significant and meaningful contribution to the game of golf. Kirk is the sixth recipient of the PGA TOUR Courage Award, which was established in 2012, joining Erik Compton (2013), Jarrod Lyle (2015), Gene Sauers (2017), Morgan Hoffmann (2020) and D.J. Gregory (2022).
- Kirk took a leave of absence from the TOUR in May of 2019 to address issues of alcohol abuse and depression. He returned to the TOUR later that year after a break of more than six months, regained exempt status in 2021 through a Major Medical Extension and in 2023, earned his fifth PGA TOUR title and first since 2015. His first competitive round after his leave of absence was the first round of the 2019 World Wide Technology Championship, four years to the day of Tuesday's announcement.
- During the 2018-19 season, Kirk played in 17 events, with his final start of the campaign coming at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans during the last week in April. On May 7, 2019, the day before his 34th birthday, Kirk posted a statement to his social media accounts: "I have dealt with alcohol abuse and depression for some time now. I thought I could control it, but after multiple relapses I have come to realize that I can't fix this on my own. I will be taking an indefinite leave from the PGA TOUR to deal with these issues. I don't know when I will be back, but for now I need my full focus on being the man my family deserves. Thank you for your support."
- Won the 2023 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, ending a winless drought of 7 years, 9 months and 2 days dating back to the 2015 Charles Schwab Challenge. Victory marked his first on the PGA TOUR since taking a leave of absence in 2019 to deal with alcohol abuse and depression issues.
- After winning the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, said, "Yeah, I owe everything that I have in my entire life to my sobriety. I wouldn't be doing this for a living anymore. I probably wouldn't have the family that I have currently anymore. I came really close to losing everything that I cared about."
- Lives on 42 acres of land in Watkinsville, Georgia, near Athens; has his own practice facility onsite

Background

- Born in Knoxville, Tennessee, but grew up in Woodstock, Georgia
- Won his first golf event when he was 8. It was a three-hole tournament in which all of the holes were shortened to 150 yards.
- Played college golf at the University of Georgia alongside fellow PGA TOUR winners Kevin Kisner, Brendon Todd and Brian Harman; key member of UGA's 2005 NCAA Championship team; named recipient of the 2007 Ben Hogan Award as the nation's top collegiate golfer; won seven times while playing for the Bulldogs, including four his senior year; member, 2007 U.S. Walker Cup team; turned professional after the Walker Cup
- Became the first Ben Hogan Award winner to win the Charles Schwab Challenge at Colonial with his victory in 2015.
- Played on the Korn Ferry Tour from 2008 through 2010; won twice during the 2010 season en route to finishing second on the money list to secure his PGA TOUR card for 2011

- Competed for the U.S. Team in the 2015 Presidents Cup, where he delivered a key 1-up victory over Anirban Lahiri in Singles to help the U.S. Team secure the victory in Korea.

Family

- Wife, Tahnee; children Sawyer Montgomery, Foster Anderson, Wilder James
- Met Tahnee at a friend's blueberry farm while driving to the 2008 Sugar Bowl

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Loves to spend time at the beach and is an avid kayaker, paddleboarder and fisherman
- Bought a piano and taught himself how to play
- Fan of the Atlanta Braves (MLB). Participated in batting practice with the team in 2015.
- Routinely spends time in the offseason playing golf left-handed as a way to mix things up. After winning The Sentry, said, "It brings back a little bit of the kind of childlike nature of the game, and my expectations are so low that it is way easier to be happy about what I'm doing than it is right-handed, to be honest."

Akshay Bhatia

Things To Know

- NOTE: please do NOT mention or reference Akshay's physical attributes, specifically weight or build. This is a sensitive topic for him and his family. From Akshay's agent: OK to reference him "pound for pound one of the best athletes/longest hitters on the PGA TOUR".
- Won his first PGA TOUR title at the 2023 Barracuda Championship (defeated Patrick Rodgers in a playoff) while playing the TOUR via Special Temporary Membership. Bhatia began the 2022-23 season with fully exempt membership on the Korn Ferry Tour, and later joined the PGA TOUR via Special Temporary Membership following a runner-up finish at the 2023 Puerto Rico Open.
- On whether he reached the PGA TOUR earlier or later than he would have liked after he turned professional at age 17, Bhatia says, "You want to succeed early, but sometimes that's not the best thing. I've learned so much. I've gotten to play with some of the best players in the world. I've had to deal with so many downs, but doing it at 17 versus 23, 24 out of college is a big difference, because I've learned in the three and a half, four years I've played professional golf what it takes to get it done. I feel like I'm ahead of the schedule."
- Made his first PGA TOUR-sanctioned start as a 17-year-old amateur in March 2019 at the Valspar Championship (sponsor exemption, missed cut). A month later, he Monday qualified into the Korn Ferry Tour's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship (finished T42).
- Akshay proposed to his girlfriend, Presleigh Schultz, in the Napa Valley Wine Country and announced on Instagram on Sept. 10, 2023.
- At the 2019 Walker Cup, Bhatia, 17 years old at the time, became the first golfer still in high school to represent the United States, as well as the youngest American player in Walker Cup history. Prior to Bhatia, the youngest American Walker Cupper was Jordan Spieth, who played less than two months after his 18th birthday in 2011. Bhatia went 2-1 and the United States won by five points. Teammates at the 2019 Walker Cup included PGA TOUR members Brandon Wu and Alex Smalley, and Cole Hammer.
- Turned professional at age 17 and signed an endorsement deal with Callaway following the Walker Cup in September 2019. Akshay finalized his decision to eschew college just prior to the NCAA recruiting contact period for high school juniors. On forgoing college and the criticism of his pathway to pro golf he said, "In a way, it was hard not to go to college. You want to win a national championship for the school, your team, yourself. People say it's some of the best four years of your life. But a lot of people say you take the criticism... you want to prove them wrong."
- Akshay admitted in a self-authored Golf Digest story published in 2022 he turned pro "thinking I was ready, but I was wrong." Akshay made his professional debut in September of 2019 at the Sanderson Farms Championship, but missed the cut in his first five PGA TOUR starts (all via sponsor exemptions), had spent a lot of money on travel expenses, and burnt himself out by January 2020. Amid the shutdown stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, Akshay began working with a new coach (Chase Duncan, who operates out of North Carolina State University's Lonnie Poole Golf Course in Raleigh) and a mental coach, both of whom helped Akshay realize much of professional golf is failure, and that it's important to accept and learn from failure, which ultimately helped Akshay mature.

Background

- Goes by "Shay" among his family and friends.

- Born in Los Angeles, California but considers Wake Forest, North Carolina (roughly 20 miles north of Raleigh) his home, as Akshay's parents, Sonny and Renu, moved the family there in 2012 and wanted to raise their children outside of chaotic Los Angeles. Sonny first thought of moving the family there after Akshay and his older sister, Rhea, played in the 2009 U.S. Kids Golf World Championships at Pinehurst. Sonny said, "It just felt right. I thought, wouldn't it be great to come back and live here?"
- Akshay's love of golf began after the family's move from Los Angeles to Wake Forest, North Carolina in 2012. Akshay recalled how he once woke his father up in the middle of the night with a question, "Dad, how do I become the best player in the world?" Sonny told Akshay that to be the best he had to be the first one on the course and the last one to leave. Sonny said in an interview years later, "And that's exactly what he does. He practices and works on his game non-stop. Absolutely non-stop."
- Grew up five minutes from The Country Club at Wakefield Plantation, formerly home to the Korn Ferry Tour's UNC Health Championship in Raleigh, North Carolina. Other professional golfers who practiced there while Bhatia was growing up included Chesson Hadley, Carl Pettersson, Cameron Percy and the late Grayson Murray.
- Participated in the inaugural Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals at Augusta National Golf Club in 2014. At 12 years old, Bhatia finished sixth place overall for the boys 12-13 age group after sinking his 15-foot putt attempt. Became the first Drive, Chip and Putt National Finalist to compete in the Masters with his Masters debut in 2024.
- Went the traditional educational route until middle school, after which he was home schooled (with online courses) and earned a high school diploma in 2019. He noted, "I get a better understanding when I do it on my own versus trying to listen in a classroom where it's dead silent." When he attended traditional elementary school, Akshay typically wore golf clothes to school so he could go straight to the course afterwards.
- As a junior golfer, regularly played in tournaments against older kids and wasn't a long hitter, which forced Akshay to get creative. He often got around forced carries by playing to other tee boxes and frequently hit driver off the deck.
- Climbed into the top five of the World Amateur Golf Ranking prior to turning professional and was the 2018 AJGA Rolex Player of the Year.
- Represented the United States in its victories at the 2017 Junior Presidents Cup and 2018 Junior Ryder Cup. Also finished runner-up at the 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur, falling 1 up to Michael Thorbjornsen in the final.
- Won silver medals at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics in the boy's individual and mixed team with Lucy Li, now an LPGA player.
- Considers himself very analytical and was introduced to TrackMan when he was 14, 15 years old.
- Won the 2019 Jones Cup, an amateur tournament at Ocean Forest Golf Club in Sea Island, Georgia, in February. Defeated future PGA TOUR member Davis Thompson in an impromptu sudden-death playoff, as the 54-hole tournament's final round was cancelled due to heavy rain. Past champions of the annual event include Corey Connors (2014), Justin Thomas (2012).
- Played numerous Monday qualifiers for PGA TOUR and Korn Ferry Tour events prior to earning Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2022 season.
- Earned enough non-member FedExCup points on the PGA TOUR during the 2020-21 season to play the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals. Playing the three-event series earned Bhatia an exemption to Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, but he finished T63 and failed to improve his conditional status for the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season.
- Won first career start as a Korn Ferry Tour member (and fifth overall start) at the 2022 The Bahamas Golf Classic with a tap-in birdie on the 72nd hole; he hit the flagstick with a pitching wedge from 156 yards out, ultimately stopping the ball inches from the cup. At 19 years, 11

months, and 19 days old, he became the third youngest winner in Korn Ferry Tour history, only behind Jason Day (19 years, 7 months, 26 days at 2007 Legend Financial Group Classic) and Sungjae Im (19 years, 9 months, 17 days at 2018 The Bahamas Golf Classic). Three weeks before the win, Akshay dislocated his shoulder playing pickleball, and doctors advised him to delay the start of his season.

Family

- Akshay says his family "sacrificed a normal family life, but we believed it was worth it." His father, Sonny, stopped working to travel with Akshay throughout his junior golf career, while his mother, Renu, continued to work to support the family and Akshay's career. Family time was still sparse at home due to Renu's long working hours; she was at one point in time working two jobs. Akshay says, "One day, I'll repay my mom."
- Father, Sonny (Sunil), traces his roots to Delhi but grew up in London; he previously ran a real estate business. Sonny is blind in one eye, a result of a tumor which he had removed. Part of the reason behind the family's move to North Carolina in 2012 was the convenience of accessibility to top doctors and medical facilities in the area.
- Mother, Renu, organizes golf outings and trips. She grew up in Hong Kong.
- Older sister, Rhea, played college golf at Queens University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Akshay said he got his start in golf after watching her play. The two played together countless times as kids. They are four years apart in age.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Loves Korean barbeque, Indian food, and reviewing pizza.
- Not a huge sports fan and does not watch a lot of live sports, but attended some Lakers (NBA basketball) games when the family lived in Los Angeles and admired Kobe Bryant and the Mamba Mentality.
- Enjoys bowling.
- Especially interested in cars.
- Started YouTube channel in 2023, sharing personal and professional vlogs from life on the PGA TOUR and highlights at courses he plays in his free time.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Admired Rickie Fowler as a young golfer. He even attended the 2014 TOUR Championship at age 12 and bought an orange headcover as a nod to Fowler.

Other

- Quail Hollow is one of his favorite golf courses, and the Truist Championship) ranked very high on his personal list of PGA TOUR tournaments he looked forward to playing.
- On playing the PGA TOUR, Bhatia says, "I've dreamed about playing the PGA TOUR. I don't thrive off of anything but winning golf tournaments and being the best player in the world. I think the PGA TOUR has the best platform... everything they're doing to help the TOUR grow, the players grow, that's something I want to be a part of."
- His T9 at the 2020 Procore Championship (when he was 18 years, 7 months, 14 days old) made him the youngest player to record a top-10 in a stroke-play event on the PGA TOUR

since Justin Rose finished solo fourth at the 1998 The Open Championship, which concluded 11 days before Rose's 18th birthday.

- Bhatia has some interesting recent history at Torrey Pines, making the cut at the 2021 U.S. Open, which was his major championship debut. Bhatia, 19 years old at the time, played the third round with a marker (Jason Gore) and the final round with Patrick Rodgers. Gore is now the Chief Player Officer at the PGA TOUR, and Bhatia defeated Rodgers in a playoff at the 2023 Barracuda Championship to earn fully exempt membership on TOUR.

Taylor Pendrith

Things To Know

- A native of Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada, Pendrith won his first PGA TOUR title at the 2024 CJ CUP Byron Nelson at TPC Craig Ranch.
- Made his second appearance for the International Team at the 2024 Presidents Cup in Montreal, Canada. Was one of three Canadians, along with Corey Connors and Mackenzie Hughes, selected by Captain Mike Weir to play in their homeland. Previously selected for the 2022 Presidents Cup International Team by Captain Trevor Immelman.
- Finished inside the top 50 of the 2021-22 FedExCup standings as a PGA TOUR rookie. Later qualified for the 2024 TOUR Championship, finishing T14 in his first appearance.
- Has battled injuries throughout his career, especially in the two years after qualifying for the Korn Ferry Tour in 2016. Injuries included torn ligaments in his wrist, muscle tear in his palm, torn tendon in his elbow and torn ligaments in his forearm, as well as shoulder issues. Had a chance to win 2019 PGA TOUR Canada Player of the Year honors and played the final tournament after receiving injections in his shoulder to alleviate the pain (he finished No. 2 in the Order of Merit). Following his top-15 finish at the 2022 PLAYERS Championship as a rookie, missed four months with a fractured rib. Also struggled with calcific tendonitis in his left shoulder throughout 2023 and 2024.
- Played four seasons at Kent State University (2010-14), where he was teammates with fellow Canadians Corey Connors and Mackenzie Hughes. Pendrith and Connors alternated being named Mid-American Conference Player of the Year, with Connors taking the honor in 2012, Pendrith earning it in 2013. Pendrith and Connors were also 2014 MAC Co-Players of the Year.
- The Canadian trio of Pendrith, Corey Connors, and Mackenzie Hughes were inducted into the Kent State Athletics Hall of Fame (also known as the Varsity K Hall of Fame) in 2021. Other notable members of the Varsity K Hall of Fame include 2003 Open Championship winner Ben Curtis (inducted in 2006), former NFL wide receiver Julian Edelman (inducted 2015), four-time All-Pro First Team tight end Antonio Gates (inducted as a basketball player in 2010), and legendary football coaches Lou Holtz (inducted 1990) and Nick Saban (inducted 2015).
- Turned pro in 2014 and earned 2016 Korn Ferry Tour membership by finishing No. 3 on the 2015 PGA TOUR Canada Order of Merit. Returned to PGA TOUR Canada for three seasons (2017-2019) seasons and finished No. 2 in the 2019 Order of Merit to regain Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2020-21 season, which concluded with Pendrith earning PGA TOUR membership for the first time.

Background

- Also played hockey and baseball in high school; he was the MVP in baseball in high school and 2008 Athlete of the Year. Pendrith gave up hockey when he was 15 years old, but played baseball through high school and actually figured he'd be a college baseball pitcher / first baseman before he got serious about golf.
- First got into golf when he visited his sister, Jennifer, at Muskoka Lakes Country Club, where she worked at the time.
- Has always been long off the tee. Won the 2009 Canadian Junior Long Drive Championship with a drive of 349 yards at 18 years old.
- Alongside teammates and fellow Canadians Mackenzie Hughes and Corey Connors, Pendrith helped Kent State qualify for the 2012 NCAA Championship at Riviera Country Club, where they defeated Florida State University (led by Daniel Berger and Brooks Koepka) in a playoff

to earn the eighth and final spot in match play. Kent State fell to the Justin Thomas-led Alabama Crimson Tide in match play. Other notables in the 2012 NCAA Championship field were Patrick Cantlay (T4), Thomas (T7), Max Homa (T9), Keith Mitchell (T9), and Patrick Rodgers (T9).

- Competed as an amateur at the 2014 RBC Canadian Open, which marked his PGA TOUR debut; he was one of the longest hitters that week, including one drive that measured 365 yards. Followed it up with a 396-yard drive at the 2015 RBC Canadian Open.

Family

- Wife, Meg. The two wed in October 2021. Meg and Taylor were set up by Corey Connors and his wife, Malory; Malory and Meg are childhood friends.
- Taylor and Meg welcomed their first child (a son, Hayes) in October 2022.
- Father, Darrel (guitar technician); Mother, Jill (special needs teacher)
- Sister, Jennifer, is the superintendent at Kawartha Golf & Country Club in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada; she took over as superintendent in 2002 at age 28. Jennifer graduated from University of Guelph in Ontario, and previously served as an assistant at Muskoka Lakes Golf and Country Club in Port Carling, Ontario. Jennifer and Taylor are separated by 18 years.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Big hockey and baseball fan (Toronto Maple Leafs for NHL, Toronto Blue Jays for MLB).

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Pendrith and Corey Connors were the best man in each other's weddings; Corey and his wife, Malory, actually set up Pendrith and his wife, Meg. The families are very close, and Pendrith even spent time living with the Connors in Jupiter, Florida as he pursued PGA TOUR membership throughout the late 2010s and early 2020s. The Connors' hospitality was especially helpful for Pendrith amid the COVID-19 pandemic, which was a difficult time for international travel to Canada. On TOUR, Pendrith and Connors teamed up at the 2024 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.
- Also close with fellow Canadian and former Kent State University teammate Mackenzie Hughes. When Hughes won his first PGA TOUR title at the 2016 RSM Classic, Pendrith drove from Charleston, South Carolina (where he lived at the time) to St. Simons Island, Georgia at 3 a.m. to be there for the conclusion of the sudden-death playoff Monday morning. When Pendrith won his first PGA TOUR title at the 2024 CJ CUP Byron Nelson, Hughes greeted him with a beer shortly after the victory became official.
- Represented Canada alongside Corey Connors and Adam Svensson at the 2014 World Amateur Team Championship. Pendrith, Connors, and Svensson led Canada to a runner-up finish, as the United States team of Bryson DeChambeau, Beau Hossler, and Denny McCarthy captured the Eisenhower Trophy.
- Played in a pro-am with one of his childhood idols, Ken Griffey Jr., at the 2021 MGM Resorts Championship on the Korn Ferry Tour.
- Attended Bayview Secondary School with Epson Tour pro / former LPGA pro Rebecca Lee-Bentham.
- Good friends with Jeremy Taggart, the former drummer of Canadian band Our Lady Peace, and current best-selling author and half of the podcasting duo Taggart and Torrens.

- Played with actor Will Arnett at the 2023 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. Arnett - who was born and raised in Toronto - is also a fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs. At the tournament, Pendrith debuted a new golf bag with the Maple Leafs logo on it.
- Played under legendary head coach Herb Page for all four seasons at Kent State University (2010-14). A native of Markham, Ontario, Page became the first coach inducted into the "Builder" category of the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame, with his induction taking place during RBC Hall of Fame Day at the 2019 RBC Canadian Open. Page served as head coach for the Kent State men's golf program for 42 seasons (fall of 1977 through summer 2019) and was instrumental in the launch of the women's golf program, which played its first season in 1998-99 (Page served one season as head coach in 2012-13). Page's teams were frequently stocked with Canadians, including Pendrith (2010-14) and fellow future PGA TOUR winners Mackenzie Hughes (2008-12) and Corey Connors (2010-14). Another notable player in Page's tenure at Kent State was Ben Curtis (1996-2000), who won the 2003 Open Championship en route to 2003 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year honors. Under Page, the men's program won 23 Mid-American Conference Championships and made 17 NCAA Championship appearances.
- Prior to his coaching career, Page was a three-sport athlete at Kent State, earning eight varsity letters (four in golf, two in football, two in ice hockey) from 1970 through 1974. In football, Page was a placekicker for two famed Kent State teams -- the 1972 squad which won the program's first (and still the only) MAC Championship, and the 1973 team which won nine games (a school record until 2012). Page's teammates on the 1972 team included defensive back and future coaching icon Nick Saban, as well as Pro Football Hall of Fame linebacker Jack Lambert. Page was inducted into the Kent State Athletics Hall of Fame (also known as the Varsity K Hall of Fame) as a student-athlete in 1985, and again as a coach in 2019. Saban joined Page in the Varsity K Hall of Fame in 2015.

Patrick Cantlay

Things To Know

- Represents the Atlanta Drive GC alongside teammates Justin Thomas, Billy Horschel, and Lucas Glover 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 primetime television audiences. Atlanta Drive GC is part of Arthur M. Blank's AMB Sports and Entertainment (AMBSE) portfolio.
- Cantlay is a Player Director on the PGA TOUR Policy Board (Board of Directors). His appointment was determined by the four Player Directors in 2023.
- Winners of the 2022 Zurich Classic, Cantlay and Xander Schauffele first became friends traveling over to Australia for the 2019 Presidents Cup where they drank coffee to stay awake and played hours and hours of gin on the 23-hour flight (with the duo admitting Cantlay is the better gin player). The teamed together at the 2019 Presidents Cup where they went 2-2-0 in team matches and again at the 2020 Ryder Cup in September 2021, winning both Foursome matches when paired together. After going 2-0 through the first two rounds of the 2022 Presidents Cup at Quail Hollow, the duo was finally beaten when Tom Kim (playing with partner Si Woo Kim) drained a 10-footer for birdie on the 18th to win 1-up.
- Cantlay on his friendship with Schauffele: "One of the best things personally for me about Presidents Cup other than golf was just being able to be forced to spend time with Xander, and he's become one of my best friends through that experience. If we were at a regular tournament, there's no way I would have spent the time or gone out of my way to invest in a relationship with one of the other guys that I was playing against. But now that he's on my team and it might help me in golf to get along with this guy, I realized that I really liked him as a person and we've become great friends."
- Cantlay on his friendship with Schauffele (part 2): "He's incredibly smart, and I think he's incredibly conscientious. He is someone that probably brings out the best in me. He's more positive, and he has a way of being more light as opposed to me being serious. Yet he's very quiet and reserved, so we kind of have that bond, and yet he balances me out a little bit."
- After his win at the 2022 BMW Championship, Cantlay, who has 10 runner-ups to his eight career TOUR wins said "The thing I always remind myself of when I finish second or I'm close is Jack Nicklaus had more seconds in majors than he had wins. That stat will shock you considering he has the most majors ever. No one would ever say he couldn't close or no one would say that he wilted under pressure, and yet he had more second places than anybody else. With that being said, I think putting yourself in position is maybe the thing that you can control in golf. You can't always control what other people around you do or where you get the right bounce or the wrong bounce. But putting yourself in contention time after time after time, the bounces are going to go your way and you'll get your fair share of wins."
- Nicklaus, who holds the records for most major victories at 18, also holds the records for most runner-up finishes in majors with 19.
- From the time he won the Jack Nicklaus Award as the best collegiate player in America in 2011, Cantlay and Nicklaus have had a kinship. Nicklaus went as far to say Cantlay, and all of the other previous winners of the award, are "in many ways my children." Cantlay on Nicklaus' signature handshake awaiting players at 18 green: "It's always special coming off the 18th green and shaking his hand. We have a great connection and we are, I would say, good friends at this point, and so that makes it just a little more special. He's taken me under his

wing and to do it at his place with the advice and encouragement that he's given me over the years is very special for me."

- Conversations with Jack Nicklaus greatly assisted Patrick's confidence and strategy at the 2021 the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday. Cantlay bumped into Nicklaus inside the Muirfield grill room over lunch, offering this unsolicited advice: relax and look around and see all the people having fun, smile and have a good time with it. That's why you're here. Let's figure out how to finish this golf tournament and enjoy it." Cantlay, who's facial expression can best be described as focused, took Nicklaus' advice to heart. "I felt at ease," Cantlay said. "Having his words in my head coming down the stretch like that meant a lot."
- Jack Nicklaus has said Cantlay's play and demeanor remind of him of how he played in his 20s and 30s.

Background

- Born in Long Beach, California; grew up in Los Alamitos, California, where his parent still reside. Patrick currently lives in Jupiter, Florida.
- Got started with the game after his Grandfather - Big Pat (Pat Neylan) - put a chipping and putting green in his backyard, even though Patrick was told to go inside with the other kids and let the adults play.
- He learned to play golf at Virginia Country Club in Southern California with his lifelong coach, Jamie Mulligan (CEO of Virginia Country Club).
- Played at UCLA for two years (2010-12) and rose to No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking. Avidly supports the UCLA Bruins, even though he came from a family of USC alumni.
- Made his professional debut at the 2012 Travelers Championship, where he missed the cut, only his second missed cut in 11 TOUR starts.
- Cantlay turned pro in June of 2012 and won the 2013 Astara Golf Championship in Bogota, Colombia (second event of the 2013 season) on the Korn Ferry Tour. Later suffered a back injury while warming up prior to the second round at the 2013 Charles Schwab Challenge, where he was playing as a sponsor exemption. Played just seven holes in the second round before withdrawing. During the next three years, he played a total of nine tournaments while trying to resolve what eventually was diagnosed as a stress fracture in his L5 vertebrae.

Family

- Married Nikki Guidish in October 2023 at The St. Regis Rome following the 2023 Ryder Cup. Nikki and Patrick got engaged after the 2021-22 PGA TOUR season (September 2022) in Napa, California while on vacation with close friends Xander and Maya Schauffele.
- Father - Steve, Mother - Colleen, Three younger siblings - Caroline, Nick and Jack -- all play golf competitively. Because of their age differences and varying schedules, it's rare when all four play together. Nick, a former player at Loyola Marymount and Long Beach State, plays professionally, while Caroline, was the 2017-18 Big West Conference Freshman of the Year for Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and the 2019 Southern California Golf Association Match Play champion.
- In July 2022, Cantlay's 18-year-old brother, Jack, set a USGA record for the lowest nine-hole score in U.S. Junior Amateur history. Playing at Bandon Dunes, the incoming freshman at Long Beach State opened the 36-hole stroke-play portion of the U.S. Junior Amateur with a 5-under 67 that included a final-nine, 8-under 28, breaking the previous record of 29 held by Eric Bae (2014) and Yuri Moriyama (2018). Highlights included a 45-foot eagle putt at the

par-5 third hole and a final birdie on the par-5 ninth with a chip-in eagle from 30 yards. Jack was eliminated in the Round of 16.

- Jack (brother) was eight when Patrick lost to Kelly Kraft in the 2011 U.S. Amateur final at Erin Hills. "Ever since I saw what Patrick did as an amateur and then as a pro, [I knew] this is what I want to do for a living," said Jack. "I want to be on the PGA TOUR."

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Highly intelligent and a lifelong learner. He is an avid reader, especially of biographies.
- Classic rock is his preferred music choice.
- Film enthusiast; favorite director is Quentin Tarantino and enjoys the Lord of the Rings books and movies.

Charity

- The Patrick Cantlay Foundation partners with initiatives that support the game of junior golf as well as programs assisting and advocating on behalf of first-responders. In Summer of 2021, launched a two-year partnership with the Southern California PGA and the SCPGA Junior Tour for the "Patrick Cantlay Series," a series of four elite junior events on the SCPGA Junior Tour, where Cantlay played during his formative years.
- In April 2025, Folds of Honor announced a partnership with Cantlay, and his caddie, Joe LaCava, to establish three Folds of Honor scholarships. The scholarships will be given to qualified recipients from first responder families in the name of Patrick Cantlay and Joe LaCava: one scholarship will be awarded to a first responder family in California where Patrick grew up, a second to a family in Connecticut, where Joe resides, and the final to a family in New York.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Friends with Danny Wagner – drummer for American rock band Greta Van Fleet.
- Good friends with Fred Couples. The pair grew close as Couples spent time in Newport Beach and they played a ton of golf together. During team events, Couples has spent time practicing and mentoring Cantlay.

Other

- In March 2011 he became the top-ranked amateur in the world and held that spot for 54 weeks (55 total).
- Low Amateur at the 2011 U.S. Open and 2012 Masters. Was the low amateur at the 2012 Masters. Players to win low amateur and go on to win the Masters include Cary Middlecoff, Jack Nicklaus, Ben Crenshaw, Phil Mickelson, Tiger Woods, Sergio Garcia and Hideki Matsuyama.
- Named winner of the Fred Haskins Award, the Phil Mickelson Award, the Ben Hogan Award, the Mark McCormack Medal and the Jack Nicklaus Award—all by the end of his sophomore year at UCLA.
- On Wednesday night of the 2022 Masters, was honored by the Golf Writers Association of America (GWAA) as the recipient of the 2020 Ben Hogan Award. Due to COVID, the annual awards ceremony was postponed until 2022. The Ben Hogan Award is given to a player who has overcome a physical handicap or serious injury to remain active in golf. After spending

more than a year as the No. 1 ranked amateur, his professional career stalled for more than three years due to a back injury. He reached the 2017 TOUR Championship without full status on the PGA TOUR and won the 2017 Shriners Children's Open, his first of six PGA TOUR wins. The Ben Hogan Award was first given to Babe Zaharias in 1954, and was most recently awarded to Tiger Woods in 2019.

- Made his second PGA TOUR start (first non-major) at the 2011 Travelers Championship where he recorded a second-round 60, the lowest round on TOUR by an amateur. Played the first two rounds with Billy Horschel and Sung Kang, with the group playing all 36 holes on Friday due to weather that suspended play on Thursday at 11:28 a.m. Took a one-stroke lead into the weekend, before finishing T24.
- On the round of 60 in second TOUR start: "Yeah, it was huge. It was, I had played the U.S. Open the week before and so it was my first TOUR event that wasn't a U.S. Open and so I was really excited about it, just because it was so new and exciting. That day was the -- it was Friday, but I played 36 holes. They had a bunch of rain on Thursday. So it was kind of good that I got my nerves out of the way the first 18 holes. And I was out there all day and really got in the zone the second 18 and kind of went unconscious and everything went my way. Made a bunch of putts. It was one of the most fun rounds of golf I've ever played."
- First went to St. Andrews at age 12 with his grandfather and again later ahead of the 2011 Walker Cup where his teammates included Jordan Spieth, Harris English and Russell Henley. On his trip with his grandfather (Pat Neylan), "I remember the Old Course being really windy the day we played and not having played in wind like that before. I remember being surprised at how undefined the lines were. Getting on a tee and not knowing which direction to go. Most of the golf I had played was very park land up and to that point."
- Became the first player in history to successfully defend a FedExCup Playoffs event, winning the BMW Championship two years in a row (2021/Caves Valley, 2022/Wilmington Country Club).

Sepp Straka

Things To Know

- Earned his fourth PGA TOUR title (and second win of the 2025 season) at the 2025 Truist Championship, contested at The Philadelphia Cricket Club. Straka's win in Philadelphia -- which he referred to as the biggest win in his career -- came roughly four months after his third career TOUR title at the 2025 American Express. Straka's victory also vaulted him into the top 10 of the Official World Golf Ranking for the first time in his career.
- Proud to have made the TOUR Championship in each of the last three seasons, in part because of the tournament's partnership with Coca Cola. Will bring Diet Coke to tournaments if he knows they will only provide Pepsi. After Sepp lost in a playoff to Will Zalatoris at the 2022 FedEx St. Jude Championship, his wife, Paige, joked on Instagram, "I'm not saying he would have won if this were a Coke week, but I'm also not NOT saying it."
- Earned his first PGA TOUR title at the 2022 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, becoming the first Austrian and the 14th player from the University of Georgia to win on TOUR. Wife, Paige, flew in Sunday morning at 5:30 a.m. to surprise him, after spending Saturday night at her father's surprise 60th birthday party.
- Was born in Austria and lived in Vienna until he was 14, when his family moved to Valdosta, Georgia. Upon earning PGA TOUR membership via the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour season, became the first TOUR member from Austria.
- Played five seasons (2011-16 -- redshirted the 2013-14 season) at the University of Georgia, and remains a huge Georgia Bulldogs fan. Sepp, who was a team co-captain as a fifth-year senior, says of his time at Georgia, "I definitely had some talent... but very rough around the edges. I just felt like I kept getting better. Had a quick bout with the chipping yips my junior year and redshirted, but other than that, I felt like I just kept getting better."
- Was so discouraged by his rough start to the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour season that by July, he had already registered for Q-School again. He won the following week at the AdventHealth Championship, and eventually secured his PGA TOUR card through Korn Ferry Tour Finals with a T3 finish at the season-ending Korn Ferry Tour Championship.
- Often plays Yahtzee! with the players he is staying with on the road, including Chris Kirk, Brendon Todd and Denny McCarthy.

Background

- Sepp is a nickname for Josef.

Family

- Sepp and his wife, Paige, welcomed their first child (son, Leo) just before Christmas in December 2023. Sepp left the hospital wearing a Diet Coke hat. The 2024 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, which Sepp won in 2022, was Leo's first trip to a tournament.
- Married Paige Dean (an Auburn graduate) the weekend before the start of the new season. The couple got engaged in December 2020 and were married on September 11, 2021 at Shoal Creek in Alabama. Georgia friends in attendance included UGA head men's golf coach Chris Haack, Keith Mitchell and Chris Kirk. Paige was certain she'd marry an Auburn man, but met Sepp at a bar in Auburn in November 2017 only to learn he was a UGA fan and the rest was history!

- His mother, Mary, first traveled to Austria to be with her boyfriend, who was designing a golf course in Salzburg. After they broke up, Mary remained in the country and began working in a golf shop, where she one day sold a glove to Peter, Sepp's father.
- Credits brother, Sam, with getting him into golf, despite both parents being big fans of the sport. Both boys grew up playing soccer (Sam was a forward and Sepp a goalie), but one day, after they attended a week-long junior golf camp, Sam told Sepp they were quitting the soccer team and picking up golf. The twins went on to play at the University of Georgia together, though Sam was the more heavily recruited player of the two. Sam currently sells real estate in Valdosta.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Grew up watching elite Austrian alpine ski racing, with two-time 1998 Olympics gold medalist Hermann Maier being his favorite. His mother's favorite was 1976 Olympics gold medalist Franz Klammer, who was also a talented golfer. Straka is also quick to say, "I was not a very talented skier. I grew up in Vienna, so not a whole lot of skiing there."

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Teammates at University of Georgia included his twin brother, Sam (who was actually more heavily recruited than Sepp), PGA TOUR winner Keith Mitchell, Joey Garber and Greyson Sigg.
- Shane Lowry is one of his favorite players to play with on TOUR. Sepp says of Lowry, "He's a fiery competitor but a really good friend as well."

Other

- Represented Austria at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo and finished T10. PGA TOUR member Matthias Schwab was also a member of Team Austria (T27). Sepp finished T35 in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Si Woo Kim

Things To Know

- Resides in Dallas, Texas, where he practices out of Royal Oaks Country Club (joined in early 2024). Will occasionally play with Scottie Scheffler, a longtime Royal Oaks member. Rotates between Royal Oaks, The Nelson Golf & Sports Club, and TPC Las Colinas (with the latter two clubs both being in nearby Irving, Texas) for practice at home.
- Everything in Si Woo's game came from his father, Du Ryu Kim, who was his first swing coach. Si Woo's father maintained a single-digit handicap and encouraged Si Woo to go to the range with him as a kid.
- Has made an effort to reduce his caffeine intake over the last couple years. Previously drank three cups of coffee before 1 p.m., which he would then follow with three or four Red Bulls between 1-9 p.m. Si Woo now tries to limit himself to two coffees and two Red Bulls per day. Says that even with his previous caffeine consumption routine, did not have any issues sleeping.
- Rewarded himself with a new car -- a Porsche Taycan -- after his victory at the 2021 American Express, his third PGA TOUR win. Si Woo previously bought a car after his 2017 PLAYERS Championship victory, and he decided he would only purchase another car once he earned his third TOUR title.
- Was named as one of six captain's picks for the International Team by Mike Weir for the 2024 Presidents Cup in Montreal, Canada, marking his third appearance in the competition. Previously a captain's selection of Trevor Immelman at the 2022 Presidents Cup at Quail Hollow Club. Debuted for the International Team at the 2017 Presidents Cup at Liberty National; he was 22 years old upon his debut, and the youngest player on the International Team in 2017.
- Won 2017 PLAYERS Championship at the age of 21 years, 10 months, 16 days, usurping Adam Scott (23 years, 8 months, 12 days in 2004) as the youngest winner in PLAYERS history. Si Woo also followed K.J. Choi (2011) as the second PLAYERS champion from South Korea.
- Coupled with his first career PGA TOUR win at the 2016 Wyndham Championship, Si Woo's victory at the 2017 PLAYERS Championship made him the first Asian player in PGA TOUR history to win twice before the age of 22.
- The morning after his 2017 PLAYERS Championship victory, had a middle seat in coach class for his flight home. Si Woo had a flight booked for Sunday night -- which he missed as a result of his win -- and wanted to get home early Monday, so he rebooked on another airline and wound up with the middle seat. Si Woo even posed for a photo with his aisle mate for the flight, which gained traction on social media and garnered headlines from national golf news outlets.
- Known for his driver off the deck shot, and Si Woo has noted it's a shot he's comfortable with. En route to his historic victory at the 2017 PLAYERS Championship, Si Woo hit a driver off the deck out of the rough from 268 yards out on the par-4 14th in the third round; he miraculously got the ball to stop on the green. Four years later at the 2021 American Express, he hit driver off the deck on the par-5 11th hole and made birdie en route to a one-shot win over Patrick Cantlay.
- Qualified for PGA TOUR membership at 17 years, 5 months, 6 days of age with a T20 finish at 2012 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry (contested at PGA West on the Nicklaus and Stadium courses); he was the youngest player to graduate from PGA TOUR Q-School, though he could not become a full PGA TOUR member until his 18th birthday in June 2013.

- Won the gold medal for Korea in the team competition at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China by 25 strokes alongside Sungjae Im and amateur partners Yu Bin Jang and Woo Young Cho. Finished fourth in the individual category. NOTE: WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL EXEMPTS SUNGJAE AND SI WOO FROM MANDATORY 21-MONTH MILITARY SERVICE, BUT PLEASE DO NOT VOLUNTARILY SPEAK ABOUT THIS ON TOUR CHANNELS.
- NOTE TO MEDIA OFFICIALS, BROADCAST ANNOUNCERS: Please do not voluntarily discuss the military exemption. If asked by the media, the following messaging has been agreed with Si Woo's agent. Q: Was it a relief for you to earn exemption from Military Service with the gold medal in Asian Games? A: I was focused on the opportunity to represent my country and helping the team win the gold medal. I was really happy to contribute to the win in China as we have not won the team gold since 2010. This will allow me to focus on my golf career on the PGA TOUR and I hope I can continue to inspire young Korean golfers to succeed in the game. Q: But are you happy you don't have to do Military Service now? A: I think I'm now able to focus even more on my golf career. Should there be follow up questions from media, our Media Officials will need to step in to say the player has already answered on the matter, and request to move on to other golf questions.

Background

- Made it a goal to make it to the PGA TOUR when he was eight years old, with two primary sources of inspiration being Tiger Woods and K.J. Choi.
- Won the Korean Junior Championship four years in a row, and made the South Korean National Team when he was 16 years old.
- Helped South Korea finish T3 at the 2012 World Amateur Team Championship (Eisenhower Trophy) just over three months after his 17th birthday. A United States team headlined by Justin Thomas won the team title.
- Joined the PGA TOUR as a member late in the 2013 season after his 18th birthday (June 28th, 2013). Made his first TOUR start as a member at the 2013 Greenbrier Classic and closed the season with six consecutive missed cuts, sending him back to Q-School. Earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2014 season, and earned PGA TOUR membership via the 2015 Korn Ferry Tour season, which saw him earn a victory at the 2015 Stonebrae Classic at TPC Stonebrae -- which, at the time, made him the second-youngest winner in Korn Ferry Tour history (20 years, 0 0 months, 21 days), only behind Jason Day (19 years, 7 months, 26 days at 2007 Legend Financial Group Classic).
- Earned PGA TOUR membership upon conclusion of the 2015 Korn Ferry Tour season, as he became the second-youngest graduate in Korn Ferry Tour history, accomplishing the feat at 20 years, 3 months, 6 days of age. Only Jason Day (19 years, 11 months, 23 days in 2007) was younger upon graduating from the Korn Ferry Tour.

Family

- Si Woo and his wife, Ji Hyun, welcomed their first child -- son, Theo (TAY-oh) in February 2024.
- Si Woo married Ji Hyun Oh, a seven-time winner on the Korean LPGA Tour, on December 18, 2022 in Seoul. Si Woo won the 2023 Sony Open in Hawaii -- his fourth PGA TOUR title -- just under a month after the wedding, with Ji Hyun on site to celebrate the victory. Ji Hyun has since retired from professional golf, though it is a running joke between the two of them that she has more wins than Si Woo.

- Si Woo says of he and his wife's relationship: "We can understand each other by knowing what part of stress and pressure are, and what parts to respect each other well. I think it's comfortable because we understand each other when it comes to golf."
- Mother: Hyun Joo Park; Father: Du Ryu Kim.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Owns two small dogs named Star and Sky.
- Favorite sports team is Manchester United (soccer/football). Occasionally attends Dallas Mavericks home games (NBA basketball).
- Enjoys playing Call of Duty (gamer) and travels with his Playstation.
- Has a small collection of luxury watches.
- Loves chocolate, especially chocolate cookies or chocolate ice cream. He usually picks chocolate ice cream. Loves the Belgian chocolate shake at Haagen-Dazs.
- Eats Korean ramen/soup a lot. Loves tofu and kimchi ramen/soup as well as pork belly ramen/soup.

Charity

- Si Woo donated \$90,000 to the Korean National Golf Team in December 2017; a youth program designed to get more Korean kids into the game of golf. It was this program that helped Si Woo flourish as a golfer, and he finds it important to continue to support its success. He doesn't like to boast about his charitable efforts and would rather not receive media attention about it.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Grew up playing junior golf with Sungjae Im. The two played the practice rounds of the 2018 PGA Championship and 2018 U.S. Open together, when Sungjae was still in his rookie season on the Korn Ferry Tour. In their early years together on the PGA TOUR (late 2010s, early 2020s), Si Woo often gave Sungjae advice about life on TOUR and how to practice his game. The two also represented Korea together at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, and later led Korea to a team gold medal at the 2023 Asian Games.
- Close friends with Tom Kim, who stayed with Si Woo occasionally in Dallas during his early forays to the U.S. The two also partnered for a victory over Patrick Cantlay and Xander Schauffele at the 2022 Presidents Cup, and teamed up for the 2023 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.
- Very close with other CJ Group players such as Byeong Hun An, Whee Kim, and Sung Kang. Sung calls the group the "Korean Brothers". Si Woo and Byeong Hun An represented Korea together at the 2018 World Cup of Golf in Australia.

Other

- Made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2013 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, playing the event via a sponsor exemption. Other notable sponsor exemptions that week were Patrick Cantlay (finished T9) and Jordan Spieth (finished T22).

Bud Cauley

Things To Know

- Legal name is William Carl Cauley III, but goes by Bud.
- Completed his major medical extension and earned fully exempt status for the remainder of the 2025 PGA TOUR season with a T6 finish at the 2025 PLAYERS Championship. Cauley, who entered the final round one stroke behind 54-hole leader J.J. Spaun, said of the finish, "I don't look at it so much as an accomplishment, but it's just like a step forward. I've always believed I can compete with the best guys in the world, and I should be hopefully winning tournaments and playing on Presidents Cups teams and Ryder Cup teams. That's always been my dream, and I still believe I can do that. This helps a lot. I have a lot more confidence leaving here than what I showed up with."
- On the evening of Friday, June 1, 2018 -- after missing the cut at the Memorial Tournament -
- Cauley was a back seat passenger in a horrific single-car accident in a residential community near Muirfield Village Golf Club. According to the incident report, the car went off the right side of the road, hit a culvert and went airborne before striking a large tree, then two other trees before it came to rest in a ditch. Cauley sustained significant injuries, as he had six broken ribs, a collapsed lung, a fracture in his left leg, and a concussion. Monday morning following the accident, Cauley released a statement which said, "Friday was the scariest night of my life, but I'm so thankful to be alive and only have the injuries I have." Upon returning to golf in October 2018, Cauley recalled, "It was really scary, first waking up. First in your mind is your quality of life going forward. And then I thought about... golf, and was I going to be able to play again and play the same way. All those things I worried about for a while."
- While in the hospital, Cauley had surgery to attach titanium plates to four of his broken ribs (in order to stabilize them), and doctors used tubes to drain fluid from his chest and re-inflate his lung. The broken bone in his leg simply healed with rest. Cauley spent the next several weeks recovering at his parents' house in Tennessee. Cauley recalled, "I just sat in the back seat surrounded by pillows for the drive. And then once I got to their house, they have a recliner in their living room, so I just put some more pillows in there, got a blanket and sat in the recliner. It was about as uncomfortable and as much pain as I've ever felt."
- All things considered, it appeared as though Cauley made a quick recovery, as he returned to golf in October 2018 at the Procore Championship. Cauley qualified for the FedExCup Playoffs in both 2019 and 2020. However, in late 2020, complications arose with regards to the six broken ribs Cauley sustained in the accident, which led to more surgeries and significant time away from professional golf. As Cauley recalled, "Out of the blue, my side started to hurt again. I went and saw a couple doctors... went to go have the (titanium) plates removed, and they couldn't get them out because the bone had grown on top of the plates. (Doctors) stitched me back up, said, 'I think we'll be okay, we took a little scar tissue out, you'll be fine.' Then like 12 days later, my incision popped open. Had to go back to the emergency room.... had a couple more surgeries that didn't heal very well, and it was just a whole mess. I had seroma, got C-diff from all the antibiotics. Everything that could go wrong seemed to go wrong."
- Cauley went three years and four months (a total of 1,217 days) between his T14 finish at the 2020 Procore Championship (September 13) and the first round of the 2024 The Bahamas Golf Classic (January 13) on the Korn Ferry Tour, which marked his return to professional golf. Cauley returned to the PGA TOUR roughly a month later at the 2024 WM Phoenix Open, where he made the cut and finished solo 65th.

Background

- Born in Daytona Beach, Florida. Also lived in Cuba (doesn't remember much since he was about 4 or 5 years old when the family left the island) and Guam (moved to the U.S. territory when he was about 10 years old, left in his early teens) before the family settled in Jacksonville, Florida, as his father, Bill, was stationed at Naval Station Mayport and Naval Air Station Jacksonville.
- After moving to Jacksonville, Florida in his teenage years, honed his game at Windsor Parke Golf Club; his family actually moved near the course around the time Bud was 15 years old, which enabled him to walk there and spend hours upon hours playing and practicing.
- Did not attend high school/play for a high school team as he was home-schooled by his mother Melba, who worked as a reading coach at an elementary school.
- Earned co-medalist honors at the 2008 Toyota Junior World Cup in Japan. Future PGA TOUR winner Cody Gribble was also a member of the United States team with Cauley.
- Played three seasons at University of Alabama (2008-11), where he earned four collegiate victories and became the first player in program history to earn three All-America First Team selections. Cauley was also named the 2009 Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year. Cauley broke school records for single-season scoring average (70.75 as a junior in 2010-11) and career scoring average (71.36), with the latter record previously belonging to multi-time PGA TOUR winner Michael Thompson (71.66 from 2006-08). A year after Cauley's departure from the program, Justin Thomas broke the single-season scoring average record as a freshman (70.73 in 2011-12), and broke Cauley's career scoring average record (70.73 from 2011-13) prior to turning professional in 2013.
- Cauley's four collegiate victories tied eight-time PGA TOUR winner and 1982 PLAYERS Championship winner Jerry Pate (1971-75) for the second-most wins in Alabama history. At the time, the school record of five career wins was held by three-time PGA TOUR winner Steve Lowery. Two years after Cauley's departure from the program, Justin Thomas broke Lowery's record with six career wins.
- In March 2011, amid his junior season at Alabama, announced he would forgo his senior season and turn professional in the summer. Cauley said, "It was a very difficult decision. I love it here at Alabama, but I think the time is right for me. My dream has always been to play pro golf. I thought about it last year, but decided my game was not ready. Now I feel it is, and it's time to take that next step." Cauley later qualified for the 2011 U.S. Open and turned professional prior to the start of the event.
- Made his professional debut at the 2011 U.S. Open at Congressional Country Club and eventually earned enough money in eight PGA TOUR starts to secure TOUR membership for the 2012 season. Notable finishes which propelled him to TOUR membership were a T4 at the Sanderson Farms Championship, and a solo-third at the Procore Championship. At that time, followed Gary Hallberg, Scott Verplank, Phil Mickelson, Justin Leonard, Tiger Woods and Ryan Moore as the seventh player who earned PGA TOUR membership straight from college without having to go through PGA TOUR Q-School.
- Following a No. 143 finish in the 2013-14 FedExCup standings, won the 2014 Hotel Fitness Championship (by one stroke over runner-up Colt Knost) in the Korn Ferry Tour Finals to improve his PGA TOUR status for the next season. Cauley won the event as he played through a left shoulder injury (torn labrum) he sustained in July 2014 while on TOUR. In September 2014, less than a month after his Korn Ferry Tour win, had surgery to repair the injury and was sidelined from professional golf until November 2015. [NOTE: beginning with 2023, the Korn Ferry Tour Finals became an extension of the season-long point race and ceased to be a mechanism for awarding a separate set of PGA TOUR cards.]

Family

- Bud and his wife, Kristi, wed in October 2021; they have two sons -- Cooper (November 2022) and Miles (January 2025).
- Bud says affectionately of the impact of fatherhood, "I thought the car accident was life altering, and then we had a couple kids and that was really life altering. It makes you appreciate things a lot more, and, as far as even my golf goes, it does put that in perspective. When I do have bad days, it's not the end of the world. Just come out and try again tomorrow."
- Father, Bill, and grandfather, Billy, were both divers in the United States Navy. Bud's father retired in 2010 after 20 years of service.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Rumored to be a talented cornhole player.

Charity

- Previously contributed to military-related charitable causes, supporting Birdies for the Brave and meeting with members of the Wounded Warrior Project. Cauley comes from a military family, as his father and grandfather were both divers in the United States Navy. Cauley says of his desire to give back to veterans, "Growing up in the military was a big influence on me -- not only how much the people in the military sacrifice, but the family. I always knew that if I had the opportunity to be able to help people in the military in any capacity, it was something I wanted to do."

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Close friends with fellow Alabama alum Justin Thomas. The two were in each other's weddings, with Thomas serving as Cauley's best man. The two also lived together for several years in Jupiter, Florida as young professionals. One of their most prized possessions (and significant source of competition) at the house was a pool table with crimson-colored felt and an Alabama logo. Thomas says of Cauley, "Bud's one of my favorite people in the world."
- Cauley and Thomas were NOT teammates at Alabama, as Thomas joined the Crimson Tide as a freshman shortly after Cauley forewent his senior season and turned professional in summer 2011. The two did meet on one of Thomas' recruiting visits to Alabama, but they did not truly connect until they were both professionals. Thomas recalled in a 2017 interview, "I always looked up to him a little bit. He was the first person I reached out to once I got on TOUR. We started playing together, hanging out more. He's kind of become one of my best friends."
- The night of Cauley's accident, Thomas spent much of the night and subsequent early morning with Cauley in the hospital. Thomas recalls, "That was probably one of the hardest nights I've ever had in my life."
- Represented the United States at the 2009 Walker Cup at Merion Golf Club. Teammates on the victorious United States team included multi-time PGA TOUR winners Rickie Fowler and Brian Harman. Cauley and Fowler were paired together in both foursomes sessions and won both matches.
- Defeated Rickie Fowler in the Round of 64 at the 2009 U.S. Amateur Championship, contested at Southern Hills Country Club. Cauley fell to David Lingmerth in the Round of 32.
- Represented the United States at the 2006 Junior Ryder Cup. Teammates included multi-time PGA TOUR winner Tony Finau.

Other

- Cauley's father, Bill Cauley used to write "Be Humble, Bud" on the inside of his son's baseball caps. It's a lesson Bud took to heart, never allowing himself to take success for granted.
- Made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2010 RBC Heritage while still an amateur. Cauley gained entry to the event via his victory at the 2009 Players Amateur, an amateur event organized by the Heritage Classic Foundation from 2000 through 2019. Other winners of the Players Amateur included Ben Curtis (2000), Bill Haas (2002), Camilo Villegas (2003), Brian Harman (2005), and Rickie Fowler (2007).
- Finished T3 at the inaugural Junior PLAYERS Championship -- which was won by Morgan Hoffmann -- in 2007. At the 2012 PLAYERS Championship, Cauley became the first player to have competed in both the Junior PLAYERS and THE PLAYERS Championship.

Collin Morikawa

Things To Know

- One of eight PGA TOUR players featured in the latest release of the popular video game, PGA TOUR 2K25 and his second straight appearance in the game.
- Competed at the Paris 2024 Olympics for Team USA , his second consecutive Olympics after competing at Tokyo 2020, where he fell in a seven-man playoff for the bronze medal. Morikawa was one of four Americans to qualify in 2024, joining Scottie Scheffler, Xander Schauffele and Wyndham Clark.
- Captured the 2023 Baycurrent Classic in Japan for his sixth PGA TOUR title and first worldwide victory since the 2021 DP World Tour Championship. Morikawa's six-stroke come-from-behind victory held special meaning due to his father's Japanese heritage. "I knew at the beginning of the week that the fans out here are obviously rooting for the Japanese players, but I like to count myself as a part Japanese player in that, so I felt the love."
- Among his PGA TOUR titles are major championship victories at the 2020 PGA Championship, contested at TPC Harding Park in San Francisco, California, and the 2021 Open Championship at Royal St. George's Golf Club. Won both titles in his tournament debut. At 23 years old, became the third-youngest PGA Championship winner since World War II (only behind Jack Nicklaus and Rory McIlroy). Also followed Tiger Woods as the second player to win both the PGA Championship and The Open Championship prior to turning 25 years old.
- Earned his first PGA TOUR win as a Special Temporary Member at the 2019 Barracuda Championship in what was his eighth career PGA TOUR start.
- As a little kid, his dream was to throw out the first pitch at a Los Angeles Dodgers game. On September 3, 2019, his wish came true, as he threw out the first pitch and called it one of the "most memorable moments in my life."
- Represents the Los Angeles Golf Club alongside teammates Sahith Theegala, Tommy Fleetwood and Justin Rose in TGL presented by SoFi, a primetime golf league in partnership with the PGA TOUR that will begin 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.

Background

- Grew up in La Canada (tilde over the "n"), California, located 30 miles northeast of Riviera Country Club, host of The Genesis Invitational. Moved to Las Vegas in 2019 and plays regularly at The Summit Club, which hosted THE CJ CUP in 2021.
- Growing up, practiced at the nine-hole Chevy Chase Country Club in Glendale, California. Never let himself hit off mats to avoid giving himself a flat lie.
- Played basketball and baseball growing up. Knew golf was what he wanted to do, so quit other sports around 11 or 12. Baseball was the toughest sport to say goodbye to.
- Won the 2013 Western Junior Championship -- the oldest national junior tournament in the United States. Past champions of the event include Jim Furyk (1987) and Rickie Fowler (2005).

- Played four seasons at Cal (2015-19), where he was a four-time All-American with first-team honors each of his final three seasons (2017, 2018, 2019). Named the 2018-19 Pac-12 Conference Player of the Year, following Michael Kim (2013) as the second player in program history to earn the award. Also named the 2015-16 Pac-12 Conference Freshman of the Year. Earned five individual victories (and lost playoffs on two other occasions) at Cal, with the crown jewel being medalist honors at the 2019 Pac-12 Championship, where he became the fourth Cal player to win the individual conference title (Max Homa/2013, Eric Mina/2010, Charlie Wi/1995).
- Between his freshman and sophomore seasons at Cal, nearly won his first start in a professional tournament -- the 2016 Wichita Open on the Korn Ferry Tour -- but fell to J.J. Spaun and eventual champion Ollie Schniederjans in a playoff. Morikawa earned a sponsor exemption for the Korn Ferry Tour event by virtue of his victory at the 2015 Trans-Mississippi Amateur Championship, which was contested in nearby Andover, Kansas. At the 2016 Wichita Open, Morikawa made the cut on the number, carded back-to-back 63s on the weekend, and forced a playoff as he played the final five holes of regulation in 5-under par (eagle-birdie-birdie-par-birdie). Despite his near miss, Morikawa remained patient and stayed at Cal for all four years, eventually earning his degree prior to turning professional in 2019.
- Morikawa later reflected on how winning the 2016 Wichita Open could have changed his career trajectory, "I don't know," Morikawa said of whether he would have turned professional with a win. "100 percent would not have been ready. But it's hard to say no if you win as an amateur. It all worked out."
- Notable amateur victories included the 2015 Trans-Mississippi Amateur Championship, 2016 Sunnehanna Amateur, 2017 Northeast Amateur Invitational. Past champions of the Trans-Mississippi Amateur Championship include Jack Nicklaus (1958, 1959), former PGA TOUR commissioner Deane Beaman (1960), Ben Crenshaw (1972), Gary Koch (1973), Bryson DeChambeau (2013), Will Zalatoris (2014, 2016), and Cameron Champ (2017).
- Even after a strong junior season at Cal, which saw him rise to No. 1 and spend three weeks atop the World Amateur Golf Ranking in May 2018, in addition to breaking the NCAA's all-time single-season scoring average record (68.68), Morikawa never truly considered turning professional at that time, saying, "One of my goals was to finish college, and I had one more year. I used that senior year to get as prepared as I could for when I turned pro, and I thought I had one of the easiest transitions turning pro that summer of 2019. Nothing surprised me from any direction when I was out there (on TOUR)."
- Graduated from University of California-Berkeley in May of 2019 with a bachelor's degree in business administration from the Haas School of Business, which ranked third on the 2020 U.S. News and World Report for Best Undergraduate Business Programs. On September 27, 2021, Cal announced the creation of two endowed scholarships to honor the legacies of Morikawa and Max Homa and their contributions to the Cal men's golf program. "I owe a lot to Cal golf. It was a huge four years of my life that I would never trade in for anything."

Family

- Parents are Blaine and Debbie. Blaine is Japanese-American from Hawaii and Debbie is Chinese-American from California. Qualifying for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics was incredibly special for Collin given his father's heritage.
- Collin's heritage on his father's side is Japanese, and also distinctly Hawaiian. His great grandparents emigrated from Japan to Hawaii, which Collin considers to be a second home. His grandparents and uncle were born in Lahaina (father, Blaine, was born in Los Angeles), which was almost all destroyed in the devastating fires in August 2023. The family owned a restaurant, "Morikawas," which was sold before Collin was born. A lot of his family is in Oahu, with some still in Maui.

- Wife, Katherine "Kat" Zhu (shoo), played collegiate golf at Pepperdine. The two were married on November 26, 2022. They met and started dating through one of Collin's teammates while in college (Collin at Cal; Kat at Pepperdine). After graduating from Pepperdine, Zhu played on the China LPGA but eventually decided it would be too tough for the couple to play on separate tours on opposite sides of the world. She travels with him and he credits her for helping him handle his quick rise. Collin didn't start winning college events until he and Kat started dating. "It's been pretty good since, I'd have to say."
- Collin and Kat got engaged on Nov. 30, 2021 in The Bahamas prior to the Hero World Challenge after dating for five years. The two took a boat ride around Nassau and stopped at a beach Collin had researched. He wanted to propose on the beach because he was worried about dropping the ring in the water. "I had never been so nervous as I was before proposing. We didn't get into The Bahamas until about midnight Monday (into Tuesday). I got out to the course early Tuesday to practice. I was driving the cart and was close to running into ropes...I was not only tired, but was kind of freaking out, too. Even though I believed she was going to say 'Yes,' it's a one-time opportunity and I wanted to make it really special. So, yes, I was really nervous."
- Collin and Katherine have their own dog, a Goldendoodle named Koa, who shows up frequently on Collin's Instagram page.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Loves cereal, specifically Cinnamon Toast Crunch. He created significant debate after stating he pours the milk before the cereal.
- Has breakfast foods stamped on his wedges [Eggs Benedict, Sourdough Toast, Bacon, Hash Browns, Avocado among them]
- The one thing he always buys at the grocery store - oat milk or oat milk ice cream.
- Big foodie and loves sushi; enjoys eating food at some of the popular local spots on TOUR. Says the New Orleans cuisine has grown on him throughout his years on TOUR, and notes Shaya Restaurant -- an award-winning contemporary Mediterranean restaurant -- is one of his favorite places to eat on TOUR.
- Loves sports and is a fan of the Los Angeles Lakers (NBA basketball) and Dodgers (MLB baseball). Enjoys watching basketball the more than other sports. Through his rise on the global golf scene, developed relationships with six-time NBA All-Star and former Lakers power forward Pau Gasol, as well as Lakers head coach JJ Redick.
- Grew up as a big fan of the Reggie Bush-led college football teams at University of Southern California since his mother, Debbie, went to USC.
- Very athletic and plays several sports outside of golf, but says he is a terrible ice skater.
- Huge fan of Post Malone and would love to go to one of his concerts.

Charity

- Made financial donations during the 2023 FedExCup Playoffs for those affected by the Maui fires and will donate \$2000 for every birdie and \$4000 for every eagle made at The Sentry to local Hawaii charities (and matched by Collin's sponsor, adidas).
- Wife, Kat, trained and participated in the 2024 New York City marathon. She ran as a "St. Jude Hero," raising money for St. Jude in support of childhood cancer. In total, Kat raised more than \$30,000 with the greater TOUR community making donations. St. Jude is the sole beneficiary of the FedEx St. Jude Championship, the first of three FedExCup Playoffs events.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- While at home in Las Vegas, plays with fellow PGA TOUR member Kurt Kitayama and 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year Justin Suh. Morikawa says he and Kitayama play "pretty much every day we're home, not just against each other, with each other." Morikawa and Kitayama were teammates at the 2024 and 2025 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.
- Also when at home in Las Vegas, will often play the popular video game Call of Duty with fellow PGA TOUR winners Kurt Kitayama and Min Woo Lee. Their attempts to get Tiger Woods to play online with them have thus far been unsuccessful.
- Had dinner with Justin Thomas ahead of his professional debut at the 2019 RBC Canadian Open to ask about how to handle life on TOUR. Almost a year later, the two squared off in a playoff at the 2020 Workday Charity Open, with Morikawa earning the victory.
- Fell to PGA TOUR winner Kevin Yu in the Round of 16 at the 2017 U.S. Amateur Championship, contested at The Riviera Country Club, host of The Genesis Invitational on TOUR.

Other

- When referring to Collin's college career it's "California" or "Cal" and the University is "UC Berkeley" - but it's never "Cal-Berkeley".
- Finished T5 at the 2013 Junior PLAYERS Championship, a premier AJGA event contested at TPC Sawgrass.

