

Report (11 players)

Nick Taylor

Things To Know

- Earned his fifth PGA TOUR win in his 284th start at the age of 36 years and nearly 9 months at the 2025 Sony Open in Hawaii, where he defeated Nico Echavarria in a sudden-death playoff. Taylor improved to 3-0 in sudden-death playoffs on TOUR. The win in Hawaii also marked Taylor's third consecutive season with a TOUR victory (2023 RBC Canadian Open, 2024 WM Phoenix Open, 2025 Sony Open in Hawaii).
- Nick appears in Season 3 of Full Swing (Ep 2) with good friend, Adam Hadwin, as they go through the ups and downs of the life on TOUR in 2024 which included both missing out on the Presidents Cup 24 roster (when it was played in their home country).
- Taylor made history in 2023 when he became the first Canadian to win the RBC Canadian Open since 1954 (Pat Fletcher - not officially recognized by the PGA TOUR). The victory came on the fourth hole of a sudden-death playoff, with Taylor holing a 72-foot eagle putt to defeat Tommy Fleetwood. Canadians Adam Hadwin, Mike Weir and Corey Connors were greenside for the playoff. It was the first time the tournament was played at Oakdale Golf & Country Club in Toronto, which will host again in 2026. The RBC Canadian Open, which is the second-oldest non-major on the PGA TOUR schedule, changed its 2024 tournament logo to a silhouette of Taylor flipping his putter in the air in reaction to his winning putt. The tournament made the change permanent in 2025.
- Home course is Ledgeview Golf and Country Club in Abbotsford, British Columbia (also the home club of fellow Canadian and PGA TOUR winner Adam Hadwin).
- Made his Olympics debut at Paris 2024, representing Canada alongside Corey Connors. Taylor finished T30 at Le Golf National. Prior to golf returning to the Olympics in 2016, the last time the Olympics featured golf was in 1904 (St. Louis), when Canadian George Lyon won the gold medal. As a senior in college at University of Washington, Taylor served as an Olympic torchbearer for the Winter Games in Vancouver in February 2010 in his hometown of Abbotsford, British Columbia.
- Played four seasons at University of Washington (2006-10), where he was college teammates for the 2006-07 season with fellow PGA TOUR winner Joel Dahmen (they both joined the program as true freshmen in 2006). Taylor and Dahmen were roommates for two years.
- Prior to winning the 2024 WM Phoenix Open, Taylor had previously attended the tournament as a fan in his mid-20s. Somewhat of a "hometown tournament," the Taylor family splits time between Scottsdale and Canada.

Background

- Born in Winnipeg, Canada, but grew up in Abbotsford, British Columbia (Greater Vancouver), where the family moved before Taylor turned 3.
- Won the 2007 Canadian Amateur Championship at Riverside Country Club in Saskatoon, which marked the last time the champion was determined through a match play competition. Only a few years later, Mackenzie Hughes won back-to-back Canadian Amateur Championships (2011, 2012).
- Reached the quarterfinals of the 2007 U.S. Amateur Championship at The Olympic Club in San Francisco; he was ousted by Colt Knost.

- Played four seasons at the University of Washington (2006-10) in Seattle, which is just over two hours from his hometown of Abbotsford. Taylor won the 2010 Ben Hogan Award, which annually recognizes the outstanding male amateur and collegiate golfer of the year, was a two-time Pac-10 Conference Co-Golfer of the Year (2009, 2010), and was credited with four individual victories. Taylor recorded a pair of top-10 finishes at the NCAA Championship, including a T2 finish (shared second place with Jorge Campillo from University of Indiana, with both finishing three strokes behind individual national champion Kevin Chappell from UCLA) in 2008. Other notable players in the field at the 2008 NCAA Championship were Oklahoma State University's Rickie Fowler (T4), University of Florida's Billy Horschel (6th), University of Georgia's Russell Henley (22nd), Brian Harman (T71), and Harris English (T73).
- In the 2009 University of Washington golf team media guide, Taylor's then-coach Matt Thurmond wrote, "I've never coached anyone that can raise his game so much in difficult conditions and high-pressure situations. Nick can hit the best shot at the biggest moment."
- Earned the 2009 Mark H. McCormack Medal as the leading player in the World Amateur Golf Ranking upon conclusion of the 2009 amateur season (following the European and U.S. Amateur Championships). Taylor was ranked No. 1 in WAGR for 20 weeks (June through October of 2009); he overtook Morgan Hoffmann to reach No. 1, and he eventually ceded the No. 1 ranking to Victor Dubuisson.

Family

- Nick met his wife, Andie, in high school (Yale Secondary in Abbotsford). Andie's father, Phil Dodd, was the President of Ledgeview G.C. and knew Taylor well before he and Andie started dating in grade 12.
- Son, Charlie, born in 2019 and daughter, Harper in May 2023.
- The family splits time between Scottsdale, Arizona and Canada. Andie and the kids travel to the majority of tournaments but were not onsite for the 2023 RBC Canadian Open win as Harper was just born. When Nick made it to the playoff, their neighbors crashed their gathering with the Taylor-extended family.
- Nick's older brother, Josh, was a successful amateur golfer who also earned a scholarship to the University of Texas El-Paso.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Fan of Toronto Blue Jays (MLB) and Seattle Seahawks (NFL). Threw out first pitch at Toronto Blue Jays game (against the Yankees) the week of 2019 RBC Canadian Open.
- Mario Kart 64 expert (video game).
- Loves astronomy; has visited NASA's Johnson Space Center.
- Loves Star Wars.
- Spends time focusing on fitness and nutrition.

Charity

- Started the The Nick Taylor Charity Classic with his wife, Andie, in 2017. The event's mission is to build community, academic success and athletic excellence. The NTCC has raised over \$1.2 million to date in charitable proceeds for various beneficiaries in Abbotsford and Chilliwack, BC, along with \$450k in scholarship funds for the University of the Fraser Valley.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- In addition to being close with Joel Dahmen, he's good friends with fellow Canadians - Adam Hadwin, Corey Connors and Mackenzie Hughes.
- Played under head coach Matt Thurmond in his four years at University of Washington, where Thurmond served as head coach for 15 seasons (2001-16). Thurmond took over as head coach of Arizona State University in summer 2016.

Other

- Is the only Canadian male in history to win the trifecta of the Canadian Junior Boys Championship (2006), Canadian Amateur Championship (2007) and RBC Canadian Open (2023).
- Was low amateur at the 2009 U.S. Open (Bethpage Black) won by Lucas Glover, his second major start (made his major and PGA TOUR debut at the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines, won by Tiger Woods). Became the third amateur in U.S. Open history to record a 65 or lower with a second-round 65.
- Finished T16 at the 2005 Junior World Championships (Boys 15-17 Division) at Torrey Pines. Other notable players in the field that week were Joseph Bramlett (T3), Jason Day (T8), and Tom Whitney (T35).

Ben Griffin

Things To Know

- Earned his second PGA TOUR title and first individual stroke-play victory on TOUR at the 2025 Charles Schwab Challenge, with the two victories coming in a span of 28 days. After the victory, reflected on his journey to the winner's circle, saying, "It's crazy how fast things can change in this game. Even going back to when I didn't have any status on any sort of Tours... it's a bunch of stepping stones that gets you to the next part of your career. Now I'm at the point where I feel like I'm starting to show I am an elite golfer. I can compete against the best. Golf is not an easy game. It's a very hard game, and you don't win very often. Some people never win."
- Earned his first PGA TOUR win alongside Andrew Novak at the 2025 Zurich Classic of New Orleans. Griffin and Novak 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.
- Has gained popularity for his social media accounts (@bengriffingolf), which frequently takes his followers inside a "Day in the Life" of a PGA TOUR player, documenting everything from his food choices as well as his practice and recovery routines at tournaments.
- Earned his first PGA TOUR card via the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season, which saw him record three runner-up finishes. Ben also finished solo-fourth as a sponsor exemption at the 2022 Wyndham Championship, the final event of the PGA TOUR regular season. Sedgfield Country Club in Greensboro, North Carolina is roughly 60 miles west of Ben's hometown of Chapel Hill.
- Quit professional golf in April 2021 after failed runs on Korn Ferry Tour (six missed cuts in eight starts in 2019) and PGA TOUR Latinoamerica (four missed cuts in four starts for the 2020-21 season), citing burnout and financial strain and saying, "I wasn't making enough money to support myself. My parents have always been supportive of me, but I never wanted to ask them for more help. I wanted to start making some financial decisions on my own, and that's why I had to go to work. I wasn't confident in myself to make it all the way to the (PGA) TOUR back then." He accepted a job in property management at the beginning of April, earned a license and transitioned into working as a mortgage loan officer in his hometown of Chapel Hill, North Carolina in May.
- First pondered a return to professional golf in July 2021, when he accidentally drove to the golf course instead of the office. One of the key moments in his return was when he Monday qualified into the 2021 Price Cutter Charity Championship at Springfield, Missouri's Highland Springs Country Club, where a friend, Mike Swann, was a member. Swann flew him out for a member-guest tournament at the club, and he and other members of the club encouraged Griffin to enter the Monday qualifier. Griffin, who estimated he played 12 rounds in the four months prior to the qualifier, missed the cut but ultimately decided it was time for another run at professional golf. Ben and Mike remain close friends.
- Completed his professional golf comeback with a T29 at Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament (now known as PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry) for guaranteed starts to begin the 2022 season. "It was hard, but I had a couple things telling me I needed to go back," Griffin said of the decision to quit his job as a mortgage loan officer. "For a while, I had lost my dreams."

Background

- Relocated to Jupiter, Florida in March 2025. Previously spent the early part of his professional career in St. Simons Island, Georgia (September 2018 through December 2020), after which he moved back to his longtime hometown of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Griffin went back to St. Simons Island in April 2022, spending nearly three years there until relocating to Jupiter.
- Born and raised in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he attended East Chapel Hill High School and the University of North Carolina.
- Held and swung a club as early as 11 months old (family has a photo), but he enjoyed baseball, basketball, and soccer more than golf until he was 10 or 11 years old.
- Grew up playing mostly at Chapel Hill Country Club until 2008, after which he mostly played and practiced at University of North Carolina Finley Golf Course, a Tom Fazio design which opened in 1999 and is home to UNC's golf program. Griffin's familiarity with Finley Golf Course made the transition to college golf very easy, as he noted, "I knew every break on those greens."
- Chapel Hill Country Club did not have a sprawling practice facility, just a small chipping area and putting green, a key reason why his short game became one of his greatest strengths.
- Won two U.S. Kids Golf Teen World Golf Championships at Pinehurst, winning the Boys 14 title in 2010 and the Boys 15-18 crown in 2011. The 2010 field included PGA TOUR winner Sam Burns, who finished T9. Griffin beat PGA TOUR member Will Gordon by a stroke to take the 2011 title.
- Won the 2013 AJGA Rolex Tournament of Champions over a field which included Doug Ghim (T4), Sam Burns (6th), Zecheng Dou (7th), Carl Yuan (9th), Scottie Scheffler (T10), and Cameron Champ (T15), in addition to earning a spot on the 2013 AJGA Rolex Junior All-America First Team with Scheffler and Collin Morikawa.
- Won individual North Carolina state titles as a freshman (2011) and junior (2013); he chipped in on the second playoff hole when he won the 2011 title as freshman.
- By the time Griffin was 16 years old, he was driving himself to golf tournaments and staying in hotels on his own, because both his parents were working. Griffin recalled, "I'd tell the front desk, 'Look, my dad is coming to check us in, don't worry. He's on a call and running behind. I just need a room key.' It worked every time."
- Played four seasons at University of North Carolina (2014-18), where he won three individual tournament titles (two in fall 2014 as a freshman, one in fall 2017 as a senior) and broke the program record for career scoring average (72.02) which was once held by Davis Love III (72.57 from 1982-85). Also fell in a playoff for individual medalist honors at the 2017 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship, losing to Korn Ferry Tour graduate Jimmy Stanger, then at University of Virginia.
- Held PGA TOUR Canada status when he turned professional out of University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill in the summer of 2018, won the 2018 Staal Foundation Open, his sixth PGA TOUR Canada start, and finished eighth on the Order of Merit; he passed up an equipment sponsorship when he turned professional to play the season with familiar equipment.

Family

- Fiancee, Dana. Ben proposed on July 27, 2024 at the Cloister in Sea Island, Georgia.
- His father, Cowan, and mother, Erika, met at University of North Carolina and settled in Chapel Hill after college.

- Cowan has a knack for surprising Ben at tournaments but refrains from watching too much. He surprised Ben when he won on PGA TOUR Canada at the 2018 Staal Foundation Open in Thunder Bay, Ontario, flying from North Carolina to Minneapolis, renting a car and making an 8-hour drive to the golf course. Ben recalled, "I turned to the left and saw him (on the 10th hole). That was a lot of emotions... I can't believe he did it. I love it." Ben proceeded to birdie Nos. 10-12 and Nos. 16-18 to win by a stroke.
- Erika worked as a loan officer and convinced Ben to become one himself when he quit professional golf in April 2021.
- Has a younger brother, Stuart.
- His grandpa, Douglas Griffin, was one of his biggest golf mentors as a youngster, and his passing in July 2021 influenced Ben's return to professional golf. Ben noted, "In his obituary he said, hit them long and straight. When I saw that, and after I had accidentally driven to the course (instead of work), I was like, 'Maybe I need to give this another run.'"
- His great grandfather, Benjamin Cowan Shields, played professional baseball (pitcher) for the New York Yankees from 1924-25, Boston Red Sox in 1930, and Philadelphia Phillies in 1931. He joined the Yankees late in 1923, pitched batting practice, and Babe Ruth hit a line drive into the right side of his chest. Near the end of 1925, Shields had recurring medical problems and discovered the line drive damaged his lung and it became infected over the two-year period. He was diagnosed with tuberculosis and voluntarily retired until a brief return in the early 1930s.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Does not drink alcohol during the season and -- after some prompting from his fiancée, Dana -- transitioned to a predominantly vegan diet around 2022 as he made his professional golf comeback. Griffin says of the choices, "Some people treat food like entertainment, but food is fuel. I eat for energy. Research says veganism helps with inflammation. I've never felt better. I needed to stop drinking during the season. I didn't have a drinking problem, but I was drinking like I was still in college. When you drink consistently, you think you feel good, but you don't. Now I feel incredible."
- Does not drink coffee or soda, humorously saying he does not need any added energy from caffeine.
- Enjoys going to the lake, wakeboarding, surfing, and being outside as much as possible.
- Huge fan of music in general, including electronic dance music.
- Picked up djaying as a hobby in college. His senior year at University of North Carolina, he traded some golf clubs with Tar Heels basketball player K.J. Smith, son of Kenny "The Jet" Smith, for a travel turntable kit K.J. had stopped using. Ben traveled with the turntable kit while he played PGA TOUR Canada his first summer out of college. He said, "it was a fun hobby" for him on the road. Because of the hobby, some friends began to call him "Benny Beats" and "Spinny Griff" both for his djaying and spinny wedges shots. Ben would love to meet Kygo, a Norwegian DJ, and Gryffin, a popular American DJ.
- Remains an avid North Carolina Tar Heels supporter.
- Also a huge Jim Nantz fan, in large part because Ben's father, Cowan, was a huge fan. Ben says it would be awesome to have an opportunity to meet Nantz.
- Does not really have a favorite professional sports team, but does get interested in the Carolina Hurricanes as they make runs in the NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Teamed with fellow University of North Carolina alum Ryan Gerard, who was a Special Temporary Member on the PGA TOUR at the time, at the 2023 Zurich Classic of New Orleans. They were teammates for one season in Chapel Hill (2017-18), when Griffin was a senior and Gerard was a freshman. Griffin broke the school record for career scoring average (72.02), a record Gerard broke (71.65) upon exhausting his eligibility at North Carolina. [NOTE: Gerard's record has since been broken.]
- Frequent playing partners at the Sea Island courses during his time in St. Simons Island, Georgia (September 2018 through December 2020, and April 2022 through March 2025) included J.T. Poston, Andrew Novak, and Bryson Nimmer.

Other

- Shot a 59 at Sea Island in July 2022, holing out an approach shot for from the fairway for an eagle on his final hole. A friend was filming the shot and captured Ben's crazed reaction.
- In a 2011 magazine story published when he was 14 years old, he was quoted as saying, "Golf will help me get through other things in life."

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 (former Wells Fargo 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.
- In 2025, he announced a partnership with Travis Mathew, mentioning, "I've always been a fan of the brand and couldn't be more excited to represent the brand as an ambassador during the season. The ideals and the style TravisMathew embodies fit right in with me, my personality and my motivations."

Scottie Scheffler

Things To Know

- Earned his third major championship and 15th PGA TOUR title at the 2025 PGA Championship, contested at Quail Hollow Club. Followed Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods as the third player in the modern era to earn 15 PGA TOUR wins and three major championships prior to turning 29 years old.
- 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."
- On where the trophy from the 2025 PGA Championship will be displayed at home, Scheffler said, "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, and that's probably where this one will go. I'd like to say that (The Golf Room) is nicely presented, but it's not."
- 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). The victory also marked Scheffler's fourth consecutive TOUR season with a victory (2021-22, 2022-23, 2024, 2025).
- Said of winning the 2025 CJ CUP Byron Nelson, an event to which he has deep ties, "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.

- Became the first back-to-back winner of THE PLAYERS Championship (2023, 2024) in the 50th playing of the tournament.
- 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 world golf ranking began 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. It's just I grew up at Royal Oaks (GC in Dallas). 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. Just competing out here is really fun for me and just being able to win tournaments is pretty awesome. The rankings never really crossed my mind. It was always just about being out here and competing."
- 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.
- 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).

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

- Basketball; excellent shooter but was small (5-2) in seventh grade so focused on golf. Grew nearly 12 inches in one year and entered the University of Texas at 6-3.
- 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

- Began working with famed instructor Randy Smith at Royal Oaks Golf Club around age 8 after moving to Dallas. Smith guided Scheffler through the pain and adjustments of going from 5-foot-2 in seventh grade to 6-foot-3 when he went to Texas. Smith on Scheffler: "People wanted me to look at this little 6-year-old kid. It took me about 15 minutes, and I knew right then. It was so obvious. 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."
- More on coach Randy Smith: Based at Royal Oaks Country Club in Dallas, Scottie's instructor Randy Smith is an 18-time PGA of America National Award winner and PGA of America Hall of Famer. He developed a reputation over 40 years as the go-to instructor for young players in North Texas, including Justin Leonard, Harrison Frazar, Kris Cox, Matt Weibring, John Rollins, Martin Flores, Colt Knost, Cody Gribble, Paul Haley II and Ryan Palmer. Smith has worked with Scottie since he was around 8 years old when the Scheffler family became members at Royal Oaks.
- 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 they are all members of the TOUR's Bible study, as faith is a shared foundation of their friendship.
- Scheffler hired veteran Ted Scott to caddy for him starting with the 2021 RSM Classic and won in their fourth official start together at the 2022 WM Phoenix Open. Met Scott through a Bible study composed of players and caddies. Said this about Scott after his 2022 Masters win: "I can't speak highly enough of Ted as a person and as a caddie. I respect him so much just as a person. He's such a fun guy to be around. He's a man of faith and I love him. I can't say enough about him. You know, the qualities you look for in a person, Ted embodies pretty much all of them. He's humble. He's hard-working. He's honest. He's a good time to be around. I even, he's just -- he's an amazing guy. To be able to have him on the bag is so special."

Other

- 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. Other winners have included Will Zalatoris (2015) and Sahith Theegala (2016).
- 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: (2011/5th - 2012/T33 - 2013/6th).

Sam Burns

Things To Know

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

Background

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

Family

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

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

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

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

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

Charity

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

Inner Circle/Special Connections

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

- Was paired with Tiger Woods in the final round of the 2018 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches. Burns shot 68, Tiger shot 70. As they walked off the first tee, he put his hand on Tiger's shoulders and told him: "Can you believe all these people came out here just to watch me?"
- Represented the United States at the 2014 Junior Ryder Cup; his teammates included future PGA TOUR winner Davis Riley, and Korn Ferry Tour graduate Cameron Young.

Other

- Finished T5 at the 2014 Junior PLAYERS Championship.

Shane Lowry

Things To Know

- Featured in the latest season of Netflix's Full Swing, an immersive documentary that follows life on the PGA TOUR. Season Three features returning favorites and new faces offering a look on and off the course across a relentless 2024 season.
- Represents The Bay Golf Club alongside teammates Ludvig Aberg, Wyndham Clark and Min Woo Lee in the inaugural TGL presented by SoFi, a primetime golf league in partnership with the PGA TOUR that launched in January 2025 on ESPN. The new golf league was created by TMRW Sports whose co-founders include Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, and fuses advanced technology, innovation and live action for ESPN's primetime television audience. The Bay Golf Club is led by Avenue Sports Fund with Marc Lasry and Stephen Curry with limited partners including Andre Iguodala, Klay Thompson, Alex Albon, Leonardo Fioravanti, Kanoa Igarashi and John Stones.
- Shane has a love of all sports, but particularly Gaelic football, rugby and soccer. He sponsors the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) -- which promotes indigenous Gaelic games such as Gaelic football, rugby, soccer, hurling and rounders -- in Ireland and gets to as many matches as possible in his home county of Offaly to cheer on the underage teams.
- Began playing golf at 13, inspired by his uncles. He was a single-digit handicapper by age 15, with Lowry saying, "When I was a kid, I spent my summers playing pitch and putt on the local course with my mates. It was there, in Clara, County Offaly, Ireland that I learned the basics and short game without even knowing it. My family was not really into golf, so I taught myself how to play. I took every chance I had to get out on the course. I can't say it didn't frustrate my family and teachers a bit back then. I think they've forgiven me now though."
- Credits his strong short game to practicing on the green complexes at Esker Hills where he grew up playing: "I think the reason my short game is quite good is that all the greens (at Esker Hills) there are raised. I used to play a lot of golf on my own and I'd practice my chipping a lot. You'd always have to chip it up with a little bit of spin to get the ball close. I was never taught how to play them but I chipped and I chipped and I chipped and over time I developed it."
- Shane's father Brendan and uncles Sean and Mick won the All-Ireland football championship with county Offaly on the same team in 1982, it was a legendary final when they stopped a Kerry dynasty from winning five All Irelands in a row.
- Won his home event, the Irish Open, as an amateur in 2009 at Galgorm Castle. Turned pro immediately afterwards. "Life did change overnight. I wasn't even a student at that point, having left college. I was just an amateur golfer. I hadn't much money in my bank account I can tell you. Then all of a sudden you're on the European Tour. [The Irish Open] was a huge thing for the town and everyone in it. I had a parade in the town! Where we're from, when your team wins the county football championship, the whole team is paraded through the town. That was me! I couldn't believe it really. We went into the early hours that night."
- His Mother bet on him at 250-1 to win the Irish Open
- With his victory at the 2019 Open Championship at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland, Lowry followed Pádraig Harrington as the second player from the Republic of Ireland to win a major championship. In his press conference following the win, Lowry revealed he broke down emotionally after a missed cut at the 2018 Open Championship (held at Carnoustie), saying, "Carnoustie, look, that just shows how fickle golf is. Golf is a weird sport, and you never know what's around the corner. That's why you need to remind yourself, and you need other people there to remind you, you need to fight through the bad times. I sat in the car park in Carnoustie, almost a year ago right to this week, and I cried. Golf wasn't my friend at

the time. It was something that (had) become very stressful, and it was weighing on me and I just didn't like doing it. What a difference a year makes, I suppose."

- His Grandmother hadn't had a Brandy since 2009 but she had two to get through her nerves watching Shane win The Open Championship in 2019.
- Lowry now spends the majority of his time in West Palm Beach, Florida, where he is a member of The Bear's Club and The Grove XXIII (Michael Jordan's private club). He still has a place in Ireland which he calls home.

Background

- 2007 Irish Amateur Champion.
- First win as a professional on the DP World Tour was at 2012 Portugal Masters.

Family

- Wife, Wendy, and two daughters, Iris (born 2017) and Ivy (born 2021)
- He and his wife Wendy eloped to New York City in 2016 and it is one of their favorite places to visit.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Shane is also very interested in horse racing and has been involved with two horses with friends.
- In December 2022, Lowry opened a bar-restaurant called Old Warehouse Tullamore just a few minutes from where he grew up in County Offaly, Ireland. It's his first business outside of golf (his partner is Allan Clancy who has a portfolio of bars and restaurants in Ireland).

Charity

- Enjoys giving back especially working with the The Children's Hospital in Ireland. He has been an ambassador for Temple Street Children's Hospital in Dublin for years and has their logo placed on the belly of his bag.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Won 2024 Zurich Classic of New Orleans alongside friend Rory McIlroy.
- Has a close friendship with and a deep admiration for fellow Irishman Padraig Harrington. Following his victory at the 2019 Open Championship, which Harrington watched greenside at the 18th hole at Royal Portrush, Lowry said Harrington "paved the way for the success of Irish golfers."

Other

- A documentary about Shane's remarkable victory at the 2019 Open Championship at Royal Portrush and his ties to Ireland aired on Golf Channel during the 2023 Genesis Scottish Open five times and again in August 2023.
- In qualifying for the 2010 Open Championship, Lowry equaled Nick Faldo's course record 62 at Sunningdale.

Jordan Spieth

Things To Know

- After being eliminated from the 2024 FedExCup Playoffs following the FedEx St. Jude Championship, thus missing top 50 status for the 2025 PGA TOUR season, had surgery on his left wrist in August 2024 (the week of the 2024 BMW Championship), with recovery lasting three months. Returned to action on TOUR at the 2025 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.
- Born, raised and still resides in Dallas, Texas with his high school sweetheart, Annie, who he married in 2018. They have a son, Samuel (Sammy for short), born in November 2021, and daughter, Sophie, born in September 2023.
- A proud Texas Longhorn, was inducted into the Texas Athletics Hall of Honor as part of its Class of 2023. Was a part of the 2012 NCAA Championship-winning team as a freshman. Was part of a marquee match-up of the two best amateurs in the country in his Singles match with good friend Justin Thomas, who he defeated, 3 and 2, at The Riviera Country Club. His teammates at Texas included Kramer Hickok, Dylan Frittelli and Cody Gribble.
- In July of 2023, became a minority owner of English soccer club Leeds United alongside longtime friend Justin Thomas. The two invested in the San Francisco 49ers' ownership group, 49ers Enterprises, which is taking over Leeds after its relegation from the Premier League to second-tier Championship. Spieth: "Relegation wasn't ideal, but we got involved with the 49ers group about purchasing a larger share and getting in with them doing things so successfully as they do everywhere they've touched. ...We thought it would be a cool opportunity. It's a big city, historic club, great venue in Elland Road, and once we looked into it, we realized it could be really exciting."
- Started traveling to and from tournaments in a RV in 2023. Spieth: "Just glamping, you know. Slumming it. Should be a lot of fun. The reason was kind of to have home on the road. Got the same mattress I have at home, and we'll leave a lot of Sammy's stuff on the bus, therefore, won't have to pack a whole lot and can ride on it a lot in between events. ... Annie is trying to recruit a lot of our friends out here to do it, so we'll see in the next few years if that works or not."

Background

- His first love was baseball. A left-handed pitcher, he gave it up at the age of 12 to focus on golf.
- He attended St. Monica Catholic School and graduated from Jesuit College Preparatory School in 2011. Learned to play golf at Brookhaven Country Club.
- With U.S. Junior Amateur victories in both 2009 (Trump National Bedminster) and 2011 (Gold Mountain), he joined Tiger Woods as the tournament's second two-time winner.
- Received a sponsor exemption to play in THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson in 2010 as a 16-year-old after writing a heartfelt letter to the tournament. Made the cut, becoming the sixth-youngest player to make the cut at a PGA TOUR event, en route to a T16 finish.
- A member of the famed high school "Class of 2011," alongside Justin Thomas, Xander Schauffele, Daniel Berger, Patrick Rodgers, Emiliano Grillo and more.
- Spent five weeks at No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking across June and July 2012. Upon reaching No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking in August 2015, followed Rory McIlroy as the second player in history to reach No. 1 in both WAGR and OWGR.

Family

- His sister, Ellie, has special needs and Jordan considers her his hero. Created Flag Pole Hill Park in Dallas, through the Jordan Spieth Family Foundation, to encourage social interaction as well as physical and cognitive development of children of all ages and abilities.
- His mom, Christine, played basketball at Moravian College; dad, Shawn, played baseball at Lehigh University; and brother, Steven, played basketball for Brown University (graduated in 2017).

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Follows all Dallas-area pro sports teams, especially the NFL's Cowboys (football) and NBA's Mavericks (basketball).
- Appeared on ESPN's College GameDay as the Celebrity Guest Picker prior to the Texas vs. TCU game in Austin in November of 2022. Spieth: "It's a bucket list experience for me."
- Participated in the Professional Pickleball Association Celebrity Pro-Am in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex in October of 2022. Teamed with Scottie Scheffler for a pair of matches against former Dallas Mavericks great Dirk Nowitzki and tennis pro John Isner. Estimated he had stepped on a pickleball court less than 10 times prior to the event, in contrast to Scheffler, a pickleball enthusiast. Demonstrated his trademark energy, talking to the ball and analyzing the wind with fervor.

Charity

- Started the Jordan Spieth Family Foundation in 2014 as a platform to lend time, help grow awareness and offer financial support for four philanthropic areas: individuals with special needs, junior golf, military families and veterans, and pediatric cancer.
- In March of 2023, the Jordan Spieth Family Foundation announced 21 organizations as Community Partners for the year, highlighting the work each group is doing and the JSFF's four mission pillars.
- The Jordan Spieth Family Foundation donated \$500,000 to North Texas-based Children's Health in September of 2022. The gift, which supports the expansion at Children's Medical Center Plano with a focus on pediatric oncology, is the largest the JSFF has granted to any organization.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Has been friends with Justin Thomas dating back to 2007 and their AJGA days. They were tied for the lead heading into the final round at Walnut Creek outside Dallas, where Spieth defeated his fellow 13-year-old by 5 shots in his first AJGA start. Spieth on Thomas (at the 2022 Presidents Cup): "He's my best friend in the whole world."
- Has grown close with Tom Kim, who now lives in Dallas, and hosted him for Christmas dinner in December of 2022. Spieth: "I thought Tom, when he got up first, was going to put the plate away. He went and got seconds pretty quickly. I'm pretty sure he got fourths at one point. And I eat a lot. Annie was like, 'I think he just put you to shame.' And I was like, baffled, that he ate more than I did. We cleaned everything dry."
- Is friends with former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo. The two have played in a number of pro-ams together. Is also close with Jake Owen, who performed at the annual "Spieth & Friends" event benefitting the Jordan Spieth Family Foundation in both 2019 and 2023.

Other

- Became the sixth player in Presidents Cup history with a 5-0-0 record in a single year at the 2022 event at Quail Hollow Club.

Tom Hoge

Things To Know

- Born in Statesville, North Carolina but is proud to have grown up in Fargo, North Dakota. Now resides in Fort Worth, Texas -- home of the Charles Schwab Challenge at Colonial Country Club.
- Tom and his wife, Kelly, welcomed their first child, a son, Thomas, in December 2024.
- For the 2025 PGA TOUR season, Hoge will donate \$50 for every birdie he makes and \$100 for every eagle he makes to Cook Children's, the pediatric health care system in Fort Worth, Texas. Hoge's campaign -- Birdies for Basic Needs -- benefits Cook Children's Case Management team, which plays an integral role in delivering family-centered care. Previously in 2022, Hoge and his wife, Kelly, made what Cook Children's called "a transformational gift, providing the largest single donation to Case Management to date." In 2024, Cook Children's began an official partnership with Hoge, which led to the creation and launch of the Birdies for Basic Needs campaign.
- Inducted to the Texas Christian University Athletics Hall of Fame in October 2024, becoming the eighth men's golf inductee. Hoge played four seasons at TCU (2007-11), earning two collegiate victories and a 2011 All-Mountain West Conference honor; he completed his collegiate career with a 73.87 scoring average across 113 rounds. Hoge led TCU to the team title at the 2009 Mountain West Conference Championship, and finished T3 individually (along with Oklahoma State's Rickie Fowler and University of Southern California's Tom Glissmeyer) at the 2009 NCAA Championship, only finishing behind runner-up Kyle Stanley of Clemson and individual medalist Matt Hill of North Carolina State.
- Graduated from TCU in 2011 with a double major in finance and accounting. Hoge says, "Working with numbers has always been easy for me. And I've always been fascinated with money and how to get more of it. Because I wasn't a can't-miss kid as a golfer, I wanted a degree that meant something in case I needed to use it." Hoge also noted his scholarship at TCU was one-third funded by the golf team, while the remaining two-thirds was from academics.
- Earned his first PGA TOUR victory at the 2022 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, which marked his 203rd career start on TOUR. The week of his victory, Hoge switched to a custom Odyssey White Hot OG 2-Ball putter. It was a truly one-of-a-kind putter given that it had a plumber's neck hosel -- a custom request tailored to Hoge's preferences, as Odyssey did not make that model with a plumber's neck -- and the back weight removed from the sole to better suit Hoge's preferred putter weight.
- This is how Hoge celebrated his first victory: "We flew down to Phoenix (for the WM Phoenix Open) that night. My mom lives there, so we brought the trophy in through the front door. My grandma was there as well. And a little bit of late-night Taco Bell, like all champions would do, and right out to the golf course on Monday the next day."
- At the 2021 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Hoge was in contention playing with Jordan Spieth in the final round (won by Daniel Berger). On the 18th hole, Hoge hit what he thought was a perfect drive, but it ended up in the tree in the middle of the fairway, sending him back to the tee to hit his third shot. The unlucky break led to a 12th-place finish, so Hoge felt some redemption in his first TOUR victory at Pebble Beach the very next year.

Background

- Attended Fargo South High School and helped the golf team to four consecutive Class A state titles (2004-07) at the North Dakota High School Activities Association Boys Golf

Championship. Fargo South's state title streak extended three years after Hoge graduated (2008-10). Hoge was inducted into the Fargo South High School Hall of Fame in November 2022.

- Grew up playing golf at Fargo Country Club, where his parents were members. Hoge says the club has a great par-3 course, recalling, "Starting when I was about three years old, I began tagging along with my parents and older brother, Charlie, and we went around the par 3 so many times I can't remember." Hoge also remembered playing 72 holes at the club one fall day when school wasn't in session.
- Of growing up and playing golf in North Dakota, where the golf season is typically from late April through the end of October, Hoge says, "I remember days out playing golf when it was 25 degrees in Fargo. There were a few times in the winter where I'd be trying to go to play in tournaments in Arizona or somewhere, and there'd be snow on the ground. But I'd just kind of shovel the snow away and hit a few balls. On more than one occasion I would say I'd be the only person on the course every day. But I always wanted to play on the PGA TOUR, so I'd use whatever opportunities I had to get better." Hoge also noted if it was too cold or the course was covered in snow, he could go to the Sports Bubble and hit off mats at the indoor driving range, which served as a good place to work on the fundamentals of the game.
- Got on the recruiting radar for TCU after a fortunate break at the 2006 U.S. Amateur Championship contested at Hazeltine National Golf Club. Hoge was the first alternate and drove down from Fargo to Chaska, Minnesota (just outside Minneapolis). Jason Pridmore, who went on to become a professional motorcycle racer for Michael Jordan Motorsports, had a broken leg and withdrew the morning of the first round, which got Hoge in the field. Although Hoge missed match play by three strokes, his play caught the attention of longtime TCU head coach Bill Montigel, who eventually earned Hoge's commitment with a partial scholarship offer.
- Won back-to-back Minnesota Amateur Golf Championships in 2009 and 2010.
- Earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the first time ahead of the 2012 season. Earned PGA TOUR membership via the Korn Ferry Tour Finals in 2014, 2015, 2017, and 2019. [NOTE: from 2013 through 2022, the Korn Ferry Tour Finals was a mechanism for awarding an additional set of 25 PGA TOUR cards across a three-event series featuring the top 75 players from the Korn Ferry Tour Points List and finishers 126-200 from the FedExCup standings. Beginning with 2023, the Korn Ferry Tour Finals ceased awarding a separate set of PGA TOUR cards and refers to the Korn Ferry Tour's season-ending events featuring elevated purses and points allocations.]

Family

- Tom and his wife, Kelly, wed in 2017 in Marco Island, Florida. The couple met through junior/amateur golf tournaments in Minnesota. On their first date, they went to a steakhouse in Chandler, Arizona (The Keg) and Kelly ordered a 22-ounce prime rib; she finished the entire thing, which immediately won Tom's heart.
- Kelly played high school golf at Maple Grove Senior High School in Minnesota (Class of 2009), and played college golf for four seasons at Montana State University (2009-13). Kelly remains a strong amateur player, as she won women's club championships at both Mira Vista Country Club and Shady Oaks Country Club in the Fort Worth area in 2022. Kelly also won the Shady Oaks women's club championship in 2024.
- While Tom and Kelly love to play golf together, the two rarely talk about Tom's professional golf rounds. However, the couple both enjoy telling the story of the Monday qualifier for the 2016 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches. Kelly caddied for Tom at this particular Monday qualifier, and Tom strode to the 18th tee at 7-under par. After a drive into the trees, Tom had 170 yards left but needed to carry water near the green and hit a big cut. Tom recalls, "Kelly

wanted me to chip out, but I wasn't having it. I told her I was going to cut a 6-iron around the trees and over the water. It was a 30-yard cut. I told Kelly to walk out to the fairway and watch. I hit it well, but I couldn't see where it went because of the trees. When I got to the fairway, I asked Kelly, 'Where'd it go?' She said, 'I don't know. I closed my eyes.' The ball landed on the green and I made par and got into the tournament." Hoge finished T37 that week in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

- Parents are Chuck and Rhonda Hoge. Has two siblings -- an older brother, Charlie, and a sister, Elli.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Remains an avid fan of TCU athletics, and often attends football and basketball games when at home in Fort Worth. After finishing T3 at the 2023 Sentry, Hoge took a Sunday red-eye flight from Maui to Los Angeles to attend the 2023 College Football Playoff National Championship -- Georgia defeated TCU, 65-7 -- Monday night. Hoge caught a Tuesday morning flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu in order to continue his PGA TOUR season at the 2023 Sony Open in Hawaii (finished T41). Hoge also attended the Fiesta Bowl (which served as a semifinal for the 2023 College Football Playoff) in Glendale, Arizona on New Year's Eve for TCU's upset victory over Michigan; he stayed with his mom and booked everything for the National Championship while they were stuck in traffic after the Fiesta Bowl.
- Big fan of North Carolina Tar Heels basketball.
- Interested in golf course architecture, and served on the golf course renovation committee at Mira Vista Country Club -- a Tom Weiskopf-Jay Moorish design -- in Fort Worth. The renovation was completed in May 2024.
- Notes expensive cars are decidedly NOT his thing. When Hoge had PGA TOUR membership for the first time (2014-15 season), he says he was still driving the 2003 Toyota 4Runner he had in high school. In 2018, he "bought a couple of expensive cars... one was a BMW X5M. It is pretty fast and fun to drive, but I figured out that expensive cars aren't my thing."
- Favorite entertainer is Country music singer/songwriter Rob Baird.
- Fan of the long-running TV series Modern Family.
- Loves desserts; his wife, Kelly, says Tom's all-time favorite is the chocolate lava cake at Roy's at Pebble Beach. Tom has also never met an ice cream he didn't like.
- Enjoys skiing. Vail has been a popular destination for his skiing vacations.
- Has a well-documented love of playing craps.

Charity

- At the 2024 Sentry, Hoge announced he would donate \$1,000 for every birdie and \$5,000 for every eagle to the Hawaii Community Foundation's Maui Strong Fund, which contributed to rebuilding efforts following the devastating fires in Maui. Hoge made 23 birdies and one eagle to raise \$28,000 during tournament week.
- Was awarded a plaque by the city of Fort Worth during the 2022 Charles Schwab Challenge for helping the tournament to raise an additional \$10,000 for HOPE Farm as part of the PGA TOUR Charity Challenge. (Footage exists)
- After tying for first in the 2021 RSM Birdies For Love program, RSM awarded Hoge \$300,000 to give to the charity of his choice. Hoge divided his contributions across the Northern Texas PGA Foundation (\$50,000), Minnesota Section of PGA of America (\$50,000), Gigi's Playhouse Fargo (\$50,000), Cullen Children's Foundation in Fargo, North Dakota (undisclosed), and Cook Children's (undisclosed) in Fort Worth, Texas.

- Hoge's \$50,000 donation to Gigi's Playhouse Fargo went toward rebuilding and expanding its facility, which sustained significant damage in a three-alarm arson fire in May 2021. Gigi's Playhouse provides free educational opportunities, physical therapy and social programs for individuals with Down syndrome and their families. Gigi's Playhouse Fargo's mission is "to empower individuals with Down syndrome and their families to realize their full potential, fostering confidence, independence, and joy." Hoge's donation went toward the facility's Early Learning Exploration Room, which has a sign at the door that reads: Proudly sponsored by Tom Hoge.
- Hoge said of his donation to Gigi's Playhouse Fargo, "I took it as a great challenge to find charities that would really make a big impact directly in those communities where I live now (and) where I grew up... to find something like Gigi's Playhouse where it's kind of really the only thing like it to help kids with Down syndrome in the area in Fargo... it was the perfect fit at that time. It really opened my eyes a lot to how many charities there are in need and the platform we have as professional golfers to really help out in a lot of areas."

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Inducted to the Texas Christian University Athletics Hall of Fame in October 2024. Other notable members of the TCU Athletics Hall of Fame include NFL Most Valuable Player and Doak Walker Award-winning running back LaDainian Tomlinson (inducted 2012), 1938 Heisman Trophy winner Davey O'Brien (inducted 1967), Cy Young Award-winning pitcher Jake Arrieta (inducted 2022), famed author sportswriter Dan Jenkins (men's golf Class of 1953 alum, inducted 1996), three-time PGA TOUR winner and 1971 Masters Tournament champion Charles Coody (inducted 1977), three-time PGA TOUR winner J.J. Henry (inducted 2009), and Pete Jordan (inducted 2017), who played 10 consecutive seasons on TOUR from 1994-2002.
- Shared the 36-hole lead with Tiger Woods at the 2015 Wyndham Championship. Tiger made the media laugh when asked if he knew who Tom Hoge was and answered, "What's a hoagie?" Hoge shot 72 to Woods' 68 in the third round, though neither went on to win (Davis Love III earned his 21st and final PGA TOUR victory by one stroke over runner-up Jason Gore); Hoge finished T38 and had to return to the Korn Ferry Tour Finals, while Woods finished T10 in what was just his 11th start of the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season.
- Partnered with multi-time LPGA Tour winner Cheyenne Knight for the 2023 and 2024 Grant Thornton Invitational, a two-player mixed team competition established in 2023.
- Won the 2022 QBE Shootout in December 2022 with partner Sahith Theegala. Their victory marked the final edition of the event.

Other

- Made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2011 RBC Canadian Open; he earned an exemption for the event with his victory at the 2011 Players Cup, a Canadian Tour event.
- Shot a course-record 62 in the third round of the 2023 PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass (Stadium Course). Hoge opened the tournament in 78-68 and made the cut on the number. The tournament used split tees for the third round, and Hoge capped his 62 with an 11-footer for birdie on the par-5 9th hole.
- Organized and paid for a golf vacation to Pebble Beach for his dad's (Chuck) 65th birthday in July 2021. Tom also included his wife, Kelly, and older brother, Charlie, on the trip. Tom humorously recalls how the cost at that time was "kind of steep," and although he was not too proud to ask, he inquired if there was a discount for PGA TOUR members only to be informed there was not.

Russell Henley

Things To Know

- College teammates at University of Georgia included PGA TOUR winners Harris English, Keith Mitchell and Brian Harman.
- Fan of Georgia football. After winning the 2022 World Wide Technology Championship, said the following while Georgia was playing Tennessee: "I was playing while the game was going on, so I didn't get to see it. I heard on No. 13 or so that we were winning 21-3, so I was very happy to hear that. I'm still kind of living off of last year's National Championship, though. Yeah, it's a fun time of the year to be a Georgia fan."
- Watched the 2022 College Football Playoff National Championship (Georgia vs. Alabama) with fellow Georgia players on Monday of the 2022 Sony Open in Hawaii. All 10 Georgia players in the field would go on to make the cut with Henley coming close to victory (lost to Hideki Matsuyama in a one-hole playoff).

Background

- Born and raised in Macon, Georgia; Attended the University of Georgia, where he won the 2010 Haskins Award as most outstanding collegiate golfer. Graduated in 2011 with a degree in Consumer Economics.
- Was named Georgia's Student-Athlete of the Year for the 2009-10 season and helped the Georgia Bulldogs win the Southeastern Conference title in his junior and senior years.
- Won his first start as a PGA TOUR member at the 2013 Sony Open in Hawaii.

Family

- Russell and Teil Henley have three children: Son, Robert (2018); Daughters, Ruth (2019) and Jane (2022).
- Wife, Teil Duncan, is an accomplished artist whose impressionistic paintings and prints are sold all over the world. She paints out of a studio in their backyard in Columbus, Georgia.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Self-taught, Henley has played guitar since he was eight years old. His best friend and brother-in-law, they actually married sisters, always seemed to be in a band, and Henley loved music, too, particularly newer country music and anything from the '90s. Through PGA TOUR opportunities, has played onstage with O.A.R. (2015 Genesis Invitational) and Darius Rucker.

Charity

- Each September, Russell hosts the Five Star Kevin Brown Russell Henley Celebrity Classic in his hometown to benefit the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia, a faith-based, life recovery program for men, women, and children, in addition to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
- Macon Volunteer Clinic, founded by Russell's father, provides free primary medical care and dental care to uninsured, working adults in the Macon-Bibb County area and whose income is equal to or less than 200% of the federal poverty level.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Played on 2011 Walker Cup team with Jordan Spieth, Patrick Cantlay, Patrick Rodgers and Harris English, among others.

Xander Schauffele

Things To Know

- Represented the United States in his second Olympics, at the Paris 2024 Olympics, following his gold medal performance at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics (2021). Represented Team USA alongside Wyndham Clark, Collin Morikawa and eventual Gold Medal winner, Scottie Scheffler.
- Qualified for his fourth Presidents Cup and represented the United States at Royal Montreal in September 2024.
- Represents the New York Golf Club alongside teammates Matt Fitzpatrick, Cameron Young and Rickie Fowler in the inaugural TGL presented by SoFi, a primetime golf league in partnership with the PGA TOUR which began in January 2025 on ESPN. The new golf league, which will complement the PGA TOUR Season, was created by TMRW Sports whose co-founders include Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, and will fuse 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.

Background

- Born and raised in San Diego, Xander fixed his sights on golf at the age of 10. His father, a graduate of San Diego Golf Academy (now Golf Academy of America) encouraged his interest. He went on to play golf at Scripps Ranch High School before going on to play in college.
- Father Stefan put pressure on Xander early on, telling him "I can't pay for your college. I paid for your brother and I just don't have money left. You need to get a scholarship. You must perform." Under the pressure, Xander finished top three in each of his next three events against southern California's stiffest competition, earning a scholarship to Long Beach State.
- Transferred to San Diego State after one year at Long Beach State. The assistant coach, Evan Emerick, who spent 15 consecutive years with Aztecs in (formerly a player and now associate head coach) prior to becoming head coach at University of San Diego in June 2024, is a good family friend. Xander and his caddie, Austin Kaiser, were teammates for three years at San Diego State.
- Graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in Social Sciences in 2015.

Family

- Born in San Diego in 1993, he is the only natural-born United States citizen of his family of four. His father, Stefan, is French/German and grew up in Germany as an Olympic decathlete hopeful, before a car crash with a drunk driver caused loss of vision in his left eye, ending his Olympic dream at age 20. He moved to San Diego and met Xander's mother Ping Yi, who is from Taiwan and grew up in Japan. His older brother, Nico, was born in Stuttgart, Germany, but grew up in Tokyo. His wife, Maya, is half Japanese and grew up in Okinawa.
- Married longtime girlfriend Maya Lowe on July 5, 2021. The pair met in 2014 while attending colleges in the San Diego area - SDSU (Xander) and UC-San Diego (Maya). They married at their home in Las Vegas the week after the 2021 U.S. Open in an intimate ceremony with just family members, one officiant and the couple's two dogs dressed in formal wear. Schauffele would go on to win his sixth PGA TOUR title at the 2022 Travelers Championship on their one-year anniversary.

- Xander has been coached by his father since he was young and taught him to work hard and deal with adversity. Has learned discipline from his father and his Olympic training. They call it the "Schauffele Way."
- Xander's older brother Nico, three years his senior, helps manage Xander's social channels, his communications and his foundation work. Quote from Nico: "Do I remember him having talent? How could I not? He was so good at golf that I quit. Anything that involved a ball, anything round, he was instantly the best."
- Sporting blood runs in the family as two of Xander's great-grandfathers played soccer at the European premier level. Johann Hoffmann played for the Austrian national team and won multiple Austrian national titles. Besides playing soccer for the German Bundesliga club VfB Stuttgart, Richard Schauffele excelled in track and field, garnering over 40 titles in discus, javelin and shot put.
- He spent a couple of years in Hawaii when he was a baby as his father Stefan worked as an assistant club professional at Princeville on Kauai.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Xander has a strong work ethic and focuses on discipline, hard work and precision. He is a witty, smart, humble, understated guy. Prefers to spend time with his family and friends.
- Interests outside of golf include wine (Stefan is a connoisseur), fine food (his parents introduced him to a wide range of foods growing up) and fashion. He is starting a tradition of steak dinner on Wednesday of tournament weeks.
- Music interests/inclinations: Red Hot Chili Peppers, Coldplay, mood oriented, a bit of rap, rock. Enjoys good food, especially Asian food, Chinese, Japanese food.

Charity

- In March of 2021 the Xander Schauffele Foundation announced the start of construction on the sustainable Junior Club House at Goat Hill Park for the North County Junior Golf Association and junior caddy program.
- In support of the devastating fires in Lahaina in 2023, Xander made a \$400,000 donation to aid in relief. In addition to a financial contribution, Xander also gave his time at The Sentry hosting a Junior Golf Clinic for youth golfers impacted by the fires.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- His caddie Austin Kaiser has become a close friend and is close knit within the Schauffele circle. Kaiser and Schauffele were teammates on the golf team at San Diego State. "We have a perfect balance of professionalism and friendship," said Kaiser in an interview for Golf Monthly. "I don't think I'd work for anyone else. It's like being drafted by your favorite team growing up. You can't get that with anyone else, I think I have the best job in the world."
- He is part of the famous high school class of 2011 which includes Jordan Spieth, Daniel Berger, Justin Thomas and Emiliano Grillo.
- Schauffele and Patrick Cantlay have been paired together at both the Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup team events, becoming close friends. The two also teamed up to win the 2022 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.
- Quote from Cantlay about Xander: "I don't think either of us would have gone out of our way to be friends with each other, but spending time together (at match play events), we realized we really get along. X is incredibly smart, and he's incredibly conscientious. He's someone who probably brings out the best in me. He's more positive and he has a way of being lighter

as opposed to me being serious. Yet, he's quiet and reserved so we have that bond too. He balances me out a little bit."

Other

- On Sunday, July 31, 2021, Schauffele won the gold medal at the Men's Olympic Golf competition with a final-round 4-under, 67 at Kasumigaseki Country Club. The victory came nearly four decades after the accident that ended his father Stefan's Olympic aspirations.
- In October of 2021, Xander played in the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP in Chiba, Japan where he was finally able to play in front of his grandparents (Sunday's final round) for the first time in many years.
- In 2021, Xander qualified for the Olympic Games in Tokyo. He said: "My grandparents from my mom's side live in Tokyo, so I would really, really, really love to go and play over there in front of them and some family. I love Japan. I've been there, I don't know, 10 times. Definitely a dream to go over there and play on that team."
- Earned the Arnold Palmer Award (PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year) in 2017 after winning two titles that season (Greenbrier Classic, TOUR Championship).
- Xander was at Torrey Pines in 2008 to witness Tiger Woods' triumphant U.S. Open victory in person. "I was at the 18th hole, actually," he told Golf.com. Xander was there to witness Woods' 72nd-hole putt, standing on a tree stump back in the fairway as that fateful birdie putt found the edge of the hole.

Collin Morikawa

Things To Know

- Represents the Los Angeles Golf Club alongside teammates Sahith Theegala, Tommy Fleetwood and Justin Rose in the inaugural 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.
- 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 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP in Japan for his 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."
- Grew up in La Canada (tilde over the "n"), California, located 30 miles northeast of Riviera Country Club, host venue of The Genesis Invitational. Moved to Las Vegas in 2019 and plays regularly at The Summit Club, which hosted THE CJ CUP in 2021.
- Nearly won his first start in a professional tournament in 2016 at the Korn Ferry Tour's Wichita Open, as he fired back-to-back 63s on the weekend and forced a playoff with J.J. Spaun and eventual champion Ollie Schniederjans. Morikawa was the reigning Pac-12 Conference Freshman of the Year at the time. Despite his near miss, Morikawa remained patient and decided to remain at Cal for all four years, eventually earning his degree prior to turning professional in 2019.
- Had dinner with Justin Thomas ahead of his first PGA TOUR start as a professional at the 2019 RBC Canadian Open to ask about how to handle the professional life; the two met almost a year later at the 2020 Workday Charity Open in a playoff, won by Morikawa.
- As a little kid, his dream was to throw out the first pitch at the Dodgers game; On September 3, 2019, his wish came true; he threw out the first pitch and called it one of the "most memorable moments in my life."

Background

- Growing up, practiced at the nine-hole Chevy Chase Country Club in Glendale, California. Never let himself hit off mats so he wouldn't give himself a flat lie.
- Played basketball and baseball growing up; loves sports, especially the L.A. teams: Lakers (NBA) and Dodgers (MLB); knew golf is what he wanted to do so quit other sports around 11 or 12. Baseball was the toughest sport to say goodbye to.
- 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 was ranked third by U.S. News and World Report for Best Undergraduate Business Programs in 2020. On Sept. 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 more 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.
- His wife is 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). My caddie and 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."

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Loves cereal, specifically Cinnamon Toast Crunch. He created significant debate after stating he pours the milk before the cereal.
- Big foodie and loves sushi; enjoys eating food at some of the popular local spots on TOUR.
- Very athletic and plays several sports outside of golf, but admits he is a terrible ice skater.
- 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.
- Collin and Katherine have their own dog, a Goldendoodle named Koa, who shows up frequently on Collin's Instagram page.

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.

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".
- Golfweek Men's Golf National Player of the Year (2017-18). Also a two-time Ben Hogan Award Finalist (2017-18, 2018-19).
- Earned his first PGA TOUR win as a Special Temporary Member at the 2019 Barracuda Championship in his eighth career PGA TOUR start.
- Won the 2020 PGA Championship in his second start in a major championship. Became the third-youngest player to win the PGA Championship behind Jack Nicklaus and Rory McIlroy
- Won the 2021 Open Championship at Royal St. George's in his tournament debut for his second major title in what was just his eighth career major start. Joins Tiger Woods as the only player to win the PGA Championship and The Open Championship before turning 25.

