

# Report (12 players)

## Andrew Novak

### Things To Know

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

### Background

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

### Family

- Wife, Maddie (wed in December 2020). Maddie is the daughter of Randy Myers, a renowned golf trainer and the longtime Director of Fitness at Sea Island.
- Andrew and Maddie have a dog (F1b Cavapoo) named Teddy; they run an active Instagram account (@thebestboy\_teddy) for Teddy.
- Father, Ralph; Mother, Sarah.
- Andrew and wife Maddie welcomed their first child, daughter Laney, in November 2025.

### Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

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

### Inner Circle/Special Connections

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

# Michael Thorbjornsen

## Things To Know

- Pronunciation: THOR-be-orn-son
- Finished No. 1 in the 2024 PGA TOUR University Ranking after four seasons at Stanford University (2021-24), following Texas Tech University's Ludvig Aberg (2023) as the second player in history to earn PGA TOUR membership via a No. 1 finish in PGA TOUR University. Thorbjornsen's No. 1 finish earned him TOUR membership for the remainder of the 2024 season and 2025 season.
- Has used a 10-finger grip nearly his entire career; he tried overlap, but it made him feel like he had "no control over the club," and when he tried interlock it hurt his knuckles.
- Earned the nickname of "Thunder Cub" while at IMG Academy; the coach there told Michael his last name translated to "Son of a Thunder Bear" and the nickname stuck. If you broke Thorbjornsen into individual parts and translated from Old Norse / Icelandic into modern Danish / Norwegian / Swedish, the meaning of Thor is thunder (from the name Thor, the hammer-wielding god in Norse mythology), the meaning of bjorn is bear, and sen translates to son.
- Moved to Jacksonville, Florida in the second half of 2024. He and close friend and former college teammate Karl Vilips live in the same residential complex and are upstairs-downstairs neighbors.
- Growing up in Wellesley, Massachusetts, would hone his fundamentals and mechanics in the swing during the winter (just hitting into a net to focus on form, not ball flight), and play as much golf as possible in the spring and summer.
- Made the cut at the 2019 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach Golf Links at 17 years, 8 months, 29 days of age, becoming the second-youngest player to make the cut at a U.S. Open since World War II. At the time, the only other player under the age of 18 to make the cut at a U.S. Open since World War II was Beau Hossler (17 years, 3 months) in 2012. Thorbjornsen earned an exemption for the 2019 U.S. Open via his victory at the 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship at Baltusrol Golf Club, where he defeated Akshay Bhatia in the championship match. Thorbjornsen also qualified for the 2022 and 2023 U.S. Opens while still an amateur.
- Longtime Stanford men's golf head coach Conrad Ray, who coached PGA TOUR players Joseph Bramlett, Maverick McNealy, Patrick Rodgers, and Brandon Wu across more than 20 years at his alma mater, says of Thorbjornsen's driving prowess and athleticism, "He's an unbelievable athlete. He's not the longest player I've ever coached, but he's the highest combination of both length and accuracy. And that's special. You have to have some innate talent to do that at high speed. To me, that's his biggest strength. When he's on it, and he's driving it, there's not many guys that can drive it better than him that have ever played, and I don't say that lightly."

## Background

- Born in Cleveland, Ohio and spent a little over four years there before the family moved to Massachusetts in 2006.
- Michael's mother, Sandra, once recalled how Michael hit 60 balls in a row at eight months old, saying, "We had a mat with a net in the house [and] a high ceiling. He took a golf club, put it underneath his right arm, and was just turning his torso and hitting the ball. He could barely walk." Michael recalls playing his first nine-hole round at age 2, and his fist tournament at age 5.

- At the U.S. Kids Golf Teen World Championship, annually contested at Pinehurst Resort & Country Club, won the Boys 10 Division in 2012, followed by the Boys 11 Division in 2013.
- Won the Boys 14-15 Division of the 2016 Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals at Augusta National Golf Club. There is a photo of Michael shaking Tom Watson's hand as he holds the trophy.
- Spent the first three years of high school at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida. Notable players considered IMG Academy alums include PGA TOUR winners Emiliano Grillo, Sean O'Hair, and C.T. Pan, along with DP World Tour winner Byeong Hun An.
- After three years at IMG Academy, returned to his hometown of Wellesley, Massachusetts and graduated from Wellesley High School in 2020; he played the fall 2019 season on the golf team and finished as the individual runner-up at the Division 1 State Championship (18-hole event), one stroke behind medalist Weston Jones. Thorbjornsen said of coming home for his senior year, "I just wanted to be back home with my friends... wanted to reconnect with them before we all went to college. My family as well. I just was homesick at that point."
- Chose to follow in the footsteps of his golf idol, Tiger Woods, and attend Stanford University. Said it was never really a doubt he would wind up at Stanford, as it was a dream of his to play there from an early age.
- In four seasons at Stanford, rose to as high as No. 2 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking, won three collegiate events -- including the 2023 Pac-12 Conference Championship -- and finished third in school history in career scoring average (70.40), only behind record holder Maverick McNealy (70.12) and Patrick Rodgers (70.31).
- Between his freshman and sophomore seasons at Stanford, enjoyed a strong summer of 2021 on the amateur circuit, winning both the 113th Massachusetts Amateur Championship and Western Amateur. Captured the Western Amateur title with a 4-and-3 victory over Gordon Sargent in the championship match.

## Family

- Father, Thorbjorn Thorbjornsen (pronounced THOR-be-orn THOR-be-orn-son), is Norwegian.
- Thorbjorn discovered golf in his early teens through the early days of cable television in his hometown of Elverum, Norway. Although he had a desire to play, his hometown did not have a course nearby. When Thorbjorn was in his late 20s, a wildfire led to the clearing of a forest in Elverum, and the land was converted into a golf course. Thorbjorn had already moved away to Oslo by that time, but he would return to Elverum on the weekends and play the course. Thorbjorn became a scratch player, then gave up playing as Michael picked up the game in his youth, as Thorbjorn wanted to focus more on Michael's game and swing mechanics rather than his own play. Thorbjorn tried to return to golf later on, but he lost a lot of distance and did not enjoy the game as much, so he gave up playing altogether.
- Mother, Sandra, played golf at Ursuline College, which was an NAIA program (now NCAA Division II) in Pepper Pike, Ohio, less than 15 miles east of Cleveland. Michael guesses the first time he carded a lower score than his mother was around age 7; he still laughs whenever he remembers how frustrated she was the rest of the day.
- Has three younger sisters - twins Victoria and Michelle, followed by his youngest sister, Teresa.

## Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Video games. Used to play a lot of Call of Duty with Stanford teammate Karl Vilips. Played a lot of PGA TOUR 2K with his Stanford teammates, and bought a Nintendo Switch for the team, which led to countless Mario Kart races.

- Music, specifically hip hop. Despite wearing a Lollapalooza bracelet en route to winning the 2021 Western Amateur, he did not attend the annual music festival in Chicago until after he won the tournament. He saw Young Thug perform live at Lollapalooza.
- Was a big fan of the movie *The Greatest Game Ever Played*, a biopic based on Francis Ouimet's victory at the 1913 U.S. Open, when he became the first amateur winner in its history. Having qualified for the 2022 U.S. Open at The Country Club, which also hosted Ouimet's historic win, Thorbjornsen and his caddie for the week, childhood friend Drew Cohen, hit the merchandise tent and bought matching t-shirts with a silhouette of Ouimet and his caddie, Eddie Lowery.

### Inner Circle/Special Connections

- There is a photo of Rory McIlroy and Thorbjornsen standing together with their respective trophies at the 2023 Dubai Desert Classic. Thorbjornsen was the low amateur, while McIlroy won the title.
- Helped Stanford win Colonial Collegiate Invitational in October 2021 at Colonial Country Club, host of the PGA TOUR's Charles Schwab Challenge. Thorbjornsen finished two strokes clear of third, but finished six strokes behind individual medalist Michael Brennan of Wake Forest. The Cardinal took a team photo in front of the Hogan statue after their team victory.
- Says the most fun he ever had playing a tournament in his amateur career was the 2019 Junior Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Australia. Remembers the junior team being introduced on stage at a gala for the United States Presidents Cup team, which was captained by his golf idol and fellow Stanford alum Tiger Woods. The junior team captain was Justin Leonard.
- Childhood friend Drew Cohen notably caddied for Michael in his summer of 2021 victory at the Western Amateur, as well as the 2022 Travelers Championship, and 2022 U.S. Open at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts. The two became fast friends in middle school after their mothers coordinated a tee time for them at TPC Boston. They later spent their freshman year of high school together at IMG Academy. When Michael returned to Massachusetts after three years at IMG, he and Cohen played on the Wellesley High School golf team as seniors, and graduated together in 2020.
- Close with Karl Vilips, a former teammate, suitemate, and classmate at Stanford. Both were members of the PGA TOUR University Class of 2024, with Vilips finishing No. 10 to Thorbjornsen's No. 1. Vilips also caddied for Thorbjornsen at the 2020 U.S. Amateur Championship. The two met for the first time around age 7 or 8, and they became close as pre-teens even though their paths rarely crossed at junior events. They later attended prep academies roughly an hour apart in Florida, with Vilips at Saddlebrook Preparatory School north of Tampa, and Thorbjornsen at IMG Academy south of Tampa in Bradenton. They often practiced together the weekend leading into tournaments, with Thorbjornsen saying the competition motivated both of them.
- Vilips and Thorbjornsen also lived together with fellow Stanford teammate Barclay Brown. They had a fourth suitemate who was not an athlete; he and Thorbjornsen became close friends.
- Rose Zhang. The two won their respective divisions at the 2018 PING Invitational, an AJGA event at Karsten Creek Golf Club in Stillwater, Oklahoma. (There is a photo of the two holding a trophy together.) Thorbjornsen and Zhang later competed together at Stanford for two seasons (2021-22 / 2022-2023), and teamed up for two foursomes matches at the 2022 Arnold Palmer Cup (they went 1-1).
- Gordon Sargent. The two represented the United States together at the 2022 Arnold Palmer Cup and 2022 World Amateur Team Championship (Eisenhower Trophy), and Thorbjornsen defeated Sargent in the championship match of the 2021 Western Amateur.

- Akshay Bhatia. The two represented the United States at the 2018 Junior Ryder Cup, and Thorbjornsen defeated Bhatia in the championship match of the 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship at Baltusrol Golf Club.
- With his victory at the 113th Massachusetts Amateur Championship in July 2021, joined a list of past champions highlighted by six-time winner Francis Ouimet (1913, 1914, 1915, 1919, 1922, 1925) and 1986 champion Fran Quinn.
- In his final two seasons at Stanford, teammates included Dean Greyserman, the younger brother of PGA TOUR member Max Greyserman.
- Played a practice round with two-time NBA champion and former NBA Sixth Man of the Year J.R. Smith at the 2022 Western Amateur. There is a photo of them.

## Other

- Earned a spot on the U.S. Walker Cup Team for the 2023 Walker Cup at St. Andrews, but he never competed at the event; he withdrew from the team roughly a month prior to the event due to a back injury.
- While resting a back injury in summer 2023, had surgery on his left ankle, with doctors removing a loose bone and repairing a tendon. It took nearly two months for Thorbjornsen to reach the point where he could begin rehab for his back injury. For six weeks after surgery on his ankle, Thorbjornsen was in a back brace and walking boot with crutches; he also couldn't leave his bed the first two of those six weeks. After an additional two weeks with crutches (but no back brace), spent another two weeks in an ankle wrap / cast. Thorbjornsen says of it all, "I don't even like thinking about it. I was a mess."
- Hit the first tee shot at the 2022 U.S. Open at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts; his hometown of Wellesley, Massachusetts is less than 10 miles from The Country Club. Fellow Massachusettsan (or Bay Stater, depending on where you're from) Fran Quinn teed off first on the back nine. The two, along with Brandon Matthews, qualified together via an 8-for-3 playoff at Final Qualifying in New York. There is a photo of them together.
- PGA TOUR winner Chris Gotterup and Thorbjornsen were both sponsor exemptions at the 2022 Travelers Championship, where Thorbjornsen finished solo fourth for the first top-five finish by an amateur on TOUR since Braden Thornberry in 2017 (FedEx St. Jude Classic/T4).
- PGA TOUR winner Ludvig Aberg and 2022 U.S. Amateur winner Sam Bennett were both sponsor exemptions at the 2023 Travelers Championship, which Thorbjornsen played (missed cut) as a sponsor exemption for a second consecutive year. Thorbjornsen says he and Aberg are, "Friendly rivals... we definitely push each other."

# Patrick Rodgers

## Things To Know

- As the 54-hole leader at the 2025 Genesis Invitational (played at Torrey Pines due to the impact of wildfires in Southern California), spoke candidly about his professional career and the expectations that weighed on him after a record-breaking collegiate career at Stanford University, saying, "It's clearly something I've battled in my career. I think I've struggled with it for a long time, but I feel like I'm viewing my career from a different vantage point now. Instead of playing with a lot of expectation, I need to play to achieve. It felt like early in my (professional) career, with the amateur resume I had, I felt like there was a lot expected of myself internally... when immediate success, immediate wins didn't come straight away, it was kind of fighting who I saw myself to be. So instead of playing with a monkey on your back that gets bigger and bigger over time when it doesn't happen, I'm trying to play from a perspective that feels fresh and new and exciting and full of opportunity, because that's what this game is."
- Despite not earning a victory, qualified for the FedExCup Playoffs in eight of his first nine seasons with PGA TOUR membership (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024).
- Played three seasons at Stanford University (2011-14), where he was a three-time All-America First Team selection and tied Tiger Woods' school record for career wins (11). Rodgers finished with a 70.31 career scoring average, breaking Woods' school record of 70.96 from 1994-96. Rodgers also broke the school record for single-season scoring average with 69.41 average his junior season (2013-14). Maverick McNealy later tied Rodgers' and Woods' career wins record, and broke both Rodgers' records for career scoring average (70.12 from 2013-17) and single-season scoring average (69.05 in 2014-15 season).
- Swept the three NCAA Division I national player of the year awards -- Jack Nicklaus Award, Ben Hogan Award, Fred Haskins Award -- in 2014, becoming the fourth player to sweep those honors since the creation of all three awards. Followed Ryan Moore (2005), Bill Haas (2004), and Hunter Mahan (2003) as players to sweep the trio of awards. The feat was later accomplished by Sahith Theegala (2020), John Pak (2021), Ludvig Aberg (2023), and Jackson Koivun (2024).
- Says of his Indiana roots: "I've always been really proud to be from Indianapolis. Every time I'm announced on the first tee, I'm announced from Avon, Indiana, and that will never change. I'm very honored to represent the Hoosier state."
- The Rodgers family has strong ties to IndyCar Series racing through Patrick's grandfather, Jack Rodgers (detailed info in Family section). For many years, the Rodgers family had a hospitality suite at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home to the Indianapolis 500. Patrick recalls going to Indianapolis Motor Speedway with Jack (whom he called "Papa Jack") almost every year from the age of 2, saying, "My first memory was going to practice when I was maybe 3 or 4. I just remember the whole month of May being out at the track with my grandpa, whether it was hanging out back in the garage or going up to the suite and sitting and watching the cars go around." Charlie, son of Jack and father of Patrick, attended every Indianapolis 500 from 1969 through 2013. The streak ended in 2014, when the family attended the 2014 NCAA Championship (Patrick's final college golf event) at Prairie Dunes Country Club in Kansas. The day of the race, Patrick's tee time was delayed by inclement weather, so he and Charlie watched the 2014 Indianapolis 500 together in a hotel room.
- In addition to attending numerous iterations of the Indianapolis 500, Patrick played many rounds of golf at Brickyard Crossing Golf Course, which is on the grounds of Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The course first opened in 1929 as Speedway Golf Course, with nine holes outside the track and nine holes on the speedway infield. Speedway Golf Course hosted a

PGA TOUR event, the 500 Festival Open Invitation, from 1960-64 and 1966-68. Notable champions of the event were Billy Casper (1962, 1966, 1968), Gary Player (1964), and Frank Beard (1967). In 1961, Arnold Palmer lost a playoff to Doug Ford, who won the first two playings of the event. In 1992, Pete Dye redesigned the course, which reopened in 1993 with 14 holes east of the backstretch and four holes on the speedway infield. In the years following Dye's redesign, PGA TOUR Champions contested an event at Brickyard Crossing from 1997-2000. Patrick broke the course record in July 2013 (while preparing to compete at the John Deere Classic as a sponsor exemption) with a round of 62.

## Background

- Grew up playing and practicing at Country Club of Indianapolis. Also had the book "Tiger Woods: How I Play Golf" near his bedside table for many years; he dog-eared several pages and highlighted numerous passages in the book.
- In addition to his dedication to golf, played as many youth sports as he could (baseball, basketball, football) growing up in Avon, Indiana. Rodgers says, "I'd advise kids to play as many sports as you can as long as you can. It's easy to get burned out if you specialize at a young age. I definitely think playing other sports helped me in golf."
- Played basketball through his freshman year of high school; he gave up the sport given the fact he stood 5-foot-4 and weighed 110 pounds as a high school freshman. Rodgers said of his game, "I played no defense, but I could shoot from just about anywhere."
- Led Avon (Indiana) High School to its first state championship in any sport in June 2009, as Rodgers' T2 individual finish as a sophomore propelled Avon to victory at the Indiana High School Athletic Association Boys Golf State Finals. A year later, Rodgers won the 2010 individual state title as a junior.
- Avon High School's marching band has won numerous state championships (awarded by the Indiana State School Music Association), as well as multiple Bands of America Grand National Championships. Avon High School's marching band notably performed in the 2012 Rose Parade, as well as the 2024 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.
- Won the 2010 Western Junior Championship by three strokes over runner-up Michael Kim. Wyndham Clark finished solo third, four strokes behind Rodgers. Past champions of the event included Rickie Fowler (2005) and Jim Furyk (1987).
- Part of the famed high school Class of 2011 which included Daniel Berger, Emiliano Grillo, Xander Schauffele, Jordan Spieth, and Justin Thomas.
- Former No. 1-ranked golfer in the World Amateur Golf Ranking; he held the top spot for 16 consecutive weeks from late February 2014 (succeeding Matt Fitzpatrick) through June 2014. Rodgers ceded the No. 1 ranking upon turning professional after his junior season at Stanford.
- Rodgers (2012-14) followed Joel Kribel (1997-99) as the second player in Stanford history to earn three All-America First Team honors. Maverick McNealy (2015-17) later became the third player in Stanford history to accomplish the feat.
- With his sweep of the three national player of the year awards in 2014, his final season at Stanford, Rodgers followed Tiger Woods (1996) as Stanford's second winner of the Haskins Award and Jack Nicklaus Award. Rodgers was the first Stanford player to earn the Ben Hogan Award. Maverick McNealy later won each of the three awards, though he never accomplished the sweep as Rodgers did.
- Enjoyed immediate success in his first full season as a professional. Won the 2015 Astara Golf Championship (in Bogota, Colombia) in his second start as a Korn Ferry Tour member. Played the Korn Ferry Tour until May, after which time he earned Special Temporary Membership on the PGA TOUR off the strength of a T2 finish at the 2015 Truist Championship. Rodgers added a solo third at the 2015 Barracuda Championship, which propelled him to a top-125



finish in the FedExCup standings as a non-member, earning him fully exempt PGA TOUR membership for the 2015-16 season.

## Family

- Married Jade Olivia Gordon -- formerly a British stunt secretary and film assistant -- on May 26, 2019. The two share a son, Rafi (December 2020), and a daughter, Rosie (October 2023).
- According to Jade's IMDb profile, some of her most recent work includes credits as an assistant to Elizabeth Olsen in three Avengers movies (Endgame, Infinity War, Age of Ultron), Emily Blunt in Edge of Tomorrow, and Tom Felton, best known for his role as Draco Malfoy in the Harry Potter films. Previously, Jade assisted the stunt department for the final four Harry Potter films. In the flash forward scene at the conclusion of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part II, the final film in the beloved series, Jade made a brief appearance as Draco Malfoy's wife, Astoria.
- In 2023, Patrick wore a hat with a fox on it. Fox is the last name of Jade's grandparents and the reason for his son Rafi's middle name. He also had a custom fox logo on his bag.
- Inherited his organization and analytical process from his mother, Judy, who is a pharmacist. Patrick says his self-discipline also comes from his mother.
- Father, Charlie (son of Jack Rodgers), is a commercial real estate developer; he played college basketball at what is now St. Thomas University, an NAIA program in Miami Gardens, Florida.
- Patrick's father's grandfather, Jack, was one of the original investors behind (and later a minority team owner of) Bettenhausen Motorsports, an IndyCar racing team. In 1981, Jack founded H&R Racing with Wayne Hillis, which marked his foray into open-wheel motorsports and his pathway to becoming an original investor in Bettenhausen Motorsports. Jack was born in Bellflower, Missouri and graduated from University of Missouri in 1957, after which he served in the Air National Guard. The majority of his business career was spent with an agricultural corporation, IMC Corp. (later known as IMC Global until it merged with Cargill in 2004 to form what is known today as The Mosaic Company), in Lake Forest, Illinois. Jack retired from IMC as a national sales manager in 1996, and later passed away in 2002 at age 67. Jack and Patrick were very close, with Jack often taking Patrick to school. Patrick played the piano at Jack's funeral.
- Patrick's aunt, Teri, played college basketball at Duke University; she was credited with three seasons played (1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90).
- Patrick has one sibling, a younger sister, Caroline.

## Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Favorite sports teams are the Indianapolis Colts (NFL football) and Indiana Pacers (NBA basketball). Idolized Pacers great Reggie Miller.
- As a seventh grader, began keeping a manual ShotLink journal of every competitive round, detailing his statistics in the same categories the TOUR does. He did this for nearly eight years, tracking stats in key categories, while comparing them to the TOUR's best to determine where he stood, what he needed to focus on and to set goals.

## Charity

- On his honeymoon in Indonesia (Nih Sumba Island), he and Jade Olivia spent an afternoon volunteering with the Sumba Foundation, which aims to alleviate poverty in Sumba by providing access to potable water, eradicate malaria, general health, education and economic opportunities. (Instagram post available)

- Rodgers finished in second place in the 2022 RSM Birdies Fore Love program (a competition among players to produce the most total birdies or eagles in the fall schedule). He won \$150,000 to donate to children- or family-focused charities. He chose \$75,000 for Mia's Miracles (in honor of Camilo Villegas' late daughter) and \$75,000 for Indiana Junior Golf.

### Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Developed a friendship with Jack Nicklaus through winning the 2014 Nicklaus Award and his membership at Bear's Club in Jupiter, Florida. Rodgers once shared a particularly memorable piece of wisdom Nicklaus imparted on him, with Rodgers recalling, "It was really surprising to hear him say it, but he said he never tried to win a golf tournament. Obviously he got his fair share. He just tried to do his part and manage what was under his control and trust it would fall his way in the end."
- Played one season at Stanford (2013-14) with Maverick McNealy. It was Rodgers' junior season, his last at Stanford, and McNealy's freshman season. The two helped Stanford win the 2014 Pac-12 Championship, which marked the program's first conference title since 1994.
- In 2013, when Rodgers debated turning professional after his sophomore year at Stanford University, he reached out to fellow Stanford student-athlete and future NFL quarterback Andrew Luck, who had recently weighed a similar decision. Both athletes returned to Stanford for one more year. When Rodgers eventually turned pro in summer 2014, Luck commented, "He represents Stanford very well. He represents Indianapolis very well. I'm really happy for him. He's a good dude, and I think he's going to do great things." Oddly enough, Luck spent his entire seven-year NFL career with the Indianapolis Colts, one of Rodgers' favorite sports teams, before his abrupt retirement in 2019.
- Represented the United States at the 2011 and 2013 Walker Cups. Teammates in 2011 included future PGA TOUR winners Patrick Cantlay, Harris English, Russell Henley, and Jordan Spieth. Teammates in 2013 included future PGA TOUR winners Max Homa and Justin Thomas.
- Fell to eventual champion Kelly Kraft in the quarterfinals of the 2011 U.S. Amateur Championship at Erin Hills. Kraft defeated Patrick Cantlay in the 36-hole championship match.
- Has played in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am several times with Charles Schwab.

### Other

- Made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2012 Travelers Championship following his freshman season at Stanford. Rodgers played the event as an amateur via a sponsor exemption, and another notable sponsor exemption that week was Patrick Cantlay, who made his professional debut after two seasons at UCLA. Rodgers later made his professional debut at the 2014 Travelers Championship.
- Finished T3 at the 2009 Junior PLAYERS Championship (won by Bobby Wyatt). Finished solo seventh at the 2010 Junior PLAYERS, where the top 15 finishers included Jordan Spieth (T2), Emiliano Grillo (T2), Grayson Murray (6th), Daniel Berger (T8), Wyndham Clark (T11), and Adam Svensson (T13).

# Sami Valimaki

## Things To Know

- Sammy val-eh-MACK-ee
- Captured his second career DP World Tour victory at the 2023 Commercial Bank Qatar Masters to move him into position to capture dual membership on the PGA TOUR in 2024.
- Won the 2020 Oman Open in his sixth career start on the DP World Tour, 18 months after completing his military service in Finland. Added five other top-10 finishes to earn the Sir Henry Cotton Award as the DP World Tour Rookie of the Year.
- With his maiden DP World Tour victory, became the fourth player from Finland to win on the Tour, joining Mikko Ilonen, Roope Kakko and Mikko Korhonen.
- Reached as high as No. 10 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking. Led Finland to the 2018 European Team Amateur Championship, and also competed in the 2018 Eisenhower Trophy.
- Four-time winner on the Pro Golf Tour in 2019, including his first professional start at the Open Casa Green Golf in Morocco, to earn a spot on the Challenge Tour that same year, where he quickly graduated to the DP World Tour at the end of 2019 via Final Stage of Qualifying School.
- Finished solo 2nd at 2024 Mexico Open at Vidanta. Two shots (-17) behind winner Jake Knapp (-19)

## Background

- Born in Nokia, Finland, which has historic ties to the former telecommunications company.
- Emilia (wife), Max (son).

## Family

- Cousin Juuso Valimaki was selected by the Calgary Flames in the first round, 16th overall, in the 2017 NHL Entry Draft. The defenseman joined the Arizona Coyotes (now the Utah Hockey Club) franchise in 2022.

# Greyson Sigg

## Things To Know

- Got married on Sept. 9, 2022 to the former Katie Haack, daughter of longtime University of Georgia golf coach Chris Haack, who coached Greyson from 2014-2017. Attendees included PGA TOUR members Keith Mitchell, Sepp Straka, J.T. Poston and Stephan Jaeger, as well as Korn Ferry Tour member Joey Garber (Mitchell, Straka and Garber played at Georgia).
- Played golf at the University of Georgia from 2014-2017, where his teammates included Keith Mitchell and Sepp Straka. Named All-SEC in each of his last two seasons. Had three individual wins in college and captained the golf team in his senior season.
- Earned Korn Ferry Tour Rookie of the Year honors for the combined 2020-21 season.
- Joined the PGA TOUR as a rookie at the beginning of the 2021-22 season and is now in his third season.
- Earned the nickname "Pigeon" as a freshman at Georgia: Each freshman on the Georgia men's golf team gets a nickname. Just as his ball-striking has traveled from college to the Korn Ferry Tour, so has the nickname "Pigeon" - at least among his Georgia teammates. "One of the guys on the team was like, 'You look like a Pigeon.' And I was like, 'I don't look like a pigeon. That's not very cool, like, what does that mean?' And, of course after I said that, that was the worst thing I could have said, right? Because they're like, 'Oh you're getting defensive!' And it stuck of course," Sigg said.

## Background

- Sigg's dad, David, got him started in the game, taking him and his older brother, William, who went on to play at Presbyterian College, with him when he'd go play with their grandfather. Eventually Greyson graduated from playing in bunkers to hitting shots himself. He was as young as 5 when he began to wow spectators on the range. When he was 7, his dad asked Tommy Brannen, then the head pro at Augusta Country Club, if he should consider lengthening that action. But Sigg didn't change much; his swing today is mostly unchanged. "I asked the head pro if Greyson should maybe try to take it a little bit further because it was almost Jon Rahm like short," David said. "Tommy said, 'Don't touch it! Don't do nothing! Leave him alone!'"
- Began his rookie season on the Korn Ferry Tour (2020-21) with five consecutive top-25 finishes, the only player to do so that season.

## Family

- Greyson and his wife, Katie, welcomed their first daughter, Bates Elaine, in June 2025.
- Got engaged to the former Katie Haack in late September 2021 and the couple got married during the two-week period between the 2022 TOUR Championship and the start of the 2022-23 season; Haack is the daughter of longtime University of Georgia golf coach (and Sigg's former coach) Chris Haack.
- Mother, Karen (works at Augusta National - executive assistant to the Augusta National Executive Director Will Jones); Father, David (nuclear engineer); older brother, William.
- Recently got an English Cream Retriever puppy named "Bean". Bean is named after "The Bean" (because it looks like a bean), a work of public art in the heart of Chicago. The sculpture, which is officially titled Cloud Gate, is one of the world's largest permanent outdoor art installations. The monumental work was unveiled in 2004 and quickly became of

the Chicago's most iconic sights. Sigg was at "The Bean" when they received word they were approved for the puppy.

- Every spring break week, his family would get Masters tickets (thanks to his mother's job), and Greyson and brother William watched the world's best compete for a Green Jacket. Greyson liked Tiger best, but in 2004, with Phil Mickelson on his way to his first title, the lefty handed him a ball on back-to-back days, both times on the walk between the sixth green and seventh tee. The two were paired together at the 2021 U.S. Open.

### Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Enjoys hunting and fishing.

### Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Was college teammates with Keith Mitchell at the University of Georgia and now they're fellow St. Simons Island residents . Mitchell on Sigg: "He hits a five-yard draw with every single club throughout the bag, and he hits it dead straight and doesn't try to do it. His natural game is perfect. Not everybody wakes up and just hits it perfect like Greyson. A lot of people have to actually try to do that, but he just wakes up out of bed and he hits a five-yard draw."
- Sepp Straka lived next door to him in college: "Greyson's a stud. He stripes it, absolutely stripes it. Doesn't miss many shots. He hits it really straight off the tee. Scary straight. And pretty far for a little guy," Straka said. "Then his chipping is great. All-around, he's just a good golfer."
- Once caddied for Tony Kornheiser (host for ESPN's Pardon the Interruption) at Sage Valley when he was in high school and has received shout outs from Kornheiser on his show periodically.

# Johnny Keefer

## Things To Know

- A 2026 PGA TOUR rookie who earned TOUR membership for the first time with a No. 1 finish on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List. In addition to winning twice - first at the Veritex Bank Championship in Arlington, Texas, followed by the NV5 Invitational (operated by the Western Golf Association) just outside Chicago - Keefer led the Korn Ferry Tour in top-five finishes (six), top-10s (nine), and top-25s (15). Also posted a 67.95 scoring average, breaking Korn Ferry Tour record for single-season scoring average previously established by Luke Guthrie (68.33 in 2012).
- By virtue of finishing No. 1 on the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, Keefer earned exemptions for the 2026 PLAYERS Championship and 2026 U.S. Open.
- Upon conclusion of the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour season in mid-October, he stood a career-high No. 51 in the Official World Golf Ranking. Keefer was ranked No. 1,654 in the OWGR following his professional debut in June 2024 at the Times Colonist Victoria Open on PGA TOUR Americas, equating to a rise of 1,603 places in roughly 16 months.
- In his first season as a professional, finished No. 1 in the 2024 PGA TOUR Americas Fortinet Cup standings off the strength of a win and four runner-up finishes, earning fully exempt status for the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour season and exemptions for the 2024 Procore Championship (finished T13 in his PGA TOUR debut) and 2025 RBC Canadian Open.
- Finished No. 25 in the 2024 PGA TOUR University Ranking -- the last position which awarded performance benefits -- after five seasons at Baylor University. Earned membership for the second half of the 2024 PGA TOUR Americas season, which eventually saw him finish No. 1 in the Fortinet Cup standings to earn Korn Ferry Tour membership. Stood outside the top 25 of the PGA TOUR University Ranking all season, but secured the No. 25 position in the ranking with a T11 finish at the 2024 NCAA Championship.
- Legal name is John Keefer IV, which he thinks is cool since there are not many IVs out there. Keefer stamps IV on his wedges and uses it in his signature. Keefer also says if he has a son one day, he plans to continue to the family name and name him John Keefer V.

## Background

- A native of Baltimore, Maryland who moved to San Diego, California at age 7 and started playing golf at The Farms Golf Club. Keefer noted the course got him addicted to golf. After seven years in California, moved to San Antonio and joined TPC San Antonio, host of the PGA TOUR's Valero Texas Open.
- In addition to golf, grew up playing lacrosse and football. Stopped football due to concussions and chose golf as his primary focus when he moved to San Antonio. Played lacrosse from age 5 through his senior year of high school.
- Johnny's father, John Keefer III (also goes by "Big John"), got him into the game by bribing him with lacrosse equipment, saying, "If you take X amount of lessons in X amount of weeks, you will get a new lacrosse stick." Initially, Johnny wanted to play professional lacrosse, though he switched his focus to golf after moving to San Antonio, Texas. A year after the move to San Antonio, he committed to Baylor University (roughly two and a half hours from his home).
- Named a 2018 AJGA Rolex All-America Second Team selection alongside Gordon Sargent and PGA TOUR winner William Mouw.
- Played five seasons (2019-24) at Baylor University, where he earned one individual victory and broke the school record for career scoring average (71.45) previously established by six-

time PGA TOUR winner Jimmy Walker (71.55 from 1997-2001). Also earned two All-Big 12 Conference selections (2022, 2024) and became the first three-time Big 12 Men's Golf Scholar-Athlete of the Year (2022-24) in conference history.

## Family

- Proposed to his fiancée, Hitomi (pronounced HE-toh-me), on the eve of his major championship debut at the 2025 PGA Championship.
- Parents are John (also goes by Big John) and Judy Keefer.
- John was a recreational golfer and urged his son to take up the game, often telling Johnny, "Golf is a life sport, one that is great for business and meeting people."
- Johnny is half-Chinese, as his mom, Judy, moved from Hong Kong when she was in middle school.
- John and Judy work for Constellation Brands, which owns Modelo and Corona, among other brands of beer, wine, and spirits. John and Judy began working internationally (in Mexico) when the family relocated to San Antonio, and they were usually only home with Johnny on the weekends. This led to Johnny becoming incredibly independent and self-sufficient, with Johnny handling his own cooking, getting to school and practices, and enjoying his alone time.
- Older sister, Amanda, works in marketing.

## Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Always has something in his pocket, typically something that he can click out of nervous habit. Initially began when he was in second grade with a match box and his parents switched it out for an eraser.
- When he is off the golf course, says he is one of the laziest people. When he is on the golf course, he loves being proactive and refuses to take any shortcuts. He believes his laid-back nature is a result of having almost no decompression growing up. He took academics very seriously, and once school was finished in the afternoon, he would go to golf practice followed by lacrosse practice, homework and then sleep. Enjoys his alone time.
- Huge fan of the popular television show The Office. Has watched the show in its entirety 10-plus times, with his favorite episode occurring in Season 7 when Michael finally ends up with Holly.
- Fan of the Baltimore Ravens (NFL football).
- Listens to all types of music (country, Fall Out Boy, old rock, rap, hip-hop, '70s, '80s).

## Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Met longtime Baylor University men's golf head coach Mike McGraw shortly after the family relocated to San Antonio, Texas when he was 14 years old. McGraw gave Johnny the nickname "little squirt" because, when McGraw met him, Johnny was 80 pounds, super tiny, and looked like an intense competitor. Johnny says as soon as he met Coach McGraw, he knew he would commit to Baylor.
- Represented the United States at the 2022 Arnold Palmer Cup; his teammates included Sam Bennett, Gordon Sargent, and Michael Thorbjornsen.
- Went to Baylor with some of his high school teammates. Keefer's teammates in his five seasons at Baylor also included Korn Ferry Tour member Cooper Dossey (2019-21) and Scout McNealy (younger brother of PGA TOUR winner Maverick McNealy). Keefer was also a roommate of Cooper Dossey's younger brother, Luke.

- Golfs frequently with Garrett Martin who went to Texas Tech for golf and was teammates with Ludvig ?berg. Johnny has golfed with Garrett since high school, as the two grew up 10 minutes away from one another. The two were San Antonio Express-News Co-Area Players of the Year as seniors in 2019.

#### Other

- Recipient of the 2024 Scout McNealy Award, which is awarded to a member of the Baylor men's golf team who exemplifies excellence in their everyday life. The award is named after Scout McNealy, younger brother of PGA TOUR winner Maverick McNealy.



# Eric Cole

## Things To Know

- Received the 2023 Arnold Palmer Award, which is awarded annually to the PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year. The award, voted on by PGA TOUR members, comes after a season in which he recorded two runner-up finishes. He was also the only rookie who qualified for the 2023 BMW Championship (the second leg of the FedExCup Playoffs).
- Grew up playing and practicing at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge, and lives roughly 30 minutes away from PGA National Resort in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, giving extra meaning to both the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard and Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches.
- Earned his first PGA TOUR card via the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Finals. Originally turned professional in 2009 but played predominantly on mini-tours until earning Korn Ferry Tour membership for the first time ahead of the 2017 season. Struggled on the Korn Ferry Tour and would not return there until the 2020-21 season, which saw him finish No. 100 in the standings and return to Q-School. Cole posted five top-10s in his 24 Korn Ferry Tour starts in 2022; he had one top-10 in his previous 41 Korn Ferry Tour starts.
- Of earning his first PGA TOUR card in 2022, roughly 13 years after turning professional, Cole acknowledges it was a "long, hard road" to reach the TOUR, but he is proud of the fact he stayed the course and persevered.
- While managing a back injury in early 2019, Eric spent a couple months giving lessons at Abacoa Golf Club in Jupiter, Florida. Near the end of 2019, Eric earned conditional membership for the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour season via Q-School.
- One of 16 members on the Player Advisory Council (PAC), serving for the first time. The PAC advises and consults with the PGA TOUR Policy Board (Board of Directors) and Commissioner Jay Monahan on issues affecting the TOUR.

## Background

- Eric calls his mom "a superhero" for traveling the professional golf circuit with young children and playing at a high level. Eric has fond childhood memories of life on the road with his mom.
- Played collegiately at Nova Southeastern University for two seasons (2006-08). At the end of the 2006-07 season, Cole and teammate Greg O'Mahony earned the program's first NCAA Division II All-America Honorable Mentions (it was previously an NAIA program). Cole was also named the 2007 Sunshine State Conference Freshman of the Year and finished runner-up at the 2007 SSC Championship as he led the Sharks to a team title.
- During his sophomore season at Nova Southeastern, Cole's body ached and he lost a significant amount of weight, eventually dropping all the way down to 117 pounds. Went to the ER and was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes and Addison's Disease -- an adrenal insufficiency condition. Cole wears an insulin pump and a blood glucose monitor. Typically carries sugar-free protein bars (to eat when his blood sugar is stable) and Sour Patch Kids and Starburst (for when his blood sugar dips) in his bag for mid-round snacks. Takes medication in the morning to treat Addison's.

## Family

- Eric and his wife, Stephanie, wed on December 9, 2023 in the Florida Keys. Won the Minor League Golf Tour Championship at Abacoa Golf Club in Jupiter, Florida, on Wednesday,

December 6 before heading down to the Keys on Thursday. Proposed to Stephanie Williams during a practice round at the 2023 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

- Son of two professional golfers: Bobby Cole and Laura Baugh (since divorced). Bobby continues to work with Eric on the technical and mechanical aspects of his swing, while Laura works with Eric on mental and game management aspects.
- Father, Bobby Cole, a native of South Africa, won the 1977 Buick Open on the PGA TOUR, in addition to becoming the youngest winner of The Amateur Championship as an 18-year-old in 1966; he has been the Lead Master Instructor at the Jim McLean Golf School in Doral, Florida for nearly two decades.
- Mother, Laura Baugh, was the 1973 LPGA Rookie of the Year and finished with 70 top-10s across a 25-year LPGA career. She also won the 1971 U.S. Women's Amateur as a 16-year-old, making her the youngest winner in history at the time. She eventually worked at Sawgrass Country Club for four years as a teaching professional before establishing her own golf school in St. Augustine, Florida.
- Eric has six siblings, and he is the second-oldest of the group of seven. Lost one of his younger brothers, Michael, in May 2022.
- Eric's grandfather on his mother's side, Hale Baugh, competed in the modern pentathlon (fencing, freestyle swimming, equestrian show jumping, shooting, cross country running) at the 1948 Olympics in London. Hale was also an excellent amateur golfer.

## Charity

- Skipped the 2023 Rocket Classic to instead play the Frank B. Fuhrer Invitational, which he won by nine shots. Donated his entire first-place prize of \$20,000 back to the Fuhrer family to be used for a golf-related charity. "It's something that fits the theme of what Mr. Fuhrer did with his life as far as generosity and charitable giving," Cole said. "It's not really about the money for me. It's about being here." Tournament founder Frank Fuhrer Jr., gave Cole a spot in the field 12 years ago when he was a struggling mini-tour player. His flight to the event from Hartford, Connecticut (site of the previous week's Travelers Championship) was canceled on Sunday night, so Cole drove 7.5 hours from there to Pittsburgh for the Fuhrer Invitational.

## Inner Circle/Special Connections

- As a teenager, developed a close friendship with Sam Saunders, grandson of Arnold Palmer, through playing at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge. Cole and Saunders frequently played with PGA TOUR winners Robert Damron, Lee Janzen, and Dicky Pride. Cole said of playing with the TOUR pros, "They helped our games develop faster than other juniors. We went to the range with a plan, practiced wedges more than other juniors and had pre-shot routines before the other kids did."

# Hayden Buckley

## Things To Know

- Earned his first PGA TOUR card with two top-10s in the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals.
- Spent two weeks in China during his college years, teaching kids English and sharing his passion for golf; his favorite memory was playing a pickup basketball game in front of over 200 kids at a school there, and he said they all wanted autographs and pictures.

## Background

- Earliest golf memory is hitting with plastic clubs in his grandfather's yard; he was swinging left-handed and was promptly yelled at to turn around to the right side.
- Grew up playing baseball and played until high school when his school made him choose between baseball and golf. Buckley chose golf, but didn't put much thought into one day playing professionally until he won four times in college at Missouri.
- Lightly recruited coming out of Tupelo (Miss.) High School, with his only Division I scholarship offer being from Rice University, and he was only offered a two percent scholarship (to cover books) by University of Missouri. Mark Leroux, Missouri's head coach (who is set to retire in 2023), only discovered him through Chris Harder, Buckley's high school coach and a former player of his from a coaching tenure at Austin Peay State University. Leroux never saw Buckley play, but offered him the two-percent scholarship for books off the strength of Harder's recommendation. "That was the life-changer. The coach had never watched me play golf, never seen me hit a shot, probably didn't know what I looked like." As a senior at Missouri in 2017-18, he won four individual titles, garnered 2018 All-America Third Team recognition, an All-SEC First Team honor, and led the SEC with a 69.53 scoring average prior to NCAA postseason play.
- Won the Korn Ferry Tour's 2021 LECOM Suncoast Classic after he began Thursday morning as the first alternate, only gaining entry into the field 15 minutes before a 7:17 a.m. tee time. He woke up at 4:30 a.m. Thursday, went through his normal routine and got to the course at 6 a.m. "I warmed up and then sat around and, to be honest, I had no hope. I was sitting there about 7 a.m. on the putting green not sure what to do... when I found out (Brandon Hagy withdrew) the tee time was for 7:17 a.m., I ran to the range and then back and was almost late." He shot a bogey-free 3-under 68 in the first round and eventually won the tournament when he made a 10-foot birdie putt on the first hole of a three-man playoff.

## Family

- Wife, Feleysa; married on December 3, 2022. They both grew up in Tupelo but did not start dating until the reconnected when Buckley returned home during the hiatus of the Korn Ferry Tour season due to COVID. Felysa was living and working in Oxford, Mississippi at the time.
- Father, Robert Buckley (Bob), is a respected cosmetic and hand surgeon in Tupelo, Mississippi. He played baseball at Ole Miss for one season, but after not seeing a lot of field action, gave up baseball to pursue medical school. While at residency in Chattanooga, son Hayden, was born, but the family moved to Tupelo permanently a few years after the birth.
- Has a Shih Tzu/Bichon Frise mix named Macy Grace. Stitching of the dog on his bag currently.

## Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Enjoys hunting and fishing, music, playing guitar, basketball and Xbox.
- Became interested in Southeast Asian cultures after visiting the continent during college.
- Fan of Missouri Tigers sports teams.
- Travels with his guitar. College roommate was an aspiring country music artist who taught him how to play guitar.

## Charity

- While in college at Missouri, he volunteered for Pascale's Pals, a local volunteer organization benefitting the children and families staying at the Children's Hospital in Columbia, Missouri; he also volunteered with Starlight Reading.

## Other

- Grew up in Tupelo, Mississippi, less than two hours from Memphis. When he embarked on his professional career, he had plans to attempt to Monday Qualify for the TOUR's annual stop in Memphis, but the event transitioned into a World Golf Championships event. When the rookie joined the TOUR in 2021-22, many referred to the Sanderson Farms Championship as his hometown event, but really, he considers the FedEx St. Jude Championship his true hometown event.
- Made his first PGA TOUR start and finished T63 at the 2018 Sanderson Farms Championship, playing on a sponsor exemption in his home state of Mississippi.

# Quade Cummins

## Things To Know

- A 2025 PGA TOUR rookie who earned TOUR membership following a top 30 finish on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, which marked his third consecutive season on the Korn Ferry Tour. Although Cummins went without a victory in those three seasons, he recorded Korn Ferry Tour Points List finishes of No. 70 as a rookie in 2022, No. 59 in 2023, and No. 11 in 2024.
- Led the Korn Ferry Tour with 14 top-25s across his 25 starts in 2024. Also posted a 68.39 scoring average, finishing one stroke behind Matt McCarty (68.38) for the Korn Ferry Tour scoring average record by a player with at least 60 rounds played in a season. Cummins and McCarty, who won three times and finished No. 1 on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List, both played 92 rounds in 2024, with McCarty totaling 6,291 strokes, and Cummins totaling 6,292 strokes. The previous Korn Ferry Tour scoring average record with a minimum of 60 rounds played was previously established by Will Zalatoris (68.44 across 64 rounds in 2020-21) and Justin Suh (68.44 across 90 rounds in 2022).
- When not on TOUR, plays and practices at the famed Oak Tree National in Edmond, Oklahoma, which is less than 90 minutes from his childhood hometown of Weatherford, Oklahoma.
- Spent his formative years playing and practicing at Prairie West Golf Club in his hometown of Weatherford, Oklahoma. It is a public golf course with green fees typically under \$40. Quade says of Prairie West, "That's where I started playing the game, and it's a really cool place for me. You kind of do whatever you want out there. You can wear a t-shirt and shorts if you want. It was a pretty cool place to grow up, and then transition from college to pro golf. Not really any trees, it's really windy, and there's a lot of creativity out there. The course wasn't busy every single day, so I could play however many holes I wanted to play. I practiced on the course. You want to hit 10 balls on a hole? You hit 10 balls on a hole."
- Played collegiately for six seasons at University of Oklahoma (2015-21 - redshirted as a true freshman, and later granted extra year of eligibility due to COVID-19 pandemic), where he was a two-time All-American (First Team in the shortened 2019-20 season, Third Team in 2021).
- Quade said of redshirting the 2015-16 season as a true freshman at Oklahoma, "I remember after I committed to OU, just being a cocky 16-year-old... and you show up to college and get whooped up on by other players. I was lucky enough to have a coach, Coach (Ryan) Hybl [pronounced HIB-ull], sit me down and tell me I'm good enough to play as long as I redshirt, learn from the other guys. I'm very thankful he let me redshirt, get a year under my belt and go from there."

## Background

- Grew up in Weatherford, Oklahoma, which he now refers to as "a really small town." Prior to leaving for the University of Oklahoma (about 90 minutes from his hometown) and traveling around the country with the golf team, though, Quade didn't believe Weatherford was a particularly small town. Quade smiles as he says, "I think it has 10,000 people, and you just have one golf course there... Prairie West."
- On what sparked his love of golf: "The freedom. You can kind of do whatever you want, and if it works, it works. It's kind of like being an artist on the course. You see guys get it in the hole different ways. That's kind of how I've taken my game throughout the years. I can maneuver it, and whatever works, keep doing it."

- Has baby pictures with golf clubs [we have these photos upon request], but also went through "a cowboy phase of wanting to be a bull rider" as well. Remembered playing his first tournament, a nine-hole event, around age 8.
- In a high school English class, Quade's teacher, Mrs. Henderson, had the students write a paper which detailed something they were passionate about. Quade wrote about golf and listed goals of winning a state championship, playing college golf, and earning PGA TOUR membership. Quade's mother, Stacy, who was an elementary school teacher for over two decades, still has the paper, and she sent a copy to both Mrs. Henderson and Quade's college golf coach at University of Oklahoma, Ryan Hybl [pronounced HIB-ull], when Quade earned his PGA TOUR card in 2024.
- Throughout Quade's middle school and high school years, had a chance to compete in practice rounds against members of the Southwestern Oklahoma State University golf team. SWOSU, as Quade refers to it, is an NCAA Division II program in his hometown of Weatherford. Quade smiles as he recalls, "I always wanted to play with them. I would go out there and watch them practice, and they either got tired of me watching and finally asked me to play, or I kind of forced them to ask me. I was pretty excited when they started letting me play, or when one of the players would play nine holes with me after their practice. It was pretty fun growing up around that, and I'm very thankful for it."
- Notable amateur highlights include a third-place finish at the 2020 Southern Amateur (won by future PGA TOUR member Mac Meissner [pronounced MIZE-nur]), and a victory at the 2019 Pacific Coast Amateur.
- Other notable past champions of the Pacific Coast Amateur include Will Zalatoris (2016), Aaron Wise (2015), Andrew Putnam (2010), Michael Putnam (2004), Ben Crane (1998), Jason Gore (1997), and Billy Mayfair (1987, 1988).
- Finished No. 6 in the inaugural PGA TOUR University Class of 2021. The performance benefits were drastically different in 2021 than they were upon Quade's graduation to the PGA TOUR following the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour season. Quade only earned membership for the 2021 PGA TOUR Canada (now PGA TOUR Americas) season, in addition to an exemption for Second Stage of Q-School. Had Quade finished No. 6 in either the 2023 or 2024 PGA TOUR University ranking, he would have earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the remainder of the season (essentially half a season), in addition to the exemption for Second Stage of Q-School.
- As a Korn Ferry Tour rookie, began the 2022 season with poor conditional status after a T127 finish at Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament (now PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry). Cummins played his way up the priority ranking in the third event of the season, finishing T15 as an open qualifier and backing it up five starts later with a top-five finish. Cummins went on to earn fully exempt status for the 2023 season with a top 75 finish (No. 70) on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List.

## Family

- Quade and his wife, Rian (pronounced like the name Ryan), wed in November 2023.
- Quade and Rian met at the 2019 NCAA Championship in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Quade remembers her being on a lake which wasn't far from Blessings Golf Club, and how she rallied her friends to show up and watch the golf tournament. The two began dating shortly thereafter. Quade recalled, "I don't know how many hours they drove... she watched me for two holes and left. Now she's my wife. It's pretty cool." A little over two years later, Quade picked the engagement ring up following an 8-hour drive home from Albuquerque, where earlier in the day he qualified for Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament (now PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry); he proposed on a scenic bridge at Oak Tree National the following weekend.

- Grandfather, Lloyd (goes by L.B.), started the family car dealership business, Cummins Auto Group, in Weatherford, Oklahoma back in 1984. Quade said of the family business, "I grew up with no babysitter. I'd go to the dealership and kind of heckle the salesmen, and hang out with my dad and grandpa all day until we went to the golf course. I enjoyed going to the dealership, going to the break room and getting some snacks out of the vending machine. My grandpa had an office in the back... you could practice putting, it had a TV in there. I thought it was awesome. He'd pick me up from school every day, we'd get a snack, and go practice golf."
- Father, Chad, took charge of Cummins Auto Group in the 1990s and continues to run the business.
- Mother, Stacy, was an elementary school teacher for more than 20 years in Weatherford Public Schools.
- Stacy humorously recalled how Quade once turned an expensive rug in their house into a surface he could use for a putting drill. Quade got a ruler and drew a straight line across the rug... but the problem was he used a Sharpie. Stacy said she never got the marker out of the rug, which was not as humorous at the time as it is today.
- Both of Quade's sisters, Kelsey and Chloe, are University of Oklahoma alums.

### Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Played football (he was a center) through middle school, in addition to some high school basketball. Quade chuckles as he reflects on his basketball career and says, "I sat on the bench a lot. I was kind of there for some scout team purposes, just to have a bigger body to guard the big man on our team. I got some playing time. My best game, I might have had 10 points." Quade mainly played basketball to keep in shape when it wasn't golf season; he eventually gave up the sport after a broken finger (caused by repeated dunking) required surgery and pins.
- Favorite teams are University of Oklahoma athletics and the Chicago Bears (NFL). Quade chose the Bears because he was "sandwiched right in between" Dallas Cowboys and Kansas City Chiefs fans and decided he needed an NFL team to root for. After the Chiefs won their second Super Bowl in 2022, Quade did a random wheel on the internet, and the last team standing was the Bears, which made them his pick. The 2023 season was Quade's first as a Bears fan. He also purchased the NFL Sunday Ticket package on YouTube TV to ensure he could watch every Bears game.
- Big fan of musicians Waylon Jennings and Ronnie Milsap. Quade's dog, Waylon, is named after the country artist.

### Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Max McGreevy. The two competed against each other on the Oklahoma junior golf circuit (McGreevy was born and raised in Edmond, Oklahoma) and were college teammates for two seasons at Oklahoma (2015-17). Quade said he's looked up to McGreevy since around the time he was 13 years old, and he continues to be inspired by McGreevy today.
- Brad Dalke of Good Good. Dalke and Cummins were teammates at Oklahoma for four seasons (2015-19).
- Craig Bowden (pronounced BOW-din), a three-time Korn Ferry Tour winner who made 152 PGA TOUR starts prior to becoming a tour rep for KBS Golf Shafts. The two often spent time together during practice rounds on the Korn Ferry Tour, with Quade saying those sessions provided a boost of confidence early in a tournament week.

- Teammates at the 2021 Walker Cup included PGA TOUR winners Austin Eckroat and Davis Thompson, as well as fellow Korn Ferry Tour graduates Ricky Castillo, Pierceson Coody, Mac Meissner, William Mouw, and John Pak. Also competed alongside Eckroat at the 2019 Arnold Palmer Cup, and alongside Thompson at the 2020 Arnold Palmer Cup.



# Andrew Putnam

## Things To Know

- Was joined by his brother, Michael, on the PGA TOUR for his rookie season in 2014-15. Prior to that, the last time two brothers were members at the same time on TOUR was in 2004 when Brenden Pappas played 34 events and Deane Pappas played 22 events.

## Background

- Born and raised in Tacoma, Washington, graduated from Life Christian Academy high school in 2007.
- Attended and played golf collegiately at Pepperdine University, where Brendan von Doehren - currently the Executive Director of PGA TOUR University - was a coach at the time.
- As a freshman at Pepperdine, left his putter in his dorm room when a nearby forest fire caused students to evacuate. In his first collegiate event, used an Odyssey putter he picked up from the pro shop. Went on to use the putter for the remainder of his collegiate career, earning All-American honors with it three times.

## Family

- Married his wife, Tawny, in August of 2017 at Tacoma Country & Golf Club, where he was a member. His girlfriend at the time, Tawny flew to surprise him when he won the Panama Claro Championship on the Korn Ferry Tour in a playoff in 2017. They have two children together - a daughter, Pepper, born in March of 2019, and son, Paxley, born in October of 2020.
- Is the third-oldest of four brothers - Joel (oldest), Michael (second-oldest) and Nathan (youngest). With Michael, is part-owner of PlayKleen, a golf towel company that created a towel for Hurricane Harvey relief efforts in 2017. Proceeds were donated to hurricane relief partners, with Andrew and Michael personally matching the donations.

## Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Is scuba certified and his favorite hobby is diving with his wife, Tawny. Just days prior to the 2021 Barracuda Championship, spent time diving in Lake Tahoe with a nonprofit called Clean Up the Lake in an effort to bring awareness to the importance of protecting the environment.
- Enjoys traveling. With Tawny, once went to Uganda and trekked with silverback gorillas as part of a trip to see Africa and visit with nonprofits that rescue children out of poverty.
- Additional hobbies include hiking, hunting, boating, wake surfing and mountain biking.
- Enjoys finance, cryptocurrency and investing. Is part of a development company that builds multifamily and low-income housing in the Tacoma area.
- Is a Seattle area sports fan, including the NFL's Seahawks (football) and MLB's Mariners (baseball). Also follows Pepperdine University and University of Washington athletics.
- Is a fan of the show "Impractical Jokers."

## Charity

- Active supporter of several Christian charity organizations, including College Golf Fellowship. When he won the 2018 MetLife Matchup - thanks in no small part to the groundswell of

social media support he received from those involved with College Golf Fellowship - he went on to donate his \$750,000 in prize money to the organization.

- Also supports Young Life and Compassion International.

#### Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Plays golf at Tacoma Country & Golf Club with past and present PGA TOUR players, including Andres Gonzales, Kyle Stanley, Ryan Moore and his brother, Michael.
- Is friends with former Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Jermaine Kearse, who plays golf and is a member at Tacoma Country & Golf Club.

# J.T. Poston

## Things To Know

- J.T. and Kelly welcomed their first child, daughter, Scottie in March 2024. Scottie joined the family out on the road for the first time at the RBC Heritage.
- Married the former Kelly Cox on December 2, 2022, in St. Simons Island, Georgia. Attendees included PGA TOUR members Harry Higgs, Keith Mitchell and Greyson Sigg, as well as Poston's caddie, Aaron Flener, who sang with the band. Kelly is a graduate of the University of Georgia. The honeymoon, a trip to snowy Jackson Hole, Wyoming, took place the following week. Poston went skiing for the first time in almost 10 years.
- From Hickory, North Carolina, and attended Western Carolina University. Became the first player in school history to compete in the NCAA Men's Golf Championship as a senior in 2015. Huge fan of the University of North Carolina Tar Heels despite not having the opportunity to play there in college.
- Alma mater, Western Carolina, hosts a tournament called the J.T. Poston Invitational each fall. Western Carolina has hosted the tournament for several years, but renamed in honor of J.T. in 2019. The trophy is a purple mailbox, a nod to J.T.'s nickname, the Postman. Coastal Carolina won the team title, while Western Carolina finished second. The tournament takes place at the Country Club of Sapphire Valley in Sapphire, North Carolina.
- Monday Qualified at the 2016 United Leasing & Finance Championship on the Korn Ferry Tour and finished T23, earning a spot in the following week's UNC Health Championship in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he finished third and earned Special Temporary Membership. Finished the 2016 Korn Ferry Tour season ranked 10th on the money list to earn his PGA TOUR card for the 2016-17 season, his rookie year.

## Background

- Full name is James Tyree Poston.
- As a junior golfer, was one of the top players in the state of North Carolina at Hickory High School. Won the 2010 and 2011 NCHSAA 3A State Championship at Foxfire Country Club in Foxfire Village, North Carolina. Was featured in a 2011 edition of Sports Illustrated's "Faces in the Crowd" section for his back-to-back state titles.
- Won the 2011 Big I Championship, one of the oldest national events in junior golf. Other winners include Tiger Woods (1990, 1992), Billy Andrade (1980, 1981) and Justin Leonard (1989).
- Offered scholarships to larger Division I programs but chose Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina, where he became the program's all-time leader in several statistical categories. Spurned by ACC and SEC schools in the southeast and always carried a chip on his shoulder.

## Family

- Parents: James Tyree, Sr. (Ty) and Cheryl (divorced)
- Late grandfather, Charles "Pa Doc" Cunningham, first introduced him to the game at age 2 and built his first club, a cut-down persimmon 5-wood, at the age of 3. J.T. would follow him to the range all the time and says he "fell in love with the game right away." Earliest golf memory is playing golf with his father and grandfather in the father-son tournament at Lake Hickory Country Club. Pa Doc shot his age or better more than 600 times during his life (he stopped keeping count) and competed in the U.S. and British Amateur (once each). Poston

remembers his grandfather shooting 65 when he was 66 in a round they played. Poston first beat him when he was 11 or 12 years old in a match at The Floridian, making birdie at the last hole to win the match. Pa Doc kept the scorecard and framed it.

- Pa Doc battled stage 4 colon cancer in 2019 and wasn't able to play golf for six months, but still made it to the 2019 Wyndham Championship to see Poston's win. After getting a good report and being taken off chemotherapy a week before the 2019 RSM Classic, he attended the event to see JT play for the first time since his win in Greensboro. Poston posted on Instagram in September 2021 that Pa Doc had passed.
- Pa Doc was going to caddie for him during the Par 3 contest at the Masters Tournament during his debut in 2020, but with the tournament rescheduled to November due to COVID-19 and the Par 3 contest canceled, he was not able to. In 2023, J.T. made his first appearance at the tournament since Pa Doc passed away.
- Pa Doc used to caddie for him in junior tournaments and last caddied for him in his 80s at the Jones Cup in 2014.
- He and his wife, Kelly, love to play pickleball and tennis together. Kelly attended the University of Georgia.

### Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Loves hunting and fishing with his brothers, Bailey and Bo, and his father when away from the course. Favorite hunting is bird hunting (duck, quail, dove). Favorite fishing is catching redfish in the marsh.
- Huge fan of the UNC Tar Heels, especially their men's basketball program. Also supports the Carolina Panthers and Atlanta Braves.
- Listens to country music, classic rock and Drake.
- He's said he gets antsy with downtime and will "always find something to do and keep myself busy."

### Charity

- On the board of the Luke Garrison Foundation and always tries to "Live Like Luke." Luke was a close friend of his from Hickory and passed away suddenly on November 14, 2015 at the age of 24. The foundation provides grants each year to organizations that provide access and encouragement for others to "Live Like Luke," who had a passion for learning, especially about science and nature, and loved the outdoors, sports, and his church.

### Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Caddie, Aaron Flener, has been working for him since May 2018. Flener used to caddie for friend Stephan Jaeger.
- Closest friends on TOUR include Keith Mitchell, Patton Kizzire, Harris English and Sepp Straka. Considers Davis Love III a mentor.

### Other

- Player ambassador and member of Congaree Golf Club, which hosted the 2022 CJ CUP in South Carolina. The club also hosted the 2021 Palmetto Championship at Congaree. Poston's longtime teacher John McNeely helped start Congaree.

# Ricky Castillo

## Things To Know

- Last name pronunciation: kuh-STILL-ee-oh (Ricky is of Filipino descent)
- A 2025 PGA TOUR rookie who earned TOUR membership for the first time via a top 30 finish (No. 26) on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List. Accomplished the feat in his first full season on the Korn Ferry Tour, as he previously joined the Tour mid-season (in June 2023) via performance benefits from a No. 9 finish in the 2023 PGA TOUR University Ranking, won his Korn Ferry Tour debut at the 2023 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open, and finished No. 53 on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List for fully exempt status in 2024.
- Won his Korn Ferry Tour debut at the 2023 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open, which was just 18 days after he helped University of Florida win the team national title at the 2023 NCAA Championship. Castillo went 2-0 in match play and held a 1 up lead through 17 holes of his championship match when Florida clinched the national title.
- Born and raised in Yorba Linda, California and graduated from Valencia High School in nearby Placentia. Valencia High School (not to be confused with a high school bearing the same name in Santa Clarita, California) notably counts two-time Korn Ferry Tour winner and former PGA TOUR member Chris Tidland among its alumni. Tidland won the 1989 individual state championship at Valencia and grew up playing Alta Vista Country Club, which was (and remains) the team's home course. By the time Castillo turned 7 years old, he and his older brother, Derek, were able to play and practice at Alta Vista Country Club; he also continues to play and practice there when he goes back to Yorba Linda. Tidland went on to play collegiately at Oklahoma State University, and played three seasons on the PGA TOUR (2001, 2007, 2010). One of Tidland's two Korn Ferry Tour wins came at the 2009 Wichita Open - the same event Castillo won in his Korn Ferry Tour debut in 2023.
- Wears his trademark puka shell necklace in honor of his grandmother, a huge supporter of his golfing career. During Ricky's childhood, his father, Mark, took the family to Hawaii. Mark took Ricky to an old sugar cane plantation where Mark's grandparents - immigrants from the Philippines and Japan - worked and lived. Ricky bought the necklace on that trip and has worn it ever since.

## Background

- Moved from Gainesville to Jacksonville following the 2023 season; he lives in the same residential complex as fellow Korn Ferry Tour graduate Jackson Suber and a handful of other professional golfers. Plays and practices out of TPC Sawgrass.
- Competed in his first tournament at age 5, but only played two holes. Ricky decided he wanted to ride in the cart with his grandmother as opposed to playing the tournament. A week later, Ricky completed a tournament and loved the experience.
- Grew up in Yorba Linda, California, a city in Orange County. Yorba Linda is roughly 35 miles southeast of Los Angeles, and roughly 10 miles northeast of Anaheim. Ricky and his older brother, Derek, got their start in golf playing Birch Hills Golf Course in nearby Brea, California, as well as Fullerton Golf Course.
- Earned AJGA Junior All-America First Team selections in 2016 and 2018. The 2016 first-team honorees included future PGA TOUR winner Ryan Gerard and fellow Korn Ferry Tour graduates Noah Goodwin, John Pak, and Norman Xiong. The 2018 first-team honorees included future PGA TOUR winners Akshay Bhatia and Karl Vilips, as well as Michael Thorbjornsen, who went on to become the No. 1 player in the PGA TOUR University Class of 2024.

- Became one of the youngest U.S. Amateur Championship competitors in history, as he qualified for the 2015 U.S. Amateur at Olympia Fields Country Club at age 14. Two years later, Ricky and his older brother, Derek (they are just under three years apart), both qualified for the 2017 U.S. Amateur at different qualifying sites. Ricky reached match play at Riviera Country Club but was eliminated in the Round of 32. Ricky also made back-to-back appearances in the Round of 16 at the 2021 and 2022 U.S. Amateurs, and notably defeated Ludvig Aberg in the Round of 64 in 2022.
- Played four seasons at University of Florida (2019-23), earning three individual victories, four All-Southeastern Conference selections (First Team in 2020, Second Team in 2021, 2022, 2023), as well as a 2019-20 All-America First Team selection and the 2019-20 National Freshman of the Year award.
- Posted a strong record at the Western Amateur, reaching semifinals in 2019 and 2020. Also returned to the quarterfinals in 2021, defeating future PGA TOUR winner Joe Highsmith before falling to Michael Thorbjornsen.

## Family

- Grew up playing against his older brother, Derek (the two are separated by just under three years), who was a highly-touted junior prospect prior to a short stint in professional golf. The brothers often battled for one of their dad's candy bars when they played against each other as youngsters. In a spring 2016 interview, Derek, a high school senior at the time, said of their competitive relationship, "We definitely wouldn't be as good as we are if we didn't have each other. That's why we play together so much. We help each other become better players."
- Derek's decorated junior career included medalist honors in the stroke play portion of the 2013 Polo Junior Golf Classic, an annual AJGA event contested at PGA National Resort, host of the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches. Derek lost in the first round of match play, and future PGA TOUR winner Cameron Young went on to win the tournament.
- Derek played collegiately at University of Nevada-Las Vegas (2016-17 season) and Cal State Fullerton (2017-20). His last PGA TOUR-sanctioned start was in 2022 on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica, after which he transitioned to caddying on the LPGA Tour. Ricky hired Derek as his caddie a little over halfway through the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour season, which saw Ricky finish in the top 30 on the Points List to earn PGA TOUR membership for the first time.
- When Ricky and Derek were on the road together as player and caddie in 2024, the two found a fun way to get out of the hotel and pass time together: they went to local putt putt courses.
- Derek's recruitment to UNLV eventually contributed to Ricky signing with University of Florida. Derek was recruited by J.C. Deacon, an assistant coach at UNLV who eventually took over as head coach at Florida. Ricky's college decision came down to Florida and University of Southern California.
- Father, Mark, earned an accounting degree from Cal State Fullerton and has been a teacher (most recently teaching business education) at Valencia High School for nearly three decades. Mark was also head coach of Valencia's girls volleyball team for several years, most notably leading the Tigers to a state title in 2006. Mark eventually ceded his position as the volleyball coach and took over as the boys golf head coach at Valencia, which allowed him to coach both his sons, Ricky and Derek, who played one high school season together (2015-16).
- Mark, who was at one point a single-digit handicapper, helped teach Ricky course management at an early age, saying, "Ricky was able to understand golf wasn't about power, it's about strategy. While other kids were bopping driver, we would actually play golf, play the yardages and look at pins. I think that put him ahead."
- Mother, Kim.
- Sister, Kelli.

### Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Frequently traveled with a ping pong paddle in college, but has not played in quite a while because he "got too good and it wasn't fun to play people anymore" and he "got bored because I would beat everybody every time. It wasn't fun anymore." Says he hasn't even thought about ping pong in quite some time.

### Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Represented the United States at the 2021 Walker Cup, where he posted a 4-0 record. Teammates included future PGA TOUR winners Austin Eckroat and Davis Thompson, as well as future Korn Ferry Tour graduates Pierceson Coody, Mac Meissner, William Mouw, and John Pak.
- Represented the United States at the 2020 and 2021 Arnold Palmer Cups. Teammates included future PGA TOUR winner Davis Thompson (2020) and fellow Korn Ferry Tour graduates Jacob Bridgeman (2021), Pierceson Coody (2020, 2021), Quade Cummins (2020), and John Pak (2020).

