

Report (15 players)

Garrick Higgo

Things To Know

- Earned his second PGA TOUR title at the 2025 Corales Puntacana Championship. Higgo entered the 2025 season with only conditional status and actually intended to focus on playing the Korn Ferry Tour in an attempt to earn TOUR membership for 2026. Higgo said of his return to the winner's circle, "This is why I play the game. The journey... I'm going to go through a down again, everybody does. I'm going to have ups. I just truly enjoy the journey."
- Won the 2021 Palmetto Championship at Congaree in his second career start on the PGA TOUR after receiving a Commissioner's exemption to compete in the event. Received a congratulatory call from fellow South African Gary Player during his winner's press conference. Player has been one of Higgo's biggest mentors and has supported him through his father's passing and professional career through countless letters and phone calls.
- Went 3 years, 10 months, 7 days between his first and second PGA TOUR titles (2021 Palmetto Championship / 2025 Corales Puntacana Championship). Upon his return to the winner's circle, said, "I've definitely grown a lot. I feel like I understand the U.S. much better. I'm more comfortable here, and I think this time around it will be different. I think I'm going to keep going and keep playing well."
- Won twice in three starts on the DP World Tour in April-May of 2021, which elevated him to 51st in the Official World Golf Ranking. Playing the final round with a lead for the first time at the Grand Canaria Open, Higgo said he leaned on advice from Gary Player to secure the win: "He said there is no such thing as a lead and you should play like you are two behind. That was nice from him and he has said it so many times, but I have never really had a lead, so I haven't had to worry about that".
- Won the 2020 Open de Portugal, a co-sanctioned event between the DP World Tour and the Challenge Tour, and with it, gained status on the DP World Tour and made it to the season-ending DP World Tour Championship in the process.
- Turned professional in 2019 and won in his debut on the Big Easy Tour (named as such in honor of Ernie Els), a developmental tour in South Africa. In his next start, he won his first tournament on the Sunshine Tour.
- Attended the University of Nevada-Las Vegas for two semesters in 2017 and 2018. Unlike other high-profile international recruits who elect to attend college in the United States, college life wasn't really for him and returned home before deciding to turn pro. "I didn't play that well. I knew if I was at home, I knew where I could get my game. And I wasn't going to get there at UNLV. I loved it there. I just don't think it was the right fit for me."

Background

- Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, but attended high school in Stellenbosch, a town located east of Cape Town where he became the No. 1-ranked amateur in South Africa by age 17.
- Plays left-handed but is naturally right-handed. Started focusing on golf at age 13 after breaking his elbow playing rugby.
- In 2016, became the first South African to qualify and play in both the U.S. Amateur and U.S. Junior Amateur in the same year.

- Beat former University of Texas standout Cole Hammer in the Round of 16 at the 2017 U.S. Junior Amateur at Flint Hills National GC in Andover, Kansas, before falling to Matthew Wolff in the semifinals.

Family

- Garrick and his wife, Chandre (SHUN-drae) wed on September 9, 2023.
- Lost his father (Michael) when he was 9 years old when the entire family was in a car accident -- parents (mom - Susan), one older brother (Michael) and one younger sister (Calista). Received a letter from Gary Player after the accident, who also lost his mother around the same age. "He's been such a support since then and has sent me a lot of letters throughout the years, or called me at times to help. He's been incredibly nice to me... and I feel very lucky for that."
- His mother, Susan, was in attendance for his first PGA TOUR victory at the Palmetto Championship at Congaree. The two shared an emotional hug on the range once it became official.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Interests include rap music, sports and Chelsea FC (soccer/football).

Carson Young

Things To Know

- Earned his first PGA TOUR card via the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Finals, which he gained entry to via a win at The Panama Championship (third event of the season) earlier in the year. Posted top-25s in two of the three Finals events, including a T12 at the season-ending Korn Ferry Tour Championship to earn TOUR membership for the 2022-23 season.
- Grew up playing competitive tennis like his brothers and cousins, but Carson saw a golf course beside the tennis courts and begged his parents to let him go play golf. Nobody in the family knew anything about golf, or even how to play. Carson picked up the game fairly quickly with the help of Harvey Brock, the pro at Boscobel Golf and Country Club, around the time he was 7. The first tournament he played in was against 8- and 9-year-olds and as Carson recalled, "Even though I wasn't old enough to play, Harvey convinced the people running the tournament that I was good enough." Carson won the tournament and was hooked on golf. He remained friends with Harvey until he passed away at 90 years old in June 2014.
- Carson and his wife, Riley, were married April 12, 2019 at Anderson Country Club, where they first met as high schoolers. Young said of their relationship and wedding site, "I actually met Riley playing golf during my senior year of high school. Our actual first date was going to the Anderson County Fair. But starting off we definitely had some golf dates. After the course shut down (in October 2015), they decided to turn it into a wedding venue. It was cool to get married in the same spot where we first met six years earlier." Carson says Riley's support never wavered throughout all the highs and lows of professional golf.
- Enjoys fishing, especially on Lake Hartwell at home in Anderson, South Carolina, where he resides. He was on and off with fishing while growing up but got really into it during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sticks to bass fishing but would like to take up fly fishing at some point. He often brings his fishing rod to tournaments, saying, "After a round or a practice round, I like to go to a local pond or the pond at the golf course, fish and take my mind off golf, because I find that I think about golf way too much. Golf courses are the best places to fish. They usually have the biggest bass because they're not fished much. There's something about golf course bass that are just better." Carson would love to go bass fishing with a professional.
- Says he is a first-ballot Mario Kart 64 Hall of Famer.

Background

- Grew up playing Boscobel Golf and Country Club, located in Pendleton, South Carolina - which is less than 10 miles from Clemson.
- Played four seasons at Clemson University (2013-17) and turned professional following his senior season. Won the 2017 Furman Invitational for his lone collegiate victory, earned a 2017 All-America Honorable Mention laurel, and was a two-time All-Atlantic Coast Conference selection (2016 and 2017).
- Dreamt of playing at Clemson early in his golfing career, saying, "Ever since I was a little boy out at Boscobel (Golf and Country Club), I would see all the Clemson bags and Clemson players, and I thought that would be the coolest thing ever to have one of those bags and be on the team."
- Finished his collegiate career with a 73.19 career scoring average, but earned Clemson's award for most improved player as a junior and senior, when he went from a 74.85 combined

scoring average as a freshman and sophomore to an average of 73.39 as a junior and 71.28 as a senior.

- Early in his professional career, failed to advance past Second Stage of the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament and typically skipped the PGA TOUR Canada and Latinoamérica Q-Schools to remain close to home with his wife, Riley. However, he tried PGA TOUR Canada Q-School in 2020 and earned conditional status for the first half of the season. A little over a week later, THE PLAYERS was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and PGA TOUR Canada eventually canceled its season as well. Young played the LOCALiQ Series and Korn Ferry Tour Monday qualifiers until a T29 at Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament awarded him guaranteed starts for the first eight events of 2022. He won the third event of the Korn Ferry Tour season, The Panama Championship.
- Two-time champion of the South Carolina Amateur (2013, 2016). In 2016, he finished three strokes ahead of runner-up Andrew Novak, a 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour graduate.
- Was ready to quit golf before giving it one more shot at 2021 Korn Ferry Q-School. He finished T29 at Final Stage to earn eight guaranteed starts and won in Panama, which helped him earn his PGA TOUR card for 2022-23.

Family

- Carson and his wife, Riley, welcomed their first child -- daughter, Rosie -- in March 2025.
- Wife, Riley; is a talented photographer (mostly wedding photography) and frequently shares her work via her Instagram page, @rileymorganyoung.
- Riley and Carson both attended Clemson for the 2014-15 school year (he was a sophomore, she was a freshman), but Riley transferred to Anderson University, about 20 miles southeast of Clemson, and completed her degree there.
- Father, Terry, passed away on December 12, 2023 from complications of ALS, a condition he struggled with for a year prior to his passing. Terry was a Clemson graduate like Carson. Mother is Fran, and the parents were married for 39 years before Terry's passing.
- His father, Terry, often took him to junior tournaments, and on one occasion when he was 10 or 11 years old, he was so nervous they had to pull over to the side of the road so he could throw up. Carson recalled, "Every tournament meant a lot to me back then. I just really wanted to win and got super nervous. The story my dad always tells is... I said, 'Dad, pull over,' and I jumped out of the car and threw up. He was like, 'Son, we can turn around. You don't have to play golf if it means that much to you.' I was like, 'I love it, dad. I love it.'"
- Carson has two older brothers, Daniel and Parker.
- Two of Carson's cousins played collegiate tennis. William Parker, played at the University of North Carolina, where he co-captained the team as a senior, and played a little professionally. David Parker played at Clemson.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Loves to go snowboarding; he and his brothers try to take an annual trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, which lies against the western ridge of the Continental Divide in northern Colorado.
- Donned an impeccable mustache for much of the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season, including his win at The Panama Championship. Ironically, he said in a November 2020 interview, "I can't grow facial hair or anything. I wish I could, but I have a baby face. I think I could grow out a nasty-looking mustache, but I never really tried."

- Terrified of spiders, saying, "My worst nightmare would probably be sitting in a tub full of spiders, I hate spiders with a passion. I don't even know what it is. I'm not afraid of snakes. But spiders? They freak me out."
- Always leaves his sweater on when he's making birdies, no matter how hot it gets.
- Favorite golf memory is seeing Tiger Woods at a 2008 Masters Tournament practice round.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- As a senior at Clemson (2016-17 season), Carson was college teammates with PGA TOUR member Doc Redman, who was a freshman.

Other

- Developed arthritis in his left knee, which endured two surgeries for a torn meniscus. The first surgery was his sophomore year at Clemson because of too much stress on the knee from his golf swing, while the second tear occurred two and a half years later while playing basketball.
- Two of his professional wins - 2020 Jacksonville Championship (LOCALiQ Series) and an Unbridled Tour event with a 36-player field in June 2020 - came at Hidden Hills Golf Club, an Arnold Palmer-designed course in Jacksonville, Florida. In his win on the Unbridled Tour, he defeated Scott Jamieson, who won on the DP World Tour in 2012, in a playoff - which required them to play the 18th hole behind a foursome of members who teed off four minutes after the tournament's final group. He paid a \$1,000 tournament entry fee and won a \$6,000 paycheck.

Trevor Cone

Things To Know

- Regained PGA TOUR membership for the 2025 season after a top 30 finish (No. 27) on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, which marked the second time in the last three years he earned TOUR membership as a Korn Ferry Tour graduate, having also accomplished the feat in 2022.
- Struggled on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2019 and 2020-21, finishing well outside the top 100 on the points list both seasons, but turned a corner in 2022 as he earned his first PGA TOUR card off the strength of his second career win on the Korn Ferry Tour. Cone had previously won the penultimate event of the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour regular season, a year he began with low conditional status.
- Became the fourth Virginia Tech alum to earn a PGA TOUR card, joining Johnson Wagner, Brendon de Jonge, and Tim Collins Jr. In four seasons at Virginia Tech (2011-15), Cone earned a 2014 All-America Third Team honor and was a two-time All-Atlantic Coast Conference selection as an upperclassman. Cone also earned co-medalist honors at the 2015 ACC Championship.
- Favorite golfer growing up was eight-time PGA TOUR winner and 2003 Masters Tournament winner Mike Weir.
- Played some basketball as a kid but got out of it pretty quickly since he wasn't overly quick and didn't have much of a post game; he gravitated toward baseball and golf. Trevor realized the two swings didn't mix and joked he was "out there swinging like Vladimir Guerrero as a 12-year-old," and ended up specializing in golf once he got to high school. Also ran cross country in the fall while in high school.
- Got engaged to Madison (Madi) Williams over Christmas 2024 at the Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa in Ashville, North Carolina.
- One of 16 members on the Player Advisory Council (PAC) in 2025, 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

- Turned professional out of Virginia Tech in 2015 and earned PGA TOUR Canada membership for 2016 via Q-School. Played the 2016 and 2017 seasons on PGA TOUR Canada and worked his way onto the Korn Ferry Tour in 2018 but had low conditional status. A top-10 in early July, just his fourth start of the season, allowed him to shuffle in, and a win a month later in the penultimate regular season event gave him an outside chance at a PGA TOUR card, though he ultimately came up short and settled for fully exempt status the following Korn Ferry Tour season.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Hobbies away from the course include basketball. Considers skiing his biggest thrill outside of golf, though it has been many years since his last skiing trip.
- Favorite teams are the Boston Red Sox (MLB baseball) and New England Patriots (NFL football), and his favorite city to vacation in is Boston. Does not watch a ton of NBA basketball but keeps up with the Boston Celtics. Trevor's father, Tom, is from the northeast, which is why he gravitated toward the Boston sports teams.

- Fan of F1 racing (Formula One) and its Netflix series Drive to Survive. Trevor is a big McLaren supporter.
- Huge fan of donuts, noting he's always had quite the sweet tooth. Donuts are not really a morning thing for him, as he looks at donuts more as a dessert. His dream sponsor would be Krispy Kreme given the fact it is based out of his home state of North Carolina.
- "Enter Sandman" by Metallica would be his walk-up song, the same song the Virginia Tech football team takes the field to on gamedays.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Close friends with fellow multi-time Korn Ferry Tour winner David Kocher, as both live in Charlotte and spent a great deal of time together on the road while playing the Korn Ferry Tour.

Chad Ramey

Things To Know

- Earned his first PGA TOUR victory at the 2022 Corales Puntacana Championship, becoming the first TOUR rookie to win during the 2021-22 season (second was Tom Kim) and the first native Mississippian to win on TOUR since Pete Brown won the 1970 Farmers Insurance Open. Chad's wife, Kelly, and father, Stanley, were both in attendance. The victory earned Chad an exemption for the 2022 PGA Championship and 2023 THE PLAYERS Championship, among other privileges. He said the win 'means the world,' and that he 'drew a lot of confidence off the win' last year.
- One of 28 members of the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour graduating class who qualified for the 2022 FedExCup Playoffs. The 28 graduates in the Playoffs were the most since 2013, the first year the Korn Ferry Tour Finals began awarding 25 PGA TOUR cards in addition to the 25 awarded via the Korn Ferry Tour regular season.
- Graduated from the Korn Ferry Tour following the 2020-21 combined season, which saw him finish No. 3 on the regular season points list (and No. 4 on the combined points list following Korn Ferry Tour Finals). First played on the Korn Ferry Tour after a T58 finish at Final Stage of the 2015 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, but only made two starts in 2016. He dropped down to PGA TOUR Canada and finished 16th on the Order of Merit in 2017, then returned to the Korn Ferry Tour for the 2018, 2019 and 2020-21 seasons.

Background

- Had a club in his hands by age 3 thanks to Fulton Country Club, a public nine-hole course with no driving range where his dad, Stanley, was the superintendent/manager. He grew up in the only house on the course, approximately 100 yards from the first tee.
- Earliest golf memory is attending the Masters Tournament when he was 10 years old.
- Was an Ole Miss fan growing up before attending Mississippi State.
- Played collegiately for four seasons (2010-14) at Mississippi State University, where he garnered three All-Southeastern Conference honors, including first-team selections as a junior and senior.

Family

- Father, Stanley; Mother, Trish. Has two older sisters, Marcie and Meagan.
- Chad and his wife, Kelly, initially met at a Mississippi State football game. They were married in Fulton, Mississippi on December 4, 2021. Their first child, a son named Nolan, was born March 2, 2023, a week before Chad would make his first start at THE PLAYERS. He went on to take a one-stroke first-round lead at that event with a 8-under 64 before play was suspended. He finished the tournament T27.
- Father, Stanley, caddied for him en route to his first professional victory at the 2021 Live and Work in Maine Open on the Korn Ferry Tour. He gave his regular caddie the week off since his family would be in town for the event. In addition to his dad being there, his wife (fiancee at the time) Kelly and his mom and other family friends were all in attendance. Quote: "The blood, sweat and tears over the years that I've put in, I wouldn't have anyone else here. He's the one that got me started, we still work on my swing together. It's just a cherry on top for the first win for them to be here."

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Hobbies include hunting and fishing.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Grew up playing alongside LPGA Tour star and fellow Mississippi State University alum Ally Ewing in Fulton, Mississippi, a town with a population of roughly 4,000 people.
- In addition to Ramey and Ewing, Fulton, Mississippi is the hometown of former Major League Baseball second baseman Brian Dozier, a 2015 All-Star and 2017 Gold Glover with the Minnesota Twins, and a 2019 World Series champion with the Washington Nationals. Like Ramey and Ewing, Dozier attended Itawamba Agricultural High School.
- Close friends with golfer Josh Creel. They were on the Korn Ferry Tour together and advanced to the PGA TOUR together as well. (Video of this dynamic duo is available from when they teamed up at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans.)

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.
- The bold aviator sunglasses Griffin wears are not just for style. Griffin revealed he "sees floaters" and has "really bad vision." In 2024, Griffin had laser surgery to fill eight retinal holes in both his eyes, noting he was at risk of losing vision within five or six months without the treatment. Griffin says of his sunglasses, "I still see the floaters. I had to get surgery just to maintain my level. When I wear sunglasses, it's a little bit darker out, so I don't see the floaters as well. If it's really bright out and I'm not wearing the sunglasses, I look into the clouds or whatever and I see black stuff everywhere."
- Gained popularity for his social media accounts (@bengriffingolf), which frequently showcased a "Day in the Life" of a PGA TOUR player, documenting everything from his food choices to 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. Sedgefield 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

- Revamped his daily training routine in the leadup to his breakout multi-win season in 2025. Griffin said, "I was more into the longevity of the game, staying flexible... I had quad tendonitis in my left knee that sparked up [in winter 2024]. It was really messing me up. What I learned is I needed to strengthen it as much as possible. So at first, I was training just to be healthy again. What I came to learn is I was starting to feel better, I was starting to feel stronger, I was starting to gain a little bit of [ball] speed."
- Griffin also says of his revamped training routine, "Aside from playing professional golf, it feels like it's almost a separate thing I'm working on when I'm in the gym and training and taking care of my body."
- 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."

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.

Matti Schmid

Things To Know

- Gained entry to the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Finals via the non-member FedExCup Nos. 126-200 category, largely off the strength of his top-10 (T8) at the Barbasol Championship, which he gained entry to via his DP World Tour standing.
- He was the No. 1 ranked amateur in Germany while playing golf at University of Louisville, Kentucky. Won the European Amateur Championship in 2019 and 2020, just the second player in history to win this title in back-to-back years. In 2021, his final tournament as an amateur, won the Silver Medal as the low amateur at The Open Championship (T59).
- Turned professional immediately following The Open Championship in 2021 and secured his DP World Tour status in just seven starts, eventually being named the 2021 Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year.
- After winning the won the European Amateur in 2020 remembers accepting the medal and being alongside Collin Morikawa. Shared, "when we got introduced to each other by the green he remembered me from college, which was nice, and said some really nice words about me in the award ceremony too, and that meant a lot."
- Played on the winning European side at the Palmer Cup in 2019 and 2020. Following the 2020 Palmer Cup, which was played at Bay Hill, was voted by his peers as the player most deserving of receiving a sponsor exemption into the 2021 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard. It marked his first PGA TOUR start in the USA (2019 Open Championship marked his TOUR debut), eventually missing the cut with rounds of 76-76.

Family

- Started playing golf at age four, joining in while his dad, who was a golf professional, gave lessons to other kids at their local golf club.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Interests include soccer and American football.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Credits the coaching staff at University of Louisville, and former PGA TOUR professional Ted Schulz in particular, for developing his game. Says, "[college] helped my golf game tremendously. I wasn't that good before. I would say I don't think I would have made it straightaway on TOUR, a high level on any Tour, but college really has prepared me and has given me the opportunity to improve."

Other

- When he was low amateur at The Open Championship in 2021, Schmid's caddie that week was Mike Waite (Sponge), the first time the duo had worked together. Waite, a veteran caddie, has worked for a number of top players, including his fellow New Zealander Michael Campbell, when he won the 2005 U.S. Open.

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).

Nick Dunlap

Things To Know

- Named the 2024 Arnold Palmer Award winner as the PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year. At 20 years old, became the youngest PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year since Jordan Spieth in 2013. Dunlap outpaced the other three nominees (Max Greyserman, Jake Knapp, Matthieu Pavon) with 57 percent of the vote. In addition to becoming the first player in PGA TOUR history to win as an amateur and a professional in the same season, Dunlap qualified for the 2024 FedExCup Playoffs and finished No. 49 in the FedExCup, which qualified him for the TOUR's Signature Events in 2025.
- With his second PGA TOUR win at the 2024 Barracuda Championship, became the first player in history to win on PGA TOUR as an amateur (2024 The American Express) and a professional in the same season.
- Won the 2024 American Express, becoming the first amateur to win a PGA TOUR event since Phil Mickelson at the 1991 Northern Telecom Open. Became the second-youngest winner on TOUR in the last 90 years, and the only player to win the U.S. Junior Amateur, the U.S. Amateur and a PGA TOUR event as an amateur.
- Four days after earning his first PGA TOUR win at the 2024 American Express, declared he was turning pro and accepted PGA TOUR membership at a press conference at the University of Alabama, where he was surrounded by family and his Alabama coaches / teammates. Made his professional debut at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am the week after his announcement.
- Turning professional and forgoing the remainder of his collegiate eligibility at University of Alabama was an incredibly difficult choice for Dunlap, who broke down in front of his teammates upon delivering the news to them in a team meeting. Dunlap recalled, "I didn't want to turn pro in a press conference. I wanted to turn pro with my team. I wanted them to be the first to know. Team meeting on Wednesday... I got up there and immediately lost it, started crying. Canon Claycomb stood up and he's like, 'If you don't turn pro, we're going to be mad at you.' They were super supportive, all on board. They've been great." Dunlap later added, "It was very bittersweet. I left my brothers back home and would have loved to play a couple more years with Coach (Jay) Seawell at Alabama."
- Burst onto the national golf landscape with victories at the 2021 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship and 2023 U.S. Amateur Championship, following Tiger Woods as the second player in history to win both titles. Won the U.S. Junior Amateur at The Country Club of North Carolina. Path to victory at the U.S. Amateur, contested at Cherry Hills Country Club, included wins over Gordon Sargent (Round of 64), Jackson Koivun (Quarterfinals), and Neal Shipley (Championship).

Background

- Born and raised in Huntsville, Alabama. Dunlap was home-schooled until attending college at the University of Alabama.
- Grew up about 100 yards from No. 6 (a long, uphill par 5) at Greystone Golf and Country Club in Birmingham, Alabama. In the evenings, Dunlap would go to the fairway and hit wedges. Dr. Bhrett McCabe, a member at Greystone, remembers Dunlap spending all day at the course, sharing, "There would be a crater in the middle of the sixth fairway the next morning."
- Was a high-level baseball and football player. As a third grader in the 8-to-9-year-old age group, was a finalist for the NFL Punt, Pass & Kick competition and went to the NFC Championship game in 2012.

- In June 2016, only months prior to entering the seventh grade, carded an 11-under 59 at Highland Golf Course in Birmingham, Alabama.
- Named the 2021 AJGA Rolex Junior Player of the Year. Past winners of the award include Akshay Bhatia (2018), Sam Burns (2014), Scottie Scheffler (2013), Jordan Spieth (2009), Brian Harman (2003, 2004), Tiger Woods (1991, 1992), and David Duval (1989).
- Played the 2022-23 season and the fall portion of the 2023-24 season at University of Alabama. Forewent his remaining collegiate eligibility and turned professional shortly after becoming the first amateur to win a PGA TOUR event (2024 American Express) since 1991. In his short stint at Alabama, earned two individual victories, a 2023 All-America Second Team honor, and recorded the second-lowest single-season scoring average in program history (70.35 for the 2022-23 season), only behind Robby Shelton (70.14 for the 2013-14 season) and notably ahead of Justin Thomas (70.44 for the 2011-12 season).
- Led Team USA to victory at the 2023 World Team Amateur Championship at the Abu Dhabi Golf Club. Dunlap carded four rounds in the 60s as he finished second individually (one stroke behind New Zealand's Kazuma Kobori). Team USA -- which also featured Gordon Sargent (T5) and David Ford (T5) -- won the team title by 11 strokes for its first Eisenhower Trophy since 2014, when Beau Hossler, Denny McCarthy, and Bryson DeChambeau comprised the victorious American squad.
- Notable amateur victories included a win at the 123rd North & South Amateur in 2023; he defeated David Ford in the quarterfinals and Karl Vilips in the championship match. The North & South Amateur is contested annually at Pinehurst, with match play competition taking place on the famed No. 2 course. Notable past champions of the event include Luke Clanton (2022), Davis Love III (1984), Corey Pavin (1981), Hal Sutton (1980), Curtis Strange (1975, 1976), and Jack Nicklaus (1959).
- Upon turning professional, ceded the No. 1 position in the World Amateur Golf Ranking to Christo Lamprecht. Dunlap rose to No. 1 in WAGR following his historic victory at the 2024 American Express; he was credited with two weeks as the No. 1 player in WAGR.

Family

- Parents Jim and Charlene Dunlap live in North Port, Alabama (near Tuscaloosa).

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Interests away from golf are hunting and fishing.

Charity

- In July 2025, announced a partnership with Folds of Honor which established a scholarship in his name at University of Alabama. Folds of Honor provides educational scholarships to the spouses and children of United States military service members and first responders who have fallen or been disabled while serving their country and communities. The inaugural Folds of Honor - Nick Dunlap Scholarship was awarded to Kylie Baldeosingh for the 2024-25 academic year; Kylie earned her bachelor's degree and was set to begin graduate school at Alabama when she received the scholarship. Dunlap says of the scholarship, "Folds of Honor is such an impactful organization... I am beyond blessed to be able to pursue my dreams on the golf course, and I would not be able to do so without the sacrifice, support, and dedication from the military and first responders."

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Has given former Alabama football head coach Nick Saban golf lessons while in Jupiter, Florida.
- Represented the United States at the 2023 Walker Cup; his American teammates included David Ford, Austin Greaser, Gordon Sargent, and Preston Summerhays.
- In the final round of his historic victory at the 2024 American Express, was paired with Sam Burns and fellow University of Alabama alum Justin Thomas.

Other

- In 2021, posted runner-up finishes at The Junior PLAYERS Championship (won by Ben James) and Junior PGA Championship (at Valhalla Golf Club).

Adam Svensson

Things To Know

- Canadian-born, Adam has played on the PGA TOUR Canada, (twice a runner-up), Korn Ferry Tour (three-time champion) and the PGA TOUR, winning his maiden victory in November 2022 at The RSM over Brian Harman, Callum Tarren and Sahith Theegala.
- Svensson is dedicated to his practice routine while at home in Jupiter, FL and works diligently from his home course, Medalist Golf Club.
- Was part of Golf Canada's Young Pro Squad (joined at age 16), which was developed in partnership with the PGA of Canada to bridge the gap for top graduating amateurs transitioning into professional golf and give its members exemptions into PGA TOUR Americas events. Svensson came up through the program with fellow Canadians Corey Connors and Mackenzie Hughes.
- His birthday is the last day of the year, December 31. Turned 30 in 2023.
- In 2022, was joined by AJ Ewart as a D2 Jack Nicklaus Award winner, Barry U former student and fellow Canadian. Ewart and (at the time, Barry U Coach) Jimmy Stobs watched Adam tee it up at the Memorial presented by Workday in 2022 where Adam finished T45 as a sponsor exemption.

Background

- Born in Surrey, British Columbia (roughly 20 miles southeast of Vancouver), where he attended Earl Marriott Secondary School.
- He spent six years with the National men's amateur and development squads, winning a bronze medal representing Canada at the 2010 Toyota Junior Golf World Cup and silver at the 2014 Eisenhower Trophy in Karuizawa, Japan, together with Corey Connors and Taylor Pendrith. The U.S. took the gold represented by Bryson Dechambeau, Beau Hossler and Denny McCarthy.
- Won the 2010 Junior World Championship (15-17 Division) at Torrey Pines, where he birdied the final hole to rally from a two-stroke deficit; his future college coach at Barry, Jimmy Stobs, was on hand for the win. Xander Schauffele finished T21.
- Won the 2010 British Columbia Amateur when he was 16 years old. Won the 2012 Canadian Junior Boys National Championship with a final-round 7-under 64.
- Dominant collegiate player at Barry University (under coach Jimmy Stobs, now Head Coach at the U.S. Naval Academy), an NCAA Division II program in Miami; he turned professional midway through his junior season (February 2015) after he won his final two collegiate starts (and 9 of his last 15). As a sophomore in 2013-14, he won seven of his 13 starts, set a single-season school record with a 70.05 scoring average and won the NCAA Division II Jack Nicklaus National Player of the Year Award. Also won the NCAA Division II Phil Mickelson Award as the Division II Most Outstanding Freshman in 2012-13. He led Barry to consecutive team titles at the 2013 and 2014 NCAA Championships.
- Before playing for Barry University, an NCAA Division II program in Miami, he initially signed with University of Nevada-Las Vegas, but two weeks before he enrolled he was told he wouldn't be admitted because he only had 14 core courses (15 were required for Division I, while only 14 were required for Division II).
- Won the 2015 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament's Final Stage, held at PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, by seven strokes. Leading up to Q School that year, he made seven Korn Ferry Tour starts (three top-25s) and finished No. 9 on the PGA TOUR Canada Order of Merit with only six starts (top results were two T2s, a T3, and a T4).

Family

- Father, Frank, introduced him to the game around the time he was 3-4 years old. "I would just sit there and watch him hit ball after ball for hours," Adam said. Frank has been Adam's only swing coach.
- Mother, Tina, and older sister, Stephanie.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- He played hockey and soccer as a child but golf was always his first love.
- Favorite NHL (hockey) team is the Vancouver Canucks.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Most famous person he has played a round of golf with is Michael Jordan, having met through mutual friends. They have played nearly a dozen times at MJ's course, The Grove. MJ texted Adam after his victory at the 2022 RSM Classic.

Other

- First big purchase after his first Korn Ferry Tour victory in 2018 was a \$500 Dyson vacuum.
- At 5 years old, drove a golf cart into a pond on the course (his father's clubs were on the back). "I think they brought in a tow truck to get it out," Svensson said.

Patton Kizzire

Things To Know

- One of the TOUR's tallest players at 6' 5".
- Currently lives in Sea Island, Georgia. Credits move to Sea Island in 2012 for success on the Korn Ferry Tour and the PGA TOUR.
- Born in Montgomery, Alabama, and moved to Tuscaloosa at age two and stayed there through high school. Played golf for three different high schools in four years: Tuscaloosa Academy, Central High School and Northridge High School.
- When asked growing up what he wanted to be when he was older, he would draw pictures of himself playing golf.
- Has known Brian Harman since he was 13 years old and remains friends with him in Sea Island despite Auburn-Georgia rivalry.
- Davis Love III staged an "intervention" of sorts with Patton when he was struggling with his golf game, and instructed him to be much more disciplined in his approach to the game if he wanted to have more success; subsequent results came quickly - was named 2015 Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year en route to earning his PGA TOUR card.

Family

- Parents are Maxie and Sally Kizzire. Was raised by a family of Alabama Crimson Tide fans and in Tuscaloosa but made the decision to go to rival Auburn. Father, Maxie, was a former catcher and designated hitter for the Alabama baseball team.
- Wife, Kari (pronounced like "Carrie"), graduated from Glynn Academy in Brunswick, Georgia in 2006 and from the University of Georgia in 2010, where she earned a bachelor's degree in education, exercises and sports sciences. She received her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Armstrong State University in Savannah in 2015.
- Two children: son -Palmer James, daughter - Miller Elizabeth; son's name isn't directly because of Arnold Palmer, but it's one of the reasons Patton and Kari loved it. Patton loved Arnie.

Charity

- Won the RSM Birdies Fore Love weekly winner honors at The 2020 RSM Classic and donated to his own foundation, Patton Kizzire Golf Fund at the Communities of Coastal Georgia Foundation.

J.J. Spaun

Things To Know

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

Background

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

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

Family

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

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

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

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

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

Charity

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

Inner Circle/Special Connections

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

Beau Hanson

Taylor Moore

Things To Know

- Won first PGA TOUR title at the 2023 Valspar Championship. Went on to make the TOUR Championship for the first time that year.
- Played travel baseball (shortstop, second base, a little centerfield) and attended high-level baseball camps with an eye toward college baseball before he gave up the sport at 14 years old to focus on golf.
- Followed in the footsteps of both his parents and earned a degree (Sport Management) from the University of Arkansas. His father, Rod, was a two-year letterman in baseball (outfielder), while his mother, Melinda, was a cheerleader for the Razorbacks.
- Earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time 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. Moore graduated to the TOUR after what was his fourth consecutive season on the Korn Ferry Tour.
- Between events in March 2019, he experienced nausea and had trouble breathing as he practiced with friends in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was supposed to get on a plane and head home to Dallas, but went to the emergency room instead and was diagnosed with spontaneous pneumothorax, a condition where his right lung collapsed due to an infection - and the flight would've complicated his condition due to the air pressure change. He stayed in Scottsdale for three days, drove home, and had his lung collapse again a week later at his follow-up appointment, leading to surgery at Baylor Medical Center and three months of recovery - the top lobe of his damaged lung was removed (about the size of an apple) and he lost 30-35 pounds after a week in the hospital. Missed 12 tournaments in 2019 because of surgery

Background

- Began swinging a club when he was two years old, and won the first tournament he ever entered at seven years old in Longview, Texas, where he shot 35 in a 10-and-under nine-hole event.
- Moved to Edmond, Oklahoma when he was eight years old and attended Edmond Memorial High School.
- Played four seasons at the University of Arkansas (2012-16) and was a two-time All-Southeastern Conference Second Team selection (2015, 2016). Was the 2013 Co-SEC Freshman of the Year. Highly-touted prospect coming out of high school (No. 2 player in Class of 2012 according Golfweek) who chose Arkansas over Oklahoma State.
- Given Moore's pedigree, it was not a certainty he would play four seasons in college, but he later said, "I'm not sure how long I thought I'd be here, but not long. I knew that a lot of good players did not finish college. Jordan Spieth didn't make it through his second year. But it became clear that I needed to stay in school. I had to make changes, learn how to manage my emotions and it's really helped."

Family

- Proposed to girlfriend Lexi Sorensen in August 2022.
- Father, Rod, coached baseball and football at Texarkana, then in Edmond, before he settled into the oil and gas business. Rod coached high school and college baseball for 20 years.
- Mother, Melinda, teaches high school English (9th grade).

- Has a brother named Payton. Payton unexpectedly had the exact same medical condition (spontaneous pneumothorax) six months after Taylor.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Favorite baseball teams are the Los Angeles Angels and Toronto Blue Jays (MLB). Favorite baseball players growing up were Omar Vizquel and Roberto Alomar.
- Fan of the Oklahoma City Thunder (NBA, basketball) and Dallas Cowboys (NFL, football) and the Dallas Stars (NHL).
- Loves live music, especially rock and country. Favorite musicians are Led Zeppelin, Blue Oyster Cult, and Machine Gun Kelly.
- Regularly brings his dog, Kaia, on the road with him. Brought Kaia on to the Ping truck at the 2023 Masters, where she was fitted with an Augusta-themed caddie bib. Likes to bring Kaia a "puppuccino" every day when he's home.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Played on the same travel baseball team as fellow Edmond, Oklahoma product Brian Anderson. Anderson played collegiately at Arkansas and made his MLB debut with the Miami Marlins on September 1, 2017 and signed as a free agent with the Milwaukee Brewers prior to the 2023 season.
- Close friends with Matt NeSmith, who he teamed with at the 2023 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.
- Teammates while at Arkansas included Austin Cook and Nico Echavarria.

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."

