

Report (12 players)

Cameron Young

Things To Know

- Of whether being a runner-up seven times without a win in his young PGA TOUR career bothers him, Young laughed as he said, "Makes me sad every time I hear it." Young added that it's not something he actually thinks about since he hasn't "had one in my hands and given it away. I've just been beaten a lot." Young looks forward to the day he "has a one-shot lead with three holes to go, and it's my job to finish it off."
- After his 59 in the third round of the 2024 Travelers Championship, Young maintained his usual perspective on both his game and career, saying, "I think there are far more important things to me than what I do on the golf course, and at the same time, I also provide for my family with how I do on the golf course. There's a balance there that you have to be okay with, and there's days that are easier than others... and if you're not doing well, sometimes that can feel pretty bad. Thankful for what I do, and there are more important things to me. A great day, but as long as everybody's not crying at home, I'm okay out here."
- Represents the New York Golf Club alongside teammates Matt Fitzpatrick, Xander Schauffele and Rickie Fowler in TGL presented by SoFi, a primetime golf league in partnership with the PGA TOUR which debuted in January 2025 on ESPN. The new golf league was created by TMRW Sports whose co-founders include Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, and fuses advanced technology, innovation and live action for ESPN's primetime television audience. New York Golf Club is owned by Steven A. Cohen and Cohen Private Ventures.
- Young says his perfect golf group would include his father, David, and his sons -- Henry and John -- as teenagers (note: they are both currently under the age of 4).
- Young added that his ideal professional golf group would be fellow Wake Forest University alum Arnold Palmer, because he never had the chance to meet Mr. Palmer, Jack Nicklaus "in his heyday" and Lee Trevino, because he's spent some time with him and finds him hilarious.
- Featured on the cover of Golf Digest in May 2023. Coverage centered around Young's driving power, including a swing analyzation from one of golf's foremost biomechanists, who described Young's powerful backswing as the "perfect, athletic, coiling movement" and, despite being unaware of the fact Young was a talented junior hockey player, noted that "to reach this level, he had to train on slippery or unstable surfaces or play field or ice hockey... that swing makes me think about the fundamentals of a hockey swing adapted to golf.." The biomechanist also made a comparison between Young's backswing and a skater, noting "he's coiling in control, like a skater preparing to tighten the arms to turn faster and jump."
- On what was labeled his "resting grump face" during competition, Young said in the Golf Digest cover story, "People think I'm more upset than I am. I don't smile a ton on the golf course, but that's just my way of keeping myself in a mental headspace where I can do my job. I love golf, and I love playing competitively, but it is a job, and I take it seriously." Will Zalatoris, a teammate of Young's at Wake Forest, added, "He's the grumpiest nicest person I have ever met. He's got a heart of gold--one of my favorite people in the world."

Background

- He was swinging golf clubs as soon as he could stand, but gave the game up at age 4 for roughly two years before returning to it. His father, David, said, "When he couldn't make the

ball go far and high like my wife and I, he would get mad. I had to practice and (his mom) Barb wanted to play, so he would have to come out with us, but he would throw rocks or chase frogs."

- Also played hockey and baseball (according to his father, David, Cameron's throwing power was impressive) growing up, but both fell into the background after Cameron made the decision to take golf seriously as a teenager. Cameron dedicated himself to golf because, "I got to know the other top kids that age who played, and I found I took a lot of pleasure in beating them."
- Lived in Garrison, New York, until he was 13 or 14, then moved to Scarborough and onto the property at Sleepy Hollow Country Club.
- Was a dominant figure on the Metropolitan Golf Association circuit as an amateur, notably becoming the youngest winner of the Westchester Amateur Championship at age 14 (he won in 2011, and cited it as one of his favorite victories because it was the first one against players who weren't his age), the youngest winner of the Ike Championship (he won as an 18-year-old in 2015, then repeated as champion in 2016), and the first amateur to win the New York State Open in 2017.
- Won the 2017 New York State Open -- contested at the Bethpage State Park Black Course -- and became the first amateur winner in the event's history; he defeated Chris DeForest on the second playoff hole, but could not accept the top prize of \$17,500. Cameron said of the money, "Hopefully that check will be a lot bigger someday."
- Played four seasons at Wake Forest (2015-19) as a Lanny Wadkins Scholarship recipient, winning medalist honors at five events (three as a senior in spring 2019, and two as a freshman in fall 2015). He was a 2019 All-America Second Team selection as a senior, and a three-time All-Atlantic Coast Conference selection (2017-19). In program records dating to 1981, his career scoring average of 71.61 ranked third in school history behind Will Zalatoris and Bill Haas.
- Earned his PGA TOUR card by finishing 19th on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Points List (top 25 earned TOUR cards for 2021-22 season), after beginning the season with no Korn Ferry Tour status. He Monday qualified into the 2020 Pinnacle Bank Championship in Omaha, Nebraska and finished T11, then finished T14, T6, and T2 the next three weeks to earn Special Temporary Membership. He received his PGA TOUR card at the 2021 Pinnacle Bank Championship, the 43rd and final regular season event of the Korn Ferry Tour's 2020-21 combined regular season. "Playing in those Monday qualifiers was my plan B for the summer," said Young, who had previously earned fully exempt status for the 2020 PGA TOUR Canada season which was eventually canceled.
- Initially wanted to skip the Korn Ferry Tour Monday qualifier which kickstarted his run to Special Temporary Membership (held July 27, 2020 at Bent Tree Golf Club in Council Bluffs, Iowa), saying, "I was fed up with playing really well and getting nothing for it." His wife, Kelsey, and father, David, convinced him to enter since there was a month until the next Monday qualifier. He begrudgingly packed, headed to the qualifier and told Kelsey he'd see her in 36 hours. He slept through his alarm and arrived 25 minutes before his tee time, shot an 8-under 64 for medalist honors, and began a run of four consecutive top-25s which led to Special Temporary Membership and kept him on the road for six weeks.
- Received the Arnold Palmer Award for being voted (by the PGA TOUR's membership) 2021-22 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year off the strength of five runner-up finishes and a Presidents Cup appearance. Young, who like Arnold Palmer is a Wake Forest alum, followed college teammate Will Zalatoris as the second consecutive (and all time) Demon Deacon to win the Arnold Palmer Award. Young said upon receiving the award, "It's very special. I know the namesake, Arnold Palmer, was a giant in the game of golf... just to be related to that in some small way is very cool. It's voted by my peers, so it's a huge honor to be thought of in that way."

- Represented the United States as a captain's pick at the 2022 Presidents Cup, where he was one of 14 players (and one of six Americans) who made their Presidents Cup debut. At 25 years and 4 months of age, he was the youngest member of the United States team and third-youngest member of either team (only older than Tom Kim and Sungjae Im). Young was the youngest American to play in a Presidents Cup since 2017, when Daniel Berger, Justin Thomas, and Jordan Spieth all played as 24-year-olds.

Family

- Wife, Kelsey; the two were longtime family friends and wed in March 2021. The couple have two sons -- Henry (December 2021) and John (November 2022), and a daughter, Vivienne (June 2024).
- Father, David, is a PGA of America Professional who retired after a 21-year run as the head professional of Sleepy Hollow Country Club in Scarborough, New York in fall 2022. David's first job out of college was working in the bag room at Sleepy Hollow. He also caddied for Cameron in the first two rounds of the 2019 U.S. Open, his first major championship appearance. Cameron beat David for the first time when he shot a 68 at age 12. In 2016, David (54 at the time) and Cameron both advanced from a U.S. Open local qualifier.
- David graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in aerospace engineering and initially went there with plans of designing "the next generation of fighter jets... until I discovered exactly what that entailed." Played golf his senior year when he decided to pursue a career as a golf professional as opposed to an aerospace engineer. David said he was "a decent player, but not the kind of player that was going to make a living playing" and that he enjoyed helping other people with their games.
- Mother, Barbara, is an outstanding player in her own right and briefly pursued a professional golf career of her own. Barbara said of her short stint in professional golf, "I found out quickly I wasn't good enough or tough enough." Shortly after she gave up playing professionally, Barbara operated a women's mini-tour for 13 years.
- Barbara took great pride in being "the family caddie" since she was 14 years old, beginning with her sister, Marjorie, then her husband, David, and finally for Cameron. Barbara frequently caddied for Cameron in his amateur career, with her notably being on the bag for his win at the 2015 Ike Championship, several U.S. Amateur Championships, and the practice rounds of the 2019 U.S. Open. A 2013 news story cited her as Cameron's "caddie, nutritionist, and taxi driver, putting 100,000 miles on the family car last summer."
- Aunt, Marjorie Jones (mother's sister), is the Director of Instruction at The Shore Club in Cape May Court House, New Jersey. Marjorie played professionally in both the United States and Europe prior to becoming a teaching professional.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Developed the pronounced pause at the top of his backswing as he began to climb the junior golf ranks. According to his father, David, Cameron wanted to eliminate any re-routing or sideways movement of the club in transition, hence the pause. It was Cameron's way of ensuring the club started down in the direction he wanted. Cameron says he doesn't even notice the pause anymore. The pause became more and more pronounced through the years, and it is noticeably longer than it was during his college years at Wake Forest.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- One of four active PGA TOUR members who played collegiately at Wake Forest. The group includes former teammate Will Zalatoris, Bill Haas, and Webb Simpson.
- College teammates with Will Zalatoris for two and a half seasons at Wake Forest (2015-16, 2016-17, and fall 2017). The two were frequent roommates on the road for tournaments, especially Young's freshman season. KEY CONTEXT: the two never actually lived together, and while the two were great teammates who frequently played and practiced together, they did not spend much time together away from the course.
- Zalatoris once recalled a story about Young's prodigious talent at Wake Forest, where they were teammates for two and a half seasons: "We had a kid come in for a recruiting trip and at Old Town where we play, 1, 2, and 3 ends right by the first tee, and so he caught up with us on 4. And he made six 3s in a row... literally changing the shoes out of his trunk of his car, hopped out, eagled the first, chipped in on the second for birdie, made a mistake and made par on No. 5 and then I think he chipped in one more time and made a couple 20-footers. And that's just Cam. Didn't hit a single ball warming up, didn't hit a single putt, made six 3s and (said), 'Let's go grab dinner.'"
- Maintains a relationship with his head coach from Wake Forest, Jerry Haas. The two are also connected by the fact they both won back-to-back events on the Korn Ferry Tour, with Haas accomplishing the feat in 1994, followed by Young in 2021.
- Played with Sam Burns and Davis Riley on the 2014 Junior Ryder Cup team. Young and Riley were paired together for a match and notched a 1-up victory.
- Represented the United States at the 2014 Junior Golf World Cup contested just outside of Nagoya, Japan. Roughly a month after his 17th birthday, Young helped the United States earn a silver medal, tying for second and finishing behind a Norway team led by Viktor Hovland, who turned 17 roughly three months after the event.
- Qualified for match play at five U.S. Amateur Championships (2014-17, 2019) and faced a handful of notable opponents. Reached the quarterfinals in 2014 and lost to eventual champion Gunn Yang. The following year, Young defeated Yang in the Round of 64, then fell to Jon Rahm in the Round of 32. In 2016, Young defeated Scottie Scheffler in the Round of 64, but fell to eventual champion Curtis Luck in the Round of 16. In 2017, lost to future PGA TOUR winner Robert MacIntyre in the Round of 64.
- Played the 2019 The Genesis Invitational Collegiate Showcase at Riviera Country Club alongside fellow Wake Forest alum Bill Haas.
- Played with Alex Fitzpatrick, younger brother of Matt Fitzpatrick, for the 2018-19 season at Wake Forest. Cameron was a senior, while Alex was a freshman.

Other

- Won the 2013 Polo Golf Junior Classic, an AGJA event contested at PGA National Resort in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, which annually hosts the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches. The opposite half of the match play bracket included Scottie Scheffler and Sam Burns.
- Played The Old Course at St. Andrews in 2010 as part of a golf trip with his parents when he was 13 years old. They played "eight or nine courses in six days." Cameron remembers playing The Old Course, The New Course, Kingsbarns Golf Links, Carnoustie Golf Links, Gullane Golf Club, and Crail Golfing Society. Cameron distinctively remembers his father asking permission to play The Old Course from the back tees, so when they went out for their first tee shots, several R&A members were watching, though Cameron was unaware of them. His father, David, recalled how it rained for four days and Cameron wore David's rain jacket, which went down to his knees. David said of the memory, "I'm thinking, after this trip, this kid is never going to want to play golf again. It did just the opposite. It got him excited about it. He decided golf was going to be his main sport, and he started working hard at it."

Nico Echavarria

Things To Know

- First name is Nicolas, but commonly referred to as Nico. Last name is etch-uh-vuh-REE-uh
- Won the 2024 ZOZO Championship in Japan for his second PGA TOUR title. The victory came 10 years after Echavarria represented Colombia at the 2014 World Amateur Team Championship in Japan.
- Won his first PGA TOUR event, the 2023 Puerto Rico Open, by two strokes. It was just his 11th PGA TOUR start and was the first rookie winner of the 2022-23 season. The victory got him into THE PLAYERS Championship in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, where he currently lives and had always longed to compete.
- Born and raised in Medellin, Colombia. Says, "Colombia is minimal in golf compared to soccer, but we are trying our best to represent our country in this world." With his victory at the 2023 Puerto Rico Open, followed Sebastian Munoz and Camilo Villegas as the third Colombian to win on the PGA TOUR.
- Earned his first PGA TOUR card via the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Finals, solidifying it with a T5 at the season-ending Korn Ferry Tour Championship.
- Played two full seasons on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica, earning his Korn Ferry Tour card after finishing second in 2018 after an outstanding season saw him card his first two professional victories in a three-week stretch. He ultimately finished second to Harry Higgs after finishing T45 at the Shell Championship, losing the No. 1 position by a mere \$64.
- Represented Colombia at the 2024 Olympic Men's Golf Competition in Paris.

Background

- Echavarria says his father and grandfather are the reasons he "plays this beautiful sport," as they started taking him to the golf course when he was just two years old. He has said that he wishes that his grandfather could watch him play now.
- Finished T3 at the 2011 Junior World Championships (Boys 15-17 Division) at Torrey Pines; the individual medalist was Beau Hossler.
- Reached the semifinals of consecutive U.S. Junior Amateur Championships in 2011 and 2012.
- Attended IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida prior to playing collegiately at University of Arkansas.
- Played four seasons at University of Arkansas (2012-16), where he won once individually and graduated with a degree in international relations. Nico says he lived some of the best years of his life while playing at Arkansas.

Family

- Parents are Emilio and Ana Maria Echavarria.
- Has two older brothers, Miguel and Andres, both of which played collegiately. Miguel played at the University of Michigan. Andres played at the University of Florida and made over 100 starts in PGA TOUR-sanctioned events, primarily on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica and the Korn Ferry Tour after turning professional in 2011. The brothers are very competitive with each other.
- Mother has always joked that all three of her sons, Miguel, Andres and Nico, when first learning how to stand and walk, used golf clubs to steady themselves as the boys got on their feet.

- Andres and Nico became the first brothers to both win a PGA TOUR Latinoamerica tournament.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Interests include: good wine, "almost every sport", movies and TV shows.
- Outside of golf, Echavarria also enjoys playing in tennis and ping pong. He describes himself as very competitive and would like to play against other golfers in a tennis or ping pong tournament.
- One of the things on his bucket list is skydiving.

Charity

- Partnered with the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) to host the Nico Open in Colombia in May 2023, as part of the AJGA International Pathway Series. The new series will continue the AJGA's effort to provide college golf scholarship exposure, by bringing events closer to the junior circuit's international membership. The inaugural Nico Open marked the first AJGA event conducted in South America and was played at Club Campestre Medellin in Medellin, Colombia.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Remembers watching Camilo Villegas win on TOUR for the first time (and as the first Colombian to win). Nico was 14 years old at that time and says that win inspired him to be a professional golfer. The night before Nico's first PGA TOUR win at the 2023 Puerto Rico Open, Camilo left him a voicemail reminding him that his moment will come. Camilo then waited for him on the 18th hole to cheer him on.

Other

- An early golf memory is watching Tiger Woods play at The Open Championship in 2010.
- Michael Phelps is his favorite athlete outside of golf. Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy are his favorite golfers.
- Ambassador for Atlantic Beach Country Club in Atlantic Beach, Florida.

Chris Kirk

Things To Know

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

Background

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

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

Family

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

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

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

Aaron Rai

Things To Know

- Birdied the final hole to win his first PGA TOUR title at the 2024 Wyndham Championship, which marked his 89th start on TOUR.
- He is one of the few professionals to wear two gloves. 'It started when I was eight years old. I just happened to be given these two gloves - the guy who actually makes them sent a pair over - and I got into the habit of wearing them. Then, a few weeks down the line, my dad forgot to put the two gloves in the bag so I had to play with one. It was terrible. I couldn't play, I couldn't feel the grip, so I've always stuck with the two gloves ever since.'
- Rai got into golf by accident. Hurting himself with a hockey stick as a toddler, Rai's mother, Dalvir, went out to buy plastic sticks to make things safer. She returned with plastic golf clubs instead, and Rai was hooked.
- Rai uses iron head covers. This stems from his father, Amrik, who taught him to respect and look after his equipment. His driver has a Frankenstein headcover, which his mom and dad bought for him when he was really young.
- Became a teenage sensation as a 15 year old after beating the 'Lee Westwood World Puttmaster Record' by holing an astonishing 207 consecutive ten-foot putts.
- Established a home base in the United States in February 2023 with the purchase of a home near TPC Sawgrass, host of THE PLAYERS Championship in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Background

- Was born in Wolverhampton, England.
- He started his golfing journey at the Three Hammers Golf Complex (in Wolverhampton, England) and joined Patshull Park when he was only five years old.
- Rai turned professional in 2012 and played two seasons (2014, 2015) on the PGA EuroPro Tour, a developmental tour which awarded Challenge Tour membership to the top five finishers on the Order of Merit. Rai earned his first win in 2015 en route to a No. 5 finish on the Order of Merit, which earned him Challenge Tour membership for the 2016 season. The PGA EuroPro Tour, which also counted Tommy Fleetwood among its contingent of event winners, ceased operations at the end of its 2022 season.
- Earned his first Challenge Tour victory at the 2017 Barclays Kenya Open. The win had a special significance to Rai, as his Kenya-born mother saw him triumph in her first visit to her home country in 47 years. The date also fell on Mother's Day in the UK.
- Went wire-to-wire to seal his maiden DP World Tour title at the Hong Kong Open in December 2018. Later claimed his first Rolex Series title at the 2020 Genesis Scottish Open, defeating Tommy Fleetwood in a playoff at The Renaissance Club.
- When asked in 2022 what he has learned the most from his years playing different Tours, said "Periods when I've struggled and may have gone down the wrong path have been probably the most important learning periods for me."

Family

- Rai has three older siblings: two sisters and one brother. At the 2022 Shriners Children's Open, his sister, Amita, flew to Las Vegas from London on Saturday to hand deliver his passport which he needed to fly to Japan on Sunday night for the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP the following week. Rai shot 62 that Saturday, his 120th official round on TOUR, before showing his sister the sights of Las Vegas that evening.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- As a child he wanted to be a Formula 1 driver before he turned his attention to golf. Still he would often wear Ferrari apparel in junior golf competitions.
- Loves soccer and supports Manchester United FC even though he is from Wolverhampton.
- Loves Marvel Universe movies because 'superheroes have amazing powers and are very inspirational'. Captain America is his favorite character, while "Infinity War" is his favorite movie. Also likes the Star Wars movies, with "Revenge of the Sith" his favorite of that series.
- Enjoys board games, connecting to FIFA, and says he is learning to play chess. Likes listening to inspirational music while traveling because he says it's easy to get a song playing in his mind - so he likes to hear a good message.
- While Indian food is a favorite, he also likes Thai and Chinese. Despite loving pizza, he always chooses anything healthy whenever he can.

Other

- Earned his PGA TOUR card for 2021-22 season via the Korn Ferry Tour Finals. [NOTE: this was a period in time when a second set of PGA TOUR cards were awarded via the Korn Ferry Tour Finals. Beginning with the 2023 season, the Korn Ferry Tour Finals refers to the season-ending series of four events with elevated purses and points, though they no longer award a separate set of PGA TOUR cards and are instead part of the season-long Korn Ferry Tour points race.]
- Made PGA TOUR debut at the 2017 U.S. Open (MC).
- At The Genesis Invitational in 2023, was not in the Wednesday pro-am so chose to walk with and watch Tiger Woods play. "He's been my idol since a very young age," Rai said. "I have VHS copies of his U.S. Amateur wins and majors from the early 2000s. Me and my dad would watch them 3-4 days a week." On the 11th hole that day, Rai was introduced to Tiger for the first time, and the pair had a brief conversation, which he says he will never forget.

Mac Meissner

Things To Know

- Last name pronunciation: MIZE-nurr
- PGA TOUR rookie who earned membership for the first time via the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour season, which awarded TOUR membership to the top 30 players on its Points List. Meissner finished No. 20 off the strength of three top-10s, including a T3 at the season-ending Korn Ferry Tour Championship, which took him from No. 35 to No. 20 on the final 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List.
- Carded the eighth sub-60 round in Korn Ferry Tour history with a 12-under 59 in the second round of the 2023 LECOM Suncoast Classic at Lakewood National Golf Club in Lakewood Ranch, Florida. Meissner closed his round (which began on the back nine) with a birdie-eagle finish to post the 59.
- Previously finished No. 46 on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Points List as a rookie, which earned him fully exempt status for the 2023 season.
- Finished No. 8 in the inaugural PGA TOUR University Class of 2021 after four seasons at Southern Methodist University (2017-21); his performance benefits included Forme Tour membership for the remainder of the 2021 season. Meissner won his third start on the circuit and finished No. 5 on its Order of Merit to earn Korn Ferry Tour membership for 2022. [NOTE: the Forme Tour was a one-season variation created in place of PGA TOUR Canada, which had its 2020 and 2021 seasons canceled amid the COVID-19 pandemic.]

Background

- Born in Charleston, South Carolina but eventually graduated from Alamo Heights High School in San Antonio, Texas. Currently resides in Dallas, where he attended Southern Methodist University.
- Played four seasons at Southern Methodist University (2017-21), winning twice individually, earning two All-America honors (third-team in 2019, second-team in 2020), and garnering the 2018-19 American Athletic Conference Golfer of the Year award. Meissner's two wins included medalist honors at the 2019 American Athletic Conference Championship.
- Recipient of the 2021 Byron Nelson Award, which is presented annually to a graduating senior for the combination of performance, academics, character, integrity, and citizenship. The award granted him an exemption for the 2022 CJ CUP at Byron Nelson, where he missed the cut in what was his first PGA TOUR start as a professional.
- Represented the United States at the 2021 Walker Cup; he began the week as the first alternate but saw action in the first foursomes session, winning a point alongside Ricky Castillo.
- Won the 2020 Southern Amateur Championship at Maridoe Golf Club in Carrollton, Texas, closing with a final-round 66 and winning in a playoff.
- Finished third at the 2018 Texas Amateur; he finished six strokes behind the champion, his older brother Mitchell Meissner. Mac notably finished ahead of fellow PGA TOUR rookies Chandler Phillips (T5), Pierceson Coody (T8), and Parker Coody (T12).

Family

- Older brother (by three years), Mitchell, played golf at Rice University and continues to play professionally. Mitchell notably finished No. 1 on the 2021-22 PGA TOUR Latinoamerica

Order of Merit. Mitchell is set to have conditional status for the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour season.

- An uncle, Todd Haney, was an infielder who played college baseball at University of Texas and played professionally from 1992 through 1998 for the Montreal Expos, Chicago Cubs, and New York Mets. In 2019, Haney became head coach of the Victoria (British Columbia) HarbourCats, a member of the West Coast League, which is a premier summer collegiate baseball league.
- Wife, Kennedy, played golf at SMU and currently works for the Payne Stewart Foundation.

Charity

- Would like to start a foundation which encourages less-opportune children to get into golf in his hometown of San Antonio, Texas.
- Volunteered at Brother Bill's Helping Hand, Watermark Church, and the College Golf Fellowship through the years.
- While in high school, earned the President's Volunteer Service Award, which requires upwards of 100 hours of community service. The award is bestowed by the President of the United States and was established to honor volunteers who give hundreds of hours per year helping others through the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. The award can be granted to individuals, families, and organizations located throughout the United States.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Teammates on the United States team at the 2021 Walker Cup included Korn Ferry Tour winner Ricky Castillo, fellow PGA TOUR rookie Pierceson Coody, as well as TOUR members Austin Eckroat and Davis Thompson.

Jackson Koivun

Matt Fitzpatrick

Things To Know

- Cover star of the latest release of the popular video game, PGA TOUR 2K25, his second appearance in the game.
- Represents the New York Golf Club alongside teammates Rickie Fowler, Cameron Young and Xander Schauffele in the inaugural TGL presented by SoFi, a primetime golf league in partnership with the PGA TOUR that will launched in January 2025 on ESPN. The new golf league was created by TMRW Sports whose co-founders include Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, fuses advanced technology, innovation and live action for ESPN's primetime television audience. New York Golf Club is owned by Steven A. Cohen and Cohen Private Ventures.
- Earned his second career PGA TOUR win at the 2023 RBC Heritage, defeating Jordan Spieth on the third playoff hole after hitting his 186-yard approach shot to 2 feet. Followed Nick Faldo (1984) as the second Englishman to win the RBC Heritage. The victory was also special for Fitzpatrick, as he and his family vacationed at Hilton Head Island throughout his childhood.
- Won the 2022 U.S. Open by one stroke, earning his first major championship title and first career win on the PGA TOUR. He became the first player to earn his first TOUR title in a major since Danny Willett at the 2016 Masters Tournament.
- Became the 13th player to win both the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Open and second to do so at the same course (Jack Nicklaus, Pebble Beach Golf Links), with Fitzpatrick accomplishing the feat at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts.
- Matt is extremely meticulous with his approach and has taken comprehensive notes of every shot he's taken since he was 15 years old. He has boxes upon boxes of books with invaluable information. Inside his notebooks, he charts basic information like what clubs he hit, the wind and whether the ball landed in the fairway or the rough. But he also records information that could never be calculated by even the most advanced supercomputers. That's because he documents his intended result versus the actual one. Fitzpatrick separates the process from the outcome.
- Fan of Sheffield United F.C. (soccer). Received messages after winning the 2022 U.S. Open from two Sheffield United legends -- Billy Sharp and Chris Wilder. Brought the U.S. Open trophy to Bramall Lane, Sheffield United's stadium, on Boxing Day (December 26) for the match against Coventry City.

Background

- Born in Sheffield, England and grew up playing at Hallamshire Golf Club. Famous members of Hallamshire include 2009 Solheim Cup captain Alison Nicholas and BBC Sport presenter Dan Walker.
- Rose to No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking for the first time in August 2013. Totaled 21 weeks at No. 1 (not consecutive -- first stint was nine weeks, followed by a 12-week stint in late 2013 / early 2014).
- Won the 2013 U.S. Amateur Championship at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts. Notably defeated Corey Connors in the semifinals, and defeated Oliver Goss in the 36-hole final.
- Represented Great Britain & Ireland in the 2013 Walker Cup at National Golf Links of America in Southampton, New York. Fitzpatrick posted a 3-1 record for the week, though the

United States (led by Max Homa, Patrick Rodgers, and Justin Thomas) won the Walker Cup, 17-9.

- Earned low amateur honors at the 2013 Open Championship (finished T44) and 2014 U.S. Open (finished T48), becoming the first amateur since Bobby Jones in 1930 to hold low amateur titles at The Open Championship and U.S. Open simultaneously.
- Played one semester for Northwestern University before leaving school to focus on golf full-time. Turned professional after the 2014 U.S. Open.

Family

- Married Katherine Gaal on October 18, 2024 in her hometown of Bay Head, New Jersey.
- Parents are Russell and Susan. Russell is a bank manager. Both assist him with his professional golf career: Russell manages his earnings and Susan helps with booking flights.
- His parents contacted Rory McIlroy for advice about buying a house in Florida to prepare for PGA TOUR tournaments.
- Notes on Fitzpatrick's younger brother, Alex: caddied for him when he won the 2013 U.S. Amateur. Participated in the Walker Cup in 2019, six years after Matt did (defeated Cole Hammer, 2-up, in Saturday Singles and lost to Isaiah Salinda, 2-up, on Sunday).
- Matt played with his younger brother, Alex, in a PGA TOUR event for the first time when the two partnered at the 2023 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.
- Alex, earned his first professional win in August 2023 at the British Challenge on the Challenge Tour. Matt Fitzpatrick later posted a video to Twitter of Alex stuffing a giant check into the back of his car quoting "Happy Gilmore."

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Took the U.S. Open trophy to a Sheffield United match on December 26, 2022, a 3-1 win over Coventry. Fitzpatrick wrote on Twitter afterward, "Great to be back home in Sheffield visiting the Lane with the US Open trophy today! Made even better with 3 points for Dem Blades!!"

Charity

- Matt is a patron for the Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity. He enjoys fund raising at Dan Walker's golf day and visits the hospital when he can.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Played with Tiger Woods and Max Homa during the first and second rounds of the 150th Open Championship at St Andrews, following Woods as he walked over the Swilcan Bridge in one of the most iconic scenes in golf in 2022.
- On relationship with Jack Nicklaus: "Growing up, my dad always made sure that I knew that Jack was the best of all time, 18 majors. My dad was a big Jack fan. I'll be honest, it's kind of been very surreal the last five or six years since I've turned pro just because -- I wouldn't say I've spent a lot of time with Jack but I'm a member of the Bear's Club in Florida and he's there regularly. I've had regular lunches with him where he's just come and sat down with me."

Davis Thompson

Things To Know

- NOTE: Davis is NOT named after Davis Love III. His sister, Frannie, had a crush on a boy named Davis in preschool and his parents liked the name.
- Earned his first PGA TOUR win at the 2024 John Deere Classic. Spent the week sharing a six-bedroom rental home near TPC Deere Run nicknamed "Trophy House" with fellow TOUR pros Patton Kizzire, Ben Kohles, Denny McCarthy, J.T. Poston, and Greyson Sigg. The "Trophy House" nickname came to be after members of the house won the John Deere Classic in 2022 (Poston) and 2023 (Sepp Straka). For 2024, Thompson took Straka's place (and bedroom) in Trophy House, as Straka opted for a hotel room since his wife and baby boy traveled with him for the tournament. Thompson said after the win, "Me and him may be fighting for that room next year." Thompson, who slept on the 54-hole lead, added, "Staying in a hotel room by myself, I probably would've let my mind wander a lot... but hanging out with those guys last night, doing laundry and watching sports kind of kept my mind off things." The Trophy House group traditionally plays a lot of cards throughout the week, and should the tournament winner emerge from the house, it is tradition for them to cover the entire cost of the house. Thompson said of the tradition after his win, "I'll gladly write the check for that."
- Thompson said of his goals after his first PGA TOUR win at the 2024 John Deere Classic, "I feel like the work is only beginning. The goal is to play this game for 20-plus years and have a great career."
- Of winning in his second year with PGA TOUR membership, Thompson said after his victory at the 2024 John Deere Classic, "Throughout my life, it's taken me time to get adjusted to anything. Took me a while to get adjusted to college. Even back to junior golf when I started playing the back tees. It just kind of takes a while to get adjusted, and then once I get comfortable, I get in a groove and start to play week."
- Finished No. 2 in the inaugural PGA TOUR University Class of 2021 following an outstanding collegiate career at University of Georgia, where he was a two-time All-America First Team selection (2020, 2021) and the 2021 Southeastern Conference Player of the Year. Looked at Auburn University and University of Alabama in addition to University of Georgia, but never really considered anywhere other than Georgia after a visit to campus in Athens "felt like home."
- Son of RSM Classic tournament director Todd Thompson, who has been in his role since 2017. Davis made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2019 RSM Classic as a sponsor exemption (finished T23) and earned a sponsor exemption for the 2020 RSM Classic by winning the Jones Cup, an annual amateur golf tournament held at Ocean Forest Golf Club in Sea Island. Other past champions of the Jones Cup include Luke List (2007), Justin Thomas (2012), Corey Connors (2014), Beau Hossler (2016), Akshay Bhatia (2019) and Ludvig Aberg (2021).

Background

- Grew up in Auburn, Alabama, as a Georgia fan. Went to high school at Lee-Scott Academy in Auburn where he was able to play varsity golf beginning in seventh grade. In addition to winning individual state titles in 2013 and 2015 and six consecutive team state titles in golf from 2012 through 2017, Davis helped the boys basketball team win the 2016 state title his junior year. Went to high school with his now wife, Holly Grace (double first name). The couple started dating in 2020, got engaged in 2022, and wed in Auburn in May 2023.

- An intense competitor despite outwardly portraying a calm, even-keeled presence. Davis says of his competitiveness, "I've always tried to be the best I could in everything. In college, I tried to have the highest GPA on the team. I'm not really one to show it a whole lot, but on the inside, those competitive juices are flowing."
- PGA TOUR winner and fellow University of Georgia alum Keith Mitchell once said of Thompson's demeanor: "He acts like a TOUR player on and off the course while being a 21-year-old living in Athens, which you and I know quite frankly is impossible. Turning pro won't be any different for him." The two are St. Simons Island, Georgia residents and play together at Sea Island.
- Former No. 1 player in the World Amateur Golf Ranking, achieving the top ranking in November 2020 and March 2021.
- Won the 2020 Jones Cup after finishing as the runner-up to Akshay Bhatia in a playoff at the 2019 Jones Cup. Thompson also finished T2 at the 2021 Jones Cup. Past champions of the Jones Cup include Luke List (2007), Justin Thomas (2012), Corey Connors (2014), Beau Hossler (2016), Akshay Bhatia (2019) and Ludvig Aberg (2021).

Family

- Wife, Holly Grace (double first name). See the "Things to Know" section for additional info on Davis and Holly Grace.
- His mother, Leigh, used to work in sales for the ISCO Championship when it was held in Alabama (2015-2017).
- His father, Todd, was a four-year letterwinner and two-time All-Southeastern Conference selection for the Georgia men's golf team in the 1980s. He began his career as a walk-on, served as team captain and helped the team win the 1988 SEC title. Todd caddied for Davis at the 2020 U.S. Open, where Davis briefly held the lead during the first round during his first career major championship appearance. Due to COVID-19, players were only allowed to bring two people with them; Davis decided to have his dad take one of the spots and serve as his caddie, along with his swing coach, Eric Eshleman (ESH-ul-man). Prior to his role as tournament director of The RSM Classic, Todd ran the Southeastern Junior Golf Tour, which he founded in Auburn, Alabama in 1994 (still serves as the executive director). Davis earned SJGT Player of the Year honors in 2016, winning six events in eight starts, and credits his time on the SJGT with learning how to close out golf tournaments. The SJGT hosts an annual tournament in January at the Retreat Course at Sea Island.
- Sister, Frannie, graduated from Ole Miss with a marketing degree. Frannie, who began a career in real estate in 2020, previously served as the social media/marketing director for the Southeastern Junior Golf Tour.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Faith in Jesus Christ is very important to him. He always prays before his opening tee shot.
- Grew up a University of Georgia fan and attended football games as a kid. Memorable Georgia football games Davis has gone to were the 2021 Southeastern Conference Championship Game (lost to Alabama) and a 2019 victory over Notre Dame in a top-10 matchup played in Athens, Georgia.
- Loves Double Stuf Oreos.
- Huge fan of movies, especially Will Ferrell and superhero movies. Batman films are his favorite.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Frequently plays with fellow University of Georgia alums and St. Simons Island, Georgia residents Harris English and Keith Mitchell, as well as his former roommate and college teammate Spencer Ralston, fellow Class of 2022 Korn Ferry Tour graduate Will Gordon, and Auburn University alum Patton Kizzire.
- Keith Mitchell remembers a particular match with Thompson at Sea Palms Resort in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic and golf shutdown, recalling with a laugh, "I made seven birdies and lost 4-down," to Thompson, who broke the course record with a 61. A week later, Thompson shot 59 at Sea Palms and broke his own course record.

Alex Noren

Things To Know

- Missed the first five months of the 2025 season as he recovered from a tendon tear in his right hamstring on the sit bone, which he sustained while warming up for the season-opening Sentry in Hawaii. Made his return to professional golf at the 2025 Truist Championship in May, with Noren saying of the injury and recovery, "It's a bad injury, but you can still live quite a normal life because you have two other tendons that support it. But I couldn't swing a club. I couldn't jump or run. The bad part of it is that it takes a long time to heal, and it was 90 percent torn. I had that 10 percent left to make it heal back so I didn't have to have surgery. If it was actually torn, I would not play right now."
- During a seven-month stretch without a worldwide start from October 2024 through May 2025 -- the first three months were his natural offseason, while the latter four months were spent recovering from injury -- spent time coaching his daughter Iris' youth softball team. Noren said, "It was awesome, the best thing I've ever done. You're so stuck in your own golf world all of the time, it's good to step out of it. For some, they couldn't hit... and then by the end of the season they could hit, or they hit a home run. And it's amazing."
- Developed a reputation as one of the hardest workers in professional golf, which was cemented as a photo of his calloused hands, first shared by fellow Swede Kristoffer Broberg after a practice session in December 2017. Noren, who will sometimes wear two gloves during practice sessions to better protect his hands, later said of the photo, "It's a mix of hard training and dedication -- but also a lot of anxiety. They wouldn't look like this if I hit it like Rory McIlroy. I need to hit a lot of balls to be competitive, and maybe the club slides around a little bit [in my grip], maybe there's friction, I don't know." Noren recalled how, after the photo spread across social media, Tiger Woods, one of his golfing idols, approached him in the locker room and asked to see his hands. Noren said of the interaction, "I showed him and he goes, 'Yeah, not too bad,' and I was like, 'There we go, finally somebody who's not impressed by my hands or not disgusted by them.'"
- Is really into sports car racing. Big fan of Top Gear, an automotive entertainment show produced by BBC. Noren says if he wasn't a professional golfer, he would want to be an F1 driver.
- Born in Stockholm, Sweden, and Noren still maintains a residence there with wife, Jennifer, daughter Iris (March 2016) and son Roy (December 2018). Noren is known by his peers as a true family man, spending any spare time he has with them.
- Also has a home in Jupiter, Florida and practices out of The Bear's Club.
- Turned professional in 2005 and earned status on the Challenge Tour for the 2006 season. Finished in the top five of the Challenge Tour rankings as a rookie to earn a promotion to the DP World Tour for the 2006-07 season. Won nine times on the DP World Tour, most notably the 2017 BMW PGA Championship, prior to earning PGA TOUR membership for the first time for the 2017-18 season.
- Represented Sweden for a second time at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Previously competed at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Background

- Noren first tried golf at age 4 and started playing at Haninge Golf Club. Made his first hole-in-one at age 12. Played a lot of soccer and floorball growing up, but focused solely on golf by age 16.

- As a 14-year-old, he won the unofficial Swedish Youth Championship, Foreningsbanken Cup, at his age level. At 15, he attended the Swedish upper secondary sports school, to combine studying with golf training. He was also employed as a junior editor at Svensk Golf, the official magazine of the Swedish Golf Federation.
- Played four seasons at Oklahoma State University (2001-05), where he earned a 2005 All-America Third Team selection as a senior. Notably finished solo second at the 2005 Big 12 Conference Championship, finishing six strokes behind individual medalist Anthony Kim.
- Represented Europe at the 2004 and 2005 Arnold Palmer Cups. Helped Europe win the event in 2004 at Ballybunion Golf Club in Ireland, but fell to the United States at Whistling Straits in 2005. European teammates included Francesco Molinari (2004) and David Skins (2005).
- Represented Sweden at the 2004 Eisenhower Trophy (World Amateur Team Championship) at Rio Mar Country Club in Puerto Rico. Noren helped Sweden finish third, only behind Spain and the winning United States team.
- Helped Europe win the 2018 Ryder Cup by seven points at Le Golf National in France, notably posting a singles victory over Bryson DeChambeau.

Family

- His wife, Jennifer, was born in Stockholm and studied at Stockholm University, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Business, Management and Marketing. Created a podcast named OPodden, which aimed to inspire women, and interviewed some of the most successful Swedish women.
- Parents are Yvonne and Sven-Olov. Has one brother, Andreas.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Huge Curb Your Enthusiasm fan and would love to meet Larry David.
- Fan of tennis and Roger Federer.
- Dedicated to his fitness and is very regimented in his routine.

Charity

- Involved in the Swedish charity Children's Rights in Society (BRIS), a children's helpline in Sweden. Their benefitting golf tournament raises over 100,000 euros.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Played his entire collegiate career under legendary Oklahoma State University head coach Mike Holder. Across his 32 seasons (1973-2005) as Oklahoma State's head coach, Holder led the program to eight national championships.
- Teammates in his four seasons at Oklahoma State included six-time PGA TOUR winner Hunter Mahan. The two were teammates for the 2001-02 and 2002-03 seasons.

Other

- Noren endured a significant injury in his left wrist and was out of play for most of 2014. At that point, he was breaking into the top 50 in the world and then dropped to 700 after his injury. He gradually climbed his way back into the top 10. Noren credits much of his

comeback to his wife and their daughter. Noren himself admits that the birth of Iris shifted his perspective: "Fatherhood gave me something extra in life," he said.

Gary Woodland

Things To Know

- Featured in Season 3, Episode 6 of Netflix's Full Swing, an immersive documentary series which follows life on the PGA TOUR. Woodland's recovery from surgery to remove a brain lesion in September 2023, and his subsequent return to professional golf, are documented in the episode of Full Swing. One particularly emotional revelation in the episode was the fact Woodland wrote letters to his wife and three children prior to undergoing surgery.
- On Wednesday, February 26, 2025, received the PGA TOUR Courage Award. The initial announcement was made during an exclusive interview with Michael Strahan on ABC's "Good Morning America", followed by a formal presentation at the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches. The PGA TOUR Courage Award is presented to a person who, through courage and perseverance, has overcome extraordinary adversity to make a significant and meaningful contribution to the game of golf. Woodland was the seventh recipient of the PGA TOUR Courage Award, which was established in 2012. Previous recipients were Erik Compton (2013), Jarrod Lyle (2015), Gene Sauers (2017), Morgan Hoffmann (2020), D.J. Gregory (2022), and Chris Kirk (2023).
- On August 30, 2023, Woodland announced publicly that he would undergo surgery to remove a brain lesion. After first experiencing symptoms in May 2023, doctors discovered the lesion which was pressing on the part of the brain that controlled fear and anxiety. Doctors attempted to treat with medication, but as his symptoms continued and worsened, Woodland elected to undergo a craniotomy on September 19, 2023. After a long surgery, doctors were able to remove a majority of the tumor, confirmed it was benign and cut off the blood supply to prevent it from further growing. He recuperated at home in Delray Beach, Florida with the help of his wife, Gabby, and their three children. Woodland began to take full swings five weeks after the surgery, and later made his return to the PGA TOUR at the 2024 Sony Open in Hawaii. Woodland missed the cut but said, "Obviously you never want to miss the cut, never want to be out of contention, but it was bigger for me this week than golf."
- In early July 2025, was named a Vice Captain for the United States team -- captained by Keegan Bradley -- at the 2025 Ryder Cup.
- Serving on the Player Advisory Council (PAC) for the first time in 2025. The 16-member PAC advises and consults with the PGA TOUR Policy Board (Board of Directors) and Commissioner Monahan on issues affecting the TOUR.
- In September 2023, two days after Woodland underwent brain surgery, his alma mater - the University of Kansas - announced it was naming its golf practice complex after him. Used by the Jayhawk men's and women's teams, the Kansas Board of Regents approved naming the facilities the Gary Woodland Golf Complex -- which includes practice holes, a driving range and putting facilities -- at the privately-owned Jayhawk Club in Lawrence, Kansas.
- Won the 2019 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach Golf Links for his fourth (and still most recent) PGA TOUR title. Woodland earned a three-stroke victory over runner-up Brooks Koepka, who sought to follow Willie Anderson (1903-05) as the second player in history to win three consecutive U.S. Opens.

Background

- Grew up in Topeka, Kansas, playing both golf and basketball.
- Named All-State in basketball and helped Shawnee Heights High School win Class 5A state basketball titles in 2000 and 2002. From basketball, Woodland learned toughness. In high school, he took a charge from an opponent who was attempting to dunk over him, and was

badly injured. He was rushed to the hospital emergency room, where he was treated for an injured trachea. Three days later, he returned to the court. Woodland learned breathing techniques in basketball that he has transferred to the golf course. Before shooting free throws, he took several deep, calming breaths and counted to three in his head to help block out the crowd noise. Between golf shots, he does the same thing. He takes deep breaths and, particularly on putts, he counts to three in his head before starting his stroke.

- Prior to his college golf career at University of Kansas, played one season (2002-03) of basketball at Washburn University, an NCAA Division II program in Topeka, Kansas. The Ichabods went 26-6 and earned an NCAA Tournament berth in Woodland's lone season, which saw him play in all 32 games (four starts) as a point guard. Woodland averaged 17.4 minutes and 6.0 points a game, in addition to shooting 31.7 percent from 3-point range.
- Played four seasons at University of Kansas (2003-07), the school he always dreamed of attending, and graduated with a Sociology degree in 2007. Earned four collegiate victories while at Kansas, including three wins as a senior (2006-07 season) and finished with a 73.33 career scoring average. Also earned All-Big 12 Conference selections in 2006 and 2007.
- Inducted into the Topeka Sports Hall of Fame in June 2017, recognizing his history in the community as an All-State basketball player and as both an amateur and professional golfer. Woodland won the 2005 and 2007 Kansas Amateur Championships, winning the latter at Topeka Country Club. Woodland said that if he had one round of golf left in his life, he'd spend it at Topeka Country Club, saying, "That's the one course I'd play every day." After his 2019 U.S. Open victory, Topeka changed a city-government meeting in order to throw a city-wide block party for Woodland.
- Inducted into the Kansas Golf Hall of Fame on October 7, 2024, recognizing his career which included his collegiate play at University of Kansas. He was part of the same inductee class that included four-time PGA TOUR winner Woody Austin and PGA TOUR winner Matt Gogel. Another notable member of the Kansas Golf Hall of Fame is Tom Watson, who was inducted in 1991.

Family

- Married wife, Gabby, in 2016 in Turks & Caicos; they have three children.
- The couple were first expecting twins in 2017 when Gabby suffered complications, resulting in the loss of a baby girl. They welcomed son, Jaxson, who was born one-month premature and only 3 pounds.
- "That puts this into perspective real quick. There's a lot more to life than winning golf tournaments. I know even if I would have shot 80 and lost this tournament by 10 shots, I'm still going to go home to a miracle child who I have the responsibility of making sure that he has a great life and that's what I'm excited about."
- Just over 10 months later, Gabby and son Jaxson surprised Woodland on the 18th green as he won the 2018 WM Phoenix Open, his third PGA TOUR victory and first since the 2013 Barracuda Championship.
- Twin girls, Lennox and Maddox, were born in August 2019, less than two months after Woodland won the U.S. Open.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Belongs to DBC Fitness. David Alexander is the Founder/Director of DBC Fitness, which stands for Dumbbells, Barbells and Cables, with a deep roster of star athletes. According to the company website, DBC uses biomechanics and detailed assessments to create custom

correctives and training programs, and thereby "close the increasingly growing gap between training and science."

- DBC reshaped Woodland's workouts, but also the way he ate, hydrated and even traveled. He learned about his body, and what he could do to maximize productivity and longevity. He even moved to South Florida (Delray Beach), which had the added benefit of facilitating further skull sessions with Alexander. He is very much into wellness and physical fitness. He is very conscious about the foods he puts into his body. Doesn't eat anything that comes out of the sea.
- Favorite professional team is the Kansas City Chiefs (NFL).
- Marks his ball with a 1984 half-dollar coin given to him by his mother. The year 1984 signifies the year he was born.

Charity

- As the recipient of the PGA TOUR Courage Award in 2025, received \$25,000 charitable contribution from the PGA TOUR for a charity of his choosing. Woodland designated Champion Charities, an organization dedicated to research and patient support for brain tumors, brain diseases, and brain traumas. Woodland and his wife, Gabby, matched the donation with \$25,000 of their own for Champion Charities.
- Gary is a staunch supporter of Folds of Honor and has the non-profit's logo on his golf bag. Folds of Honor was founded by Lt Col Dan Rooney (CEO) to provide scholarships to spouses and children of America's fallen and disabled service members.
- "Gary Woodland is our biggest and most visible Folds ambassador on the PGA TOUR, and is a point of light that ties the PGA TOUR, Patriot Golf Days and the Folds together," said Lt Col Dan Rooney (CEO). "It's just been an awesome walk with him."
- The 2024 WM Phoenix Open was the five-year anniversary of Woodland's memorable moment at the 16th hole with Amy Bockerstette. Down syndrome advocate Bockerstette, who has since participated in the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games for golf, was paired with Woodland (and Matt Kuchar) during the pro-am at the 2019 event. Bockerstette famously parred the 16th hole after sinking a long putt in front of Woodland, Kuchar and a large crowd of onlookers in a video that went viral. Their relationship continued, and the duo even Facetimed the night Woodland won the 2019 U.S. Open later that a season. Woodland later surprised Amy with the news that she would be competing in the 2022 Special Olympics. On Amy, Gary said, "The world needs a lot more of Amy in it."

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Childhood hero is National Baseball Hall of Famer George Brett, who was also his dad's favorite baseball player. Gary wore No. 5 (the same number Brett wore in his 21 seasons with the Kansas City Royals) as a kid when he played baseball. After Gary won the 2018 WM Phoenix Open, Brett invited him to watch the Super Bowl at his home. [The two had previously met at a Korn Ferry Tour charity event and "hit it off" while playing nine holes together.] Gary brought his parents with him and laughed as he recalled, "I think my dad was more excited to go over to his house than he was that I won that day." Gary and George developed a friendship, and they have played golf several times since then. George maintains a single-digit handicap.
- Good friends with Justin Thomas. In early November 2019, the two attended a Kansas basketball game and the Alabama/LSU football game together in the same weekend.

- Won the 2011 Valspar Championship for first PGA TOUR title. A week later, was grouped with Tiger Woods and Dustin Johnson in the first and second rounds of the Arnold Palmer Invitational. It marked the first time Woodland was paired with Woods.

Joel Dahmen

Things To Know

- Since Dahmen's appearance on Netflix's "Full Swing" docuseries, his traffic on digital channels increased by nearly 2,000% in the week since the show launched on Feb. 15. Joel will also be a cast member in Season 2 of "Full Swing."
- Joel and his wife Lona welcomed their first child, Riggs William Dahmen, in January 2024 in the couple's hometown of Scottsdale, Arizona. The couple are expecting their second child in November 2025.
- In 2011, Joel was also diagnosed with testicular cancer. Dahmen was lucky and caught it in the early stages. After surgery and successful chemotherapy, he was back to chasing his dream of playing professional golf. Didn't play golf for a month and a half in 2014, his now wife, Lona, gave him \$200 to go get a lesson and it kickstarted his career. Celebrated 10 years of being cancer-free on June 6, 2021.
- Won PGA TOUR Canada Order of Merit and PGA TOUR Canada Player of the Year in 2014 to get Korn Ferry Tour status for 2015. Finished 25th on the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Money List in 2016, by only \$975 over Xander Schauffele, to earn his PGA TOUR card for the first time (2016-17 PGA TOUR Season). Note: Schauffele went on to earn his card via the Korn Ferry Tour Finals, and then won PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year.

Background

- Born in Clarkston, Washington, but grew up in Idaho.
- Played one year of college golf in Seattle at the University of Washington where he was roommates with PGA TOUR player Nick Taylor (the duo played a lot of Mario Kart 64 (video game) in their apartment).
- Was a two-time Washington Interscholastic Activities Association 3A state golf champion at Clarkston High School.

Family

- Joel's wife, Lona, has a great travel/food Instagram account (@traveleatsandtreats). This hilariously contrasts with Joel, who often uses the handle #DahmenDiet because he likes to eat what he wants. Joel's favorite place to eat is Carbone at the Aria in Las Vegas.
- Met his wife in a pizza place in Old Town Scottsdale, Arizona after midnight. It was crowded and Joel said he would buy Lona a slice if she got to the front of the line before him. She ended up giving him her number before they left. Joel credits Lona for his success from his days not having a card to where he is today.
- Joel and Lona own a dog named Murphy, black lab. Massive dog-people.
- His dad, Ed, and mom, Jolyn, would drive him around to anything close to their home to be able to play golf. Very much a non-private golf kid. Grew up on the public links in Washington, playing Clarkston Country Club, where he would play until dark and sharpen his scoring skills in weekly games against the members.
- The Dahmens were a typical blue-collar, middle-class family: Ed first began sweeping floors at Clearwater pulp and paper mill in the valley straight out of high school and wound up working there for 38 years, while his wife, Jolyn, was a longtime kindergarten teacher.
- Lost his mother, Jolyn, to pancreatic cancer when he was a junior in high school in 2005; his brother was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 2009 and recovered. His mother remains his

inspiration. "I think about her every day," he said. "You are living for someone other than yourself."

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- As a superstition, never marks his ball with a quarter.
- Enjoys watching baseball, basketball and football. Favorite professional teams are the NFL's Seattle Seahawks and MLB's Seattle Mariners.
- Would love to host his own sports radio show.
- Each year during Masters weekend, Joel and his friends play in the HackMasters in Scottsdale, which he says is almost more important than the Masters at this point in his career, because he has always got invited back.
- His favorite player growing up was Seattle's own Fred Couples.
- Enjoys playing cornhole and is said to be good at it. In an article from Golf Digest, "Known for extreme accuracy and controlling his trajectory, he throws every bag like he's carving a 5-iron into a tight pin."
- Dahmen said his only "real" job was working valet for around six months.

Charity

- The Dahmen Family Foundation was created by Joel Dahmen and his wife Lona with a vision to raise funds for charities benefiting children and families through the game of golf, keying in on cancer patients in need and small-town golf communities to better the game.
- Has partnered with MD Anderson Cancer Center and Travis Mathew to try to do his part to #endcancer. Thanks to Travis Mathew, a portion of every hat sale goes directly to the Dahmen Family Foundation and the endeavors they have to truly #EndCancer.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Is a member of Mesa Country Club, in Mesa, Arizona. Plays with many local celebrities in the area including Michael Phelps and former MLB World Series champion Cody Ross.
- Hangs out a lot with Mark Hubbard, Ryan Brehm and Max Homa. Has fun Twitter chats with Max when they are paired together.
- Friends with New York Yankees manager, Aaron Boone (MLB).
- Geno Bonnalie, Joel's former caddie, worked with Joel from 2015 until July 2025. Joel and Geno have known each other since their teenage years and won a two-man best-ball tournament in their teens in Idaho, where they lived at the time. Geno wrote a heartfelt letter to Joel asking if he could caddie for him. The two worked together for a decade and had one of the best (and hilarious) caddie-player relationships on TOUR.
- Became TOUR twins (wearing matching outfits) with singer Ben Rector at the 2023 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am after attending his concert during the 2022 U.S. Open.

Sungjae Im

Things To Know

- Earned a spot on the 2024 Presidents Cup International Team and made his third appearance in Montreal, Canada. Previously made appearances at the 2019 Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne, and the 2022 Presidents Cup at Quail Hollow.
- After living from hotel to hotel, bought a house in the TPC Sugarloaf community just outside of Atlanta at the end of 2020.
- Born in Cheongju, South Korea and moved to Jeju Island -- home to Nine Bridges, the golf club which hosted THE CJ CUP from 2017-19 -- when he was four years old. Began playing golf competitively at nine years old.
- Followed his mom, Mi Kim, to the practice range when he was four and has been hooked to golf ever since.
- Came to the United States in 2017 to compete in the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament (now PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry). Im finished runner-up to Lee McCoy and earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2018 season.
- Earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time after a dazzling rookie season on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2018. At age 19, Im won his Korn Ferry Tour debut at the circuit's season-opening event in The Bahamas in January 2018, following Jason Day (2007) as the second teenager to win on the Korn Ferry Tour. Im finished solo second the following week in The Bahamas and led the Korn Ferry Tour standings for the entire season. Earned a second victory en route to being named the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year. At season's end, Im became the third-youngest graduate in Korn Ferry Tour history (20 years, 5 months, 24 days), behind Jason Day (19 years, 11 months, 23 days in 2007) and Si Woo Kim (20 years, 3 months, 6 days).
- Was the only rookie to reach the 2019 TOUR Championship, among 23 in the 2018-19 season. At the time, was the fourth-youngest player in history to qualify for the TOUR Championship (21 years, 4 months, 19 days of age), only behind Jordan Spieth (2013, 2014) and Si Woo Kim (2016).
- Followed Stewart Cink (1996-97) as the second player to be named the Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year (2018 for Im) and PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year (2018-19) in consecutive seasons. Scottie Scheffler accomplished the feat a year later, earning 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year and 2019-20 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year honors.
- Earned his maiden PGA TOUR victory at the 2020 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches with fellow professional golfer Albin Choi as his caddie. They worked together for the first time that week, and knew each other from the Korn Ferry Tour.
- Shot a pair of 66s on the weekend of 2022 TOUR Championship to finish T2, one behind winner Rory McIlroy, to post career best finish in FedExCup. Also became Asia's best finisher since the inauguration of the FedExCup in 2007.
- Won the gold medal for Korea in the team competition at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China by 25 strokes alongside Si Woo Kim and two amateur partners. Also won the silver medal in the individual category, finishing one stroke behind Hong Kong's Taichi Kho. NOTE: WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL EXEMPTS SUNGJAE AND SI WOO FROM MANDATORY 21-MONTH MILITARY SERVICE.
- NOTE TO MEDIA OFFICIALS, BROADCAST ANNOUNCERS: Please do not voluntarily discuss the military exemption. If asked by the media, the following messaging has been agreed with Sungjae's agent. Q: Was it a relief for you to earn exemption from Military Service with the gold medal in Asian Games? A: I was focused on the opportunity to represent my country and helping the team win the gold medal while I also won the individual

silver medal. I was really happy to contribute to the win in China as we have not won the team gold since 2010. This will allow me to focus on my golf career on the PGA TOUR and I hope I can continue to inspire young Korean golfers to succeed in the game. Q: But are you happy you don't have to do Military Service now? A: I think I'm now able to focus even more on my golf career. Should there be follow up questions from media, our Media Officials will need to step in to say the player has already answered on the matter, and request to move on to other golf questions.

Background

- Attended Korean National Sport University and turned professional in 2015.

Family

- Father, Ji Taek Im. Mother is Mi Kim. Got married on December 17, 2022 in Seoul.(Note: Due to privacy, name of wife is not being shared)

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Has a photographic memory. Once he looks at an object or a picture, he can tell instantly if something has changed.
- Tries to eat Korean food at least once a week on the road.
- Favorite food is the "Jeju Black Pig" and he loves how his mom prepares it with onions and soy sauce. It is a difficult dish to find in America.
- Favorite American foods include pizza, pasta, and Subway sandwiches
- Music interests/Musical inclinations: Korean K-Pop

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Manager/Interpreter: Moon Jo.

Other

- Made 35 starts on TOUR in his rookie season (most of any player in the 2018-19 season). Skipped only two events where he was qualified to play (2019 Puerto Rico Open and 2019 Barracuda Championship).
- A day after winning the Arnold Palmer Award as the 2018-19 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year, made the first ace of the 2019-20 season with a hole-in-one at a Military Tribute at the Greenbrier (223-yard, 15th hole). Became the first player since Tiger Woods to make multiple aces on the PGA TOUR before the age of 22.
- Spent his time during the COVID-19 shutdown in 2020 in Tampa, Florida at Saddlebrook Resort. Went straight after THE PLAYERS Championship to stay with a family friend. Practiced out of TPC Tampa Bay and the Palmer Course at Saddlebrook.
- Was forced to withdraw from the 2022 PGA Championship after testing positive for COVID-19 a week prior to the year's second major while he was home in Korea to compete in a domestic event.

