

Report (16 players)

Andrew Novak

Things To Know

- Earned his first PGA TOUR card upon conclusion of the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour season -- which was a two-year, 46-event season as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Followed William McGirt as the second golfer in Wofford College history to earn PGA TOUR membership.
- Played four seasons at Wofford College (2013-17) in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Novak was credited with four collegiate victories and was a three-time All-Southern Conference selection, as well as the 2017 Southern Conference Player of the Year. In 2022, Novak was inducted into the Wofford Athletic Hall of Fame.
- Once made the SportsCenter Top 10 with a 100-plus-foot putt at 2016 Tuscaloosa NCAA Regional.
- Did not pursue golf until around around 13 years of age. Tried out for his school's golf team when he was 12, but was cut and did not make the team. During his middle school years, he took golf more seriously and made drastic improvements. Novak said he "caught the golf bug" in middle school and "dropped 20 shots in two years" once he began working on his game.
- Earliest golf memory is when former North Carolina State Wolfpack star Carl Pettersson gave him a golf ball at a college tournament when he was three years old. Novak still has it at home, and it has an N.C. State logo on it.
- Chose and enjoys living in St. Simons Island, Georgia because of the restaurants in the area, with a common favorite amongst himself and other players being Southern Soul BBQ. His core social group on the island consists of Harrison Shih, Ben Griffin, and Austin Morrison who have all played on different tours.

Background

- Got started in golf after his uncle got him a set of plastic clubs. Andrew used flower pots in the backyard for target practice. Novak did not begin using real clubs or actual golf balls until around 12 years old.
- Graduated from Academic Magnet High School in North Charleston, South Carolina.
- First job was a range assistant at 16 years old.

Family

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

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

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

Inner Circle/Special Connections

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

Ben Griffin

Jake Knapp

Things To Know

- Last name pronunciation: NAP (as in taking a nap).
- Has a number of relationships within the Anaheim Ducks organization, which is why Knapp typically sports a Ducks logo on his apparel / golf bag. The connection began with Tim Ryan, formerly the president and CEO of the Honda Center, as well as a former high-ranking member of the Ducks front office. Ryan was a member at Costa Mesa Country Club, Knapp's home course in southern California. One late afternoon shortly after he turned pro in 2016, Knapp wanted to play nine holes before going to a Ducks game. Seeing as Knapp didn't have a full group, Ryan asked if he could join. After the round, Ryan handed Knapp a business card and told him to reach out if he needed anything at the game. The two remains friends today. Ryan and Knapp often joked about putting a Ducks logo on his bag or apparel, and the two struck a deal once Knapp earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the first time ahead of the 2020-21 season. Knapp also developed a relationship with Aaron Teats, who was the club's longtime director of broadcasting (as well as the publications/new media and entertainment departments) prior to taking over as president of the Ducks in February 2022.
- Following his win at the 2024 Mexico Open at Vidanta, Knapp enjoyed a celebratory cigar -- a Macanudo -- in honor of his grandfather, Gordon Sydney Frederick Bowley, who passed away in April 2023 following a multi-year battle with colon cancer. As a kid, Knapp remembered Gordon giving him cigar tubes full of dimes as "bonus" gifts. Knapp also has a tattoo with Gordon's initials on his left bicep (see Family section for more details).
- Among the congratulatory texts Knapp received following his win at the 2024 Mexico Open at Vidanta was a message from friend Ryan Getzlaf, formerly the captain of the Anaheim Ducks who won a Stanley Cup and two Olympic gold medals.
- Earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time via the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour season; his only previous Korn Ferry Tour season was 2020-21, a two-year season (as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic) which saw him finish outside the top 100 and lose membership. Knapp says, "I got my PGA TOUR card at the right time. If you would have put me out here three, four years ago, I don't think I would have been ready to handle it in terms of the preparation, the style of courses, everything else that goes on. It just would have been a lot for me to take in. Now I feel super comfortable, kind of feel like where I'm supposed to be."
- On being relegated to PGA TOUR Canada after finishing outside the top 100 on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Points List his rookie season, Knapp says, "That season was tough on me. I don't think I was ever that comfortable, and I was just trying to work on too many things in my game. I feel like I was making some changes that were too aggressive to try and play through."
- Of regaining Korn Ferry Tour membership via the 2022 PGA TOUR Canada season, Knapp says, "I would have loved to not go backwards, but, if anything, those first couple years (on the Korn Ferry Tour), especially through COVID-19 where it was two seasons, it was just really humbling playing as poorly as I did and having to go back, retrace my steps, and prove you're good enough to do this and good enough to compete at the next level."

Background

- Moved from his lifelong hometown of Costa Mesa, California to Scottsdale, Arizona in November 2023. When not on TOUR, will play and practice at Whisper Rock Golf Club, Scottsdale National Golf Club, or TPC Scottsdale -- home of the WM Phoenix Open.

- Born in Newport Beach, California but grew up in nearby Costa Mesa -- which is southeast of Los Angeles and sits between Huntington Beach and Irvine; he continued to live in Costa Mesa early in his professional career (until November 2023, when he relocated to Scottsdale, Arizona) in order to remain close to his family and friends.
- Knapp's longtime home course in his hometown of Costa Mesa, California was Mesa Verde Country Club; he has been an honorary member of the club since roughly 2012.
- Grew up across the street from Costa Mesa Country Club, which featured two 18-hole municipal golf courses (Los Lagos and Mesa Linda). Jake once shot a 58 on the Mesa Linda course (a par 70 on the shorter side in terms of yardage) around the time he was a junior in high school. Jake says of Costa Mesa, "I spent every day there as a kid, all the way up until I was a senior in high school. That's where I was every single day."
- Earliest golf memory is watching Tiger Woods defeat Stephen Ames 9&8 at the 2006 WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship (played at La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, California) and having Woods' caddie, Steve Williams, toss him one of the balls from the match. Knapp says of the souvenir, "It's really the only piece of sports memorabilia I have that I really cherish. Still got it in the same little plastic case sitting on my shelf at home."
- Dabbled in baseball, basketball, and soccer before he dedicated himself to golf. Played one year of high school basketball and gave it up after he realized he could play golf in college and beyond.
- Travis Johnson, who founded Travis Mathew apparel, partly influenced Jake's decision to sign with UCLA. Jake's father, Robert, was a fan of Johnson, in part because Johnson's father established a California junior golf tour in 1999. Travis Johnson played golf at UCLA in the early 2000s, and Knapp was such a fan of Travis that he did a high school senior project on him. Knapp visited some schools on the West Coast, but once he found out UCLA was interested in him, UCLA immediately became his preference.
- Played three and a half seasons at UCLA (2012-15), winning twice individually; he turned professional in January 2016, forgoing the spring of his senior season.
- Enjoyed a strong summer of 2015 on the amateur circuit leading into his senior season at UCLA, as he reached the semifinals of the 2015 Western Amateur (lost to Aaron Wise) and qualified for his major championship debut at the 2015 U.S. Open at Chambers Bay (missed cut).
- Turned professional in January 2016 and played predominantly on PGA TOUR Canada for his first four seasons as a pro (2016-19).
- Three-time winner on PGA TOUR Canada who won twice in 2019 en route to a No. 3 finish on the Order of Merit (which earned him Korn Ferry Tour membership for 2020-21), then won again in 2022 en route to a No. 2 finish on the Order of Merit (which earned him Korn Ferry Tour membership for 2023).

Family

- While Jake was born and raised in California, his father, Robert (goes by Bob), is a Wisconsin native, and his mother, Jennifer, hails from Winnipeg in Canada.
- Only sibling is an older brother, Ryan, who played college golf at University of California Irvine (2011-14) and played some professional golf. The two were intensely competitive in video games (mostly played FIFA and NHL against one another).
- Got a tattoo on his left bicep with the letters G.S.F.B as a tribute to his maternal grandfather, Gordon Sydney Frederick Bowley, who passed away on April 17, 2023 at age 85 after a multi-year battle with colon cancer. Knapp and his cousin got matching tattoos in honor of Gordon. Knapp was very intentional about the tattoo's location, saying, "I know it's seen in every single golf photo, but I wanted to make sure it's seen every time when I finish. Jake and Gordon had a very special relationship, as the two would text after every one of Jake's

rounds. Jake has carried on the tradition of texting Gordon before and after rounds despite his passing. The morning of the final round of the 2024 Mexico Open at Vidanta -- which Knapp went on to win -- Jake noted he texted Gordon and "had a little conversation... just talked about the day, and wish he could be here to experience all of it." Jake was confident after his win that Gordon would have replied, "Winner, winner, chicken dinner. Cigars on me," as those were his go-to congratulatory messages.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Says his hobbies outside of golf are video games and the gym. He typically plays video games every night, with Call of Duty and Apex Legends being the games he plays most frequently. And Jake says if he did not play golf, he would pursue a career in the fitness industry given his love of personal fitness.
- The week before his first PGA TOUR win at the 2024 Mexico Open at VidantaWorld, received food sensitivity results which revealed he should not eat gluten, dairy, egg whites, whey protein, and a wide variety of nuts. Knapp said the biggest hit was losing dairy, as he loved milk. Will occasionally allow himself to enjoy some of those foods, but is strict with his diet during tournament weeks.
- Enjoys following Formula 1 racing and is a fan of drivers Max Verstappen and Carlos Sainz. His favorite teams are Red Bull and McLaren. Tries to watch the Sunday morning races when he has a late tee time, or will watch the full replay while traveling the following day.
- Longtime fan of the bodybuilding community, which he followed closely throughout his high school and college years. Huge fan of Steve Cook, who finished in the top 10 of Mr. Olympia in both 2013 and 2014. Cook is also known his YouTube channel (@swoldiernation), which has more than 1 million subscribers.
- Likes playing spikeball with friends at the beach back home in California.
- Lifelong fan of the Anaheim Ducks (NHL hockey), which completed its inaugural season roughly a month before Knapp was born in May 1994. Knapp's family had season tickets in the franchise's early years, and Knapp remembers Paul Kariya and Teemu Selanne being among his favorite players growing up.
- Also a fan of the Los Angeles Lakers (NBA basketball), Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim (MLB baseball), and Michigan Wolverines football -- which he is a fan of since a number of his family members attended the University of Michigan.

Charity

- Connected to Costa Mesa United, which helps raise money for youth sports in his hometown. Knapp's grandfather, Gordon Bowley, was the president of Costa Mesa United until he passed away in April 2023. Jake's mother (and Gordon's daughter), Jennifer, serves on the Costa Mesa United Board of Directors.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Competed against Patrick Cantlay in junior and high school golf in California. Knapp joined the UCLA program mere months after Cantlay turned professional in June 2012 following his sophomore season with the Bruins.
- Friends with former Anaheim Ducks captain, Stanley Cup champion, and two-time Olympic gold medalist Ryan Getzlaf, who retired in 2022 and transitioned to a front office role within the Ducks organization.

- Also counts NHL players Josh Manson and Luca Sbisa, both of whom played for the Anaheim Ducks in their careers, as close friends. Sbisa (pronounced SPEE-zuh) was a member at Knapp's home club (Costa Mesa Country Club) during his time with the Ducks.
- Good friends with Bob Murray, a former NHL player and former Anaheim Ducks general manager.
- Is friends with Albert Pujols' son and is close to the Pujols family [Laury Livsey has a photo of Knapp with the Pujols on the golf course].
- Trains and maintains a friendship with MLB pitcher Trevor Megill. Knapp's father and Megill's father were crew teammates at Orange Coast College.

Other

- Considers The American Express and Farmers Insurance Open as his "home field events". Knapp previously made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2015 Farmers Insurance Open as an open qualifier amid his junior season at UCLA; he missed the cut but played the first two rounds with Justin Thomas, a TOUR rookie at the time.
- The LTD on Knapp's social handles stands for "Living The Dream"
- Has a tattoo on the inside of his arm that says, "Confidence comes from doing."
- [NOTE: this story has been told a number of times via a number of different platforms] Spent roughly nine months (fall 2021 through spring 2022) as a security guard at The Country Club, a fine-dining establishment and nightclub in his hometown of Costa Mesa, California. The job filled a void of time between the end of the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour season (lost membership) and beginning of the 2022 PGA TOUR Canada season (which saw him regain Korn Ferry Tour membership). Knapp typically worked until 2 or 3 a.m. and said of the job, "I knew it was a nicer restaurant, and I knew they did bottle service on the weekends... but I didn't know it got as crazy as it did."

Frankie Capan III

Things To Know

- Last name pronunciation: SAP-in
- A 2025 PGA TOUR rookie who earned TOUR membership following a top 30 finish (No. 3) on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, which marked his second consecutive season on the Korn Ferry Tour. Capan previously finished No. 51 on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List as a rookie.
- Won the 2024 Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship at Ohio State University Golf Club for his lone Korn Ferry Tour title, joining notable past champions Scottie Scheffler (2019), Grayson Murray (2016), Justin Thomas (2014), and Harris English (2011).
- Tied the Korn Ferry Tour record for lowest 18-hole score relative to par with a 13-under 58 in the first round of the 2024 Veritex Bank Championship at Texas Rangers Golf Club in Arlington, Texas. The record was previously established by Notah Begay III (13-under 59 in Round 1 of the 1998 Dominion Open) and Cristobal Del Solar (13-under 57 in Round 1 of the 2024 Astara Golf Championship). Capan parred the final two holes, but broke Scottie Scheffler's course record of 59 from a recreational round on May 3, 2020.
- At 17 years old, won the 2017 U.S. Amateur Four Ball Championship at Pinehurst No. 2 alongside Shuai Ming Wong. The same year, Capan led the United States to a team victory and captured medalist honors at the 2017 Toyota Junior World Cup in Japan.
- Frankie has a close relationship with PGA TOUR winner Arron Oberholser, who he says is like an older brother. The family met Oberholser through Frankie's childhood coach, Craig Waryan, who at the time coached Oberholser's future wife, Angie Rizzo. Frankie served as a ring bearer at Oberholser's wedding at Silverleaf Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona in October 2007, just under two weeks prior to his 8th birthday. Frankie also beat Oberholser in a putting contest at the Capan household in the leadup to the wedding. Oberholser was a top-30 player in the Official World Golf Ranking at the time. Years later, while recovering from a hip injury in high school, Capan valeted cars for six months at Silverleaf; he remembered valeting a car for PGA TOUR winner Adam Hadwin during his time there.

Background

- Earliest golf memory is putting with his father, Frank Jr., at Troy Burne Golf Club in Hudson, Wisconsin when he was age 2.
- Born in Stillwater, Minnesota and spent his first three years in Hudson, Wisconsin, as both cities are along the Minnesota-Wisconsin border. Around the time Frankie was age 3, the family relocated to North Oaks, Minnesota, which is roughly 15 miles north of St. Paul.
- In his high school years, the Capan family lived in Minnesota for the summer, but relocated to Arizona for the school year. Frankie attended Northwest Christian School in Phoenix.
- Won back-to-back individual state titles at the Arizona Interscholastic Association Division III Championships in 2017 and 2018; he won by 10 strokes in 2018 off the strength of a second-round 11-under 59 on the Sonoran Desert Course at Omni Tucson National Resort.
- Lost to Min Woo Lee in the Round of 16 at the 2016 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship. The match went 19 holes, and Min Woo went on to win the title.
- Played two seasons at University of Alabama (2018-20) and two seasons at Florida Gulf Coast University (2020-22). Won once at Florida Gulf Coast and finished third in program history in career scoring average (72.35), in addition to garnering All-Atlantic Sun Conference Second Team honors in 2021 and 2022.

- Capan said of his decision to transfer out of Alabama after his sophomore season, "I knew it probably wasn't the best fit for me moving forward. Then I had two close friends from Minnesota, Van Holmgren and Brady Madsen, transferring down to Florida Gulf Coast. I thought it would be best for me in my journey to step sideways over to FGCU. We were able to kind of turn that program around, and that was something special we were able to do, and still talk about it to this day."
- Turned professional out of Florida Gulf Coast in 2022 and earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2023 season via the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament (now known as PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry). Frankie was one of eight players who advanced through every stage of 2022 Q-School, beginning with pre-qualifying.

Family

- Father, Frank Jr., and his lifelong business partner, Mike Roth, were early pioneers in bringing ATM machines outside banks in the 1990s. Frank Jr. was the CEO and co-owner of Access Cash International, which at one point had roughly 8,500 ATMs across the United States and Canada, making them one of the largest companies in the industry before Frank Jr. and Roth sold the business in 2001.
- Frankie's mother, Charlynn (pronounced SHAR-lin), caddied for him the majority of his rookie season on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2023, as well as his run through the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament. Frankie said of her time on the bag, "She played on her high school team when she was in seventh or eighth grade, and she's super athletic, so golf always came a little easy for her." Charlynn also caddied for Frankie at the 2023 3M Open and 2023 U.S. Open.
- Frank Jr. and Charlynn are both from Minnesota, and the two met at a bar at Mall of America.
- Has two sisters, one older and one younger than him; his older sister is Elle, and his younger sister is Erica.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Favorite sports team is the Minnesota Vikings (NFL football); he keeps the ticket from his first Vikings game (September 28, 2003 - a 35-7 win over the San Francisco 49ers at the Metrodome) in his Bible.
- Enjoys playing all sports, especially football and basketball; his primary sport as a kid was football until age 10.
- While at University of Alabama, would kick field goals in the indoor practice facility; he claims to have made a 50-yarder while barefoot.
- Favorite athletes include Adrian Peterson, Justin Jefferson, Kobe Bryant, Kevin McHale, and Tiger Woods.

Charity

- Previously volunteered for HopeKids, a charitable organization restoring hope and transforming the lives of children with life-threatening medical conditions, their families, and the communities in which they serve.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Says Kevin McHale, a Basketball Hall of Fame inductee, is "like a great uncle" to him.

- Childhood coach, Craig Waryan, achieved PGA Master Professional status and was inducted into the Minnesota Golf Hall of Fame in 2014.

Other

- Served as a standard bearer at the 2012 WM Phoenix Open.
- Made his PGA TOUR debut while still an amateur at the 2016 Puerto Rico Open (missed cut), which he played via a sponsor exemption from his victory at the AJGA's 2016 Puerto Rico Junior Open. Remembered played a practice round that week with PGA TOUR winner Aaron Baddeley.

Ryo Hisatsune

Things To Know

- Pronunciation: REE-oh | hiss-AHT-soon-ay
- Born in Okayama in western Japan and started playing golf at 3 years old.
- Earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time ahead of the 2024 season via the DP World Tour, as he finished in the top 10 of the 2023 DP World Tour Eligibility Ranking.
- Bestowed the Sir Henry Cotton Award as 2023 DP World Tour Rookie of the Year, becoming the first player from Japan to earn the award. Notable past recipients of the award include Nick Faldo (1977), Sandy Lyle (1978), Colin Montgomerie (1988), Sergio Garcia (1999), Brooks Koepka (2014), Jon Rahm (2017), and Robert MacIntyre (2019).
- With his victory at the 2023 Open de France, became the third player from Japan to win on the DP World Tour, following Isao Aoki (1983 European Open) and Hideki Matsuyama (first of multiple victories came at the 2016 WGC-HSBC Champions).
- Earned DP World Tour status for the 2023 season by finishing seventh in Final Stage of DP World Tour Q-School.
- Turned professional in 2020 and finished atop the 2020-21 Japan Challenge Tour money list with three victories in a four-month stretch (June through September 2021). Played the 2022 season on the Japan Golf Tour before his rookie season on the DP World Tour.

Takumi Kanaya

Things To Know

- Began playing at the age of 5 having been influenced by his parents who love the game. Grew up watching Tiger Woods.
- Won the 2020 Mark H. McCormack Medal as the world's top amateur. Past recipients of the award include Jon Rahm, Patrick Cantlay, Joaquin Niemann, Nick Taylor and Matt Fitzpatrick. The last two medals have been awarded to amateurs from Japan, with Keita Nakajima receiving the honor in 2021.
- Turned professional in 2020 after a successful amateur career where he was the world No. 1 amateur for 55 weeks. As an amateur, he won the 2015 Japan Amateur Championship, a professional event on the Japan Golf Tour (the 2019 Mitsui Sumitomo Visa Taiheyo Masters) and won the 2018 Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship which gave him spots in the Masters (T58) and Open Championship (MC) in 2019.
- Has three wins on the Japan Golf Tour coming in 2019 (amateur), 2020 (Dunlop Phoenix Tournament) and 2021 (Token Homemate Cup).
- Qualified for the 2022 Masters via the top 50 in the OWGR at the end of 2021 calendar year.
- Attended Tohoku Fukushi University in Sendai, Japan, alma mater of professionals Hideki Matsuyama, Hiroshi Iwata and Yusaku Miyazato.
- His club fitter, Will Yanagisawa is currently the collegiate player development manager at Ping (and a former college teammate of Tiger Woods). Yanagisawa says Kanaya is particular about his golf clubs. For his driver, he launches the ball low so he works to increase his launch angle to carry the ball further, but he doesn't want too much spin (he uses Ping G410). For his putter, he uses the same Ping Sigma2 Arna that he's used since his amateur days, which has a special hosel that was only released in limited markets overseas. According to Yanagisawa, Kanaya is precise with the yardage gaps between his irons -- he doesn't want the gaps between clubs to be too far apart or too close together. He has two Ping irons that both say "5" on their soles, but are two different models that were designed for different performance characteristics.
- In addition to Tiger Woods and fellow countryman Hideki Matsuyama, was impressed by Adam Scott's professionalism who he saw at a junior clinic. During the Australian Open each week, looked at Scott and his home crowd support: "I'd like to do the same for the Japan Open, for my country and for the golf fans in Japan."
- On Hideki "he has been a mentor to me. He has given me important advice from his personal experience from competing on the PGA TOUR. I am very thankful for that."
- Played other sports growing up including baseball and basketball, but decided to pursue golf in junior high school.

Nicolai Højgaard

Things To Know

- Nicolai and his twin brother, Rasmus, became the first brothers to win back-to-back on the DP World Tour in 2021. Rasmus won the 2021 Omega European Masters in Switzerland, and a week later, Nicolai won his first DP World Tour title at the 2021 DS Automobiles Italian Open.
- Selected by Captain Luke Donald to compete in the 2023 Ryder Cup in Rome, where he finished with a 0-2-1 record for the victorious European Team. Played in the 2018 Junior Ryder Cup in Paris (alongside twin brother Rasmus). Put himself into contention for a pick following his play in the 2023 Hero Cup, where he replaced his injured brother, Rasmus, and ended up finishing tied with the most points with 3.5. Won 2.5 points paired with 2022 Ryder Cup Vice Captain Francesco Molinari.
- Won the 2018 Eisenhower Trophy for Denmark as an amateur alongside twin brother Rasmus and John Axelsen. They edged the United States Team of Cole Hammer, Collin Morikawa and Justin Suh by one stroke. Nicolai finished T6 in the individual competition. Reached as high as No. 5 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking.
- Won the European Amateur at Royal Hague in 2018, finishing one stroke ahead of a chasing pack which included Viktor Hovland. Qualified for The Open Championship at Carnoustie for his first major championship appearance.
- Attributes success at such a young age as a professional to growing up with his brother. The two were very competitive and pushed each other every day to get better.
- Joined the PGA TOUR as a Special Temporary Member following a T28 at the 2023 Valero Texas Open (finished runner-up at the Corales Puntacana Championship the week prior) and earned his PGA TOUR card for the 2024 season by finishing inside the top 125 on non-member FedExCup points following The RSM Classic.
- Turned professional in 2019 and played a mixture of Nordic Golf League and Challenge Tour events for most of the season. In September, he finished runner-up in the KLM Open on the DP World Tour, one stroke behind Sergio Garcia.

Rasmus Højgaard

Things To Know

- Finished a career-high second on the 2024 Race to Dubai Rankings, earning dual membership on the PGA TOUR for 2025, just 12 months after missing out on one of the ten cards for the previous season by one place.
- Captured his fifth DP World Tour title at the 2024 Amgen Irish Open, where he made four birdies in his last five holes to hold off boyhood idol Rory McIlroy at Royal County Down.
- Rasmus and his twin brother, Nicolai, became the first brothers to win back-to-back events on the DP World Tour in 2021. Rasmus won the 2021 Omega European Masters in Switzerland, and a week later, Nicolai won his first DP World Tour title at the 2021 DS Automobiles Italian Open.
- In his second start since joining the DP World Tour, became the first player born in the 2000s to win on the DP World Tour at the 2019 AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open, defeating Renato Paratore and Antoine Rozner in a playoff.
- Enjoyed a prolific amateur career, triumphing at the 2018 Eisenhower Trophy for Denmark alongside twin brother Nicolai and John Axelsen. The twin duo also represented Europe at the 2018 Junior Ryder Cup. Nicolai went on to compete for Team Europe at the 2023 Ryder Cup.

Background

- Turned professional in 2019 as a 17-year-old and initially competed in the Nordic Golf League before joining the Challenge Tour. Earned his DP World Tour card for the 2020 season via Q-School.

Family

- Attributes success at such a young age as a professional to growing up with his brother. The two were very competitive and pushed each other every day to get better. Their father, Ole, brought Rasmus and Nicolai to the range together when they were 4 years old to try golf for the first time.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Took up several sports growing up, including swimming (mandatory by his parents), soccer, handball and even badminton and table tennis. By the time he was 11-12 years old, he only focused on handball (winter) and golf (summer), but a collarbone injury in handball forced him to focus on golf full-time once he was 14-15 years old.

Rory McIlroy

Things To Know

- Won the 2025 Masters Tournament to complete the career grand slam, becoming the sixth player in history to accomplish the feat. Followed Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus, and Tiger Woods as winners of all four major championships. Victory at the 2025 Masters also ended an 11-year major championship drought, as McIlroy had last won the final two majors of the 2014 season (The Open Championship in July, PGA Championship in August).
- Of completing the career grand slam, McIlroy said, "It's a dream come true. That was my dream. My dream was to win the four major championships in golf. To be able to say that I've done that, I always go back to eight-year-old Rory that said that, and he would be, hopefully, very proud of the person he's turned into. I had a dream from a very young age, and I've put everything into fulfilling that dream."
- Became the first European player to complete the career grand slam, and followed Gary Player of South Africa as the second international player to accomplish the feat. Of the discussions about whether McIlroy is the greatest European player in history, McIlroy said following his victory at the 2025 Masters Tournament, "Sir Nick Faldo has six majors, Seve (Ballesteros) has five, I now have five. But I also am the first European to win the career grand slam, so I would say there's an argument to be made. You think about Gary Player on that list (of career grand slam winners) with nine major championships, probably the greatest international player ever, that's something I'd like to be able to say about myself when all is said and done."
- In describing his emotions immediately following his victory at the 2025 Masters Tournament, McIlroy alluded to his devastating final round at the 2011 Masters Tournament, saying, "I released 14 years of disappointments, of frustrations, of pent-up emotion I probably kept in this entire time." In his champion's press conference, McIlroy added, "It's the best day of my golfing life. I'm very proud of myself. I'm proud of never giving up. I'm proud of how I kept coming back and dusting myself off and not letting the disappointments really get to me."
- With victories at the 2025 PLAYERS Championship and 2025 Masters Tournament, followed Tiger Woods (2001) and Scottie Scheffler (2024) as the third player in history to win both events in the same year.
- Featured in the latest season of Netflix's Full Swing, an immersive documentary that follows life on the PGA TOUR. Season Three features returning favorites and new faces, offering a look on and off the course across a relentless 2024 season.

Background

- From Holywood, a town of around 12,000 people in the metropolitan area of Belfast in County Down, Northern Ireland. He was raised as a Catholic, and identifies as Irish and Northern Irish.
- He was first introduced to golf by his father, Gerry (a scratch player), who coached him; McIlroy began by swinging a plastic club and trying to mimic his dad's swing. Enjoys playing with his dad to this day - the pair frequently play together at Seminole in South Florida.
- McIlroy became the youngest golfer at the Holywood Golf Club at the age of seven.
- The idea of him as a child prodigy or 'golf's next big thing' was given some credence when at just 9 years of age, he claimed the under-10 World Championship in Doral, Florida.
- McIlroy attended St. Patrick's Primary School and Sullivan Upper School.

- Left school at age 16 to concentrate on amateur golf. To support their son's golf game, McIlroy's father held down several jobs to earn additional income, and Rosie, his mom, worked extra shifts at the local 3M plant.
- Shot 61 at Royal Portrush (the course record) when he was 16 at the Northern Ireland Open. He recalls every shot of the round and has said, "I probably had more confidence [at 16] than I do now."
- At the age of 15, McIlroy was part of Europe's winning 2004 Junior Ryder Cup team at Westfield Country Club, held in conjunction with the Ryder Cup Muirfield Village Golf Club; Tony Finau was on the U.S. Team.
- Initially, McIlroy signed a letter of intent in 2004 to play college golf at East Tennessee State University. However, after becoming the youngest-ever winner of both the West of Ireland Championship and the Irish Close Championship in 2005, he decided to not attend college and continue playing golf around Europe (Seamus Power benefitted from scholarship funds available when McIlroy vacated the spot at East Tennessee State).
- After turning professional in 2007, McIlroy joined the DP World Tour (formerly European Tour). He had his first win on the DP World Tour in 2009 (Dubai Desert Classic in February 2009), and on the PGA TOUR in 2010 (Wells Fargo Championship in May 2010). At the age of 22, McIlroy was the youngest player to achieve 10 million in career earnings on the DP World Tour, and the youngest Affiliate Member to earn a Tour card. In 2012, he became the youngest player to reach \$10 million in career earnings on the PGA TOUR.
- In 2014, McIlroy won The Open Championship at Royal Liverpool, beating Rickie Fowler and Sergio Garcia by two strokes. McIlroy's father won approximately \$342,000 after making a bet with two of his friends that McIlroy would win The Open before the age of 26 (the 2014 event was the last chance for his father/friends to cash in).

Family

- McIlroy is the only child to Rosie and Gerry McIlroy.
- Married to Erica Stoll. McIlroy did not properly set his alarm for his Sunday singles match at the 2012 Ryder Cup; Erica was head of Volunteer Management for Championships for the PGA of America and noticed his car had not yet left. The two were married in April 2017 at Ashford Castle in Ireland.
- He and his wife Erica welcomed first child, daughter Poppy, born in August 2020.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Along with Tiger Woods and TMRW Sports, founded TGL, a prime-time golf league which debuted on January 7, 2025. The league features six three-player teams competing in head-to-head matches in a purpose-built, tech-driven arena in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. McIlroy is a member of Boston Common Golf along with teammates Keegan Bradley, Adam Scott and Hideki Matsuyama. The team is owned by John Henry, Tom Werner, Mike Gordon and Fenway Sports Group.
- Symphony Ventures is an investment partnership established in 2019 by McIlroy and his management team, Sean O'Flaherty and Donal Casey, focused on investment opportunities across health, wellbeing and golf sectors; if he's not on the golf course and not with his family, he wants his time to be used on activities and investments that are interesting to him, personally.
- Among his investments, McIlroy invested in Alpine (pronounced AL-peen), a Formula 1 Racing Team, joining other notable investors which include actor Ryan Reynolds and NFL players Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce.

- Hobbies include football (Manchester United), rugby, cars, movies, music and basketball.
- He is also a fan of the Northern Ireland National Team and Ulster Rugby.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- His caddie is Harry Diamond, a childhood friend. They began working together in 2017. McIlroy met Diamond when he was seven and Diamond was 12, on the putting green at Hollywood Golf Club. "I was an only child, and Harry was a big brother," he said in an interview. They were the best man at each other's weddings.

Other

- McIlroy earned an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in 2012 at the age of 22 for his services to sport. Other PGA TOUR players to receive an MBE include Luke Donald and Justin Rose.
- He named his first dog after Ernie Els, calling him Theo (Els' first name).
- McIlroy claimed his 21st win on TOUR at the 2022 RBC Canadian Open, where he successfully defended a title for the first time on the PGA TOUR. With the victory, he became the 35th player to reach 21 PGA TOUR wins. His regular caddie, Harry Diamond, was not on the bag as he was waiting for the birth of his second child. Instead, his other longtime friend, Niall O'Connor, was on the bag.
- Representing Ireland, lost out on an Olympic Bronze Medal at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo when he was knocked out on the third hole of a seven-man playoff (eventually won by C.T. Pan of Chinese Taipei). McIlroy said, "I've never tried so hard in my life to finish third." Furthermore, McIlroy - who skipped the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio - said, "I made some comments before that were probably uneducated and impulsive, but coming here experiencing it, seeing, feeling everything that goes on, not just Olympic golf but just the Olympics in general, that sort of Olympic spirit's definitely bitten me and I'm excited how this week's turned out and excited for the future."
- Finished T5 at the 2024 Olympic Men's Golf Competition contested at Le Golf National in Paris.

Shane Lowry

Things To Know

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

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

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

Background

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

Family

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

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

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

Charity

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

Inner Circle/Special Connections

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

Other

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

Cam Davis

Things To Know

- Sydney, Australia native now calls Seattle home. One of very few TOUR pros to live in Washington year round, joining Kyle Stanley who resides in Gig Harbor.
- Won his first two PGA TOUR titles at the Rocket Classic in Detroit, earning victories in 2021 and 2024. First PGA TOUR win at the 2021 Rocket Classic fell on the seventh anniversary of his first date with his wife, Jonika.
- Made his Presidents Cup International Team debut at Quail Hollow Club in 2022, as he was chosen by Captain Trevor Immelman. Went 2-3-0, including a win alongside Si Woo Kim in opening-day Foursomes over Sam Burns and Scottie Scheffler.
- Won the 2017 Australian Open at The Australian Golf Club (where he previously won the 2015 Australian Amateur) after beginning the final round six strokes back of the lead. Entered the week ranked 1,494th in the Official World Golf Ranking and had recently lost his status on PGA TOUR Canada.
- Although he plays right-handed, he can hit equally well on the other side. There is an impressive 2014 video of him on the driving range hitting right and left-handed.
- Favorite memory was watching Tiger Woods play for the first time at the Australian Masters in 2009.

Background

- Amateur career highlights included a victory at the 2015 Australian Amateur at The Australian Golf Club, a co-runner-up finish at the 2015 Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship, and earning individual medalist honors at the 2016 World Amateur Team Championship (Eisenhower Trophy), where he, Harrison Endycott, and Curtis Luck led Australia to a 19-stroke victory in the team competition.
- Earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the first time ahead of the 2018 season, but his T113 finish at Final Stage of 2017 Q-School left him buried on the priority ranking. Davis capitalized on a pair of sponsor exemptions as he played his way up the priority ranking, and won his fifth start (in the 12th event of the season) at the 2018 Simmons Bank Open in Tennessee. Davis went on to earn PGA TOUR membership via the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour Finals.

Family

- Moved to Seattle after turning professional where he met Jonika, whom he proposed to on April 21, 2019. They were married on September 5, 2020 in Seattle.
- Has a dog, Hobbes. Has had a dog engraving and name on his wedges.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- One of his biggest hobbies is disc golf. When on the road, he and his caddie seek out disc golf venues in the towns the TOUR visits and try to set up a game.
- Played soccer growing up with his brothers, as well as tennis and cricket.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- On the passing of former Australian professional golfer and youth coach Jack Newton during the week of the 2022 RBC Heritage: "He's done such a great job, such an awesome amount of work for young Australians to get into the game. I wouldn't be here without what he put in place. Yeah, very sad. I didn't really get to know him super well, but I did get some text messages when I did play well or I got an opportunity like a major, some words of encouragement, and that meant a lot to me. Yeah, it's tough, but glad I could play well this week. He was definitely in my thoughts all week after he passed."

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.

Luke List

Things To Know

- Won the 2022-23 Birdies Fore Love charity competition and donated the \$250,000 winnings to the Children's Hospital of Georgia to support the expansion of the Children's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. He and his wife, Chloe, presented the check at the hospital in December 2023. "It means so much to me and my family to have this opportunity to give back. We want to share our story just to have people know what they do here and how much they're really giving and really change lives."
- Son, Harrison, was born prematurely in June of 2021. After initially leaving the hospital, Harris was back in, fighting RSV, a respiratory virus "and had a tough go" at the Children's Hospital of Georgia in Augusta. As a result, Luke took nearly a month off from PGA TOUR competition in June-July 21. "He was in the ICU for two weeks, so we were home and I wasn't playing because of that. It was tough. Those children's hospitals are amazing places to see how hard those doctors and nurses work. There's a lot of positive stories and there's obviously a lot of negative ones, and we were lucky to be a positive one."
- Captured his second PGA TOUR title at the 2023 Sanderson Farms Championship, winning on the first hole of a five-man playoff with a birdie putt from 43 feet, 1 inch. Felt proud to win given the event's charitable support of the Children's Hospital of Mississippi. Both of List's children were both at the Children's Hospital of Georgia in Augusta, and his son, Harrison, spent two weeks in the ICU shortly after being born prematurely in 2021.
- Broke through for his first PGA TOUR victory in his 206th start at the 2022 Farmers Insurance Open (def. Will Zalatoris in playoff), earning his first trip back to the Masters Tournament 17 years after playing the event as a 20-year-old amateur in 2005. It marked the longest span between Masters starts since Bruce Fleisher waited 23 years between 1969 and 1992.
- Runner-up to Ryan Moore in 2004 U.S. Amateur Championship, which earned him an exemption to compete in the 2005 Masters, where he made the cut and finished T33.

Background

- Born in Seattle but grew up in Ringgold, Georgia.
- Attended the famous Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Other golfing grads include Stephan Jaeger, Keith Mitchell and Harris English.
- Grandfather taught him the game of golf.
- Vanderbilt University (2007, Human and Organizational Development). Played at Vandy with former TOUR member, Jon Curran. Chose Vanderbilt over Auburn, UNC, Georgia, Georgia Tech and Wake.
- Was on the losing 2006 Palmer Cup team played at Prestwick in Scotland. Teammates included Brian Harman and Chris Kirk. Was on the winning 2007 Palmer Cup team at Caves Valley in Maryland. Teammates included: Brian Harman, Billy Horschel, Chris Kirk, Dustin Johnson and Webb Simpson.

Family

- Wife: Chloe, daughter: Ryann, son: Harrison Paul. They live in Augusta, Georgia, just three minutes from ANGCA if they catch all the lights. Attributes Chloe to providing the stability he needs in his life and his children for helping bring the perspective.

- Parents Bonny and Mark were both All-America swimmers; Bonny was a Pan-American gold medalist and is in two Halls of Fame; she met Mark while they were swimming for the University of North Carolina.
- Both of his sisters were collegiate swimmers (Bekah at Whitworth College and Sarah at the University of North Carolina). On not following in the family tradition: "I hated the practice--in the pool twice a day for a couple of hours by yourself. Meanwhile, golf practice is fun. It clicked that I could be doing that instead of swimming up and down the pool every day."

Charity

- Supports the Special Olympics

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Makes the short drive from his home in Augusta, Georgia, to Aiken, South Carolina to play with Kevin Kisner and Scott Brown during off weeks.

Other

- Led the TOUR in driving distance his rookie year in 2013.

Henrik Norlander

Things To Know

- Lives in Augusta, Georgia and is a member at Augusta Country Club and Champions Retreat
- Three-time All-American at Augusta State University where he studied Business Management. Team won the 2010 and 2011 NCAA National Championship. As a junior in 2010, he bested Oklahoma State's Morgan Hoffmann 5-and-4 to give AU the edge at The Honors Course in Tennessee. The following year at Karsten Creek Golf Club in Stillwater, Okla., Norlander and the Jags knocked off a University of Georgia team that featured Harris English and Russell Henley.
- Tokyo 2020 (in 2021) - represented Team Sweden in the Olympics. Finished T45.

Background

- Born in Danderyd, Stockholm, Sweden - a suburb of Stockholm. Tries to go back to Sweden at least once a year.
- Henrik on his favorite thing about Sweden: "The summer. We have great weather. It's a high of 74 and low 58-60. In Augusta, it's 100."
- Favorite golf memory was as a boy when his dad, Anders, a lawyer, took him to St. Andrews.
- "Was actually recruited by the University of Minnesota and had sort of committed there, but there was something with the Big 10 and my grades that couldn't transfer, so I would have had to sit out for a year." (Cousin, Wilhelm Schauman, played golf at University of Minnesota before him.)

Family

- Met his wife Julie at Georgia Southern, through friends from Augusta in 2010 and then saw her again his senior year. Went out on first date the day before he won the national championship. Henrik left to play on the European Challenge Tour. Living in different countries, on separate continents and negotiating a six-hour time difference did not deter the couple from pursuing their relationship. Started out their relationship on Skype for three months as he was playing in Europe after graduation.
- On December 14, 2013, Henrik proposed to Julie at the Dallas, Texas, home of his close friend and former AU golf coach, Josh Gregory.
- At the wedding, the toastmaster, a childhood friend of Henrik's, entertained guests between speeches with silly trivia questions about the bride and groom. Before they spoke, each of Henrik's friends had to list the three things they thought he would take to a desert island. Their responses varied, but in every case the last item was always "his seven iron."
- Henrik and wife, Julie welcomed their second, a girl, Julia Norlander, born in January of 2023.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Obsessed with cleaning his car - when he is home in Augusta, GA will wash his car 6x a week. Has a monthly membership to a carwash.
- Favorite Course = Muirfield (Scotland)
- Big hockey fan -- Follows the Detroit Red Wings (hockey).
- Loves to cook (grilling) & drink wine. Cooks a lot on the road - smokes ribs, chicken and steak.

- Had to choose between tennis or golf when deciding to turn professional. Still plays a lot of tennis to "escape from golf" and enjoys watching Roger Federer.
- Henrik on golf and tennis: "I played a lot of tennis growing up and I sort of had to pick between that (and golf). I'll always enjoy golf. I still feel that way. It's still my hobby, in a way. I still enjoy playing with friends when I'm off. I still enjoy playing 'fun' golf and not just competitive golf. It's just a great game I think because you can play with friends as an 18-handicap. If you get the shots right, you can have a competitive match against someone who is not nearly as good. There are very few sports like that. I can play with my mom and dad and have a great day. But if I play tennis with someone who is really bad, it's going to be pretty boring."

Charity

- Wife is Catholic and likes to give back to the Catholic Church
- In 2019, Norlander, along with Vaughn Taylor & Luke List, went back to Augusta University and gave tips at an Augusta golf camp.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Friends with fellow Swede, Henrik Stenson. "Henrik and I know each other pretty well. I wouldn't say we talk all the time, but if he plays well, I'll shoot him a text and I'll hear from him every once in a while."
- Good friends with Scott Parel and Luke List. Plays golf with Scott Parel when they are both home at the same time.
- Works with a mental skills coach (Brett McCabe) a few times a week. States that it is the best thing he has ever done. Feels like he has a better understanding of who he is off the course, which helps him be able to turn it on when on the course and off when off.

Other

- In an interview with PGATOUR.com in 2019 on his approach to the game: "I've got a lot better in knowing that my good enough is good enough. I don't have to play my best golf all the time, and I can play with what I have for the day is a big deal for. Sometimes I'm not going to hit it as good as other days, and if I realize that early, in my warm-up or the first few holes and play the game I've got for the day."
- Once listed his dream foursome as Roger Federer, Pete Sampras and Johnny Cash.

Isaiah Salinda

Things To Know

- Last name pronounced suh-LIND-uh
- A 2025 PGA TOUR rookie who earned TOUR membership following a top 30 finish (No. 18) on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, which marked his second consecutive season on the Korn Ferry Tour. Previously finished No. 80 on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List as a rookie.
- Earned his lone Korn Ferry Tour title at the 2024 Panama Championship, which he won by eight strokes as he tied the fourth-largest margin of victory in Korn Ferry Tour history. The Panama Championship is traditionally the third event of the Korn Ferry Tour season, though it was Salinda's first start of the 2024 season, as he missed the first two events while recovering from an appendectomy.
- Has a robust collection of fun socks, which he started near the end of high school / beginning of college. Salinda says, "I feel like on the golf course it stands out a little bit, and it shows some personality. I just like rocking interesting socks." As far as style on TOUR goes, Salinda is a fan of Jason Day and his Malbon outfits.
- Grew up in South San Francisco, California and honed his game at TPC Harding Park. As a youngster, mostly played the 9-hole course (Fleming 9 Course) almost every weekend with his dad, uncles, and brother. Once he got a little older, Salinda took advantage of the Youth on Course program offered at TPC Harding Park and played with friends on the weekends for \$5.
- Graduated from Junipero Serra High School in San Mateo, California on the San Francisco Peninsula. Junipero Serra High School counts Tom Brady (Class of 1995 graduate, Class of 2004 Athletic Hall of Fame inductee), Barry Bonds (Class of 1982 graduate, Class of 1992 Athletic Hall of Fame inductee), and Lynn Swann (Class of 1970 graduate, Class of 1990 Athletic Hall of Fame inductee) among its long list of alumni who went on to become professional athletes.

Background

- When not on Tour, lives in Las Vegas and enjoys playing (as opposed to long range sessions) at TPC Summerlin and Southern Highlands Golf Club.
- Introduced to golf around age 3 by his dad; his earliest memory was swinging plastic clubs and hitting whiffle balls around the house. Also remembered going to the local driving range, San Bruno Golf Center, after school with his dad on a near-daily basis. Isaiah's dad still frequents San Bruno Golf Center, which is just outside the family's hometown of South San Francisco, California.
- Once Stanford University began to show interest during his high school career, it quickly became his No. 1 choice. Salinda chose Stanford based on its tremendous combination of academics and athletics, as he wanted to be surrounded by the best of the best. The proximity to home (Palo Alto is less than 30 miles from South San Francisco) and his love for the campus were bonus perks for him.
- Turned professional after four seasons at Stanford University (2015-19), where he won twice individually and earned 2019 All-America Second Team and All-Pac-12 Conference First Team honors. Also helped the Cardinal win the team national title at the 2019 NCAA Championship, which was Stanford's first title since 2007.

- Salinda finished T6 individually (along with Cal's Collin Morikawa) at the 2019 NCAA Championship. Salinda also went 3-0 in match play, defeating Texas' Cole Hammer in the final as Stanford captured the national title.
- Semifinalist at the 2018 U.S. Amateur Championship at Pebble Beach Golf Links; he notably defeated Stewart Hagestad in the Round of 16 and Will Gordon in the quarterfinals. Also reached the Round of 16 of match play at the 2019 U.S. Amateur at Pinehurst Resort & Country Club.
- Played the 2021 and 2022 seasons on PGA TOUR Canada prior to earning Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2023 season via Q-School. Finished No. 80 on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List as a rookie, which gave him conditional status for 2024. Improved his status and earned guaranteed starts with a T21 finish at Final Stage of 2023 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry.

Family

- Father, Antonio (goes by Tony), and mother, Debbie, came to the United States from the Philippines. They are both recently retired. Debbie was a nurse, while Antonio worked at the post office for many years. Isaiah believes his work ethic and discipline comes from his parents.
- Older brother, Daryl, is a nurse in San Francisco. The two are six years apart.
- Part of a large family in California, as his father is one of seven siblings. When Isaiah was growing up, the family had monthly get-togethers with upwards of 70 people.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Likes writing and occasionally journals after rounds or tournaments to "reflect or check in" with himself. Cited a creative writing class at Stanford as one of his favorites.
- Enjoys cooking simple dishes without recipes. His enjoyment of cooking blossomed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and his love of food comes from being surrounded by diverse food options both in his longtime hometown of San Francisco and current hometown of Las Vegas. Favorite cuisines are Japanese, Mediterranean, and Middle Eastern/Lebanese.
- Ferocious competitor in ping pong, pickleball and spikeball.
- Favorite teams are the San Francisco 49ers (NFL football) and San Francisco Giants (MLB baseball), while his favorite athletes are Tiger Woods, LeBron James, and Stephen Curry.
- Majored in Science Technology in Society at Stanford. His favorite classes were creative writing, sociology in sport and competition, and management in theory.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Girlfriend, Jackie McNulty, was a pole vaulter for the Stanford women's track and field program (2015-20). The couple met at Stanford and began dating in 2018. Jackie works in healthcare private equity.
- Played golf a handful of times with Stephen Curry. The two connected as fellow members of California Golf Club (more commonly referred to as Cal Club). Salinda gave up his membership after moving to Las Vegas, but he still has some playing privileges as a touring professional.
- Developed a close friendship with fellow PGA TOUR rookie Kevin Velo (pronounced VEL-oh). The two grew up playing junior golf together, and later played the 2023 and 2024 seasons together on the Korn Ferry Tour.

- Teammates at Stanford included Maverick McNealy (two seasons - 2015-17) and Brandon Wu (four seasons - 2015-19).
- Represented the United States at the 2019 Walker Cup at Royal Liverpool; he went 2-1 in his three matches, including a singles victory over Alex Fitzpatrick. Teammates at the Walker Cup included PGA TOUR winner Akshay Bhatia, PGA TOUR member and Stanford teammate Brandon Wu, and fellow PGA TOUR rookie John Pak.

Other

- Considers his "home" PGA TOUR events to be the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and Procore Championship given their proximity to the Bay Area, as well as the Shriners Children's Open given the fact he currently resides in Las Vegas.
- While in college, was diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a heart condition which essentially makes it harder for the heart to pump blood due to one of the ventricles becoming thick and stiff over time. Playing golf is not an issue for Salinda, but he has to monitor his heart rate during workouts.
- Shot a tournament- and competitive-course record 9-under 62 on the Lake Course at The Olympic Club in San Francisco in the third round of the 2018 Pacific Coast Amateur, propelling him to a victory over runner-up Austin Eckroat (now a PGA TOUR winner), third-place Brandon Wu, fourth-place Will Gordon, Collin Morikawa (now a multi-time major champion) at T5, and Davis Riley (also a PGA TOUR winner) at T7.

Kevin Velo

Things To Know

- Last Name Pronunciation: VEL-loh
- A 2025 PGA TOUR rookie who earned TOUR membership following a top 30 finish (No. 15) on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List, which marked his second consecutive season on the Korn Ferry Tour. Won his lone Korn Ferry Tour title at the 2024 Astara Golf Championship in Bogota, Colombia.
- Regained Korn Ferry Tour membership for 2024 through 2023 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry, as Velo finished outside the top 100 of the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List as a rookie. Velo played his way through First and Second Stage of Q-School, then finished T21 at Final Stage for guaranteed starts to begin the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour season, though he only needed four starts to earn his first win and fully exempt status. Velo said of losing Korn Ferry Tour membership, "Probably the best thing that happened to me. Genuinely. I had to refocus. I had to get back on the horse in a different way. If I didn't lose my card (in 2023), I don't think I'd be here."
- Only scholarship offer coming out of Monte Vista High School was from nearby San Jose State University, with Velo saying, "It was a books scholarship. I think it was like \$1,200." Had he not received that offer, Velo said he likely would have gone elsewhere and just been a student, as opposed to pursuing collegiate golf as a walk-on. Velo played four seasons at San Jose State (2015-19), garnering a 2019 All-Mountain West Conference selection as a senior and posing the second-lowest career scoring average (72.48) in program records dating back to 1993.
- After spending part of the 2019-20 season as a student assistant coach at San Jose State, turned professional in 2020 and caddied at The Institute (an ultra-private club in Morgan Hill, California) to make money for mini-tour events amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Velo would have had PGA TOUR Canada membership for 2020, but the season was canceled because of the pandemic. Velo made "a good amount of money" and drove from California to South Dakota, where he played the Dakotas Tour. Velo also played a handful of LOCALIQ Series events late in 2020, but he missed the cut in all of them. Hemorrhaging money and struggling with his game, Velo spent four days driving from Miami back to San Francisco, pondering his future for much of the journey.
- Velo says of the four-day drive home, "It was a, 'What am I doing here?' kind of thing. I really struggled, like, really struggled. I lost probably \$30,000 in a span of three or four months, and I was eating Subway for dinner and staying at Motel 6s. I wasn't spending much, but I lost a lot of money because I was missing cuts all the time. In that drive home, I wanted to refocus on how I wanted to approach golf, and even if I wanted to keep going. In those 10-hour drives, I was constantly thinking to myself, 'Do I really want to do this?' It was the lowest time of my golf career, for sure." His four-day journey from Miami back home to San Francisco broke down as such: Miami to Troy, Alabama (about 9-10 hours), Troy to Dallas, Texas (about 10 hours), Dallas to Phoenix, Arizona (15 hours), and Phoenix to San Francisco (about 10 hours). Velo's usual routine was to play music for the first and last 45 minutes of the journey, with episodes of the popular Barstool Sports podcast "Pardon My Take" filling the rest of the time.
- Velo eventually earned PGA TOUR Latinoamerica membership for the 2021-22 season. He finished No. 4 on the Order of Merit, with the highlight of the season being a victory in Argentina, and earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for 2023.

Background

- Currently lives in northern California (greater San Francisco area) with his parents when he is not on the road; he is likely going to relocate to Phoenix / Scottsdale in the next year or two.
- When home in California, plays out of the California Golf Club in San Francisco, taking advantage of the club's generous treatment of up-and-coming players with PGA TOUR aspirations.
- Born in Redwood City, California and grew up in nearby Danville, which is in the San Ramon Valley.
- Despite his Cuban and Spanish roots (mother is half-Cuban, father is from Spain), he grew up in a home where his parents didn't speak Spanish. In his early teens, Velo spent time living with his grandfather in Malaga, Spain (on the southern coast), which led to a rapid improvement in his Spanish. Velo says is he now somewhere between highly functional and fluent in Spanish.
- Grew up playing baseball (he was a pitcher) and soccer (he was a goalie). Eventually played four years of high school soccer (though was mostly on the bench the last two years, in part due to a broken finger) at Monte Vista High School in Danville, California. Gave up baseball as a teenager and picked up golf shortly thereafter, saying he enjoyed the individuality of golf.
- Tried out for the golf team as a freshman at Monte Vista High School, but did not make either the junior varsity or varsity teams. Returned to tryouts as a sophomore and made the varsity team.
- Did not turn his focus to golf until around age 13-14. Velo said his aunt and uncle were the ones who got him into the game. Velo's aunt, Eileen McCarroll (mom's sister), frequently took Kevin and his sister to the driving range at The Bridges Golf Club (in San Ramon, California) while their mother was still at work.
- Said he would "muni hop" to play golf as a teenager. His aunt, Eileen McCarroll (mom's sister) would call up the handful of public courses within 30 minutes of them, see which one had a tee time, and call Kevin to see if he wanted to go play. Also played a fair amount at TPC Harding Park, where Kevin would pretend he was his aunt's son to get the local resident rate. To Kevin's recollection, the rate was \$20. Other courses Velo frequented were Canyon Lakes Golf Course in San Ramon, along with The Course at Wente Vineyards and Poppy Ridge Golf Course in nearby Livermore.
- Played most of his formative years of golf at San Ramon Golf Club. The club had an academy with a junior program of roughly 20 players. Velo spent three years in the program.

Family

- Mother, Maureen McCarroll, was born and raised in Pacifica, California, which is on the Pacific coast between San Francisco and Half Moon Bay. Maureen is half-Cuban, as she is the daughter of a Cuban mother.
- Father, Jose Velo, is a Spanish immigrant. He and Maureen moved from Spain to the greater San Francisco area shortly after the two decided they would get married. The first couple years in the United States, Jose, bounced between jobs at a bank, grocery store, and a men's clothing store. Two years after their move, Jose joined the fire department and eventually worked his way up to third in command by the time he retired in 2022. Having gone to law school, Jose thought his career would be as a lawyer, but when he got accepted by the fire department, he loved it and decided it was a better path forward for him. Kevin cited his father's work ethic as a powerful source of inspiration for his own work ethic and personal drive.
- Jose and Maureen met in Spain in 1986. Maureen was working at a university in Spain, and she responded to a flyer for a boys summer camp which needed English teachers. Jose was the sports monitor for the summer camp, which was organized by the school he worked for at the time. The two eventually returned to the United States together and settled in the greater

San Francisco area. Jose had previously spent time in the Bay Area as a foreign exchange student when he was a junior in high school.

- Note for context: Kevin's parents are still married; his mother kept her maiden name (McCarroll).
- Maureen knew nothing about golf when Kevin began playing competitively as a teenager. Nowadays, Maureen will giggle as she mentions the fact she takes great pride in keeping an accurate scorecard when following Kevin at professional events.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Huge soccer fan; his favorite teams are Real Madrid and the Spanish national team, with his passion for both teams stemming from his father's Spanish heritage.
- Claims to be an elite ping pong player.
- He's not into cars and doesn't have a fast car, but he loves to drive, especially long distances.

Charity

- Worked with special needs children for two years in high school, and he would love to give back through the Special Olympics or another organization focused on special needs children. He draws some inspiration for this from his sister's work with special needs children.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Close friends with fellow PGA TOUR rookie Isaiah Salinda. The two grew up playing junior golf together, and later played the 2023 and 2024 seasons together on the Korn Ferry Tour.
- Remembered being in Scottie Scheffler's group for the two rounds of stroke play at the 2016 U.S. Amateur Championship. Velo recalled how impressive Scheffler's game was even at that time, noting those two rounds were a "huge wake-up call" in terms of the work that laid ahead of him.

