

Report (11 players)

Shane Lowry

Things To Know

- 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 Pádraig 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

- Represents The Bay Golf Club alongside teammates Ludvig Aberg, Wyndham Clark and Min Woo Lee in TGL presented by SoFi, a primetime golf league in partnership with the PGA TOUR which 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.
- Featured in Season 3 (2024 season) of Netflix's Full Swing, an immersive documentary series which follows life on the PGA TOUR.
- 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.

Austin Smotherman

Things To Know

- Three-time Korn Ferry Tour winner who regained PGA TOUR membership via the 2025 Korn Ferry Tour season, finishing No. 3 in the standings (top 20 earned TOUR cards). Earned the second and third victories of his Korn Ferry Tour career at the 2025 BMW Charity Pro-Am and 2025 Memorial Health Championship to secure a return to the TOUR.
- Previously earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time following the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tours season; he finished No. 25 on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List, earning the last available PGA TOUR card from the standings. Earned his first Korn Ferry Tour title that season at the 2021 Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation.
- In 2022, became the first official ambassador for First Tee. Upon graduating from the Korn Ferry Tour upon conclusion of the 2020-21 season, followed Scott Langley and Cameron Champ as the third First Tee alum to earn a PGA TOUR card.

Background

- Grew up playing at Haggin Oaks Golf Complex in Sacramento, California.
- Home course today is Trinity Forest Golf Club in Dallas, Texas.
- Earliest golf memory is hitting balls in his front yard with his dad. Was five years old when he hit one onto the roof of their one-story house, and he eventually hit a ball over it and into the backyard. Mostly a self-taught player, he estimates he had fewer than 10 lessons by his junior year of high school.
- First set of clubs as a kid was a set of plastic Snoopy irons. Eventually, his grandpa, Bill Acquistapace, cut a Sam Snead 7-iron blade and persimmon head 5-wood in half and used duct tape and electrical tape for grips to provide him some "real" clubs.
- Originally committed to the University of California-Davis his junior year of high school before garnering more attention and eventually signing with Southern Methodist University. Austin's profile rose after he beat defending champion Bryson DeChambeau by one stroke (with a birdie on the final hole) at the 2011 California State Junior Amateur Championship. Josh Gregory, the SMU men's golf head coach at the time, was following the group. Past champions of the California State Junior Amateur include PGA TOUR winners John Cook (1975), Bobby Clampett (1977), Rickie Fowler (2005), and DeChambeau (2010).
- Won the individual state title at the 2012 California Interscholastic Federation State High School Championship, finishing one stroke ahead of Beau Hossler. Past state champions include PGA TOUR winners Rickie Fowler (2006), Patrick Cantlay (2010), and Xander Schauffele (2011).
- Played four seasons at Southern Methodist University (2012-16), where he was a two-time All-American Athletic Conference selection (2014, 2016) and a 2013 All-Conference USA Second Team honoree.
- Earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2019 season with a No. 4 finish on the 2018 PGA TOUR Latinoamerica Order of Merit. His 2018 season featured a win at what is now the Mexico Open at VidantaWorld on the PGA TOUR. The night he won in Tijuana, he actually carried the trophy across the border in his travel bag. His caddie, a teenager who attended high school in San Diego, drove him to the Mexico-U.S. border since his flight the following afternoon was out of San Diego. Austin's friend picked him up on the other side of the border and they celebrated the win with pizza and beer.

Family

- Austin and his wife, Jessica, have two children -- Adeline (March 2023) and Penelope (born by Nellie -- June 2024).
- Proposed to his now-wife, Jessica, at Reunion Tower in Dallas. The two began dating at the end of their senior year in high school and maintained a long-distance relationship while she attended the University of Oregon to run track (100-meter hurdles, 4x100 relay); she transferred to the University of North Texas after her freshman year. Jessica notably surprised Austin at the final round of his Korn Ferry Tour debut in The Bahamas in 2019; she remained hidden until after he finished the round on the 18th green.
- Has a Mini Australian Shepherd, Cypress, named after Cypress Point Club and a cat, Pebbles, named after Pebble Beach.
- Grandpa, Bill Acquistapace, claims six holes-in-one and shot his age when he was 77.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Likes being on a boat, wakesurfing, paddleboarding and hiking.
- Likes house music. Finds acoustic versions of songs to be soothing and peaceful. Walk up song would be "Thunderstruck" by AC/DC.
- Enjoys Bruce Lee movies, as well as his journey through martial arts. Took karate classes as a kid and notes they had a hand in his competitive focus today.

Charity

- Was an active First Tee - Greater Sacramento participant for 10 years, beginning at age 7 and finishing at 17. In 2011, he won the chapter's Core Value Award after being nominated by his peers.
- Represented First Tee - Greater Sacramento at the 2009 and 2010 PURE Insurance Championship at Pebble Beach as a sophomore and junior at Del Oro High School. Was paired with Tom McKnight and Denis Watson, respectively. Austin: "I distinctly remember on the range that week (in 2009), Fred Funk was there testing drivers. I was hitting balls next to him. He saw me ripping it and challenged me to a long drive contest. So there I was, going back and forth ripping drivers with Fred Funk. I couldn't believe it. I remember sitting there and seeing Mark Calcavecchia just sitting in Player Dining. My grandpa was in there talking to all of his idols, and my mom didn't know who anyone was, but she was chatting it up with their wives as well. We had the Jonas Brothers perform for us (in 2009) and we all got signed albums from them. That was pretty crazy as a kid."

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- College teammates at SMU included Harry Higgs and Bryson DeChambeau. Playing with Higgs as a freshman and sophomore (2012-13, 2013-14) and DeChambeau for his first three seasons (2012-15), the trio helped SMU win the 2014 American Athletic Conference Championship and qualify for match play at the 2014 NCAA Championship. Higgs and Smotherman later played as a team at the 2022 and 2023 Zurich Classic of New Orleans on the PGA TOUR.
- Teamed with college teammate Bryson DeChambeau for the inaugural 2015 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship, contested at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, California. Smotherman and DeChambeau lost to eventual champions Nathan Smith and Todd White in the Round of 16.

Nico Echavarria

Things To Know

- First name is Nicolas, but commonly referred to as Nico. Last name is etch-uh-vuh-REE-uh
- Represented Colombia at the 2024 Olympic Men's Golf Competition in Paris.
- 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 he was the first rookie winner of the 2022-23 season. The victory earned him an exemption for the 2023 PLAYERS Championship in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, where he lives and had always longed to compete.
- Earned his first PGA TOUR card via the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Finals, solidifying it with a top-five finish 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.
- 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.

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.
- Michael Phelps is his favorite athlete outside of golf. Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy are his favorite golfers.

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.

Taylor Moore

Things To Know

- Won first PGA TOUR title at the 2023 Valspar Championship. Went on to qualify for the TOUR Championship for the first time the same year.
- Played travel baseball (shortstop, second base, a little centerfield) and attended high-level baseball camps with an eye toward college baseball before he gave up the sport at 14 years old to focus on golf.
- Followed in the footsteps of both his parents and earned a degree (Sport Management) from the University of Arkansas. His father, Rod, was a two-year letterman in baseball (outfielder), while his mother, Melinda, was a cheerleader for the Razorbacks.
- Earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time upon conclusion of the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour season -- which was a two-year, 46-event season as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moore graduated to the TOUR after what was his fourth consecutive season on the Korn Ferry Tour.
- Between events in March 2019, he experienced nausea and had trouble breathing as he practiced with friends in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was supposed to get on a plane and head home to Dallas, but went to the emergency room instead and was diagnosed with spontaneous pneumothorax, a condition where his right lung collapsed due to an infection - and the flight would've complicated his condition due to the air pressure change. He stayed in Scottsdale for three days, drove home, and had his lung collapse again a week later at his follow-up appointment, leading to surgery at Baylor Medical Center and three months of recovery - the top lobe of his damaged lung was removed (about the size of an apple) and he lost 30-35 pounds after a week in the hospital. Missed 12 tournaments in 2019 because of surgery

Background

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

Family

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

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

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

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

Inner Circle/Special Connections

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

Jimmy Stanger

Things To Know

- PGA TOUR rookie who earned membership for the first time via the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour season, which awarded TOUR cards to the top 30 players on its points list. Stanger finished in the top 30 largely off the strength of his first career win at the Compliance Solutions Championship in Norman, Oklahoma, in June of 2023.
- Turned professional out of the University of Virginia in 2017 and earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2018 season via Q-School. Played five consecutive seasons (and six consecutive years) on the Korn Ferry Tour until earning his first PGA TOUR card at the end of the 2023 season. Had finishes of 78th (in 2018), 41st (in 2019), 50th (in 2020-21) and 40th (in 2022) on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List prior to cracking the top 30 in 2023 to earn TOUR membership.
- Played four seasons at the University of Virginia (2013-17), winning three individual titles, with the crown jewel being a playoff victory for medalist honors at the 2017 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship. Also earned 2017 All-America First Team recognition, as well as back-to-back All-ACC selections in 2016 and 2017.
- Following his first career win on the Korn Ferry Tour in June of 2023, which effectively solidified his first PGA TOUR card, Stanger said of his journey through professional golf, "I came out of college having won a couple times... just hearing about how quickly I would breeze through (the Korn Ferry Tour) to go to the PGA TOUR. I've seen a lot of friends get up to the PGA TOUR, play up there, and win on this tour. I've been putting in a ton of work, trying to do all the little things right day in and day out. You wonder if those are ever going to pay off."
- Grew up attending the PGA TOUR's Valspar Championship just outside his hometown of Tampa. He worked the range and was a standard bearer at the event, saying, "To be inside the ropes with professional golfers was an experience I will never forget." Still has a handful of autographed golf balls from TOUR players at his parents' house. He vividly remembers Rocco Mediate inviting him and other youth range volunteers to watch him hit balls for over an hour, where he would play different types of shots upon request.
- Has worn a WHOOP band since 2018; he constantly monitors his WHOOP scores to better understand his physical fitness, recovery and sleep routine. Speaks openly about trying to be in the top .01 percent in every aspect of his practice and preparation - everything from sleep, to dieting, to his practice routine both at home and at tournaments.

Background

- Born, raised and continues to reside in Tampa, Florida.
- Full name is Raymond James Stanger, which is a tribute to his grandfather, who served in World War II.
- One of his earliest golf memories was, at age 9, winning the Greater Tampa Junior Golf Association Tournament of Champions in a playoff and celebrating with his dad and grandpa.
- Home-schooled, but also competed on the golf team at Gaither High School in Tampa, Florida.
- Won the 2016 Southern Amateur Championship at The Dunes Golf & Beach Club in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, which hosted the PGA TOUR's Myrtle Beach Classic for the first time in May of 2024. Won the Southern Amateur by one stroke over Zach Bauchou (pronounced BOH-shoo), and he notably finished ahead of Cam Davis (T8) and Sam Burns (T10). Notable past winners of the Southern Amateur include Harris English (2011), Webb Simpson (2005)

and 2007), Justin Leonard (1992 and 1993), Ben Crenshaw (1971 and 1973) and Bobby Jones (1917, 1920, 1922). Received an exemption into the Southern Amateur by virtue of sharing medalist honors with Matt NeSmith at the General Hackler Championship (a college event), also held at The Dunes Club four months prior to the Southern Amateur.

- Reached the Round of 16 at the 2016 U.S. Amateur Championship at Oakland Hills Country Club, where he notably defeated Wyndham Clark in the Round of 32.

Family

- Father, James, is a financial advisor and a certified financial planner; he works for a practice which is a Tampa-based local branch of Raymond James & Associates. Mother, Teri.
- James has been Jimmy's short game coach for a long time. Says of his dad's assistance, "He can come on the road and see, 'Hey, this is different.' When he tells me that, we've played golf long enough together... I know what those things translate to. He's just been so helpful over the years."
- Younger sister, Theresa Maylei Stanger, was adopted from China by the Stanger family when she was 11 months old. She played golf at Wheaton College, a NCAA Division III program roughly 30 miles west of Chicago.
- Married Isabel at Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club in Jacksonville, Florida on September 8, 2024. The two held their rehearsal dinner at TPC Sawgrass the night before.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Big fan of all Tampa professional sports teams, including the Buccaneers (NFL) and Rays (MLB). Said he can name every player from the Buccaneers' 2002 Super Bowl team. It's also a dream of his to throw out the first pitch at a Rays game.
- Recently got into Formula 1 Racing and is a fan of the Ferrari team.
- Found inspiration in the Netflix Untold documentary profiling tennis player Mardy Fish.
- While in college, worked full-time internships for the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington, D.C. (2015), and Raymond James Financial (2016).
- Calls himself "analytical" and is excited to have access to the wide variety of statistics available on the PGA TOUR.

Charity

- Started Birdies for Hope in 2020 in an effort to build churches and hope centers in third-world countries around the world. Partnered with International Cooperating Ministries and the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay to launch Birdies for Hope. Has raised \$150,000 and helped build or fully fund seven projects in Colombia. A project in Panama is in the works, and Jimmy continues to donate \$10 for every birdie he makes in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event. He is very passionate about this program and wants to use this platform to tell this story.
- Actively supports First Tee - Tampa Bay and First Tee - Clearwater.
- Closely involved with his home church, Grace Community Church, in Wesley Chapel, Florida, which is roughly 25 miles northeast of Tampa.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Marks his golf ball with the initials "H.A." in memory of his best friend growing up, Harris Armstrong, who passed away at 12 years old after a battle with spinal cord cancer.
- Teammates at the 2017 Arnold Palmer Cup included Sam Burns, Collin Morikawa, Nick Hardy, Maverick McNealy and fellow PGA TOUR rookies Chandler Phillips and Norman Xiong.
- Paired with John Coultas at the 2017 Arnold Palmer Cup, split a pair of matches with Viktor Hovland and Kris Ventura. Stanger and Coultas won 6&5 in foursomes, but lost to the Norwegian duo in four-ball. Stanger also lost a singles match to Hovland.
- Won a playoff for medalist honors at the 2017 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship at Musgrove Mill Golf Club in Clinton, S.C., defeating North Carolina's Ben Griffin, Clemson's Bryson Nimmer and Wake Forest's Paul McBride.
- Spent time working with famed sports psychologist Bob Rotella while at the University of Virginia. Rotella spent more than 20 years as a professor of sports psychology, in addition to serving as director of the University of Virginia's sports psychology department.

Ricky Castillo

Things To Know

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

Background

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

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

Family

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

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

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

Inner Circle/Special Connections

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

A.J. Ewart

Things To Know

- Earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time as the medalist of Final Stage of 2025 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry (top five earned TOUR membership for 2026). Ewart notably made a hole-in-one on the par-3 fifth at the TPC Sawgrass Dye's Valley Course in the second round. Prior to earning TOUR membership, played the 2023 season on PGA TOUR Canada and finished in the top 25 of the PGA TOUR Americas Points List in both 2024 and 2025. Also earned his first TOUR-sanctioned win at the 2024 Elk Ridge Saskatchewan Open in the inaugural PGA TOUR Americas season.
- Named the 2022 Division II Jack Nicklaus Award winner, becoming the third Barry player to win the award and following Adam Svensson (2014) and Jorge Garcia (2019).
- Played four seasons at Barry University (2019-23), an NCAA Division II program in Miami Shores, Florida. Ewart was credited with 14 collegiate victories, including seven as a junior during the 2021-22 season - which tied a program record previously established by PGA TOUR winner Adam Svensson.
- Ewart later said of his time at Barry, "I learned how to compete down there. I learned how to win. I was always in contention... which was, I think, super beneficial, especially in pro golf when you're feeling a lot of heat."

Background

- Got into golf at a young age through his father, Brad, who held Class "A" Assistant Golf Coach status with the Professional Golfers' Association of Canada. A.J. says, "My dad had me swinging the golf club as soon as I could walk... I guess you could say I was born into it. My earliest memory was playing in a tournament at the age of five or six and I remembered I really enjoyed playing outdoors."
- Brad says the first time A.J. beat him on the golf course was when A.J. was just 12 years old. A.J. birdied the last three holes to shoot 67 from the white tees at GreenTee Country Club Westwood Plateau, while Brad shot a 71.
- Ewart also said, even at a young age, he enjoyed working on his game, "It's like anything you do. If you want to get good at it, you have to give it a lot of time. But putting in that work was always something I enjoyed. It didn't seem like work, because I always enjoyed the process of getting better."
- Initially committed to Arizona State University under head coach Tim Mickelson. Only a few months after Ewart committed, though, Mickelson resigned. Ewart recalls, "It was a long and difficult process for me... things fell through right before I signed with the coach leaving and other things happening. I took a year off, then committed to another school. Then things once again ended up falling through. I got to a point where I thought, well, maybe school isn't for me." After Ewart briefly considered eschewing college and turning professional, a coach for the Team Canada Junior Development program recommended Barry University -- which is where Ewart ultimately played his college golf.
- Runner-up finisher at the 2021 Canadian Men's Amateur Championship, which Ewart says was "a bright spot" in his amateur career.

Family

- Father, Brad, spent more than 30 years playing golf "as a professional and journalist in 32 countries worldwide," according to a bio on the website of the Professional Golfers' Association of Canada.
- Brad was based in Tokyo, Japan for five years in the 1990s, working as a golf writer, instructor, and golf course design consultant. Brad returned to Canada in 1994 and, shortly thereafter, became the Director of Marketing and Sales for a team which launched what eventually became known as GreenTee Country Club Westwood Plateau Golf in Coquitlam, British Columbia (less than 20 miles east of Vancouver). Brad went on to serve as Media Chairman (1995-99) for the Greater Vancouver Open / Air Canada Championship, formerly a PGA TOUR event.
- Brad also hosted The Golf Show Great Golf Destinations, an internationally syndicated television show, and spent 25-plus years as a trick shot artist who entertained fans around the world.
- In a 2022 story for the Lower Mainland Golf News website, Brad shared an important piece of advice he received from Jack Nicklaus. Brad recounted how, back in 2009 while he was in Bangalore, India for a golf construction project, Nicklaus and his staff were in the early stages of designing a golf course there. When Brad had the opportunity to meet Nicklaus, he explained his conundrum: A.J. was being considered for a spot with the Team Canada Junior Development program, but he wanted to play basketball, which worried Brad given the potential injury risk. Nicklaus told him, "When I was that age, I wanted to play baseball. Golf wasn't tops on my list. I played baseball and basketball. I would let him play." Brad later stated, "Turns out, that was the best advice, as a coach and as a father, that I could have received. A.J. played on his high school basketball team and went on to have his best year in junior golf."

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Claims to be very good at the popular basketball video game NBA 2K.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- At the time he earned PGA TOUR membership (December 2025) he lived in a house in Phoenix, Arizona reserved for Golf Canada members. Ewart's housemates included Korn Ferry Tour graduate Sudarshan Yellamaraju (pronounced suh-DAR-shin yell-uh-MUH-rah-ju). Ewart said of the house, "Some would say it's a golf frat house, but I have a little more respect for it than that. It stays clean. Everybody's kind of got their own room and everybody gets up and does the same thing every day. You're working out, playing and practicing together."
- The success of Barry University alum and fellow British Columbia native Adam Svensson played a role in Ewart's decision to play at Barry. Ewart said, "It is pretty awesome to see someone who came here, who took a similar path, is now on the big stage and is now a PGA TOUR winner." Ewart says the two are friendly acquaintances but not particularly close. Like Ewart, Svensson was also a Q-School medalist, with Svensson finishing atop the leaderboard at Final Stage of the 2015 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament (which became PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry in 2023).

Other

- Made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2022 RBC Canadian Open while still an amateur. Ewart recalls how prior to the first round, "I was walking to my locker in the locker room, I had my

head down and almost butted heads with Justin Thomas. That was when I was like, "Oh, wow. I am in the same locker room as these guys."

- Member of the sub-60 club, having carded an 11-under 59 in the second round of the 2025 Times Colonist Victoria Open (contested at Uplands Golf Club in British Columbia) on PGA TOUR Americas.

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 second child Dawson, in November 2025 in the couple's hometown of Scottsdale, Arizona. Riggs, their first child, was born in January 2024.
- 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.
- At the 2025 Procore Championship, participated in a Make-A-Wish opportunity with Calib, a nursing student at Walla Wall University and survivor of Stage IV Hodgkin Lymphoma.

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.

Beau Hossler

Things To Know

- The 2026 PGA TOUR season marks Hossler's ninth consecutive season with PGA TOUR membership. Turned professional out of University of Texas in 2016 and earned Special Temporary Membership on the Korn Ferry Tour midway through the 2017 season with a runner-up finish (five strokes behind Aaron Wise) at the Wichita Open -- which he open qualified into. Hossler went on to finish in the top 25 of the 2017 Korn Ferry Tour standings and earned TOUR membership for the 2017-18 season.
- Launched his own coffee company -- Beaurista -- in summer 2025. He got into coffee for the first time five years prior to launching the company and gradually sought out the best coffee experiences while traveling. From tucked-away cafes in Tokyo to mountain farms in Kona, Hawaii, he immersed himself in conversations with farmers, roasters, baristas, and cafe owners to learn what truly separated the exceptional from the average. Loves the camaraderie in the coffee community, saying, "People want to help each other. In this industry bubble, everyone is truly rooting for each other, which is really cool. (They're) willing to talk about how they're doing it, what makes them different, what's important to them." Hossler hired a roaster, who sourced high-quality organic beans ahead of Beaurista's launch; they sampled 20 and eventually chose three.
- One of Beaurista's early customers was multi-time PGA TOUR winner Si Woo Kim, who had recently procured a high-end coffee machine for his home in Dallas. Hossler recommended some "gadgets" to accompany the machine as well. Although Hossler had a Black Friday sale with a discount code at the time, Hossler laughed as he recalled how Kim placed a "massive coffee order" without the discount code, and paid \$35 for overnight shipping. Hossler added, "Nothing is more on brand for Si Woo... my favorite customer." Multi-time TOUR winner Camilo Villegas also enjoyed Beaurista and nurtured Hossler's passion for exploring local coffee shops while traveling.
- The week of the 2025 Masters Tournament -- which he did not qualify for -- took a trip to Costa Rica for an ayahuasca retreat. Upon returning, Hossler reflected on his experience and said, "I felt like I learned a lot about myself... you can't hide from it. It just shows you who you are, what you're about. I think I just realized I loved golf... but, also, I need my mind to be challenged in other ways as well. I need to be more well-rounded. I don't have an outlet that I really care about. I can go watch a movie, or hang out with friends, but our lifestyle is lonely." Hossler later added, "I was too singularly focused on golf, riding joy and disappointment from results, and just being tired of it. I'm an actionable, solutions-minded person, and rather than just sit there and feel like crap... I was like, 'What is there out there I can explore that has a chance of helping me out?' I left with a perspective change, I left with a bit more gratitude and appreciation and giving myself a lot more credit than I ever have in my life for where I am... that's been freeing. And I left there giving myself permission to experience more in life than just golf." The experience also led to the creation and development of his coffee company -- Beaurista -- later that year.
- At the 2022 U.S. Open, Hossler was asked what he was most proud of in his career to date: "I'm probably the most proud of my work ethic. The results have been peaks and valleys. I've played some good golf, I've played some really bad golf, but through it all I've really worked hard. I've never lost belief in what I can do. I've been really fortunate to have people around me that know what I'm capable of, and have always helped me and been there for me when I've played well and played poorly. I've always worked hard. When I've played well I've worked hard, and when I've played crappy I've worked hard... just real commitment to getting better. That's never wandered for me."

- Born in Mission Viejo, California, which is less than 30 miles southeast of Anaheim in Southern California. Grew up playing golf at Mission Viejo Country Club, a Robert Trent Jones Sr. design which opened in 1967. The course is where 16-time PGA TOUR winner Mark O'Meara fell in love with the game as a kid. Locals call the course, "Mission Impossible."
- Played three and a half seasons at University of Texas (2013-16; he enrolled in January 2013, the second half of the 2012-13 season), where he most notably won the 2016 Fred Haskins Award (one of the three national player of the year awards in college golf), in addition to being a two-time All-America First Team selection (2015, 2016) and two-time Big 12 Conference Player of the Year (2015, 2016).
- In 2016, became the fifth University of Texas player to win the Fred Haskins Award, one of three national player of the year awards in college golf. Previous winners of the award were Ben Crenshaw (1971, 1972, 1973), Bob Estes (1987), Justin Leonard (1994), and Brad Elder (1997). Hossler's 2015-16 season featured five collegiate victories, and he finished the season with a 69.73 scoring average.

Background

- Played little league baseball (pitcher and catcher) - which led to his dream of one day playing for the Los Angeles Dodgers - before taking up golf.
- Prepped at Santa Margarita Catholic High School in California. Notable alums of the high school include 2002 Heisman Trophy winner and three-time NFL Pro Bowl selection Carson Palmer (Class of 1998), as well as multi-time NBA All-Star Klay Thompson (Class of 2008). Palmer returned to his alma mater to become its football head coach in December 2024, while Thompson became the first basketball player to have his jersey retired by his alma mater in 2017.
- Won the 2011 Junior World Golf Championships (Boys 15-17 Division) at Torrey Pines, finishing two strokes ahead of runner-up finisher Bryson DeChambeau. Other notable players in the field included future PGA TOUR winners Nico Echavarria (T3), Si Woo Kim (6th), Adam Svensson (T10), the late Grayson Murray (T10), Xander Schauffele (T14), and Jake Knapp (T21). A year later, finished runner-up to Rico Hoey at the 2012 Junior World Golf Championships (Boys 15-17 Division).
- Qualified for back-to-back U.S. Opens in 2011 (Congressional Country Club) and 2012 (The Olympic Club) while still in high school. At the 2012 U.S. Open, a 17-year-old Hossler became the youngest player to make the cut at a U.S. Open in the post-World War II era. Hossler eventually finished T29, with Jordan Spieth finishing two strokes ahead of him to take low amateur honors.
- As a first-year member of the PGA TOUR in 2018, said of his 2012 U.S. Open experience: "There are plenty of people who still recognize my name from that. I'm very fortunate to have had that experience, and it's helped me with exposure for sure. But the biggest challenge has been to make sure that doesn't become the defining moment of my golf career."
- Finished second at the 2012 California Interscholastic Federation Boys Golf Championship; he finished one stroke behind individual state champion Austin Smotherman, a multi-time Korn Ferry Tour graduate.
- Beat three future PGA TOUR winners in match play en route to winning the 2014 Western Amateur. Defeated TOUR winner C.T. Pan in the Round of 16, Doug Ghim in the quarterfinals, TOUR winner Nick Hardy in the semifinals, and multi-time TOUR winner Xander Schauffele in the championship match.
- Joined an illustrious list of past winners of the Western Amateur, with the most notable being Jack Nicklaus (1961), Andy North (1971), Ben Crenshaw (1973), Curtis Strange (1974), Hal Sutton (1979, 1980), Phil Mickelson (1991), Justin Leonard (1992, 1993), and Tiger Woods (1994).

- Won back-to-back Southern California Golf Association Amateur Championships in 2013 and 2014. Earned the 2013 title with a three-stroke victory over runner-up Xander Schauffele. A year later, Hossler and Schauffele met in the championship match of the California Amateur Championship, with Schauffele taking the state amateur title at La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad.
- Decorated amateur career also included a victory at the 2016 Jones Cup Invitational, an elite amateur event contested annually at Ocean Forest Golf Club in Sea Island, Georgia. Other champions of the event include Justin Thomas (2012), Corey Connors (2014), Akshay Bhatia (2019), Davis Thompson (2021), and Ludvig Aberg (2021).
- Played through a torn labrum in his left shoulder at the 2016 NCAA Championship (contested at Eugene Country Club in Oregon), with the injury occurring on the 15th hole of his semifinal match against Andrew Levitt of University of Southern California. Hossler closed out his match with a chip-in birdie at the par-3 16th (for a 2-up lead), and a par save from a greenside bunker (using a putter from the bunker) on the par-4 17th, helping Texas defeat USC and advance to the championship final. The injury sidelined Hossler for his final match, which Texas had to forfeit due to a substitution rule which has since been changed. Oregon defeated Texas, 3-2, and won the national title. The Longhorns' lineup featured Scottie Scheffler -- who won his match against Aaron Wise in the championship round -- Doug Ghim, and Taylor Funk, son of eight-time PGA TOUR winner Fred Funk.
- Shortly after the 2016 NCAA Championship, had surgery to repair the torn labrum (left shoulder) he sustained in the semifinals, which sidelined him for four months. Hossler forewent his final season of eligibility at Texas and turned professional a month later (July 2016), but the recovery timeline left him unable to compete in Q-School (which at the time was the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament and only offered varying levels of Korn Ferry Tour status) and delayed the start of his professional career.

Family

- Parents are Amy Balsz and Beau Hossler Sr.; he has one sister, Danielle.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Favorite baseball team is the Los Angeles Dodgers (MLB). Said he was more nervous watching the Dodgers in Game 7 of the 2017 World Series (lost to the Red Sox) than playing in the final group of the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open the same week in his third start as a TOUR member.
- Enjoys the process of making coffee, especially when it comes to making coffee for friends and guests.
- Donut connoisseur. His go-to donuts are old fashioned glazed and maple bar.
- Once said the key to effective cardio is Game of Thrones and/or Master Sudoku puzzle.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- As a junior golfer, worked with famed instructor Jim Flick, who was inducted into the World Golf Teachers Hall of Fame in 2002, followed by the PGA Golf Professional Hall of Fame in 2011. Beau's father, Beau Hossler Sr., Googled "Best golf instructors in Southern California" and discovered Flick. Hossler and Flick worked together for six years (ages 11-17 for Beau), until Flick passed away in 2012 (at age 82) after a battle with pancreatic cancer. Hossler said Flick was "like a grandfather to me." Flick famously attended Wake Forest University on a basketball scholarship and spent six months of his sophomore year as Arnold Palmer's

roommate. Flick most notably coached five-time PGA TOUR winner and former world No. 1 Tom Lehman, in addition to working with Jack Nicklaus during his time on PGA TOUR Champions. Flick once said about Hossler: "He's kind of like Tim Tebow. He doesn't look so good practicing, but once the tournament starts, he's a gamer."

- Represented the United States at the 2012 Junior Ryder Cup at Olympia Fields Country Club. Teammates on the U.S. team included PGA TOUR winners Cameron Champ and Scottie Scheffler.
- Teammates in his three and a half seasons at Texas (2013-16) included multi-time PGA TOUR winner Scottie Scheffler (2014-16 -- two seasons), TOUR winner Cody Gribble (second half of 2012-13 season), Doug Ghim (2014-16 -- two seasons), and Kramer Hickok (2013-15 -- two and a half seasons).
- Played under longtime Texas men's golf head coach John Fields, who said of Hossler in 2016, "Beau is blessed with incredible physical ability, but he's also extremely intelligent. I think he gets his fire from his dad and his relaxed state that you guys saw from his mom. It's so exciting to be able to coach someone like Beau. He also puts the work in -- there is no possible way that he could have achieved this type of success without an incredible work ethic. I see that every day, whether it's in school or golf. He has brought that level of intensity to our team and has benefited his teammates."
- Alongside Bryson DeChambeau and Denny McCarthy, helped the United States win the 2014 Eisenhower Trophy in Japan. The Americans earned a two-stroke victory over a Canadian team featuring PGA TOUR winners Corey Connors, Taylor Pendrith, and Adam Svensson.
- Represented the United States at the 2015 Walker Cup, becoming the first Walker Cup player from University of Texas since Jordan Spieth in 2011. Hossler's teammates on the U.S. squad included Bryson DeChambeau, Denny McCarthy, and Maverick McNealy. Hossler and McNealy also helped the United States win the 2015 Arnold Palmer Cup.
- Good friend of Kacy Clemens, son of baseball great Roger Clemens; they attended Texas together.

Other

- First appearance in a PGA TOUR event outside the major championships came at the 2012 AT&T National, contested at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland. Hossler was a sponsor exemption, and other notable sponsor exemptions that week were Patrick Cantlay and Jordan Spieth. The event was won by Tiger Woods.
- Finished in the top 10 (T7) of the 2011 Junior PLAYERS Championship. Previously competed at the 2010 Junior PLAYERS as well.

Keith Mitchell

Things To Know

- Won his first PGA TOUR title at the 2019 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches in what was his second season on TOUR.
- Has been a visor guy from "day one." Keith notes he posted a picture on Instagram of himself wearing a visor at 4 or 5 years old. Keith also said, "My dad always wore a visor... he was the cool guy wearing the visor, so I started wearing the visor." Keith wore a visor all the way through his college years, after which he signed with Nike and wore a hat. Keith eventually signed with different apparel companies and brought the visor back.
- Earned the nickname "Cashmere Keith" given his reputation as one of the most stylish players on TOUR and his penchant for wearing cashmere sweaters. Keith says the best fashion advice he ever received was from his father, Jerry, who said, "Elegance is simplicity."
- In April 2024, appeared on the cover of the Style issue of Golf Digest, which recognized him as the "Best Dressed on TOUR." In a Q&A with Marty Hackel, the longtime fashion director at Golf Digest, Mitchell gave opinions on the state of men's golf fashion ("Too scripted!"), white belts (they need to go), pro golfers' scripted outfits compared to their personal style ("If more golfers could wear their own style on the course, I think a lot of guys would blossom. Then again, I also think some players are helped by their uniforms."), as well as his own personal style choices on for the golf course ("I like to wear something I can go straight to dinner in at a nice restaurant, or vice versa if there's something to do before I get to the course."), and which golfers of the past he's looked to for style inspiration ("Arnold Palmer and Seve Ballesteros are the easy ones. Johnny Miller when he wasn't completely loud.")
- Developed a friendship -- which blossomed into a menswear partnership -- with Sid Mashburn, a fashion designer who designed for J. Crew, Ralph Lauren, and Tommy Hilfiger prior to launching his own brand (Sid Mashburn). Keith first heard about Sid Mashburn during his college years at University of Georgia. As a young pro in 2014, Keith visited a Sid Mashburn store and recalled, "I could barely afford to buy a pair of jeans and was treated like a guy buying a \$10,000 suit. That stuck with me." A couple years later, Keith met Sid at a pop-up store in New York. In 2021, the two struck up an official partnership (which was highlighted by GQ), with Sid saying via his website's blog, "Keith has been a customer and friend off the course... and we've always dug his spirit and enthusiasm (for clothes, cars, records, watches) whenever he was in the shop. His observation was that golf-wear (just like office-wear) was getting super casual and losing some of the tradition and formality of its roots. He had no idea one of my favorite coffee table books happens to be Arnold Palmer: A Personal Journey... so we were on the same wavelength from the get-go." When Keith is in Atlanta, he often brings friends to the Sid Mashburn store to "play ping-pong and drink bourbon."
- Served four consecutive years on the 16-member Player Advisory Council (PAC) from 2022-25. Mitchell and Maverick McNealy were elected Co-Chairmen of the PAC for 2025, and the two replaced Peter Malnati and Webb Simpson as Player Directors on the PGA TOUR Policy Board in January 2026.
- Also one of six players on the nine-member Future Competitions Committee, which has been tasked with defining the optimal competitive model that enhances the PGA TOUR's value to fans, players and partners.

Background

- Grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee and played a lot of golf at The Honors Course in nearby Ooltewah, Tennessee.
- Attended The Baylor School, a private school in Chattanooga, Tennessee from 2003-10; he qualified for five state championships with the golf team, making his first appearance as an eighth-grader in October 2005. Played multiple seasons on the golf team with future PGA TOUR winners Harris English (Class of 2007) and Stephan Jaeger (joined team in summer 2006, graduated 2008). Mitchell helped The Baylor School win four consecutive state championships from 2005-08.
- Another notable attendee of The Baylor School was PGA TOUR winner Luke List (Class of 2003).
- Played four seasons at the University of Georgia (2010-14), where he recorded a 72.53 career scoring average. Teammates included future PGA TOUR winners Harris English (2010-11 season), Russell Henley (2010-11 season), and Sepp Straka (three seasons -- 2011-14). Mitchell and Straka were roommates for three years. Mitchell graduated in 2014 with a degree in Business and Real Estate.
- Very proud of his path to the PGA TOUR, particularly the season he spent on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica in 2015. Learned a lot from travels to unfamiliar places and how to deal with adversity. Played the 2016 and 2017 seasons on the Korn Ferry Tour, earning TOUR membership via the 2017 Korn Ferry Tour Finals after being the first man out (No. 26) in the regular season. [NOTE: beginning with the 2023 season, the Korn Ferry Tour Finals ceased awarding a separate set of PGA TOUR cards and became part of the season-long points race.]

Family

- Got married to his wife, Claire, in Hawaii in January 2022, and played the following week at the Sony Open in Hawaii (T7).
- Mother, Cynthia, plans girls trips to his tournaments with her best friends, who have all known Keith his entire life. The members of the group, who call themselves the "Auntorage," travel to tournaments every few months and wear matching hats.
- Father, Jerry, is a longtime member of the R&A.
- Sister, Brindley, attended the University of St. Andrews in Scotland from 2009 to 2013. Would visit her as much as he could throughout college.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- When at home in St. Simons Island, typically drives a 1977 Jeep Cherokee Chief he restored with the help of fellow TOUR winner Michael Thompson. Keith bought the Jeep in fall 2018.
- Will often listen to music on vinyl records when at home. Two of his all-time favorites are Carolina Confessions from Marcus King, and Live at the Regal from B.B. King. Keith says, "Music to me is another one of those things that I love and I'm very passionate about. I tend to categorize my music into whatever mood I feel, or the situation that presents itself. I really like blues and that sort of guitar vibe."
- In addition to carefully curating his on-course style, has a deep fascination for watches. Keith says, "I'm fascinated by the sophistication of workmanship in watches that goes back hundreds of years." Keith's favorite watch in his collection is a Laurent Ferrier with a jade dial. Keith also noted that when he and his wife, Claire, got married, they each bought Cartier Tank watches engraved with their initials and wedding date. Keith claims to have bought all his watches at a jeweler run by a friend in Carmel, California, and he visits the store every time he plays at Pebble Beach Golf Links.

- Perhaps the most significant watch in Keith's collection is a Rolex Datejust. When Keith was in eighth grade, his grandfather passed away, and his father, Jerry, gifted him the Rolex Datejust with the engraving "To Keith with love, Papaw and Dad." Keith explained the watch's history, saying, "When my dad graduated from medical school, he bought my granddad this Rolex Datejust as a gift for putting him through school." Shortly after Keith earned his PGA TOUR card in late 2017, he bought his father a Rolex Datejust and had it engraved "Thanks for the love and support, Keith." Keith also bought his mother, Cynthia, a Rolex before he bought anything big for himself.
- Deep into his coffee routine at home and enjoys taking time to make the perfect cup of coffee.
- On Tuesday of tournament week at THE NORTHERN TRUST in 2021, rang the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange to promote the beginning of the FedExCup Playoffs, checking off an item on his bucket list.

Charity

- Established the Keith Mitchell Foundation -- based in his hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee -- in 2020, and is passionate about providing opportunities to people in the area who did not have the same opportunities as he did growing up. Has enjoyed participating in fellow TOUR player foundation events (i.e., Zach Johnson's) and looks forward to putting on fun charitable events to help people in Chattanooga.
- Co-sponsored the AJGA's Mizuno Junior Championship for three years (2022-24). The 2022 event was contested at Golden Bear Golf Club at Indigo Run in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, while the 2023 and 2024 events were contested on the Plantation Course at Sea Island Resort in St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Knows Peyton Manning and first met him at age 4, as Mitchell grew up playing The Honors Course, where Manning frequently played during his NFL offseasons. Partnered with Manning and Andy Roddick, among others, on Sweetens Cove, an award-winning nine-hole public golf course outside of his hometown of Chattanooga.
- Once beat two-time Super Bowl champion quarterback Eli Manning in a football contest at a charity event at Sweetens Cove. Former NFL wide receiver Eric Decker was so impressed by his throwing motion that he asked if Keith played quarterback in high school. During a press conference ahead of the 2022 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am alongside partner Josh Allen, Keith called Decker's question the biggest compliment he has received in his career, on or off the golf course.
- During the PGA TOUR's West Coast swing in 2024, played a match at Los Angeles Country Club with NFL quarterback Jared Goff, retired seven-time MLB All-Star David Wright and another friend. Mitchell recalled, "(Goff) ended up making a putt on No. 18 to beat us. He made a gross birdie to clip us by one. He's good. We had to strengthen his grip a little bit; he was hitting it out to the right."
- Attended the 2004 Open Championship at Royal Troon at age 12 and recalled, "Darren Clarke gave me his glove -- I'll never forget that."

Other

- Entered the final round of the 2024 Valspar Championship with a two-stroke lead, but carded a 77 in the final round and finished T17. A year later, was an 18-hole co-leader at the 2025

Valspar Championship and reflected on the rocky finish the year prior, saying, "I still think about it. It's still definitely in the back of my mind, and I want it to stay there for, hopefully, the rest of my career to just motivate me to remember what it feels like when you let those kind of nerves get in your way. You look at a lot of guys in their career, everybody has a few of those, and that was mine."

- Made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2017 Valspar Championship as an open qualifier (finished T11).

Patton Kizzire

Things To Know

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

Family

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

Charity

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

