Report (9 players)

Mark Hubbard

Things To Know

- Made the cut in the first 19 events he competed in during the 2024 season. In Round 2 at the Rocket Mortgage Classic (his 18th event of the year), sat outside the cutline with three holes to play. Finished eagle-par-birdie to make the cut on the number. Made a 75 foot, 7 inch putt for the eagle and a 39 foot, 1 inch putt for birdie. One week later, at the John Deere Classic (his 19th event of the year), Hubbard finished his second round eagle-birdie to move inside the cut line and keep his made cuts streak alive. Recorded his first missed cut of the season at the Genesis Scottish Open.
- On his made cuts streak being broken at the Genesis Scottish Open: "There's worst places in the world to miss a cut than Scotland. I had a really nice weekend just kind of exploring the country."
- On the cut streak: "I had said this before when people asked me about the cut streak, obviously it was cool, but there was one or two in there that I kind of wish I had missed to kind of get a full reset. Sometimes you sneak in on the number, and you still don't really have it with your game and you're out there grinding and maybe even practicing some worse habits. So to kind of get that reset, even though it is week 4 and I'm tired, I think is going to be really beneficial for me throughout the rest of the year."
- During the 2022-23 PGA TOUR season, Hubbard set a record for the most starts in a single PGA TOUR season, with 39, eclipsing the previous mark held by Sungjae Im, who made 35 starts in the 2020-21 season.
- Has played across PGA TOUR, Korn Ferry Tour and PGA TOUR Canada since 2013. Turned pro in 2012.
- Known to change his workout routine as the season progresses, saying, "Late in the year... I start to do more pilates and yoga... just kind of less impact, less wear and tear on your body." Often went through his pilates workouts with Nick Hardy.

Background

- Earliest golf memory was hitting golf balls in family backyard in the mountains and then having an "Easter egg hunt" to find them.
- Started playing golf his junior year of high school. Understood his potential his senior year of high school and started playing more national tournaments, qualifying for The Optimist Tournament at PGA National which he won the tournament on a sprained, braced ankle after injuring it at a summer basketball camp in Wyoming.
- Both Hubbard and his wife went to San Jose State
- Looked at a few different schools where he could play golf and basketball, but ended up sticking to golf at San Jose State. He still teases his wife that he could have gone to Davidson to play golf and basketball but he chose her over being best friends with Steph Curry (they are roughly the same age). He conceded he wasn't tall enoughh to play in the NBA.
- As a senior in 2011, he finished first in the WAC championship tournament.
- Social media handles are "@HomelessHubbs." Everyone calls him "Hubbs" and when he first turned pro and was playing mini-tours, he was couch surfing among close friends, PGA TOUR

caddies John Ellis and Brady Stockton, living rent free. That mixed in with what he called a "scruffy appearance" led to the nickname "Homeless Hubbs."

Family

- Parents: Melissa Giordannom (mother), Tony Giordanno (stepdad), Bruce Hubbard (father).
- Proposed to wife Megan on the 18th green of Pebble Beach after the first round of the 2015 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. Both have been together since they were freshman in college, 18 years old. It was his mother-in-law's idea to do it there. He "figured she couldn't say no on 18 at Pebble Beach."
- Megan and Mark have two children, Harlow and Sadie. They live in The Woodlands (Houston). At the 2024 PGA Championship, when asked what it would mean to win, Hubbard said " I mean, if I win an opposite field event it's great, let alone a major. At the end of the day though, I mean, my life's awesome. I've got a great family and two great kids. I got to sleep in an extra hour and play with stuffed animals with my oldest daughter in bed [today]. That's what it's all about."
- Has four brothers and one sister; Hubbard's brother, Nathan, who is the CEO of Firebird Music, a music company that aims to "help artists build longer lasting, higher impact, more profitable careers." Nathan was previously in the band Rockwell Church. Nathan is also the co-host of the Fairway Rollin' podcast on Bill Simmons' Ringer Network and is very active on Twitter.
- Wife, Megan started playing golf during the COVID pandemic in 2020 and took lessons from instructor, Kevin Kirk.
- He and his wife Megan have two daughters.
- Hubbard is one of six siblings.
- During the Southern California wildfires in January of 2025, Hubbard had numerous family members lose their homes to the fires, including his brother Nathan.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Is a big Denver sports fan, especially of the NFL's Denver Broncos
- Afraid of heights and would take two club lengths back from the tees on the first hole at Riviera so he wouldn't be so close to the edge.
- Despite the fear of heights, his biggest hobby is skiing. Says he is as good of a skier as he is a golfer. Wife, Megan also skis with Mark. "She didn't grow up skiing a ton. I will say, when we first started, when I first started teaching her, don't teach your spouse anything, let alone skiing, because there's that fear component, and it's bad. I broke down and got her a lesson. She went from a 25 handicap to like a 12 handicap skier overnight. My biggest thing is I want to go explore mountains and not worrying about, oh, I got on the wrong chairlift, how are we going to get down from here? She can handle her own really well now, so we have a lot of fun on ski trips."
- If not a professional golfer, he would probably just move to Bora Bora, open a tiki bar and disappear off the grid.
- Avid gamer - Strongest at Madden, likes Assassin's Creed for its history element and Call of Duty
- Dream foursome would be E. Harvie Ward, Walter Hagen and Yohann Benson.
- Bucket list includes playing Augusta National, setting foot on every continent and skiing in Europe.
- Big foodie and wine connoisseur. He keeps notes of restaurants when he travels
- Enjoys music and attending concerts.

- A fan of Taylor Swift.
- Is very good at "all bar/miscellaneous/useless games," including Pop-A-Shot and badminton.

Charity

- Supports the Salvation Army and the First Tee of Colorado. His mom serves on the board of First Tee Colorado and he's volunteered there.
- Would like to use his passion for animals to create a rescue charity or be involved with a charity tied to the Denver Broncos.

Other

- Missed the commitment deadline for the 2024 Procore Championship - had "technical difficulties" with his phone after he "dropped it into a cold plunge on Thursday" (before the Friday commitment deadline). After missing the entry, Hubbard competed in the Monday qualifier for Procore Championship, winning the qualifier and earning his spot in the field.

Aaron Rai

Things To Know

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

Background

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

Family

- Rai has three older siblings: two sisters and one brother. At the 2022 Shriners Children's Open, his sister, Amita, flew to Las Vegas from London on Saturday to hand deliver his passport which he needed to fly to Japan on Sunday night for the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP

the following week. Rai shot 62 that Saturday, his 120th official round on TOUR, before showing his sister the sights of Las Vegas that evening.
- Married wife Gaurika in April 2025. Gaurika Bishnoi is a professional golfer, and has been ranked the No. 1 female golfer from India.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

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

Other

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

Kevin Roy

Things To Know

- Returning to the PGA TOUR for the 2025 season after a top 30 finish (No. 13) on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List. Previously earned his first PGA TOUR card via the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season, finishing No. 24 on the Points List (with only 25 available TOUR cards) after he spent the final month of the season on the bubble.
- In 2023, moved from Tampa to nearby Lakewood Ranch, Florida, where he now plays and practices out of Concession Golf Club. Typically plays with fellow Korn Ferry Tour graduate Erik Barnes. Kevin noted Nelly Korda is also a member at Concession, and he's hoping he will have an opportunity to play with her.
- Credits his father, Jim, as his biggest golf influence and supporter. Jim played a full PGA TOUR season in 1983 and a full PGA TOUR Champions season in 2010. Jim notably qualified for two U.S. Opens (1983, 1989), three U.S. Senior Opens (2010, 2018, 2022), and the 2010 Senior PGA Championship. Jim played collegiately at University of South Florida in Tampa and was inducted into the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame in 2007.
- Kevin says one of his biggest thrills was caddying for his dad, Jim, in the 2018 U.S. Senior Open. His other golf thrills include making his first hole-in-one at 16 years old using a friend's iron, and shooting 9-under par for a course record with his dad on the bag at pre-qualifying for 2012 PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry.
- An important lesson Kevin's father taught him through the years is to, "value par," and "fall in love with your wedge and putter".

Background

- When not on TOUR, Kevin mostly plays with his father, Jim, and older brother, Kyle, as well as friends who played college golf. Kevin jokes he and his brother have a $20 bet every time they play, but "I've never seen the money, and don't know if I ever will."
- Grew up in Syracuse, New York and attended Bishop Ludden High School. In the winter, Kevin mostly focused on basketball but would occasionally go to an indoor golf practice facility at Turning Stone Resort Casino, which was about 45 minutes from home.
- Originally committed to University of Hartford, as Kevin was lightly recruited since he played mostly local tournaments in upstate New York as opposed to the AJGA circuit. About four months before Kevin was set to enroll and start school at Hartford, head coach Bill Poutre resigned and accepted the same position at Long Beach State University. Bill called Kevin and asked if he wanted to come with him to Long Beach State. After a visit to campus with his dad, Kevin decided Long Beach State would be the best place to further his golf career.
- Played four seasons at Long Beach State University (2008-12), with Kevin's senior season (2011-12) being a peak for him and the program. Kevin earned a 2012 All-Big West Conference First Team selection and, along with 2012 Big West Freshman of the Year Xander Schauffele, helped Long Beach State win five tournaments as a team, which set a single-season school record.
- [Note: This story was well documented in 2022, when Kevin earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time.] In 2015, following nine missed cuts in 10 starts on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica and credit card debt building up, Kevin quit professional golf and went to work for his brother as a medical sales representative for much of 2016. Kevin drove to patients' houses in southwest Florida either setting up or retrieving the medical device his brother sold. Kevin said of the work, "Was it fun? No. But I was making a little bit of money, and at the end of the year I had the itch again." Kevin went 11 months without playing competitively, only

deciding to make another run at professional golf after winning a West Florida Golf Tour event in October of 2016. Kevin earned conditional status for the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour season but only made seven starts. At Final Stage of the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, Kevin finished high enough for guaranteed starts for the 2020-21 combined season, which saw him play all 46 events and finish No. 48 on the Points List for fully exempt status in 2022.
- Kevin says of his decision to walk away from pro golf, "I think it was probably one of the better decisions I've made. I was playing such bad golf. It was mentally draining on me. I was just having no fun on the golf course. Racking up credit card bills isn't much fun either. It was a decision that had to be made, and it was the right decision."

Family

- Kevin and his wife, Annie Sabo, wed in December 2021 in Lakewood Ranch, Florida. The couple welcomed their first child, a daughter named Mia, born June 2023. They also have a Shiba Inu puppy, Corona (or "Roni"), named after the beer.
- Annie graduated from the University of Michigan and works with Bally Sports Ohio as a TV sports reporter/host for the Cincinnati Reds (MLB). She goes back and forth between their home in Lakewood Ranch, Florida and Cincinnati for work.
- Annie and Kevin met in Tampa in 2018 through a mutual friend, after which Kevin told his friends he was going to marry Annie one day. They went on their first date eight months later and dated for close to two years before Kevin proposed in September 2020 on Lake Minnetonka in Minneapolis.
- Kevin's father-in-law, Chris Sabo, played third base for the Cincinnati Reds (MLB) and was the 1988 National League Rookie of the Year, a three-time All-Star, 1990 World Series champion, and Reds Hall of Famer.
- Parents are Jim and Cheryl Roy.
- Kevin has an older brother, Kyle, who played college golf at NCAA Division II Tampa University (2007-11), as well as one sister, Lauren.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Prefers being out on the course far more than being on the range unless he is working on a specific swing change; he finds such range work exhausting, and says he starts searching or tinkering with his swing. Also tries to avoid range sessions after tournament rounds. He prefers to do that kind of work during off weeks.
- Huge fan of the Buffalo Bills (NFL football) and he would love to be on the field for a game.
- When not golfing, enjoys the outdoors: boating, fishing, pickleball and time with his daughter, his wife, and their dog.
- During competition, he always carries with him a rosary, a small angel and a quarter from the 1960s. While Annie was pregnant in early 2023, she had a ball marker made for him that had their baby's sonogram image on it.

Charity

- Is a Play Yellow Ambassador. Play Yellow is a Children's Miracle Network Hospitals campaign with support from Jack and Barbara Nicklaus and the PGA TOUR to bring the entire golf world together to help the 10 million kids treated at local children's hospitals each year.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- As a senior at Long Beach State University, Kevin played the 2011-12 season alongside true freshman Xander Schauffele. Kevin led the team in scoring average that year (72.42), while Schauffele was second (72.52), and the duo led the team to five tournament wins, which set a single-season program record.
- Kevin's father, Jim, occasionally gave longtime Syracuse men's basketball head coach Jim Boeheim lessons. On one particular occasion during the 2002-03 season, Boeheim invited Jim and Kevin to a shootaround, where Kevin got to go on the court and shoot baskets with Carmelo Anthony, who led Syracuse to the national title as a true freshman that season and became the No. 3 overall pick in the 2003 NBA Draft.

Mac Meissner

Things To Know

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

Background

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

Family

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

Order of Merit. Mitchell is set to have conditional status for the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour season.
- An uncle, Todd Haney, was an infielder who played college baseball at University of Texas and played professionally from 1992 through 1998 for the Montreal Expos, Chicago Cubs, and New York Mets. In 2019. Haney became head coach of the Victoria (British Columbia) HarbourCats, a member of the West Coast League, which is a premier summer collegiate baseball league.
- Wife, Kennedy, played golf at SMU and currently works for the Payne Stewart Foundation.

Charity

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

Inner Circle/Special Connections

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

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 Conners (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 Conners, 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.

Brandt Snedeker

Things To Know

- On April 29, 2025, was officially named the United States Team Captain for the 2026 Presidents Cup, set to be contested September 22-27, 2026 at Medinah Country Club (Course No. 3). Snedeker previously represented the U.S. Team in the 2013 Presidents Cup at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio. Also represented the United States as a player in the 2012 and 2016 Ryder Cups, as a captain's assistant in the 2024 Presidents Cup, and as a Vice Captain at the upcoming 2025 Ryder Cup.
- Named the 2024 recipient of the PGA TOUR's Payne Stewart Award -- which is presented annually by the PGA TOUR to a professional golfer who best exemplifies Stewart's steadfast values of character, charity and sportsmanship. Snedeker said of receiving the award, "With my family being from Springfield, Missouri, Payne's hometown, he was my favorite golfer growing up, and to have my name on this trophy is unbelievable. The award was accompanied by an annual Payne Stewart Award Grant of $500,000 (with $100,000 apiece to The Stewart Family Foundation and Payne Stewart Memorial, and the remaining $300,000 for a charity designated by the recipient -- which for Snedeker was the Snedeker Foundation).
- In February 2026, announced as the recipient of the Charlie Bartlett Award from the Golf Writers Association of America for "unselfish contributions for the betterment of society" through the Snedeker Foundation, which he established after winning the FedExCup in 2012. The Snedeker Foundation assists underprivileged children and provides child abuse support in the Middle Tennessee area. Snedeker said of the award, "I've been fortunate to be surrounded by a bunch of great people throughout the years and have learned from a lot of mentors like Davis [Love III] and Jim [Furyk]. I just try to do the right thing when I can, and help out when I can." Past recipients of the award, established in 1971 in honor of Charlie Bartlett, the first Secretary of the GWAA, include Arnold Palmer (1976), Gene Sarazen (1984), Payne Stewart (2000), Tom Watson (2004), Tiger Woods (2007), Jack Nicklaus (2009), Ernie Els (2010), Davis Love III (2019), and Jim Furyk (2023).
- After winning the 2012 FedExCup, started the Brandt and Mandy Snedeker Foundation (now known as The Snedeker Foundation) with his wife to benefit children in Middle Tennessee.
- In 2017, the Snedeker Foundation became the beneficiary of the Simmons Bank Open, a Korn Ferry Tour event contested annually in the greater Nashville area. The Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation was named the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Tournament of the Year. Past champions of the event include PGA TOUR winners Lanto Griffin (2017), Cam Davis (2018), and the late Grayson Murray (2023). Scottie Scheffler lost a playoff to Robby Shelton to finish as the 2019 runner-up. Snedeker says his involvement with the event stems from his desire "to give back to the game that gave so much to [him]... help the players who are chasing a dream, and to give back to the Nashville community."
- After being diagnosed with manubrium joint instability (an issue he's been dealing with the issue since 2016), Snedeker became just the second person on record to undergo an "experimental" sternum procedure, which he underwent in December 2022. The manubrium joint stabilization was performed by Dr. Burton Elrod, a Nashville-based orthopedic and sports medicine surgeon. "They took a bone about the size of my thumb out of my hip and they cut my sternum open and kind of cut across it and made a huge incision," Snedeker said. "They dialed out about the size of my pinkie on my lower part of the sternum and upper part and put that bone in the middle of 'em and kind of created a dowel almost like thing. And then wrapped it with bone putty and paste and tried to kind of let it heal and reattach itself. So kind of broke my sternum on purpose, cut my sternum open and then kind of reattached it."

- Of his nine wins on the PGA TOUR, won three tournaments twice -- AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am (2013, 2015), Farmers Insurance Open (2012, 2016), Wyndham Championship (2007, 2018).
- In kindergarten, Brandt filled out a "What do you want to be when you grow up" document and said he wanted to play on the PGA TOUR. Today, Brandt says that is all he ever wanted to do. He never had any other passions quite like golf. He says he doesn't know what he would be doing if it wasn't for golf. Brandt credits his "glass half-full" mentality and always knew golf would work out for him.
- "From the time I started playing golf as a kid, all of my dreams and aspirations involved the PGA TOUR. The PGA TOUR and the FedExCup have provided my family and I more than I ever could have imagined - most importantly Mandy and I have been blessed to be able to start the @snedsfoundation, which benefits countless youth and those in need throughout my home state of Tennessee. I believe in our leadership on the PGA TOUR and that's where my allegiance will remain for the rest of my career."
- He says he'll never live anywhere but in his "Nashville bubble," where his current home is a couple of miles from where he grew up, not far from his alma mater, Vanderbilt.

Background

- Maternal grandmother, Honey Hayes, introduced Brandt to the game at age six. His grandparents are from West Plains, Missouri. Honey was the manager and boss of the restaurant at West Plains Country Club, the only golf course in town. As a kid, Brandt and his brother, Haymes, would spend summer trips to rural Missouri to visit with his grandparents. Brandt and Haymes would play golf all day while their grandmother worked.
- Brandt said his older brother, Haymes (All-American golfer at Ole Miss), got into golf and he wanted to be like his brother, so he played too. Brandt said he loved it and his dad started taking him and his brother out every weekend. They had some great matches. Haymes won The Big Break X: Michigan.
- Two-time Tennessee high school state champion at Montgomery Bell Academy (1997 & 1998). Two-time Tennessee State Junior Player of the Year.
- Winner of the 2003 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship, which earned him a spot in the 2004 Masters (as an amateur at 22-years old). The Masters was Brandt's first time at a professional golf tournament. He recalls arriving and shortly after, getting a call that he had parked in the wrong spot. He even stumbled into the Champions Locker Room by mistake and recalls seeing Jack Nicklaus and Vijay Singh. He thought he was going to throw up and wasn't sure he could even play. Made the cut on the number and played all four rounds. His confidence only grew from there.
- Brandt is one of Vanderbilt University's most decorated golfers, and he was inducted into the Vanderbilt Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009. In his four seasons at Vanderbilt (1999-2003), was credited with three individual victories, named the 2003 Southeastern Conference Player of the Year, and the 2000 SEC Freshman of the Year.
- Named the 2007 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year. Snedeker punctuated his rookie season with his first PGA TOUR title at the 2007 Wyndham Championship, and ultimately finished No. 20 in the FedExCup standings.

Family

- Brandt and his wife Mandy met at Vanderbilt University. In her words: "My roommate was on the women's golf team and he was on the men's golf team, and they both were communications majors, so he would come over to study at our apartment."

- Mandy says Brandt, who worked at his parents' pawn shop growing up, knows a lot about jewelry, saying, "One of my favorite gifts he ever gave me is a heart-shaped diamond necklace -- it's a diamond that he picked out from the pawn shop for when he met the girl he would marry one day." Mandy also says Brandt is a "true Southern gentleman" who opened the car for her on their first date, and that "he does all of the ironing in the house -- thank goodness because I am absolutely awful at it!"
- Believes having children (daughter, Lily; son, Austin) with his wife, Mandy, brought balance to his life. He no longer lived and died on every shot or every tournament. Brandt said he gained much more perspective and avoided overworking himself as he did in years past. Noted he used to spend so much time on the range he would practice into bad habits.
- Son, Austin, plays competitive golf on the Sneds Tour. Brandt and Austin won the Sneds Tour Parent-Child Championship in May 2022.
- Family is extremely important to him and he always referred to himself as a "mama's boy."
- Lost both his parents, Larry and Candy, in an eight-month period (October 2020-June 2021). [NOTE: please connect with PGA TOUR Communications before using this information.]
- Brandt's dad, Larry, was a baseball player and didn't start playing golf until later in life.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Brandt is a massive Vanderbilt sports fan - especially football. On a few occasions when traveling internationally (including China and Australia) he set his alarm to wake up and watch games. Said if he is playing in a tournament and not in contention, he will pull out his phone to check the football scores.
- Big Tennessee Titans fan.
- He likes to fish and hunt, and would like to live on a farm someday. He loves being out in the middle of nowhere. He really likes to grill and/or use the smoker.
- Big fan of the Discovery and History Channels.
- Dislikes for Brandt: 1) Dancing; 2) a fork scraping on a plate or someone's teeth.

Charity

- The Snedeker Foundation has raised more than $1 million for several different charities across Middle Tennessee. The Foundation supports a variety of efforts on both the social and athletic fronts, including Our Kids, which provides expert medical evaluations and crisis counseling services in response to concerns of child sexual abuse, while also working to increase community awareness, education and training about child maltreatment.
- In February 2022 won an Arnie Award from Golf Digest for Golfers Who Give Back along with Clint Eastwood and Morgan Pressel for his Foundation work in Tennessee.
- Junior golf has been a focus of Snedeker's charitable giving since 2016. The Snedeker Foundation partnered with the Tennessee Golf Foundation to establish the Sneds Tour -- which is a statewide junior tour with more than 150 events, with an emphasis on making the game more accessible by providing lower entry and registration fees. Upon receiving the Charlie Bartlett Award from the Golf Writers Association of America in 2026, Snedeker said of founding the Sneds Tour, "Growing up and playing junior golf in Tennessee, we were really fortunate. We had a bunch of great partners, Vince Gill being the godfather of sponsoring the junior golf tour I grew up playing. It fell on some tough times, right around the peak of my career, and I saw an opportunity to step in and give the kids what I had growing up. I wasn't trying to do anything special. I just wanted them to have the opportunity I had, playing great golf courses all summer and the opportunity to go play and not break the bank while you're doing it."

- In November 2022, partnered with the Tennessee Golf Foundation to fund the creation of a practice facility for Nashville Christian School to be used in a collaborative effort with the Tennessee School for the Blind. The Snedeker Foundation donated $30,000, while the Tennessee Golf Foundation donated $25,000. The practice facility, which features an indoor simulator and a practice green, opened two years later in November 2024.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Played in the 2003 Palmer Cup on the Cassique Course at Kiawah, losing to the European team. Teammates included Bill Haas (2011 FedExCup champion) and Ryan Moore.

Other

- Member of 59 club when he shot 59 in the opening round of the 2018 Wyndham Championship.
- Regarding nerves on the first tee, Brandt said if you aren't nervous, you aren't invested, and you don't care. He said even Tiger gets nervous on the first tee.
- Played in the 2022 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am Chevron Challenge with Manolo Vega.

Brooks Koepka

Things To Know

- Returned to the PGA TOUR at the 2026 Farmers Insurance Open by way of the Returning Member Program established by the PGA TOUR in January 2026. Koepka said in the announcement of his return, "When I was a child, I always dreamed about competing on the PGA TOUR, and I am just as excited today to announce that I am returning to the PGA TOUR." Conditions of Koepka's return included a $5 million charitable contribution and his being ineligible to earn equity through the Player Equity Program for five years (2026-2030) or FedExCup Bonus Program payouts for the 2026 season. Koepka must also compete in a minimum of 15 co-sponsored and approved events in 2026.
- Reached No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking for the first time in October 2018 following his victory at THE CJ CUP at NINE BRIDGES in South Korea.
- Said his "welcome to the TOUR moment" was in 2015 at the WM Phoenix Open. In the final round was announced as Bruce "Cup Cake". He said he was humbled, but then went on to win the event for his first PGA TOUR victory.
- Turned professional in 2012 after four seasons at Florida State University, but failed to get through Second Stage of 2012 PGA TOUR Q-School at TPC Craig Ranch. Jordan Spieth also failed to advance through the same Second Stage site that year. Koepka went to Europe and played the Challenge Tour, winning four titles (one in 2012, three in 2013) en route to earning DP World Tour membership for 2014. Won on the DP World Tour in 2014 and was named the 2014 Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year. Also earned Special Temporary Membership on the PGA TOUR in 2014 and earned enough non-member FedExCup points to earn TOUR membership for the 2015 season.

Background

- Raised in Lake Worth Beach, Florida and attended Cardinal Newman High School in nearby West Palm Beach, Florida, where he won the 2006 individual state title.
- At age 10, fractured his nose and sinus cavity when his babysitter's car was hit at an intersection. That summer, he couldn't play any contact sports, so he spent most days at Okeeheelee Golf Course. At age 13, ended his father Bob's five-year reign as club champion at Sherbrooke Golf and Country Club, as he defeated Bob in the final.
- Grew up a big Florida Gators fan, but was not recruited by Florida so chose to attend Florida State University instead.
- Played four seasons at Florida State University (2008-12), where he earned three individual victories, broke the school record for career scoring average (71.84) previously established by 19-time PGA TOUR winner Hubert Green (72.16 from 1965-68), and was a two-time Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year (2010, 2012). Also earned a 2010 All-America Third Team honor and 2012 All-America Second Team laurel, in addition to being named the 2009 ACC Freshman of the Year.
- As a freshman in college, needed extra money to play in tournaments so he served as a counselor for the school's junior camp. Longtime Florida State coach Trey Jones alluded to Koepka's reputation as an angry golfer throughout his college years as he said, "Just seeing how he is every day we're like 'Oh my, how's this going to be with 10-year-olds and 12-year-olds?' But every year he'd get Counselor of the Year. He had a group of kids following him everywhere. They loved him."

Family

- Wife, Jena Sims, is a model and actress. The couple wed in June 2022 in Turks and Caicos, where the wedding festivities included a live performance by Ludacris.
- Son, Crew, was born in July 2023.
- Father, Bob, played college baseball; he was a pitcher at West Virginia Wesleyan College, an NAIA program which later became an NCAA Division II program in Buckhannon, West Virginia. Bob's passion for baseball was passed on to Brooks, who once told Jaime Diaz for a Golf Digest story, "If I could do it over again, I'd play baseball--100 percent, no doubt."
- Younger brother, Chase, played four seasons at University of South Florida (2012-16) and played professionally on the DP World Tour (2018 season), PGA TOUR Canada (2021), and LIV Golf (2022, 2023). Chase was inducted into the USF Athletic Hall of Fame in 2024. Chase and Brooks have played together at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans on a number of occasions.
- Great uncle is Dick Groat, a two-time World Series-winning shortstop for the Pittsburgh Pirates and the 1960 National League Most Valuable Player. Father Bob Koepka's mother, Mary Margaret, is Groat's older sister. A multi-sport athlete at Duke University, Groat was the third overall pick in the 1952 NBA Draft (chosen by the Fort Wayne Pistons). In 2019, Grout retired after 40 seasons as a radio analyst for the University of Pittsburgh men's basketball team. Groat passed away in April 2023 at 92 years of age.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Favorite sports teams are Manchester United Football Club (soccer), Los Angeles Lakers (NBA basketball), Green Bay Packers (NFL football), and Florida Panthers (NHL hockey). Loved Brett Favre growing up and says that is why he is a Packers fan.
- Enjoys being on the water, jet skiing, fishing, paddle boarding during his off weeks.
- Favorite ice cream is Ben and Jerry's Phish Food; he didn't know there was a band named Phish or that the ice cream was named after the band.
- Does not listen to music while he plays because he believes you need to listen to things like the club striking the ball. Believes hearing is an important sense in the game of golf.

Charity

- In 2019, established the Brooks Koepka Foundation Fund at the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties. Notably raised $450,000 for the Hurricane Dorian relief efforts in The Bahamas, and granted over $200,000 to the COVID-19 response relief in South Florida. Through his "12 Days of Brooksmas", Koepka raised awareness and provided funds to 12 different organizations and non-profits.
- Invited 11-year-old Ethan Evans to attend the 2022 PLAYERS Championship as his guest for the week. Ethan, who had been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, Rhabdomyosarcoma, was in the midst of 66 rounds of chemotherapy treatments in his home state of Oklahoma. Ethan joined Brooks for his Wednesday practice round, playing three holes. Brooks also presented Ethan with Nike clothing and shoes and had Ethan's favorite NFL quarterback, Baker Mayfield, FaceTime him during the day.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Cites Adam Scott as his favorite golfer growing up.
- Teammates at Florida State with Daniel Berger for the 2011-12 season. Kopeka was a senior, while Berger was a freshman.

- Inducted into the Florida State Athletics Hall of Fame in 2022. Other men's golf inductees include 12-time PGA TOUR winner Paul Azinger, 19-time PGA TOUR winner Hubert Green, and six-time PGA TOUR winner Jeff Sluman.
- In summer 2021, paid for a private flight from Tallahassee, Florida to Columbus, Ohio for Florida State golfer John Pak, who received the 2021 Jack Nicklaus Award at the Memorial Tournament. The request came from longtime Florida State golf coach Trey Jones to his group of donors, and Koepka obliged immediately. Jones said of Koepka's generosity, "He's one of those guys when he tells you if you ever need anything call me, he means it." The following week, Pak made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2021 Palmetto Championship at Congaree in South Carolina.

Other

- Featured in ESPN the Magazine's "Body Issue" in 2019.
- Dealt with hip and knee issues throughout 2019 and 2020, with Koepka notably aggravating his injured left knee after slipping on wet concrete in the second round of the 2019 CJ CUP at NINE BRIDGES.
- Had surgery on his right knee on March 16, 2021 to repair a dislocated kneecap and ligament damage. The injury occurred, Koepka said, while with family in Florida. Koepka said he slipped and the injury required his kneecap being put back into place. "Putting it back into place really hurt," he said. "Dislocated the kneecap. I went down and just straightened it and popped it back in." Returned to action at the 2021 Masters Tournament (missed cut) and finished in the top six at the other three major championships in 2021.
- Playing in his fifth TOUR Championship in seven years in 2021, withdrew with a left wrist injury during the third round after he hit a tree root on the 10th hole. Having dealt with a similar injury in the past (2017 and 2018), Koepka said it was precautionary with the Ryder Cup on the immediate horizon.

Keita Nakajima

Things To Know

- Earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time for the 2026 season, securing his TOUR card through the DP World Tour -- which awarded TOUR membership to the top 10 players in the 2025 Race to Dubai standings who were not already exempt.
- Finished No. 14 in the final 2025 Race to Dubai Ranking in what was his second season on the DP World Tour. Earned three runner-up finishes in 2025, and previously earned his first DP World Tour title at the 2024 Hero Indian Open.
- Won three times on the Japan Golf Tour in 2023 to finish atop the 2023 Japan Golf Tour Money Rankings, which earned him DP World Tour membership for 2024. Nakajima, who led the Japanese circuit in scoring average (69.341), was named both the 2023 Japan Golf Tour Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year.
- Turned professional in September 2022 following a record-breaking amateur career. Broke records for most consecutive weeks (74 from April 2021 through September 2022) and total weeks (87, breaking the previous record of 60 established by Jon Rahm) as the No. 1 player in the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR). He also became the first multi-time recipient of the Mark H. McCormack Medal (2021 and 2022), which is presented annually by the USGA and The R&A to the No. 1 player in WAGR following either the U.S. Amateur or European Amateur (whichever finishes last). Following Nakajima's decision to turn professional, Ludvig Aberg succeeded him as the No. 1 player in WAGR.
- Notable recipients of the Mark H. McCormack Medal following its establishment in 2007 include Colt Knost (2007) and PGA TOUR winners Nick Taylor (2009), Patrick Cantlay (2011), Matt Fitzpatrick (2013), Jon Rahm (2015), Maverick McNealy (2016), and Joaquin Niemann (2017).
- The first golfer he saw on TV was Tiger Woods. Keita recalled, "I don't really remember any particular shots, I just remember his huge fist pumps every time he wins, which I always thought was really cool."

Background

- Began playing golf around the age of six.
- Finished T44 in the Boys 15-18 Division of the 2017 Junior World Championships contested at Torrey Pines (South) Golf Course.
- Earned notable victories at the 2018 Australian Men's Amateur Championship and 2018 Asian Games.
- Amid his reign as the No. 1-ranked player in the World Amateur Golf Ranking, won the 2021 Japan Amateur Championship (in July), became the fifth amateur to win a Japan Golf Tour event at the 2021 Panasonic Open (in September), and won the 2021 Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship (in November).
- With his victory at the 2021 Panasonic Open, followed Massy Kuramoto (1980), Ryo Ishikawa (2007), Hideki Matsuyama (2011), and Takumi Kanaya (2019) as the fifth amateur to win a Japan Golf Tour event. A year after his victory, Nakajima made his professional debut at the 2022 Panasonic Open.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Fan of the Los Angeles Angels (MLB baseball).

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Cites fellow Japanese professional golfers Hideki Matsuyama and Takumi Kanaya as significant influences. In November 2020, Nakajima followed Matsuyama (August 2012) and Kanaya (August 2019) as the third Japanese player in history to reach No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking. All three are past champions of the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship -- Matsuyama (2010, 2011), Kanaya (2018), Nakajima (2021). As professionals, the trio have all finished atop the Japan Golf Tour Money Rankings -- Matsuyama (2013), Nakajima (2023), Kanaya (2024).
- Nakajima and Takumi Kanaya (alongside two other teammates) led Japan to a team gold medal at the 2018 Asian Games. The two also represented Japan at the 2018 World Amateur Team Championship (also known as the Eisenhower Trophy).
- Represented Team International at the 2019 Arnold Palmer Cup; his teammates included PGA TOUR winner Kevin Yu, Matti Schmid, and fellow Japan native Takumi Kanaya.
- Watched Collin Morikawa's victory speech at the 2021 Open Championship and said, "I hope to one day become a player that can deliver a speech like that."

Other

- Made his PGA TOUR debut via a sponsor exemption while still an amateur at the 2021 ZOZO Championship (finished T28), contested at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club in his native Japan.

Christiaan Bezuidenhout

Things To Know

- Name is pronounced "CRIST-ee-awn" "buh-ZAY-den-oat"
- Qualified for the 2024 TOUR Championship for the first time in what was his third full season on the PGA TOUR. Following a runner-up result in his first start of the season at The American Express, he ranked No. 8 in the FedExCup standings and never fell outside No. 30 at any point in the season.
- Made his second appearance as a captain's pick for the International Team at the 2024 Presidents Cup in Montreal, Canada. Previously a captain's pick for the International Team for the 2022 Presidents Cup in Charlotte, where countryman Trevor Immelman was the captain.
- Developed a stutter at age 2, which was originally attributed to accidentally drinking rat poison as a baby, but was later confirmed to be a genetic predisposition. Was diagnosed at age 4 with anxiety, leading to being depressed and introverted. Has actively worked to get more confident and comfortable speaking in front of people.
- Almost died at age two after mistakenly drinking rat poison from a soda can. For most of his life, thought that incident let to a stutter, until genetic testing revealed the stutter was genetics. "When I was a baby whilst playing with friends in the street I drank rat poison in a freak accident. I was two and a half years old and I was playing outside when I picked up a random soda bottle, I took a drink of it thinking it was indeed soda however it actually contained rat poison. It was a moment which would change my life forever. As a result of that moment of naivety I almost died. The hospital had to pump my whole stomach to get rid of all the poison, but the poison affected the whole nervous system in my body."
- Broke into the Official World Golf Ranking top 50 for the first time in February 2020 following his victory at the Dimension Data Pro-Am, the co-sanctioned event between the Sunshine Tour and the European Challenge Tour.
- Won the 2015 Order of Merit on the Big Easy Tour - the developmental tour for the Sunshine Tour. Later became the Sunshine Tour Rookie of the Year in 2017, and finished No. 1 in the 2020-21 Sunshine Tour Order of Merit.

Background

- Graduate of the Ernie Els Foundation in South Africa.
- Started playing golf at the age of four as he grew up next to Delmas Golf Club in his native South Africa.

Family

- Married to Kristen (Hart) Bezuidenhout. Couple tied the knot in South Africa in September 2021.
- Kristen and Christiaan share a son, John Christiaan (November 2023)

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Fan of Chelsea Football Club - Premier League (soccer/football).
- States that Sylvester Stallone is his favorite actor and was given the nickname of 'Rambo' when he was a child.

Charity

- Posted the following on Instagram in support of International Stuttering Awareness Day (October 22) "The way I speak does not define who I am. The way I speak does not need to be fixed. It TRULY is ok to stutter." First began stuttering at age 2. He has lived his whole life navigating the challenges of stuttering, with painful memories of pretending to laugh along with people who made fun of him for his speech, all the while internalizing embarrassment and shame. In September 2021, partnered with the Arthur M. Blank Center for Stuttering Education and Research in an effort to reach and inspire the stuttering community worldwide to triumph over adversity, to never let stuttering stop them from pursuing their personal and professional dreams, and to ensure that no child has to suffer the way he did.
- Has a set of Callaway wedges with "Dream Speak Live" on the club head to show his support for stuttering awareness.
- Also a supporter of Els for Autism.

Other

- Represented South Africa at Tokyo 2020 Olympic Men's Golf Competition, finishing T16, and again in the 2024 Paris Olympics, finishing 16th.
- In 2015, he was banned from golf after a drug test revealed that medication he was using for anxiety and his stammer included a substance which was illegal in the sport. His ban was reduced to nine months following a hearing which determined he had not used the substance for performance-enhancing purposes.