

Report (16 players)

Ludvig Åberg

Things To Know

- PRONUNCIATION: LOOD-vig OH-berg
- Following a 2023 season which featured his first PGA TOUR title, made consecutive appearances at the TOUR Championship in 2024 and 2025.
- Won the 2023 RSM Classic to become the first PGA TOUR University alum to win on the PGA TOUR; he turned professional following the NCAA Championship in May 2023 and became the first player to join the TOUR directly out of college by finishing No. 1 in the PGA TOUR University Ranking.
- Rose to No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking on September 21, 2022, and became the first Swedish male golfer to be the top-ranked amateur. Was No. 1 the last 10 weeks of his amateur career -- from March 29, 2023, through the NCAA Championship in May, after which he turned pro.
- Swept the three NCAA Division I national player of the year awards -- Jack Nicklaus Award, Ben Hogan Award, Fred Haskins Award -- in 2023, becoming the seventh player to sweep those honors since the creation of all three awards. Followed John Pak (2021), Sahith Theegala (2020), Patrick Rodgers (2014), Ryan Moore (2005), Bill Haas (2004), and Hunter Mahan (2003) as players to sweep the trio of awards.
- Won back-to-back Ben Hogan Awards in 2022 and 2023 as a junior and senior at Texas Tech University, following Arizona State's Jon Rahm (2015 and 2016) as the second multi-time winner of the prestigious award since its inception in 1990. The Ben Hogan Award -- which was given to a player exhibiting academic and college golf excellence for the first 12 years of its existence -- is one of the three national player of the year awards at the college level and annually recognizes the outstanding male amateur and collegiate golfer of the year.
- On his decision to leave Sweden and play college golf in the United States (four seasons at Texas Tech University from 2019-23), Åberg says, "My game improved hugely during my time in college. The courses in America are harder, as is the competition. The players are better. I've been exposed to difficult courses and tough players. It would have been impossible to simulate that in Sweden. It's a long winter. The courses are not in great shape much of the time, so it's hard to work on your game."
- Says of facing pressure and big moments on the golf course, "It's so much fun because it's so much tension and everyone is so stressed out, but if you just take a step back and look at it from the outside, it's hilarious. I just enjoy those kind of situations."

Background

- Born and raised in Eslov, Sweden (pronounced ES-lov), a town in the southern third of the country with a population of roughly 20,000. Among the town's top tourist attractions are a toy museum and a handful of castles and churches.
- Grew up playing Eslov Golf Club in his hometown; he returns there every time he is back home in Sweden. In the winter months, Åberg often carries a broom in his bag in order to sweep snow off a patch of grass to hit balls.
- Given the cool, snowy weather and significantly shortened window of daylight in the winter in Eslov, Åberg notes, "Summers... we just played, played, played, practiced, and all of a

sudden it was 10 p.m. and it was still bright. In the wintertime, with the limited daylight we have, you have to find ways to get creative." When Aberg is back in Sweden during the winter, he also trains in a small gymnasium at the national sports high school he attended in Helsingborg (roughly a 45-minute drive from his hometown), hitting balls off a mat and into netting while focusing on fundamentals and the line his ball starts on. There were also mats set up for chipping and putting, and a corner mat with a TrackMan.

- Applied to the national sports high school in Helsingborg -- which acts in conjunction with the Swedish national team -- upon entry to high school, but was denied the first year. After Aberg attended a traditional high school in his hometown for a year, he gained admission to the national sports high school in Helsingborg and moved there. The daily routine was practice in the morning, academic studies thereafter, and practice again in the evening.
- Credited the Swedish National Team for a large part of his development as an amateur player; he represented Sweden in a number of international amateur competitions, including the 2017 European Boys' Team Championship, where he was the individual co-medalist, the 2018 Toyota Junior Golf World Cup in Japan, where he finished third individually behind Danish twins Rasmus and Nicolai Hojgaard, three European Amateur Team Championships (2018, 2019, 2021), and the 2022 Eisenhower Trophy.
- Went 4-1 in match play as he helped Sweden win the 2019 European Team Amateur Championship in Hollviken, Sweden, which is roughly 40 miles from Aberg's hometown of Eslov. It was Sweden's third victory at the event, though the previous wins came in 1959 and 1961.
- Helped Sweden to a runner-up finish at the 2022 Eisenhower Trophy, contested at Le Golf National in France, which hosted the 2018 Ryder Cup and the 2024 Olympic Men's Golf Competition. Sweden finished second to Italy, but notably finished ahead of a third-place United States team featuring Michael Thorbjornsen, Gordon Sargent, and Austin Greaser.
- Played four seasons at Texas Tech University (2019-23) and departed as the most decorated player in program history, sweeping the three national player of the year awards in 2023, garnering three consecutive All-America First Team honors from 2021 thru 2023, earning Arnold Palmer Cup International Team selections in 2020 and 2022, and amassing eight individual wins in collegiate events. Under the direction of longtime head coach Greg Sands, Texas Tech frequently signed Scandinavian recruits, which influenced Aberg's decision to sign there.
- Eight collegiate wins -- two as a sophomore in 2020-21, two as a junior in 2021-22, four as a senior in 2022-23 -- included back-to-back Big 12 Conference Championships in 2022 and 2023, following Oklahoma State's Morgan Hoffmann (2009 and 2011) as the second multi-time medalist in the event's history.
- At the 2022 Big 12 Championship, Aberg finished two strokes ahead of runner-up Chris Gotterup -- winner of the 2022 Jack Nicklaus, Fred Haskins, and Big 12 Player of the Year awards -- at Whispering Pines Golf Club (Trinity, Texas). Aberg won the 2023 Big 12 Championship by eight strokes at Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, Kansas, totaling 15-under 265 to shatter the tournament 72-hole scoring record of 276 shared by Oklahoma State's Morgan Hoffmann (2009) and Texas' Cole Hammer (2019).
- While back home in Sweden amid the COVID-19 pandemic, won back-to-back starts in professional events on the Swedish Golf Tour, a circuit whose events are played on the Nordic Golf League, a tour recognized by the Official World Golf Ranking since July 2015. Aberg soared from No. 2,075 to No. 529 in the ranking following the pair of OWGR-sanctioned wins in July 2020.
- Additional amateur victories included the 2019 Sun Bowl Marathon All-America Golf Classic in El Paso, Texas (finished four strokes ahead of runner-up Matti Schmid), along with the 2021 Jones Cup Invitational at Ocean Forest Golf Club in Sea Island, Georgia, where he finished a stroke ahead of Cole Hammer, defending champion Davis Thompson, and Alex

Fitzpatrick (younger brother of 2022 U.S. Open winner Matt Fitzpatrick). Past winners of the Jones Cup include Akshay Bhatia (2019), Beau Hossler (2016), Corey Connors (2014), Justin Thomas (2012), and Luke List (2007).

- Greg Sands, a Golf Coaches Association of America Hall of Fame member and head coach at Texas Tech since summer of 2000, said of Aberg, "He's got a consistent personality. He's got a consistent work ethic. He's really unflappable on the golf course. That just speaks to his demeanor. Everything about him is just pretty consistent. I think that is what makes him special, not (making) things bigger than they are, kind of staying in the moment."

Family

- Parents, Johan Ungesson (father) and Mia Aberg (mother).
- Johan was a frequent recreational golfer and often brought Ludvig to the course around he was 4 or 5 years old. In the early days of Ludvig going to the course, there was typically a bribe of ice cream to either get him there, or to stay a little longer.
- Sister, Linnea, is his only sibling.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Grew up playing soccer, his first sports love, until shifting his focus to golf at age 13; he played central midfielder, a position he enjoyed because it was involved in so much of the action and gave him a sense of control. Favorite sports team is Liverpool, favorite athlete is Steven Gerrard, who played for Liverpool from 1998-2015 and served as captain for both Liverpool and England's National Team. Gerrard is considered one of the best midfielders of all-time.
- Despite Sweden's reputation for their love of candy, Ludvig enjoys candy but loves ice cream above all else. He also enjoys coffee.
- As an amateur, kept his own Strokes Gained stats and journaled after every tournament to reflect on his performance, noting everything from technique to emotions; he produced English and Swedish versions to share with his coaches in each country.
- Studied economics in high school in Sweden and later majored in marketing at Texas Tech University, where he attended the Rawls College of Business.
- When asked who he looked up to growing up, he mentioned Tiger Woods "because of what he did for the game, just the pure dominance that he had." He also mentioned while growing up in Sweden, Henrik Stenson was a big deal for him. "He had a lot of success both here on the DP World Tour and on the PGA TOUR. He's probably the one that I looked up to the most."
- During competition, loves seeing the leaderboards and knowing exactly where he stands and what he needs to do.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- When asked who is favorite player on TOUR: "I say Scottie, not only because of the way he plays golf and hits the golf ball, but the person he is and how he handles a lot of those things. I'm very -- I'm admiring him as a person because of those things, and I think that's pretty cool."
- From December 2023 through fall 2024, lived in Tallahassee with friend and fellow Swede/PGA TOUR winner Vincent Norrman and Vincent's girlfriend and LPGA player, Frida Kinhult. Later moved to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

- Represented the International Team at two victorious Arnold Palmer Cups in 2020 and 2022; his teammates in 2020 included fellow Swede Vincent Norrman, Germany's Matti Schmid and England's Alex Fitzpatrick.
- Teammates on the Swedish team which won the 2019 European Team Amateur Championship in Hollviken, Sweden (roughly 40 miles from Aberg's hometown of Eslov) included PGA TOUR winner Vincent Norrman and Korn Ferry Tour graduate Pontus Nyholm.

Other

- Represents The Bay Golf Club alongside teammates Wyndham Clark, Min Woo Lee, and Shane Lowry 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 (former co-owner of the Milwaukee Bucks) and Stephen Curry; Limited Partners include Andre Iguodala, Klay Thompson, Alex Albion, Leonardo Fioravanti, Kanoa Igarashi and John Stones.
- Made his PGA TOUR debut as an amateur and sponsor exemption at the 2021 Butterfield Bermuda Championship. He finished T51 on the day of his 22nd birthday (October 31st).
- Finished T7 at the 2018 Junior PLAYERS Championship, contested across three rounds at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.
- Finished atop the Swedish Teen Tour Order of Merit in 2016 to earn the Annika Sorenstam Trophy.
- Underwent knee surgery in early September 2024 to repair a torn medial meniscus in his left knee. Returned at the 2024 RSM Classic to defend his title.
- Featured in Season 3 (2024 season) of Netflix's Full Swing, an immersive documentary series which follows life on the PGA TOUR.

Xander Schauffele

Things To Know

- Earned his 10th PGA TOUR title at the 2025 Baycurrent Classic at Yokohama Country Club in Yokohama, Japan, making birdie on the 71st hole of regulation en route to a one-stroke victory over runner-up Max Greyserman. Marked Schauffele's first win since the 2024 Open Championship, as he missed two months at the beginning of the 2025 season with a rib injury (an intercostal strain and a cartilage tear). The victory in Japan had added significance for Schauffele given his familial ties to the country; his mother, Ping-Yi Chen, hails from Taiwan but grew up in Japan. Schauffele's maternal grandparents continue to live in Japan, and both were on hand to watch their grandson throughout tournament week at the 2025 Baycurrent Classic. Schauffele said following the win, "I've been coming (to Japan) since I was about nine years old to visit my grandparents. I fell in love with this country a long time ago. I can't wait to bring my son here when he's old enough to sort of understand and appreciate the culture here." Schauffele, who previously won the gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics (contested in 2021), added, "The ties run deep for the Schauffele family here in Japan."
- Represented the United States in his second Olympics, at the Paris 2024 Olympics, following his gold medal performance at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics (2021). Represented Team USA alongside Wyndham Clark, Collin Morikawa and eventual Gold Medal winner, Scottie Scheffler.
- Qualified for his fourth Presidents Cup and represented the United States at Royal Montreal in September 2024.
- Represents the New York Golf Club alongside teammates Matt Fitzpatrick, Cameron Young and Rickie Fowler in TGL presented by SoFi, a primetime golf league in partnership with the PGA TOUR which began in January 2025 on ESPN. The new golf league, which will complement the PGA TOUR season, was created by TMRW Sports whose co-founders include Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, and will fuse advanced technology, innovation and live action for ESPN's primetime television audience. New York Golf Club is owned by Steven A. Cohen and Cohen Private Ventures.

Background

- Born and raised in San Diego, Xander fixed his sights on golf at the age of 10. His father, a graduate of San Diego Golf Academy (now Golf Academy of America) encouraged his interest. He went on to play golf at Scripps Ranch High School before going on to play in college.
- Father Stefan put pressure on Xander early on, telling him "I can't pay for your college. I paid for your brother and I just don't have money left. You need to get a scholarship. You must perform." Under the pressure, Xander finished top three in each of his next three events against southern California's stiffest competition, earning a scholarship to Long Beach State.
- Transferred to San Diego State after one year at Long Beach State. The assistant coach, Evan Emerick, who spent 15 consecutive years with Aztecs in (formerly a player and now associate head coach) prior to becoming head coach at University of San Diego in June 2024, is a good family friend. Xander and his caddie, Austin Kaiser, were teammates for three years at San Diego State.
- Graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in Social Sciences in 2015.

Family

- Born in San Diego in 1993, he is the only natural-born United States citizen of his family of four. His father, Stefan, is French/German and grew up in Germany as an Olympic decathlete hopeful, before a car crash with a drunk driver caused loss of vision in his left eye, ending his Olympic dream at age 20. He moved to San Diego and met Xander's mother Ping Yi, who is from Taiwan and grew up in Japan. His older brother, Nico, was born in Stuttgart, Germany, but grew up in Tokyo. His wife, Maya, is half Japanese and grew up in Okinawa.
- Married longtime girlfriend Maya Lowe on July 5, 2021. The pair met in 2014 while attending colleges in the San Diego area - SDSU (Xander) and UC-San Diego (Maya). They married at their home in Las Vegas the week after the 2021 U.S. Open in an intimate ceremony with just family members, one officiant and the couple's two dogs dressed in formal wear. Schauffele would go on to win his sixth PGA TOUR title at the 2022 Travelers Championship on their one-year anniversary.
- Xander and Maya welcomed their first child, son Victor, in August 2025.
- Xander has been coached by his father since he was young and taught him to work hard and deal with adversity. Has learned discipline from his father and his Olympic training. They call it the "Schauffele Way."
- Xander's older brother Nico, three years his senior, helps manage Xander's social channels, his communications and his foundation work. Quote from Nico: "Do I remember him having talent? How could I not? He was so good at golf that I quit. Anything that involved a ball, anything round, he was instantly the best."
- Sporting blood runs in the family as two of Xander's great-grandfathers played soccer at the European premier level. Johann Hoffmann played for the Austrian national team and won multiple Austrian national titles. Besides playing soccer for the German Bundesliga club VFB Stuttgart, Richard Schauffele excelled in track and field, garnering over 40 titles in discus, javelin and shot put.
- He spent a couple of years in Hawaii when he was a baby as his father Stefan worked as an assistant club professional at Princeville on Kauai.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Xander has a strong work ethic and focuses on discipline, hard work and precision. He is a witty, smart, humble, understated guy. Prefers to spend time with his family and friends.
- Interests outside of golf include wine (Stefan is a connoisseur), fine food (his parents introduced him to a wide range of foods growing up) and fashion. He is starting a tradition of steak dinner on Wednesday of tournament weeks.
- Music interests/inclinations: Red Hot Chili Peppers, Coldplay, mood oriented, a bit of rap, rock. Enjoys good food, especially Asian food, Chinese, Japanese food.

Charity

- In March of 2021 the Xander Schauffele Foundation announced the start of construction on the sustainable Junior Club House at Goat Hill Park for the North County Junior Golf Association and junior caddy program.
- In support of the devastating fires in Lahaina in 2023, Xander made a \$400,000 donation to aid in relief. In addition to a financial contribution, Xander also gave his time at The Sentry hosting a Junior Golf Clinic for youth golfers impacted by the fires.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- His caddie Austin Kaiser has become a close friend and is close knit within the Schauffele circle. Kaiser and Schauffele were teammates on the golf team at San Diego State. "We have a perfect balance of professionalism and friendship," said Kaiser in an interview for Golf Monthly. "I don't think I'd work for anyone else. It's like being drafted by your favorite team growing up. You can't get that with anyone else, I think I have the best job in the world."
- He is part of the famous high school class of 2011 which includes Jordan Spieth, Daniel Berger, Justin Thomas and Emiliano Grillo.
- Schauffele and Patrick Cantlay have been paired together at both the Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup team events, becoming close friends. The two also teamed up to win the 2022 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.
- Quote from Cantlay about Xander: "I don't think either of us would have gone out of our way to be friends with each other, but spending time together (at match play events), we realized we really get along. X is incredibly smart, and he's incredibly conscientious. He's someone who probably brings out the best in me. He's more positive and he has a way of being lighter as opposed to me being serious. Yet, he's quiet and reserved so we have that bond too. He balances me out a little bit."

Other

- On Sunday, July 31, 2021, Schauffele won the gold medal at the Men's Olympic Golf competition with a final-round 4-under, 67 at Kasumigaseki Country Club. The victory came nearly four decades after the accident that ended his father Stefan's Olympic aspirations.
- Earned the Arnold Palmer Award (PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year) in 2017 after winning two titles that season (Greenbrier Classic, TOUR Championship).
- Xander was at Torrey Pines in 2008 to witness Tiger Woods' triumphant U.S. Open victory in person. "I was at the 18th hole, actually," he told Golf.com. Xander was there to witness Woods' 72nd-hole putt, standing on a tree stump back in the fairway as that fateful birdie putt found the edge of the hole.

Cameron Young

Things To Know

- Earned his first PGA TOUR title at the 2025 Wyndham Championship, posting a dominant six-stroke victory (the largest margin of victory at the event since 1961) to become the 1,000th unique winner in PGA TOUR history. Prior to his victory, Young earned seven runner-up finishes on TOUR, which were the most by a player without a TOUR victory since 1983. Young said of the win, "It feels like a long time coming. I felt like for the first year and a half that I was out here I had a chance to win every third week. It's not like a burden that I hadn't won. It was more just... when is it going to be my time here, because it just felt like a lot of those tournaments weren't. I started playing worse and the good finishes were less frequent, and I became happier about those good finishes. I kind of took for granted there a minute that I was just going to have a chance to win a lot, and it doesn't have to be the case all the time. I'm thankful I had the one I had today, and very thankful to have gotten it done."
- Followed Lanny Wadkins (1983), Scott Hoch (2001), and Webb Simpson (2011) as the fourth Wake Forest University alum to win the Wyndham Championship. Young was notably a Lanny Wadkins Scholarship recipient in his time at Wake Forest.
- After his 59 in the third round of the 2024 Travelers Championship, Young maintained his usual perspective on both his game and career, saying, "I think there are far more important things to me than what I do on the golf course, and at the same time, I also provide for my family with how I do on the golf course. There's a balance there that you have to be okay with, and there's days that are easier than others... and if you're not doing well, sometimes that can feel pretty bad. Thankful for what I do, and there are more important things to me. A great day, but as long as everybody's not crying at home, I'm okay out here."
- Featured on the cover of Golf Digest in May 2023. Coverage centered around Young's driving power, including a swing analyzation from one of golf's foremost biomechanists, who described Young's powerful backswing as the "perfect, athletic, coiling movement" and, despite being unaware of the fact Young was a talented junior hockey player, noted that "to reach this level, he had to train on slippery or unstable surfaces or play field or ice hockey... that swing makes me think about the fundamentals of a hockey swing adapted to golf." The biomechanist also made a comparison between Young's backswing and a skater, noting "he's coiling in control, like a skater preparing to tighten the arms to turn faster and jump."
- On what was labeled his "resting grump face" during competition, Young said in the Golf Digest cover story, "People think I'm more upset than I am. I don't smile a ton on the golf course, but that's just my way of keeping myself in a mental headspace where I can do my job. I love golf, and I love playing competitively, but it is a job, and I take it seriously." Will Zalatoris, a teammate of Young's at Wake Forest, added, "He's the grumpiest nicest person I have ever met. He's got a heart of gold--one of my favorite people in the world."
- Says his ideal professional golf group would be fellow Wake Forest University alum Arnold Palmer, because he never had the chance to meet Mr. Palmer, Jack Nicklaus "in his heyday" and Lee Trevino, because he's spent some time with him and finds him hilarious.
- Represents the New York Golf Club alongside teammates Matt Fitzpatrick, Xander Schauffele and Rickie Fowler in TGL presented by SoFi, a primetime golf league in partnership with the PGA TOUR which debuted in January 2025 on ESPN. The new golf league was created by TMRW Sports whose co-founders include Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, and fuses advanced technology, innovation and live action for ESPN's primetime television audience. New York Golf Club is owned by Steven A. Cohen and Cohen Private Ventures.

Background

- He was swinging golf clubs as soon as he could stand, but gave the game up at age 4 for roughly two years before returning to it. His father, David, said, "When he couldn't make the ball go far and high like my wife and I, he would get mad. I had to practice and (his mom) Barb wanted to play, so he would have to come out with us, but he would throw rocks or chase frogs."
- Also played hockey and baseball (according to his father, David, Cameron's throwing power was impressive) growing up, but both fell into the background after Cameron made the decision to take golf seriously as a teenager. Cameron dedicated himself to golf because, "I got to know the other top kids that age who played, and I found I took a lot of pleasure in beating them."
- Lived in Garrison, New York, until he was 13 or 14, then moved to Scarborough and onto the property at Sleepy Hollow Country Club.
- Of playing Sleepy Hollow Country Club in his formative golf years, Young says, "If you went and played the golf course, you would understand why I do a lot of what I do. The fairways are pretty wide. A lot of the up-and-downs and putts are tricky, and I'm typically pretty good chipping and lag putting. Growing up on greens like that... I think it just trains your mind to just see some higher lines."
- Was a dominant figure on the Metropolitan Golf Association circuit as an amateur, notably becoming the youngest winner of the Westchester Amateur Championship at age 14 (he won in 2011, and cited it as one of his favorite victories because it was the first one against players who weren't his age), the youngest winner of the Ike Championship (he won as an 18-year-old in 2015, then repeated as champion in 2016), and the first amateur to win the New York State Open in 2017.
- Won the 2017 New York State Open -- contested at the Bethpage State Park Black Course -- and became the first amateur winner in the event's history; he defeated Chris DeForest on the second playoff hole, but could not accept the top prize of \$17,500. Cameron said of the money, "Hopefully that check will be a lot bigger someday."
- Played four seasons at Wake Forest (2015-19) as a Lanny Wadkins Scholarship recipient, winning medalist honors at five events (three as a senior in spring 2019, and two as a freshman in fall 2015). He was a 2019 All-America Second Team selection as a senior, and a three-time All-Atlantic Coast Conference selection (2017-19). In program records dating to 1981, his career scoring average of 71.61 ranked third in school history behind Will Zalatoris and Bill Haas.
- Earned his PGA TOUR card by finishing 19th on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Points List (top 25 earned TOUR cards for 2021-22 season), after beginning the season with no Korn Ferry Tour status. He Monday qualified into the 2020 Pinnacle Bank Championship in Omaha, Nebraska and finished T11, then finished T14, T6, and T2 the next three weeks to earn Special Temporary Membership. He received his PGA TOUR card at the 2021 Pinnacle Bank Championship, the 43rd and final regular season event of the Korn Ferry Tour's 2020-21 combined regular season. "Playing in those Monday qualifiers was my plan B for the summer," said Young, who had previously earned fully exempt status for the 2020 PGA TOUR Canada season which was eventually canceled.
- Initially wanted to skip the Korn Ferry Tour Monday qualifier which kickstarted his run to Special Temporary Membership (held July 27, 2020 at Bent Tree Golf Club in Council Bluffs, Iowa), saying, "I was fed up with playing really well and getting nothing for it." His wife, Kelsey, and father, David, convinced him to enter since there was a month until the next Monday qualifier. He begrudgingly packed, headed to the qualifier and told Kelsey he'd see her in 36 hours. He slept through his alarm and arrived 25 minutes before his tee time, shot an 8-under 64 for medalist honors, and began a run of four consecutive top-25s which led to Special Temporary Membership and kept him on the road for six weeks.

- Received the Arnold Palmer Award for being voted (by the PGA TOUR's membership) 2021-22 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year off the strength of five runner-up finishes and a Presidents Cup appearance. Young, who like Arnold Palmer is a Wake Forest alum, followed college teammate Will Zalatoris as the second consecutive (and all time) Demon Deacon to win the Arnold Palmer Award. Young said upon receiving the award, "It's very special. I know the namesake, Arnold Palmer, was a giant in the game of golf... just to be related to that in some small way is very cool. It's voted by my peers, so it's a huge honor to be thought of in that way."
- Represented the United States as a captain's pick at the 2022 Presidents Cup, where he was one of 14 players (and one of six Americans) who made their Presidents Cup debut. At 25 years and 4 months of age, he was the youngest member of the United States team and third-youngest member of either team (only older than Tom Kim and Sungjae Im). Young was the youngest American to play in a Presidents Cup since 2017, when Daniel Berger, Justin Thomas, and Jordan Spieth all played as 24-year-olds.

Family

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

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

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

Charity

- Established the Cameron Young/Justin Thomas South Florida PGA Junior Tour Challenge Cup, a Ryder Cup-style event set to be played for the first time in winter 2026. The event will feature two teams of 12 players each (eight boys, four girls) at Emerald Dunes Club in West Palm Beach, Florida. Young said of establishing the event, "Both Justin and I are sons of PGA of America Professionals, so it's really important for us to give back to a new generation of kids."

Inner Circle/Special Connections

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

- Played with Alex Fitzpatrick, younger brother of Matt Fitzpatrick, for the 2018-19 season at Wake Forest. Cameron was a senior, while Alex was a freshman.

Other

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

Corey Connors

Things To Know

- One of 16 members of the Player Advisory Council (PAC) for 2026; he previously served on the PAC in 2023. The PAC serves as a consulting body which vets and recommends changes to the PGA TOUR Policy Board on behalf of the membership.
- Selected for the International Team for the 2024 Presidents Cup at The Royal Montreal Golf Club, rounding out the trio of Canadians (Taylor Pendrith, Mackenzie Hughes) chosen by Captain Mike Weir. Connors previously made his Presidents Cup International Team debut in 2022.
- Represented Team Canada for the second time as an Olympian alongside Nick Taylor at the 2024 Olympic Men's Golf Competition in Paris. Previously made his Olympic debut at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics (played in 2021) alongside longtime friend Mackenzie Hughes.
- Won the 2019 Valero Texas Open by two strokes over Charley Hoffman, earning his first PGA TOUR title and the final place in the 2019 Masters Tournament. Due to his conditional status, Connors had to play in the Monday qualifier, where he earned the final spot via a six-man playoff. Connors became the first Monday qualifier to win on the PGA TOUR since Arjun Atwal at the 2010 Wyndham Championship. Four years later, Connors won his second PGA TOUR title at the 2023 Valero Texas Open.
- Connors' father, Mike, first brought him to the golf course when he was 2 years old. Mike remembers Corey holding a celery stalk with a putting grip at age 4. A few years later, Corey was setting up a "golf course" around the house - into a roof gutter, around the swing set, to a flower pot, etc.
- It wasn't until Corey met Canadian golf legend Moe Norman that he decided to focus solely on golf. At the age of 12, while putting at his home course, Listowel Golf Club (west of Toronto), Corey caught the attention of Norman, who was in town for an event. After some time with Corey, Norman gifted him a driver, which he later had customized and named "Moe." When Corey told Norman he had to leave the course to go to his swimming lessons, Norman told him, "There's no money in swimming. Golf's where the money is." A few weeks later, Corey won a national championship in the 13-and-under age group using the driver. His thank you letter to Norman went unanswered, as Norman died a few months later at age 75. "I didn't know much about him but I've learned a lot since," said Connors of Norman. "He was unlike anybody else. He was so unique and so successful. It's pretty cool that he's a fellow Canadian, that he's from near where I'm from, and that he played at the Masters."
- As quoted to Adam Stanley/Toronto Star, Connors has a golf swing that is the envy of many. Collin Morikawa: "It's so solid. He stripes the ball, and he controls it really well. His game is just impressive and it's always fun to watch." Adam Long: "I think the most impressive part about it is the tempo. It's the same every single time." Joel Dahmen: "It's so silky and fluid. There's no wasted motion." Taylor Pendrith: "I just try to do the Corey Connors' tempo, because it's perfect."

Background

- Shared individual medalist honors at the 2010 Toyota Junior Golf World Cup in Japan. The Canadian team also featured future PGA TOUR winner Adam Svensson, Albin Choi, and Richard Jung.
- Reached the semifinals of the 2013 U.S. Amateur Championship at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts. Notably defeated Bryson DeChambeau (Round of 32) and Patrick Rodgers (Round of 16) before he fell to eventual champion Matt Fitzpatrick in the semifinals.

- Runner-up finisher at the 2014 U.S. Amateur Championship at Atlanta Athletic Club. Path to the championship match included victories over Scottie Scheffler (Round of 64), Jon Rahm (Round of 16), and Denny McCarthy (Semifinals). Fell to Gunn Yang, 2 and 1, in the 36-hole final.
- Played four seasons at Kent State University (2010-14), where he won five times individually, with the crown jewel being medalist honors at the 2012 Mid-American Conference Championship. Named the 2012 MAC Player of the Year, and was the 2014 MAC Co-Player of the Year with teammate Taylor Pendrith. Concluded his collegiate career with a 72.94 scoring average. Conners was inducted into the Kent State Athletics Hall of Fame (also known as the Varsity K Hall of Fame) in 2021.
- Alongside teammates and fellow Canadians Mackenzie Hughes and Taylor Pendrith, Conners led Kent State to the 2012 NCAA Championship at Riviera Country Club, where they defeated Florida State University (led by Daniel Berger and Brooks Koepka) in a playoff to earn the eighth and final spot in match play. Conners finished T4 individually -- the highest individual finish at an NCAA Championship in program history -- and earned Kent State's only win in match play as it fell to an Alabama team led by Justin Thomas. Other notables in the 2012 NCAA Championship field were Patrick Cantlay (T4), Thomas (T7), Max Homa (T9), Keith Mitchell (T9), and Patrick Rodgers (T9).
- Earned a degree in Actuarial Mathematics from Kent State University. He's exceptionally smart and excelled in the classroom, garnering two All-America Scholar honors. Corey on how he has used his degree on the course: "It helps with risk assessment and making good decisions. That mindset of that field translates to my golf game, and I think I'm good at that. I have an analytical mind, but I don't overdo it with the stats."
- At Kent State, he says he realized/worked on some weaknesses in his game that hadn't been exposed while playing junior golf (i.e. his short game "wasn't very tidy" and he also had to add length off the tee). Becoming a professional golfer was always a "pipe dream," and it wasn't until his second year at Kent State that he actually thought it was a possibility, which led Conners to ramp up his practice and efforts toward achieving the goal.
- The Canadian trio of Conners, Mackenzie Hughes, and Taylor Pendrith were inducted into the Kent State Athletics Hall of Fame (also known as the Varsity K Hall of Fame) in 2021. Other notable members of the Varsity K Hall of Fame include 2003 Open Championship winner Ben Curtis (inducted in 2006), former NFL wide receiver Julian Edelman (inducted 2015), four-time All-Pro First Team tight end Antonio Gates (inducted as a basketball player in 2010), and legendary football coaches Lou Holtz (inducted 1990) and Nick Saban (inducted 2015).

Family

- Parents are Mike (who was a territory manager for an industrial gas company) and Janet (who was a teacher). Corey has a twin sister, Nicole, and another sister, Sarah.
- Corey and his wife, Malory, have two children - a daughter, Reis (pronounced Reese), and a son, Tate.
- Corey's grandparents' house was across the street from his future wife, Malory. Corey and Malory eventually wed on October 20, 2018 in Kitchener, Ontario (45 minutes from their hometown of Listowel, a small town of 8,000) with 100 guests in attendance.
- Malory was a school teacher in Listowel before moving to Florida. Malory announced the engagement in the most golf way possible, as she posted a photo of a wedding ring on a golf ball on February 15, 2018.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Enjoys boating and fishing with friends when back home in Jupiter, Florida.
- Crossed an item off of his bucket list when he attended the Kentucky Derby in 2019 with his wife, Malory.
- Loves wine (friends call him a wine connoisseur); he took a wine appreciation course during his time at Kent State University.
- Golf was not Corey's only passion while growing up; he also played ice hockey at a competitive level (favorite NHL team is Toronto Maple Leafs), badminton and took swimming lessons. He was a member of his high school hockey team that won a Provincial Hockey Championship.
- From friend Mackenzie Hughes: "Corey sleeps more than anyone I have met. He can go to bed at 8 p.m., wake up, go practice, come home for a two-hour nap and then right back to bed at 8 p.m. Very jealous of his sleep schedule."

Charity

- The Connors started the Corey and Malory Connors Foundation. They want to focus on helping underprivileged children through sports and education. Their efforts have already supported other PGA TOUR members' foundations such as Ben Curtis and Camilo Villegas.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Best friend is fellow PGA TOUR winner Taylor Pendrith. Corey and Taylor were teammates on the Golf Canada Team, as well as at Kent State University. They were the best man in each other's weddings (Corey was married in October 2018, Taylor in October 2021), and their wives were in each other's weddings as well (Malory Connors and Meg Pendrith). They all live in the same neighborhood in Florida, and Taylor previously spent time living with the Connors as he pursued PGA TOUR membership in the late 2010s / early 2020s.
- Corey is very close with his fellow players who rose to prominence while competing for the Canadian National Team, including Mackenzie Hughes, Adam Svensson, and Nick Taylor -- all of whom are PGA TOUR winners. The 'Dragons' all have great chemistry together and are constantly interacting with and encouraging each other on social media.
- Corey and his wife, Malory, are close friends with fellow TOUR pro Adam Long, and his wife, Emily. Corey does most of the cooking when the four are in town; Long says Connors is almost as good a chef as he is a golfer. Mackenzie Hughes says Corey is a great cook "partly because he loves to eat. He can eat more than anyone I've ever seen."
- Helen Ross wrote a great piece on the friendship between Connors and Mackenzie Hughes. The two grew up 75 miles from each other, idolizing Mike Weir (and Tiger Woods, of course). They were members of the Canadian National Team, teammates at Kent State University, and represented Canada in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics (played in 2021). The story is full of great quotes from the two of them, as well as photos from their friendship, and a painting of the two of them as children that Connors' grandmother had commissioned. Connors said, "We have a lot in common, both humble beginnings, working hard at kind of a local golf course, developing our games, playing in junior tournaments and being on the national team together. We're very similar in our work ethic, in our preparation, our thinking about the game. We've just shared so many experiences together, have so much in common with our progress through the game."
- Represented Canada alongside Mackenzie Hughes, Taylor Pendrith, and Adam Svensson at the 2012 and 2014 World Amateur Team Championships. In 2014, the team of Connors, Pendrith, and Svensson finished second to the United States, who won the Eisenhower Trophy with a team of Bryson DeChambeau, Beau Hossler, and Denny McCarthy.

- Played under legendary head coach Herb Page for all four seasons at Kent State University (2010-14). A native of Markham, Ontario, Page became the first coach inducted into the "Builder" category of the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame, with his induction taking place during RBC Hall of Fame Day at the 2019 RBC Canadian Open. Page served as head coach for the Kent State men's golf program for 42 seasons (fall of 1977 through summer 2019) and was instrumental in the launch of the women's golf program, which played its first season in 1998-99 (Page served one season as head coach in 2012-13). Page's teams were frequently stocked with Canadians, including Connors (2010-14) and fellow future PGA TOUR winners Mackenzie Hughes (2008-12) and Taylor Pendrith (2010-14). Another notable player in Page's tenure at Kent State was Ben Curtis (1996-2000), who won the 2003 Open Championship en route to 2003 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year honors. Under Page, the men's program won 23 Mid-American Conference Championships and made 17 NCAA Championship appearances.
- Prior to his coaching career, Page was a three-sport athlete at Kent State, earning eight varsity letters (four in golf, two in football, two in ice hockey) from 1970 through 1974. In football, Page was a placekicker for two famed Kent State teams -- the 1972 squad which won the program's first (and still the only) MAC Championship, and the 1973 team which won nine games (a school record until 2012). Page's teammates on the 1972 team included defensive back and future coaching icon Nick Saban, as well as Pro Football Hall of Fame linebacker Jack Lambert. Page was inducted into the Kent State Athletics Hall of Fame (also known as the Varsity K Hall of Fame) as a student-athlete in 1985, and again as a coach in 2019. Saban joined Page in the Varsity K Hall of Fame in 2015.

Other

- After turning pro in 2015, Corey took advantage of the PGA TOUR's qualifying system as much as possible, playing full schedules on both the PGA TOUR Canada and PGA TOUR Latinoamerica before making it to the Korn Ferry Tour in 2016. He played professional events in 18 different countries before qualifying for the PGA TOUR in 2017.

Justin Thomas

Things To Know

- Serving a third consecutive year (and eighth year overall) on the 16-member Player Advisory Council (PAC) for 2026; he previously served on the PAC for five consecutive years from 2017-21. The PAC serves as a consulting body which vets and recommends changes to the PGA TOUR Policy Board on behalf of the membership.
- Earned his 16th PGA TOUR title at the 2025 RBC Heritage, ending a winless drought which spanned 2 years, 10 months, 29 days (previous title came at the 2022 PGA Championship). Prior to the winless drought, had earned a PGA TOUR victory in seven consecutive seasons (2015-16 season through 2021-22 season).
- The former cover star of PGA TOUR 2K21 is once again featured in the latest release of the popular video game, PGA TOUR 2K25, one of two playable pros to have appeared in all three games.
- Welcomed daughter, Molly Grace, with wife Jill in November 2024.
- Became the ninth PGA Championship winner whose father was a PGA of America professional -- his 2017 victory at Quail Hollow Club was the first since Keegan Bradley in 2011. With his second title in the event in 2022 at Southern Hills, he joined Raymond Floyd as the only other player who was the son of a PGA professional to win multiple PGA titles (Floyd accomplished the feat in 1969, 1982). Father Mike was the longtime pro at Harmony Landing in Justin's hometown of Goshen, Kentucky; Late Grandfather Paul was the head professional at Zanesville Country Club, 50 miles east of Columbus, Ohio, for 26 years. Paul competed in the same events as Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Ben Hogan.
- Has developed a close friendship with Tiger Woods who he first met in 2015 on the range at THE PLAYERS Championship during his rookie season. The pair frequently practice together at home in South Florida but also hang out - with Thomas known for needling him - like how Thomas reminds him their age difference by recalling being seven years old in the gallery of the 2000 PGA Championship at Valhalla in his hometown as Woods won his fifth major. Justin and his father Mike played alongside Tiger and his son Charlie in the PNC Championship in 2020 (where the Thomas' won) 2021, 2022 and 2023, with Charlie referring to the Thomas' as family.
- Represents Atlanta Drive GC alongside teammates Patrick Cantlay, Billy Horschel, and Lucas Glover 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, which will complement the PGA TOUR season, was created by TMRW Sports whose co-founders include Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, and fuses advanced technology, innovation and live action for primetime television audiences. Atlanta Drive GC is part of Arthur M. Blank's AMB Sports and Entertainment (AMBSE) portfolio.

Family

- Grandfather, Paul, who was known as PT, passed away on February 6, 2021, the Saturday evening of the WM Phoenix Open. Paul attempted to play on the PGA TOUR in 1957 with little success; he qualified for the 1960 PGA Championship (Firestone Country Club) and 1961 PGA Championship (Olympia Fields). He also competed in the 1962 U.S. Open at Oakmont. After a 26-year career at Zanesville Country Club in Ohio, PT finished his career at Peek'n Peak Resort in New York prior to retirement.
- The 2021 PLAYERS Championship marked Thomas' first win since his grandfather's passing in February 2021. One of two tattoos is in honor of his grandfather - his signature on the inside

of his right upper arm - which he inked shortly before his grandfather passed. In his post-win interview at the 2021 PLAYERS, Thomas held back tears and said "I wish he could have been here."

- Father, Mike, second-oldest of four sons, followed his father into the club pro ranks. Mike is the only coach Justin has ever had. He retired after a long career as head pro at Harmony Landing Country Club in Goshen, Kentucky outside of Louisville where Thomas honed his skills at an early age. The pro shop has memorabilia from all three generations, including balls from each one of Thomas' wins, dating back to his early junior days.
- Mother, Jani, travels to most tournaments.
- Wife, Jillian Wisniewski (Wiz-new-ski), also from Kentucky, graduated from the University of Kentucky in May 2015 with a degree in journalism with an emphasis in broadcast. The couple got engaged in October 2021 and wed in early November 2022 in Franklin, Tennessee. Jordan Spieth served as his best man with fellow professionals Rickie Fowler and Bud Cauley also members of the wedding party. Entertainment host Jason Kennedy was the officiant. Thomas and Jillian live in Jupiter, Florida with their dog, Franklin.
- Welcomed daughter, Molly Grace, with wife Jill in November 2024.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- When going on "boys trips" with three / four of his close friends, who often want to just play golf, will bring a left-handed set of clubs to use throughout the trip. Has one friend in particular who hates losing to him playing left-handed, with Justin saying, "I have one friend who talks a lot of s***, and I just love beating him left-handed, because then he can't say anything. I remind him of that quite often." Has only played a couple 18-hole rounds left-handed but says he will typically shoot in the mid-40s for nine holes.
- Avid shoe collector. Also enjoys collecting / gifting Rolex watches, his sponsor, to mark special occasions / dates. He had a Rolex watch engraved with the date he first got to #1 in the Official World Golf Ranking (May 13, 2018).
- Grew up a Boston Red Sox fan thanks to his Uncle Bill (his mother, Jani's brother-in-law) who is from the area. Every birthday and Christmas he would give Justin Red Sox gear. His first Red Sox jersey was a David Ortiz jersey. All of his social handles, and email address, feature the number '34'. Threw out the first pitch at Fenway Park in 2018 ahead of his title defense at the Dell Technologies Championship, a former FedExCup Playoffs event.
- Fan of the Florida Panthers, the NHL team based in the Greater Miami area.
- Entered the golf course design business with Panther National, a luxury golf community in Palm Beach County, Florida. Thomas co-designed the property, the first new golf course in the area in nearly two decades, with Jack Nicklaus. The project broke ground on February 22, 2022 and officially opened on November 17, 2023. The opening featured a star-studded exhibition match with Rickie Fowler, Xander Schauffele, Morgan Hoffmann, Erik van Rooyen and Lexi Thompson.
- Featured in a spread "The Young Gentleman of Golf" in the Cigar Aficionado June 2022 issue. Said his foray into cigars came from his late grandfather Paul who always had one on him, and then later at Alabama; Every time the school beat Tennessee, it was tradition to light up a cigar after the game. Thomas said "we were fortunate that it's happened every single year." His cigar of choice: Montecristo No. 2.

Charity

- Launched the Justin Thomas Foundation in 2019 in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky with the mission to impact children in need, junior golf and military families, reflecting

altruistic aspirations of the Thomas family. The Foundation has made significant charitable contributions to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kentucky and The First Tee of Louisville.

- Since 2016, hosts the Justin Thomas Junior Championship, a 54-hole, stroke-play tournament on the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) schedule. The event is played at Harmony Landing Country Club, Thomas' home course where his father Mike served as head pro. Mike serves as tournament chairman of the event which raises money through a junior-am fundraising tournament for The Justin Thomas Foundation, and has endowed an ACE Grant college scholarship each year for a junior golfer from Kentucky, providing financial assistance for college. In 2023, Thomas announced a personal commitment of \$40K to provide a \$500 stipend to every player in the tournament field, making the tournament as accessible as possible. Thomas had an impressive junior career with the AJGA from 2006-10, where he won three times and was a two-time Rolex Junior All-American.
- After experiencing a skin cancer scare, has been very vocal about protecting your skin and wearing sunscreen. Debuted his own sunscreen line called "Wear SPF" in April 2022 with a portion of proceeds from every sale of WearSPF going directly to the Justin Thomas Foundation.
- In December 2025, donated \$1 million to his alma mater, the University of Alabama, to be directed to the men's and women's golf facility, the Crimson Reserve. Thomas was a standout student-athlete from 2011-13.
- Established the Cameron Young/Justin Thomas South Florida PGA Junior Tour Challenge Cup, a Ryder Cup-style event set to be played for the first time in winter 2026. The event will feature two teams of 12 players each (eight boys, four girls) at Emerald Dunes Club in West Palm Beach, Florida. Thomas said of establishing the event, "Cameron and I had such a great partnership together at the (2025) Ryder Cup, and we looked at what we could do with this incredible opportunity through the PGA of America. With both of us having family associated with the PGA of America, this runs in our blood. I'm excited Cameron and I can do this together."

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- After parting ways with longtime caddie, Jimmy Johnson, following the Ryder Cup in September 2021, Thomas lured Jim "Bones" Mackay back to caddying after a successful first foray into TV broadcasting with NBC/Golf Channel. The pair would remain a partnership until the 2024 Valspar Championship, with their split announced ahead of the 2024 Masters Tournament. Prior to their partnership, Bones had previously filled in for Thomas after Johnson had some health issues, first in 2018, and most notably winning the 2020 WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational together. The 2022 PGA Championship marked their first win as an official player-caddie partnership and they were together for the 2022 Presidents Cup and 2023 Ryder Cup.
- Thomas knew Michael Jordan long before they were both members at The Bears Club or at Jordan's private club, The Grove XXIII in South Florida. He first met MJ as a teenager in Kentucky. Every year, MJ and a group of friends would play Harmony Landing (where Mike Thomas was head pro) before the Kentucky Derby. Thomas would caddie for the group as early as 13, and finally got a chance to play with MJ years later (playing from the same tees).
- Thomas is very close with former Alabama football coach Nick Saban. During the media day for the 2022 PLAYERS Championship, Saban surprised Justin on the 16th tee at TPC Sawgrass and the pair played three holes together just before the 2022 PLAYERS Championship.
- Made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2009 Wyndham Championship at the age of 16 where he shot a 65 in the first round and made the 36-hole cut, finishing T78. Thomas earned the spot in the field after winning an AJGA tournament at Sedgfield (one of three AJGA titles in his

junior career). Thomas' dad, Mike, caddied for him. Thomas next TOUR start would come at the 2012 Greenbrier Classic where he finished T46 as an amateur.

- Thomas won the 2009 FootJoy Invitational, a premier AJGA event conducted at Sedgefield that awarded the winner an exemption into the PGA TOUR's Wyndham Championship from 2008-2012. He entered the final round three strokes behind 54-hole co-leader Jordan Spieth and posted seven birdies in the final round to win by two shots over Anthony Paolucci and future college teammate and close friend Tom Lovelady. That field also included future PGA TOUR players Richy Werenski (5th), Emiliano Grillo, Kramer Hickok, Tyler McCumber, Michael Kim, Seth Reeves, Austin Cook, Byeong Hun An and Keith Mitchell.
- In November 2023, teamed up with Spanish racing driver Carlos Sainz Jr. to win the Netflix Cup, the first live sports event on Netflix. The match play event played at the Wynn Golf Club in Las Vegas paired PGA TOUR pros - and stars of Netflix's "Full Swing" - with Formula 1 racers featured on Netflix's 'Drive to Survive.' In addition to Thomas, Rickie Fowler, Tony Finau and Max Homa participated.

Other

- Made professional debut in 2013 at St. Andrews at the age of 20 years, 4 months and 28 days via the Alfred Dunhill Links on the DP World Tour (September 26-29, 2013). The event has a three course rotation (Angus Scotland and Kingsbarns Golf Links), Thomas' first round was at St. Andrews where he carded a 66. Missed the cut after rounds of 73-71. The event, won by David Howell in a playoff over Peter Uihlein, included top-10 finishers Shane Lowry (T3), Tommy Fleetwood (5). Professional start came weeks after the 2013 Walker Cup where Thomas played alongside Max Homa as the U.S. defeated Team GB&I, which included Matt Fitzpatrick.
- At the 2013 Palmer Cup at Wilmington Country Club in Delaware, met Arnold Palmer who recalled playing with Thomas' grandfather, Paul Thomas, on the PGA TOUR in the late 1950s, early 60s. It was at the Palmer Cup that Thomas was taught by Mr. Palmer to always make his autograph legible.
- In July 2022, was named Best Male Golfer by the ESPY Awards for the first time, two months after capturing his second major victory at the PGA Championship at Southern Hills. Won the accolade over Scottie Scheffler, Cameron Smith and Jon Rahm. Tiger Woods has won the award a record seven times, most recently in 2013.
- Called representing the U.S. in the Olympic Games in Tokyo 2020 "the coolest thing I've ever been a part of."
- Has represented the United States in three Presidents Cups (2017, 2019, 2022) and three Ryder Cups (2018, 2021, 2023), most recently at the 2023 Ryder Cup at Marco Simone Golf & Country Club in Rome, Italy, where he was one of six Captain's Picks for the U.S. team.
- Honored May 6, 2024 in Louisville, Kentucky as a Kentucky Colonel by Governor Andy Beshear, and Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg. May 6th has been proclaimed "Justin Thomas Day" in Louisville, KY. A Hometown Hero banner was also unveiled, which is one in a series of public displays for Louisville's native sons and daughters like Muhammad Ali, Jack Harlow and more.

Sepp Straka

Things To Know

- Earned his fourth PGA TOUR title (and second win of the 2025 season) at the 2025 Truist Championship, contested at The Philadelphia Cricket Club. Straka's win in Philadelphia -- which he referred to as the biggest win in his career -- came roughly four months after his third career TOUR title at the 2025 American Express. Straka's victory also vaulted him into the top 10 of the Official World Golf Ranking for the first time in his career.
- Proud to have made the TOUR Championship in each of the last three seasons, in part because of the tournament's partnership with Coca Cola. Will bring Diet Coke to tournaments if he knows they will only provide Pepsi. After Sepp lost in a playoff to Will Zalatoris at the 2022 FedEx St. Jude Championship, his wife, Paige, joked on Instagram, "I'm not saying he would have won if this were a Coke week, but I'm also not NOT saying it."
- Earned his first PGA TOUR title at the 2022 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, becoming the first Austrian and the 14th player from the University of Georgia to win on TOUR. Wife, Paige, flew in Sunday morning at 5:30 a.m. to surprise him, after spending Saturday night at her father's surprise 60th birthday party.
- Was born in Austria and lived in Vienna until he was 14, when his family moved to Valdosta, Georgia. Upon earning PGA TOUR membership via the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour season, became the first TOUR member from Austria.
- Played five seasons (2011-16 -- redshirted the 2013-14 season) at the University of Georgia, and remains a huge Georgia Bulldogs fan. Sepp, who was a team co-captain as a fifth-year senior, says of his time at Georgia, "I definitely had some talent... but very rough around the edges. I just felt like I kept getting better. Had a quick bout with the chipping yips my junior year and redshirted, but other than that, I felt like I just kept getting better."
- Was so discouraged by his rough start to the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour season that by July, he had already registered for Q-School again. He won the following week at the AdventHealth Championship, and eventually secured his PGA TOUR card through Korn Ferry Tour Finals with a T3 finish at the season-ending Korn Ferry Tour Championship.
- Often plays Yahtzee! with the players he is staying with on the road, including Chris Kirk, Brendon Todd and Denny McCarthy.

Background

- Sepp is a nickname for Josef.

Family

- Sepp and his wife, Paige, welcomed their first child (son, Leo) just before Christmas in December 2023. Sepp left the hospital wearing a Diet Coke hat. The 2024 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, which Sepp won in 2022, was Leo's first trip to a tournament. Second son, Thomas, was born prematurely in August 2025. Straka withdrew from the 2025 BMW Championship due to a "private family matter" and was the only European Ryder Cup team member not to compete at the BMW PGA Championship, which allowed him to dedicate time at home to his family.
- Married Paige Dean (an Auburn graduate) the weekend before the start of the new season. The couple got engaged in December 2020 and were married on September 11, 2021 at Shoal Creek in Alabama. Georgia friends in attendance included UGA head men's golf coach Chris Haack, Keith Mitchell and Chris Kirk. Paige was certain she'd marry an Auburn man, but

met Sepp at a bar in Auburn in November 2017 only to learn he was a UGA fan and the rest was history!

- His mother, Mary, first traveled to Austria to be with her boyfriend, who was designing a golf course in Salzburg. After they broke up, Mary remained in the country and began working in a golf shop, where she one day sold a glove to Peter, Sepp's father.
- Credits brother, Sam, with getting him into golf, despite both parents being big fans of the sport. Both boys grew up playing soccer (Sam was a forward and Sepp a goalie), but one day, after they attended a week-long junior golf camp, Sam told Sepp they were quitting the soccer team and picking up golf. The twins went on to play at the University of Georgia together, though Sam was the more heavily recruited player of the two. Sam currently sells real estate in Valdosta.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Grew up watching elite Austrian alpine ski racing, with two-time 1998 Olympics gold medalist Hermann Maier being his favorite. His mother's favorite was 1976 Olympics gold medalist Franz Klammer, who was also a talented golfer. Straka is also quick to say, "I was not a very talented skier. I grew up in Vienna, so not a whole lot of skiing there."

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Teammates at University of Georgia included his twin brother, Sam (who was actually more heavily recruited than Sepp), PGA TOUR winner Keith Mitchell, Joey Garber and Greyson Sigg.
- Shane Lowry is one of his favorite players to play with on TOUR. Sepp says of Lowry, "He's a fiery competitor but a really good friend as well."

Other

- Two-time Olympian who represented Austria at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo (T10) and 2024 Olympic Games in Paris (T35).

Lee Hodges

Things To Know

- Missed a month of the 2025 season with a broken rib; he sustained the injury the Monday of tournament week for the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches and returned to action at the Texas Children's Houston Open. Hodges said, "It's the first injury I've ever dealt with in my entire life. I was running up some stairs, and I tripped and fell. I've gone up the stairs a million times running. There was only three of them, so I was going to jump all the way to the top, and I caught the bottom one."
- Won his first PGA TOUR title at the 2023 3M Open, where he won by seven strokes and completed a wire-to-wire victory. Wife, Savannah, was on hand to witness the win, along with longtime University of Alabama men's golf head coach Jay Seawell (University of Alabama), who flew in Sunday morning to surprise him, and a "couple dozen" fans from Hodges' longtime hometown of Ardmore, Alabama. Seawell greeted Hodges with milkshakes on the 18th green, a tradition the coach shared with his team for tournament victories. Received a congratulatory phone call from longtime Alabama football coach Nick Saban, with Hodges noting he was more nervous to talk to Saban than he was during the final round
- In August 2024, became majority owner Canebrake Club, the golf course he grew up playing in his formative years. Hodges, who continues to reside in his childhood hometown of Ardmore, Alabama, has been very hands-on with several club matters, including oversight of significant course renovations.
- Grew up playing Canebrake Club in Athens, Alabama (just outside his hometown of Ardmore, Alabama). He said the course was easy but it taught him to make a lot of birdies. At the age of 14, he won the 2012 Canebrake Club Championship. Hodges remembers how, at the time, he thought the club title would be the highlight of his career. The success of Hodges and fellow PGA TOUR winner Nick Dunlap (another notable "alum" of Canebrake Club's junior golf program) continue to influence junior golfers at the club and in the area.
- Born in Huntsville, Alabama but grew up in nearby Ardmore, a small town roughly 25 miles northwest of Huntsville with a population of less than 2,000 people. The road through the middle of town is called Main Street, which is actually the state line between Tennessee and Alabama. There's a mayor of Ardmore, Tennessee, and a mayor of Ardmore, Alabama (Hodges' step-grandfather previously served as the mayor of Ardmore, Alabama).
- Began his college career at University of Alabama - Birmingham, where he was a two-time All-Conference USA selection (2015 and 2016) as well as 2015 Conference USA Freshman of the Year. Transferred to University of Alabama (2016-18) for his final two seasons, where his teammates included multi-time PGA TOUR winner Davis Riley (2016-18 -- two seasons) and Dru Love (2016-17 season), son of 21-time PGA TOUR winner Davis Love III.
- Credits each of his college coaches for helping to develop him differently as a player. Says Alan Murray (UAB) took him from a raw golfer and sharpened his skills, and Jay Seawell (Alabama) "really took me over the top" from a skill standpoint, reaching a level he never anticipated he could.

Background

- On growing up in Ardmore, Alabama: "I loved growing up there, loved going to school there. My mom and dad still live there. I'm super proud to be from there."
- Loved baseball growing up. Shared if he had been a bigger kid he probably would've never played golf, because he loved baseball so much and that's what all his friends played, but he didn't reach 5 feet until the seventh grade.

- His senior year at Ardmore High School, Hodges said in an interview with the local newspaper he wanted to win every tournament he played in. He won every tournament except for one (laughs about how he was beaten by "a kid who never broke par before and shot 6-under in a high school tournament to beat me by one."). He also won the Alabama 4A individual state title in 2014.
- Never thought about playing professional golf as a kid. His ultimate goal was to play in college.
- Dreamt of playing at University of Alabama, though head coach Jay Seawell initially passed on Hodges for the final available scholarship in his recruiting class. Hodges accepted a scholarship to UAB instead, though he transferred to Alabama after two seasons. Seawell says of passing on Hodges out of high school, "I was a fool. I wasn't smart enough the first time."
- Alongside fellow future PGA TOUR winner Davis Riley, helped Alabama to a runner-up finish at the 2018 NCAA Championship. The Crimson Tide were swept, 5-0, in the championship matches by an Oklahoma State team which featured future PGA TOUR winners Viktor Hovland, Austin Eckroat, and Matthew Wolff.
- Turned professional in 2018 and played a season on PGA TOUR Canada, followed by two seasons on the Korn Ferry Tour (2019, 2020-21). Finished No. 73 on the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Points List as a rookie, and earned his first PGA TOUR card via the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour season; he finished in the top 10 of the Points List (top 25 earned TOUR cards) for what was a two-year, 46-event season as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Family

- Wife, Savannah; the two are "the definition of high school sweethearts," according to Lee, and were married June 19, 2021.
- Dog: Cooper (westie)
- Cousin, Logan Stenberg, was the starting left guard at the University of Kentucky before being selected by the Detroit Lions in the fourth round of the 2020 NFL Draft.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Loves to fish and hunt (duck hunt) when he's not playing or practicing golf.
- An avid Alabama fan, even before he transferred to Tuscaloosa his junior year; his family were Alabama (football) season ticketholders, "ever since I could walk." After his maiden TOUR title at the 2023 3M Open, Hodges said, "I live and die by the Crimson Tide, especially on the football field. Wish I didn't some times. I've gotten better about letting it affect my mood, but I used to really let it affect me. I'm proud to be a Crimson Tide and I'm proud of going to the University of Alabama."
- Collects football and basketball cards with a close friend. Most valuable card he currently has is a Patrick Mahomes rookie card, and his favorite is a Luka Doncic rookie card. He started this hobby after trying to find something to do outside of fishing, hunting and golf.
- Loves to listen to music after growing up listening with his stepdad. He enjoys country and 80s music, especially 80s rock.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Played a lot of matches over the years at Greystone Country Club (Birmingham, Alabama) and Shoal Creek Club (Shoal Creek, Alabama) with the likes of Smylie Kaufman, Trey Mullinax, Robby Shelton, and Michael Johnson.

- Cody Reed - "Mr. Baseball" for the state of Alabama - was on his high school baseball team and in the same graduating class. Reed was chosen by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the second round of the 2014 MLB Draft and went on to play five seasons of the minor leagues (2015-19).

Jacob Bridgeman

Things To Know

- Earned his first PGA TOUR title at the 2026 Genesis Invitational, a one-stroke victory over Kurt Kitayama and Rory McIlroy, his playing partner in the final group of the final round. In his tournament debut and 66th career start on TOUR, built a six-stroke lead through 54 holes, one stroke shy of the tournament record for largest 54-hole lead (Arnold Palmer/1966). Became the first player since Pat Fitzsimons in 1975 to win The Genesis Invitational in their tournament debut. Said of being congratulated by tournament host Tiger Woods, "Knowing he was the one to be waiting to shake the winner's hand made it a little more nerve-racking, because when I was growing up, my youngest memory was watching him on TV. When he was in his prime, I was learning to talk and walk and play golf. I'm still kind of in awe of him."
- Earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time via the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour season, which was his first full season on the Korn Ferry Tour; he previously made eight starts on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2022 via PGA TOUR University performance benefits.
- After four seasons at Clemson University (2018-22), finished No. 2 in the PGA TOUR University Class of 2022, only trailing No. 1 Pierceson Coody from University of Texas.
- Grew up a Clemson fan and frequently attended Clemson football games; he had a number of family members attend Clemson, so he grew up around campus and said, "It was an obvious decision for me to go to Clemson, and then when I met the team, met the coaches, I fell in love with the program."
- Frequently checks leaderboards and rankings, saying, "I like to know where I am. I don't want any uncertainty. I like to know what I can do... I want to know what I have to do to get it done."

Background

- Born and raised in Inman, South Carolina, which is less than 15 miles northwest of Spartanburg. Jacob's parents still live in his childhood home in Inman.
- Played primarily golf and baseball until about age 12, when the conflicting swing styles led to him focus solely on golf. The decision came down to practice; he loved baseball, but hated baseball practice.
- Played four seasons at Clemson University (2018-22), winning five times individually, with the crown jewel being medalist honors at the 2022 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship en route to earning the 2022 ACC Player of the Year award. Also garnered All-America Second Team honors in 2021 and 2022, in addition to being the 2020-21 ACC Men's Golf Scholar-Athlete of the Year.
- Five career wins at Clemson tied a school record previously established by D.J. Trahan and Chris Patton.
- Represented the United States at the 2017 Junior Presidents Cup, 2018 Toyota Junior World Cup in Japan, and the 2021 Arnold Palmer Cup; he notably posted a 3-1 record at Arnold Palmer Cup, including a singles win over Alex Fitzpatrick, younger brother of U.S. Open champion Matt Fitzpatrick.
- Upset top-seeded Kelly Chinn to reach the Round of 16 at the 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship at Baltusrol.
- Finished sixth at the 2017 Junior PGA Championship, which was won by PGA TOUR winner Akshay Bhatia.

Family

- Jacob and his wife, Haley, grew up in the same hometown but didn't meet until they both attended Clemson. Jacob proposed in December 2024 and they got married in December 2025 in Greenville, South Carolina.
- Parents grew up in the greater Greenville, South Carolina area, specifically in the uniquely-named city of Travelers Rest.
- Mother, Angie Bailey, is a high school math teacher.
- Father owned a home inspection company in Spartanburg for many years, but sold the company in 2022. Currently installs electronic / motion-activated gates. Jacob says of his dad, "If anything were to ever break in our house, he would fix it that day."
- Has a sister who is three years older than him. Like Jacob, she also attended Clemson. Jacob says she is a talented musician, writer, and artist.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Bucket list includes deep sea fishing, and playing golf in Europe, particularly what he refers to as "true links golf."
- Cites fresh-water fishing as a hobby, and is learning how to fly fish.
- Enjoys exploring the cities he plays in when traveling on the road, mostly because he is not someone who likes to sit around a rental house all day.
- Likes playing pickleball.
- Watches pro sports but does not root for specific teams; he mostly just watches teams featuring former Clemson standouts.
- Big fan of country music singer Cody Johnson.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Grew up taking lessons from Tommy Biershenk, who held PGA TOUR membership for the 2012 season, and made 147 career starts on the Korn Ferry Tour from 1999 through 2013.
- Became close friends with Chris Gotterup during their time on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2023. Would stay in a house together most weeks on the road and continued the trend on the PGA TOUR.
- Frequent playing partners when at home include fellow Clemson University alums Ben Martin and Carson Young.
- Jordan Byrd, older brother of five-time PGA TOUR winner Jonathan Byrd, was the Clemson head coach in Bridgeman's final season with the program.
- Teammates at the 2021 Arnold Palmer Cup included Sam Bennett, Pierceson Coody, and Ricky Castillo (pronounced kuh-STILL-ee-oh).
- Maintains a friendship with Hunter Tyson, a former Clemson basketball player who was a second-round pick in the 2023 NBA Draft. Jacob and Hunter were at Clemson together from 2018 through 2022.

Maverick McNealy

Things To Know

- Served three years on the 16-member Player Advisory Council (PAC) in 2022, 2023, and 2025. McNealy and Keith Mitchell were elected Co-Chairmen of the PAC in 2025, and the two replaced Peter Malnati and Webb Simpson 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.
- Passed the necessary exams to receive his private pilot's license in 2023. Shortly thereafter, took an instrument-check ride, which certified him to fly solo through adverse weather conditions. McNealy said of his passion for aviation, "I was obsessed with airplanes at a very young age. There's pictures of me with little toy airplanes as soon as I could walk. I named our first cat airplane. It's my happy place. I don't think about anything else when I'm up there." McNealy also noted flying kept him sane while he missed roughly five months of the 2023 season with a shoulder injury. Dream plane is a Cirrus Vision Jet G2+.
- Started flying in 2022; he connected with two-time PGA TOUR winner George McNeill, who told McNealy he flew himself for nearly 20 years on TOUR.
- Born in Portola Valley, located on the San Francisco Peninsula. He grew up playing the Stanford Golf Course where he later played collegiate golf.
- Oldest of four brothers, who all played ice hockey for the San Jose Jr. Sharks (Maverick was a four-time captain) and all played competitive amateur golf. All four are named for American cars: Maverick, Dakota, Colt and Scout, because of their family's connection to Detroit. Maverick's grandfather, Raymond William McNealy Jr., was vice chairman of American Motors, which was headquartered in Detroit from the 1950s through 1970s.
- Writes down the details of every shot he hits on his pin sheet. Said he can go back to any pin sheet – which he saves and scans and has them all stored – and be able to remember every shot he's hit at every golf course.
- Since he turned professional, has a deal with his grandmother, Marm, (father, Scott's mom), that for every \$50,000 check he earns, he sends her flowers, and for top-10s she gets chocolates. He says its her "bragging rights around her retirement home." He calls her his biggest fan "I know that her watching my golf in a lot of ways keeps her going, gives her something to look forward to to the point where she won't let people talk to her when she's watching me play. It's pretty special." Marm notably attended the 2021 CJ CUP @ SUMMIT to watch him play for the very first time. She wore a hat that said 'team MAV.'
- Quotable: "The golf ball doesn't care who you are. You take full responsibility for every shot. If you hit a terrible one, you have to take ownership. Your caddy, coach, or even the cameraman who clicked a few seconds too early didn't hit that shot. You did. But if you hit a great one, you can take ownership of that too. Golf is the ultimate meritocracy and an exciting way for me to work hard and see what I can do -- because nothing in golf is ever given to you."

Background

- Represented the United States on two Walker Cup teams (former teammates include Cameron Champ and Collin Morikawa).

- Won the Ben Hogan, Fred Haskins and Jack Nicklaus awards as collegiate player of the year, the Mark McCormack Medal as the world's #1 amateur and the Byron Nelson award for golf, academics and community service.
- By the time he graduated, he shared Stanford's school wins record with Tiger Woods and Patrick Rodgers (11). In 2015 as a sophomore at Stanford, he won six titles and earned Player of the Year honors.
- Majored in management science and engineering at Stanford.
- Won the Mark H. McCormack Medal as the leading men's player in the 2016 World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR).
- Stanford head coach Conrad Ray, says that being a part of the Stanford golf program is like a slow-moving train. You get on for four years, then you get off; you have only that time to make your mark.
- Said, "Coach Ray took a huge chance on me. I was an unranked, unknown junior golfer, was "recruited" by only one other school, and was the last addition to the top-ranked recruiting class in the country. I was joining the team's stacked top five of Patrick Rodgers, Cameron Wilson, David Boote, Viraat Badhwar and Jim Liu, all of whom had impressive golf pedigrees."

Family

- Married wife, Maya, on December 6, 2023 in an intimate elopement overlooking Las Vegas with just their parents in attendance. Held a ceremony with friends and family a year later.
- Maverick and Maya welcomed first child, Adeline, in November 2025.
- Growing up, Maverick and his family spent most of their time together either on the golf course or at the dinner table.
- Father Scott McNealy is the former co-founder of Sun Microsystems, a company he sold in 2010 for \$7.4 billion. Maverick has always faced the perception that he's a silver spooner, but he and his three brothers were never raised as children of privilege. Maverick and his three brothers shared a bedroom - had 4 twin beds lined up. Scott has a rod he takes with him to every golf course to fish out balls from ponds. Maverick said his father never bought golf balls for any of them. The same rules applied for all of the boys: their parents would cover costs through college, and then three months of free room and board at home after graduation. But after that they were on their own.
- Maverick on being taught to respect the value of money: "My brothers and I never got an allowance, and we were told that once we graduated from college, we'd have one summer to find a job and then we'd be on our own....My dad would've made me pay rent to live at home after school--I'm not kidding!"
- On learning "discipline": "You'd think my dad is the intimidating one, but my mom was strict. "Good grades, good attitude, good effort" is her mantra. She always said I had to do my homework before I got to play sports. Bad grades meant taking away my golf and hockey gear."
- Maverick says of his father, "My dad was (and still is) my hero. And I always thought that if I could work half as hard as he did, and accomplish a fraction of the things he did, I could make the world a better place."
- At 5 years old, Maverick was with his father, Scott, while he played in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, and when he drained a long putt, the crowd went wild and it scared Maverick, so he ran and jumped in his father's arms.
- He first beat his dad at golf at the age of 12. Maverick shot 87, and Scott - who was just recovering from a broken leg - shot 89. Whenever one of his sons would beat him for the first time, Scott would lay down on the 18th green and have someone take a photo with their foot on Scott's stomach and their arms in the air.

- Maverick's grandfather, Raymond William McNealy Jr., was vice chairman of American Motors (hence, his four grandson's names), and an avid golfer who had 8 holes in one to his credit.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Considers himself an avid reader (audio books when he travels).
- Collects golf pencils and hotel room keys.
- Favorite basketball team: Dallas Mavericks
- Favorite music artist: Jason Aldean
- Vacations at Incline Village, Nevada, a place McNealy describes as "my favorite place in the world."

Charity

- Maverick has worked with Curriki, a non-profit created to make high-quality education free and available for everyone.

Other

- On his upbringing: "Since I was little, my parents have always told me 'to whom much is given, much is expected.' My background is not something I should run from, ignore, be embarrassed about, or fall back on. I have to work harder than everyone else to prove I earned my success -- that it wasn't given to me. I just wasn't sure if golf was the way for me to do this."
- On ice skating: "I think it's one of the best cross training you can do because it makes your hips stable and strong in every plane, every motion. There's a lot of rotational strength and stability. That's all fantastic for golf."
- On how often he hears Top Gun references: "I'd say more than a quarter of the people I meet for the first time reference "Top Gun."

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 (goes 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. Very close with his grandfather - he surprised him live on Golf Today telling him he was officially TOURBound for the 2026 PGA TOUR season. The moment was picked up by the Today Show for their "Morning Boost" segment.

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.

Michael Thorbjornsen

Things To Know

- Pronunciation: THOR-be-orn-son
- Finished No. 1 in the 2024 PGA TOUR University Ranking after four seasons at Stanford University (2021-24), following Texas Tech University's Ludvig Aberg (2023) as the second player in history to earn PGA TOUR membership via a No. 1 finish in PGA TOUR University. Thorbjornsen's No. 1 finish earned him TOUR membership for the remainder of the 2024 season and 2025 season.
- Has used a 10-finger grip nearly his entire career; he tried overlap, but it made him feel like he had "no control over the club," and when he tried interlock it hurt his knuckles.
- Earned the nickname of "Thunder Cub" while at IMG Academy; the coach there told Michael his last name translated to "Son of a Thunder Bear" and the nickname stuck. If you broke Thorbjornsen into individual parts and translated from Old Norse / Icelandic into modern Danish / Norwegian / Swedish, the meaning of Thor is thunder (from the name Thor, the hammer-wielding god in Norse mythology), the meaning of bjorn is bear, and sen translates to son.
- Moved to Jacksonville, Florida in the second half of 2024. He and close friend and former college teammate Karl Vilips moved into the same residential complex and are upstairs-downstairs neighbors.
- Growing up in Wellesley, Massachusetts, would hone his fundamentals and swing mechanics during the winter (just hitting into a net to focus on form, not ball flight), and play as much golf as possible in the spring and summer.
- Made the cut at the 2019 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach Golf Links at 17 years, 8 months, 29 days of age, becoming the second-youngest player to make the cut at a U.S. Open since World War II. At the time, the only other player under the age of 18 to make the cut at a U.S. Open since World War II was Beau Hossler (17 years, 3 months) in 2012. Thorbjornsen earned an exemption for the 2019 U.S. Open via his victory at the 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship at Baltusrol Golf Club, where he defeated Akshay Bhatia in the championship match. Thorbjornsen also qualified for the 2022 and 2023 U.S. Opens while still an amateur.
- Longtime Stanford men's golf head coach Conrad Ray, who coached PGA TOUR players Joseph Bramlett, Maverick McNealy, Patrick Rodgers, and Brandon Wu across more than 20 years at his alma mater, says of Thorbjornsen's driving prowess and athleticism, "He's an unbelievable athlete. He's not the longest player I've ever coached, but he's the highest combination of both length and accuracy. And that's special. You have to have some innate talent to do that at high speed. To me, that's his biggest strength. When he's on it, and he's driving it, there's not many guys that can drive it better than him that have ever played, and I don't say that lightly."

Background

- Born in Cleveland, Ohio and spent a little over four years there before the family moved to Massachusetts in 2006.
- Michael's mother, Sandra, once recalled how Michael hit 60 balls in a row at eight months old, saying, "We had a mat with a net in the house [and] a high ceiling. He took a golf club, put it underneath his right arm, and was just turning his torso and hitting the ball. He could barely walk." Michael recalls playing his first nine-hole round at age 2, and his fist tournament at age 5.

- At the U.S. Kids Golf Teen World Championship, annually contested at Pinehurst Resort & Country Club, won the Boys 10 Division in 2012, followed by the Boys 11 Division in 2013.
- Won the Boys 14-15 Division of the 2016 Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals at Augusta National Golf Club. There is a photo of Michael shaking Tom Watson's hand as he holds the trophy.
- Spent the first three years of high school at IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida. Notable players considered IMG Academy alums include PGA TOUR winners Emiliano Grillo, Sean O'Hair, and C.T. Pan, along with DP World Tour winner Byeong Hun An.
- After three years at IMG Academy, returned to his hometown of Wellesley, Massachusetts and graduated from Wellesley High School in 2020; he played the fall 2019 season on the golf team and finished as the individual runner-up at the Division 1 State Championship (18-hole event), one stroke behind medalist Weston Jones. Thorbjornsen said of coming home for his senior year, "I just wanted to be back home with my friends... wanted to reconnect with them before we all went to college. My family as well. I just was homesick at that point."
- Chose to follow in the footsteps of his golf idol, Tiger Woods, and attend Stanford University. Said it was never really a doubt he would wind up at Stanford, as it was a dream of his to play there from an early age.
- In four seasons at Stanford, rose to as high as No. 2 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking, won three collegiate events -- including the 2023 Pac-12 Conference Championship -- and finished third in school history in career scoring average (70.40), only behind record holder Maverick McNealy (70.12) and Patrick Rodgers (70.31).
- Between his freshman and sophomore seasons at Stanford, enjoyed a strong summer of 2021 on the amateur circuit, winning both the 113th Massachusetts Amateur Championship and Western Amateur. Captured the Western Amateur title with a 4-and-3 victory over Gordon Sargent in the championship match.

Family

- Father, Thorbjorn Thorbjornsen (pronounced THOR-be-orn THOR-be-orn-son), is Norwegian.
- Thorbjorn discovered golf in his early teens through the early days of cable television in his hometown of Elverum, Norway. Although he had a desire to play, his hometown did not have a course nearby. When Thorbjorn was in his late 20s, a wildfire led to the clearing of a forest in Elverum, and the land was converted into a golf course. Thorbjorn had already moved away to Oslo by that time, but he would return to Elverum on the weekends and play the course. Thorbjorn became a scratch player, then gave up playing as Michael picked up the game in his youth, as Thorbjorn wanted to focus more on Michael's game and swing mechanics rather than his own play. Thorbjorn tried to return to golf later on, but he lost a lot of distance and did not enjoy the game as much, so he gave up playing altogether.
- Mother, Sandra, played golf at Ursuline College, which was an NAIA program (now NCAA Division II) in Pepper Pike, Ohio, less than 15 miles east of Cleveland. Michael guesses the first time he carded a lower score than his mother was around age 7; he still laughs whenever he remembers how frustrated she was the rest of the day.
- Has three younger sisters - twins Victoria and Michelle, followed by his youngest sister, Teresa.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Video games. Used to play a lot of Call of Duty with Stanford teammate Karl Vilips. Played a lot of PGA TOUR 2K with his Stanford teammates, and bought a Nintendo Switch for the team, which led to countless Mario Kart races.

- Music, specifically hip hop. Despite wearing a Lollapalooza bracelet en route to winning the 2021 Western Amateur, he did not attend the annual music festival in Chicago until after he won the tournament. He saw Young Thug perform live at Lollapalooza.
- Was a big fan of the movie *The Greatest Game Ever Played*, a biopic based on Francis Ouimet's victory at the 1913 U.S. Open, when he became the first amateur winner in its history. Having qualified for the 2022 U.S. Open at The Country Club, which also hosted Ouimet's historic win, Thorbjornsen and his caddie for the week, childhood friend Drew Cohen, hit the merchandise tent and bought matching t-shirts with a silhouette of Ouimet and his caddie, Eddie Lowery.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- There is a photo of Rory McIlroy and Thorbjornsen standing together with their respective trophies at the 2023 Dubai Desert Classic. Thorbjornsen was the low amateur, while McIlroy won the title.
- Helped Stanford win Colonial Collegiate Invitational in October 2021 at Colonial Country Club, host of the PGA TOUR's Charles Schwab Challenge. Thorbjornsen finished two strokes clear of third, but finished six strokes behind individual medalist Michael Brennan of Wake Forest. The Cardinal took a team photo in front of the Hogan statue after their team victory.
- Says the most fun he ever had playing a tournament in his amateur career was the 2019 Junior Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Australia. Remembers the junior team being introduced on stage at a gala for the United States Presidents Cup team, which was captained by his golf idol and fellow Stanford alum Tiger Woods. The junior team captain was Justin Leonard.
- Childhood friend Drew Cohen notably caddied for Michael in his summer of 2021 victory at the Western Amateur, as well as the 2022 Travelers Championship, and 2022 U.S. Open at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts. The two became fast friends in middle school after their mothers coordinated a tee time for them at TPC Boston. They later spent their freshman year of high school together at IMG Academy. When Michael returned to Massachusetts after three years at IMG, he and Cohen played on the Wellesley High School golf team as seniors, and graduated together in 2020.
- Close with Karl Vilips, a former teammate, suitemate, and classmate at Stanford. Both were members of the PGA TOUR University Class of 2024, with Vilips finishing No. 10 to Thorbjornsen's No. 1. Vilips also caddied for Thorbjornsen at the 2020 U.S. Amateur Championship. The two met for the first time around age 7 or 8, and they became close as pre-teens even though their paths rarely crossed at junior events. They later attended prep academies roughly an hour apart in Florida, with Vilips at Saddlebrook Preparatory School north of Tampa, and Thorbjornsen at IMG Academy south of Tampa in Bradenton. They often practiced together the weekend leading into tournaments, with Thorbjornsen saying the competition motivated both of them.
- Vilips and Thorbjornsen also lived together with fellow Stanford teammate Barclay Brown. They had a fourth suitemate who was not an athlete; he and Thorbjornsen became close friends.
- Rose Zhang. The two won their respective divisions at the 2018 PING Invitational, an AJGA event at Karsten Creek Golf Club in Stillwater, Oklahoma. (There is a photo of the two holding a trophy together.) Thorbjornsen and Zhang later competed together at Stanford for two seasons (2021-22 / 2022-2023), and teamed up for two foursomes matches at the 2022 Arnold Palmer Cup (they went 1-1).
- Gordon Sargent. The two represented the United States together at the 2022 Arnold Palmer Cup and 2022 World Amateur Team Championship (Eisenhower Trophy), and Thorbjornsen defeated Sargent in the championship match of the 2021 Western Amateur.

- Akshay Bhatia. The two represented the United States at the 2018 Junior Ryder Cup, and Thorbjornsen defeated Bhatia in the championship match of the 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship at Baltusrol Golf Club.
- With his victory at the 113th Massachusetts Amateur Championship in July 2021, joined a list of past champions highlighted by six-time winner Francis Ouimet (1913, 1914, 1915, 1919, 1922, 1925) and 1986 champion Fran Quinn.
- In his final two seasons at Stanford, teammates included Dean Greyserman, the younger brother of PGA TOUR member Max Greyserman.
- Played a practice round with two-time NBA champion and former NBA Sixth Man of the Year J.R. Smith at the 2022 Western Amateur. There is a photo of them.

Other

- Earned a spot on the U.S. Walker Cup Team for the 2023 Walker Cup at St. Andrews, but he never competed at the event; he withdrew from the team roughly a month prior to the event due to a back injury.
- While resting a back injury in summer 2023, had surgery on his left ankle, with doctors removing a loose bone and repairing a tendon. It took nearly two months for Thorbjornsen to reach the point where he could begin rehab for his back injury. For six weeks after surgery on his ankle, Thorbjornsen was in a back brace and walking boot with crutches; he also couldn't leave his bed the first two of those six weeks. After an additional two weeks with crutches (but no back brace), spent another two weeks in an ankle wrap / cast. Thorbjornsen says of it all, "I don't even like thinking about it. I was a mess."
- Hit the first tee shot at the 2022 U.S. Open at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts; his hometown of Wellesley, Massachusetts is less than 10 miles from The Country Club. Fellow Massachusettsan (or Bay Stater, depending on where you're from) Fran Quinn teed off first on the back nine. The two, along with Brandon Matthews, qualified together via an 8-for-3 playoff at Final Qualifying in New York. There is a photo of them together.
- PGA TOUR winner Chris Gotterup and Thorbjornsen were both sponsor exemptions at the 2022 Travelers Championship, where Thorbjornsen finished solo fourth for the first top-five finish by an amateur on TOUR since Braden Thornberry in 2017 (FedEx St. Jude Classic/T4).
- PGA TOUR winner Ludvig Aberg and 2022 U.S. Amateur winner Sam Bennett were both sponsor exemptions at the 2023 Travelers Championship, which Thorbjornsen played (missed cut) as a sponsor exemption for a second consecutive year. Thorbjornsen says he and Aberg are, "Friendly rivals... we definitely push each other."

Tommy Fleetwood

Things To Know

- Tommy says he isn't a "massive trophy guy," explaining, "They're amazing to have there and look at, but the trophies aren't what mean the most to me. The moments are what drives me and motivates me. I can write so many images and moments down, even for the future that I can dream of and picture, and those are my dreams. Trophies are what comes with it." Tommy did admit, though, to being particularly struck by the FedExCup when it arrived at his home in Abu Dhabi.
- Earned his first PGA TOUR title and won the FedExCup at the 2025 TOUR Championship. The 2025 season marked the first time the FedExCup was awarded without starting strokes (2019-24) or the continuation of the season-long FedExCup standings (2007-18) at the season-ending TOUR Championship. Followed Justin Rose (2018) as the second Englishman to win the FedExCup, and became the first player since Chad Campbell (2003) to make the TOUR Championship his first PGA TOUR win. Prior to his first TOUR title, won seven times on the DP World Tour and recorded 30 top-five finishes (six of which were runner-up finishes) on the PGA TOUR.
- Said in his greenside winner's interview at the 2025 TOUR Championship, "Whether I've won (on the PGA TOUR) or not, I've still been proud of my career so far, knowing that I still have a long way to go and lots of learning. This doesn't change that. This is hopefully just one win, the first of many to come. You cannot win plenty if you don't win the first one."
- On what he learned about himself throughout the journey to his first PGA TOUR title, Fleetwood said in his winner's press conference at the 2025 TOUR Championship, "I think it's easy for anybody to say they are resilient, that they bounce back, that they have fight. It's different when you actually have to prove it. I've had to be resilient in terms of putting myself back up there, getting myself back in that position, no matter how many times it doesn't go my way, no matter how many doubts might creep in... and I am really pleased I can be proof that if you do all the right things and you just keep going that it can happen."
- The 2026 Open Championship is set to be contested at Royal Birkdale Golf Club in Tommy's longtime hometown of Southport, England. As a youngster, Tommy and his father, Pete, used to sneak on to the course at Royal Birkdale (typically finding their way to No. 5 tee). At 7 years of age in 1998, Tommy attended his first Open Championship at Royal Birkdale. Tommy later made his first cut in an Open Championship at Royal Birkdale in 2017. Tommy says of potentially winning an Open Championship at Royal Birkdale, "To win an Open at Birkdale is the wildest dream you can imagine, but playing in an Open at Birkdale is a dream in itself. It's so special."
- In June 2025, launched a YouTube channel. Roughly two months later, announced the channel would showcase his journey to break 100 playing left-handed. Said he would love a lesson from eight-time PGA TOUR winner Mike Weir, a famous lefty. In December 2025, published a video of his first round as a left-hander; he carded a 9-over 36 at Yas Links, a par-3 course in Abu Dhabi.
- Silver medalist at the 2024 Olympic Men's Golf Competition, contested at Le Golf National outside Paris, France; he finished one shot behind gold medalist Scottie Scheffler. Says the silver medal is the favorite token of his career.

Background

- Born in Southport, a popular golfing area and coastal town in northwest England (less than 20 miles outside Liverpool). Learned to play on his local municipal course before showing promise as a junior at Formby Hall Golf Club under the tutelage of Norman Marshall.
- Tommy said one of his favorite features of Formby Hall was its 9-hole Par 3 course, which he believes strengthened his iron play as a youngster.
- Turned professional at 19 years old in August 2010, making his professional debut at the Czech Open on the DP World Tour (though it later transitioned to an event on the Czech PGA Tour). Amateur highlights included a runner-up finish at the 2008 Amateur Championship, representing Great Britain and Ireland at the 2009 Walker Cup, and winning the 2010 English Amateur.
- In 2011, his first full year as a professional, finished No. 1 on the Challenge Tour Order of Merit, which earned him DP World Tour membership for the following season. At 20 years old, Fleetwood was the youngest player to finish No. 1 on the Challenge Tour.
- Earned his first professional title at the 2011 Kazakhstan Open on the Challenge Tour; his father, Pete, caddied for him. Five years later, Tommy said of the victory, "Once you've won it, you know you're on the (DP World) Tour. It is the Challenge Tour major, and everybody puts so much pressure and so much emphasis on it."
- Finished No. 1 in the DP World Tour Race to Dubai in 2017; he was also named the 2017 DP World Tour Players' Player of the Year, with the winner being determined by a vote of tour members. [NOTE: the Players' Player of the Year award was later renamed the Seve Ballesteros Award, and it merged with the DP World Tour Golfer of the Year in 2021 to create one singular honor voted on by tour members.]
- Enjoyed an outstanding debut at the 2018 Ryder Cup in Paris, winning four points in four matches alongside close friend Francesco Molinari. The partnership was affectionately dubbed 'Moliwood'. Fleetwood's only loss of the week came against Tony Finau in singles.

Family

- Wife and manager, Clare. The couple wed in The Bahamas on the Tuesday following the 2017 Hero World Challenge. They have one child together, a boy named Franklin ("Frankie"), and Tommy is stepfather to two older boys (Oscar and Mo).
- Frankie became a viral phenomenon at the 2022 Masters when, at age 4, he appeared as Tommy's caddie in the Par 3 Contest, sprinting from hole to hole to rapturous applause.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Enjoys yoga and meditation.
- Watches lots of other sports including football (soccer), rugby, and darts. Tommy supports Everton Football Club (based in Liverpool, England) in the Premier League.
- Enjoys watching NBA basketball, especially Stephen Curry, and has become more interested in NFL football after watching the Netflix documentary series "Quarterback" -- which follows a select group of quarterbacks through the NFL season.
- Likes going to baseball games while on the road.
- Drama was his best subject in school. Likes attending musicals and has a great appreciation for the performers. Counts "The Lion King" as a favorite.
- Loves books, especially detective stories, historical books and biographies.

Charity

- In May 2019, announced the founding of the Tommy Fleetwood Golf Academy at Formby Hall Golf Club, where Tommy grew up playing junior golf. Fleetwood said of the academy, "From a young age, sport and golf in particular has brought me a lot of happiness and many friends. It has taught me many valuable lessons along the way, lessons that I continue to learn each and every day. My family and I are therefore truly grateful to be in a position where I can give something back and help kids who are in a similar position to me when I was growing up. We want to give them the same opportunity to learn and enjoy the game that I love and to be able to start their own journey."
- In 2022, announced the establishment of the Tommy Fleetwood Academy at the DP World Golf Performance Centre at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Fellow Englishman Justin Rose is one of his closest friends on TOUR, as the two have competed together on multiple Ryder Cup teams.
- Helped England win the 2010 European Amateur Team Championship. Teammates included future DP World Tour winners Laurie Canter, Tom Lewis, Chris Paisley, and Eddie Pepperell.

Other

- Known for his flowing mane, Tommy grows out his hair because his father, Pete, is bald and he wants to grow hair while he can.
- Represents the Los Angeles Golf Club alongside teammates Sahith Theegala, Collin Morikawa and Justin Rose 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. Los Angeles Golf Club was founded by Alexis Ohanian, Seven Seven Six, Serena Williams, and Venus Williams. Limited partners include The Antetokounmpo brothers, Alex Morgan, Servando Carrasco, Michelle Wie West, Tisha Alyn, Carolyn Tisch Blodgett and Shonda Rhimes.

Brian Harman

Things To Know

- One of 16 members of the Player Advisory Council (PAC) for 2026; he previously served on the PAC in 2023, 2024, and 2025. The PAC serves as a consulting body which vets and recommends changes to the PGA TOUR Policy Board on behalf of the membership.
- Earned the first major championship of his career at the 2023 Open Championship, posting a 13-under 271 total, good for a six-shot victory; moved to No. 10 in the Official World Golf Ranking after the win, marking the first time in his career he reached the top 10.
- Plays golf left-handed but is actually right-handed; his brother is the opposite; when he was young, his parents got him a right-handed baseball glove, thinking he would throw lefty, but when they threw the ball to him, he'd take the glove off and throw it back righty
- University of Georgia alum and a big Bulldogs supporter; PGA TOUR winners on his teams at UGA include Harris English, Russell Henley and Chris Kirk; helped lead the Bulldogs to the 2005 NCAA Championship at Caves Valley G.C. outside of Baltimore
- An avid outdoorsman, Harman marks his golf balls with "deer tracks"
- Lifelong teacher was Jack Lumpkin, who passed away at the age of 86 on February 11, 2022. Lumpkin, a renowned instructor from Sea Island, worked with Harman for 24 years. Harman skipped a football practice at the age of 11 to take his first lesson from Lumpkin. After his passing, Harman wrote on Instagram, "I owe so much to him. His brilliance as a coach was only matched by his class and grace as a person. I will miss you so much Jack. Rest in Peace, and save me a spot on the range up there." Harman also works with Sea Island instructor Justin Parsons.
- Played baseball at a competitive level until age 16 before turning his full attention to golf after his father suggested that, if he wanted to play college sports, golf was the only choice; says he was a shortstop and pitcher and turned to golf when he "saw too many balls going over the fence;" cites the 1997 WM Phoenix Open (specifically Tiger's hole-in-one on 16) as the moment when he realized he wanted to excel in golf and start playing more seriously; began to ride his bike to the driving range 1.5 miles from his house in order to practice more.
- Cites being on bad baseball and football teams as a kid helped him develop the tenacity he uses to be successful in golf.

Background

- Born in Savannah, Georgia, but currently resides on Sea Island, Georgia
- 2003 U.S. Junior Amateur champion; 2005 Junior PLAYERS champion; AJGA Player of the Year in 2003 and 2004; three-time second-team All-America selection at UGA; member of 2005 and 2009 U.S. Walker Cup teams; member of 2007 U.S. Palmer Cup team
- Turned professional in 2009 and spent 2010-11 on the Charlotte-based eGolf Professional Tour before earning his PGA TOUR card at Q-School in December of 2011; earned his first professional victory at the eGolf Tour's Manor Classic (Farmville, Virginia).

Family

- Wife, Kelly (married 12/13/14); Cooper Marie (June 2016), Walter Hobbs (July 2018); Jack Red Harman (July 2022).
- Kelly was a radiation therapist; Harman proposed to her during a spring turkey hunt when he slipped the engagement ring into the pockets of her new hunting pants.
- Dad, Eric, is a dentist and said he would not be a golf fan if it wasn't for his son.

- Mother, Nancy, is a chemist.
- Brian takes after his parents and is incredibly smart, marking the highest GPA amongst UGA athletes while in school; earned academic achievement awards three years in a row while in college for having the highest GPA.
- In October 2024, his son, Walter, nearly drowned in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida after getting caught in a rip current while boogie boarding during a family vacation. Family friend Cathy Dowdy went in to try and save him, but got swept up in the current as well, before local resident Crane Cantrell jumped in to save him. (Harman was not with his family at the beach when the incident occurred.) Dowdy was in a coma then in critical condition, and later passed away in April 2025, a little over a week after Harman dedicated his victory at the 2025 Valero Texas Open to her and the Dowdy family.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Avid hunter and fisherman and enjoys his home on St. Simon's Island, where Patton Kizzire is a frequent hunting companion; "When I'm hunting, that's where I get most of my mental work for golf done. I'm always thinking about what I can do better. Both take a lot of patience and both frustrate you to your wit's end. Both can be extremely rewarding, but you fail way more than you succeed in hunting, and that's the same way it is in golf."
- Maintains he has a deep respect for wildlife and enjoys hunting for many reasons, but mainly to know where his food is coming from. At the age of 8, shot a squirrel in his backyard and was immediately told by his father that he's not to shoot for fun, but rather to provide (in turn he had to clean up the squirrel for dinner); says he enjoys the more organic way of living which hunting provides ... "We hunt the animals, yes, but we also plant a bunch of food for them, increase the natural habitat"; his general outdoors/hunting schedule is to fish in the spring and summer, hunt deer and elk during bow season and rifle season, then duck hunting after that, and turkey hunting in the spring.
- The Harman family, including Brian, are all skilled scuba divers
- The only trophy he showcases at his barn on his property is his Most Valuable Defensive Player trophy from middle school football.

Charity

- Has participated in Birdies for the Brave.

Other

- At the 2015 NORTHERN TRUST, became the third player in PGA TOUR history to make two holes-in-one in one round: 183-yard par-3 third; 218-yard par-3 14th, at Plainfield Country Club.

Viktor Hovland

Things To Know

- Ended what was nearly a 19-month victory drought (18 months, 24 days to be exact) with his seventh PGA TOUR title at the 2025 Valspar Championship, which marked his first TOUR victory since he captured the 2023 FedExCup with a win at the 2023 TOUR Championship.
- After his victory at the 2025 Valspar Championship, which came amid a rocky multi-year period of swing changes, posted on Instagram: "Stupid, stupid game." Hovland elaborated in his press conference, "It's been quite the struggle for the past year and a half, so for me to come back and win this tournament is quite incredible, because I was not very hopeful with my game leading into this week. Just goes to show this game is pretty crazy. But the last year and a half... I know my golf game is not very good, I know I have some issues, and just because you have one bad round of golf or one bad tournament, you would like to think, 'Next week is another week, you'll figure it out.' But when the problems remain and linger, you don't become more hopeful. It's like you keep drowning and you're running out of air. It's tough to get excited to go and play, because you just don't feel like you have the confidence to succeed. I'm extremely proud I can show up at a PGA TOUR event, at one of the hardest golf courses we play all year and still win with not my best stuff. That's something I'm extremely proud of, but at the same time it makes this game a lot more stressful than I think it should be."
- One week after winning the 2023 BMW Championship with a final-round 61 (the lowest final round in FedExCup Playoffs history), Hovland secured the 2023 FedExCup with a five-stroke victory over Xander Schauffele at the 2023 TOUR Championship.
- One of two PGA TOUR members from Norway for the 2025 PGA TOUR season, with the other being Kris Ventura, who regained TOUR membership with a top 30 finish on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List.
- Still owns his house in Stillwater, Oklahoma, though he relocated to Jupiter, Florida for better practice weather. Hovland shared, "I love Oklahoma. Summertime it's great, and I certainly miss the people there. I do find it easier, if I want to go back home to Norway, it's a direct flight from Miami. I can have family and friends come down and hang out. It's a little bit harder for them to come to Stillwater, and, yeah, there's not much to do there either, so at least in Florida there's a little bit more we can do."
- Enjoys reading philosophy books. Early in 2026, finished "Being and Time" (originally published in 1927) and said of the text, "That book was maybe the most complicated book I've ever read." Shortly thereafter, started reading Thus Spoke Zarathustra (published in the 1880s). Hovland says of his selections, "Trying to just go through the classics, because I'm not very well read. Trying to educate myself."

Background

- Grew up in Oslo, Norway and was the first Norwegian to compete in several marquee golf events, including the Masters Tournament (2019 as an amateur) and the Ryder Cup (2020 at Whistling Straits). Became the first player from Norway to win the U.S. Amateur (2018), to win on the PGA TOUR (2020 Puerto Rico Open) and to win on the DP World Tour (2021 BMW International Open).
- Winner of the 2018 U.S. Amateur at Pebble Beach Golf Links, where he became the first player from Norway to win the event. Longtime Oklahoma State University head coach Alan Bratton caddied for him during the victory.

- Became the first Norwegian to participate in the Masters Tournament in 2019 and earned low amateur honors at the event. Also earned low amateur honors at the 2019 U.S. Open, becoming the first player to earn low amateur honors at the Masters and U.S. Open in the same year since Matt Kuchar in 1998.
- Reached No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking for the first time in April 2019. Totaled 10 weeks at No. 1 in WAGR and ceded the top spot upon turning professional in June 2019.
- Played three seasons at Oklahoma State University (2016-19), where he earned four collegiate victories and was named the 2019 Ben Hogan Award winner (one of three collegiate national player of the year awards). Also a two-time All-America First Team selection (2018, 2019) and the 2019 Big 12 Conference Player of the Year.
- Went 3-0 in match play as he helped Oklahoma State win the team national title at the 2018 NCAA Championship, contested at Oklahoma State's home course -- Karsten Creek. Hovland's teammates on the title-winning team included future PGA TOUR winners Austin Eckroat and Matthew Wolff, as well as future PGA TOUR members Kris Ventura and Sam Stevens (a reserve player during the title run), and Korn Ferry Tour member Zach Bauchou (pronounced BOH-shoo). Hovland notably defeated future PGA TOUR member Chandler Phillips of Texas A&M in the quarterfinals, and defeated future PGA TOUR winner Lee Hodges of Alabama in the championship. Future PGA TOUR winner Davis Riley was also on the Alabama team Oklahoma State defeated 5-0 to win the title.

Family

- Son of Galina and Harald Hovland.
- Father worked in St. Louis for one year as an engineer and brought back a set of golf clubs, introducing then-11-year-old Viktor to the game.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Often hears fans' connections to Norway shouted from the gallery, saying "That happens quite a bit. There's a lot of Norwegian ancestry here in the states. Yeah, I do hear it quite a bit."
- Once described as "maybe the most publicly curious pro golfer." Hovland says of this reputation, "I'd like to think of myself as a thinker. Mysteries get my attention a little bit. I just like learning, figuring stuff out." Tends to be a night owl known for binge-watching streaming platforms, with Hovland saying, "I just end up freakin' binge-watching stuff, and then I look at the clock and it's way too late, and I just can't go to bed. So I end up finding these rabbit holes." One of his more notable binges was the Netflix documentary series Ancient Apocalypse, hosted by British writer Graham Hancock. Hovland was so fascinated by it he took a trip with his mother to see a few of the sites featured in the series. Another memorable quip came during an appearance on The Smylie Show podcast, when host Smylie Kaufman sarcastically asked Hovland about the Roman Empire. Hovland responded, "I think the history is really cool, but I'd like to think more about event wayyy further back. A thousand years ago is not interesting enough."
- Huge fan of metal music, saying he likes to "get out all of the frustration" by listening to it. Favorite band is Vildhjarta, a Swedish progressive metal band. Hovland's deep dive into metal music came about early in his high school years, specifically after a road trip to Sweden for a golf tournament. Hovland's coach at that time was a "classic 80s heavy metal guy" and played a lot of Black Sabbath, Metallica, and Iron Maiden in the car. Hovland, who mostly listened to house music / electronic dance music to that point, enjoyed the coach's selection and followed up with some research of his own after the trip. Hovland searched "Best Metal

Songs" on YouTube and remembered the top result being "Chop Suey!" by System of a Down. Although Hovland initially wasn't a huge fan of "Chop Suey!" he listened a couple more times and it grew on him, which effectively sent him down the metal music rabbit hole. Hovland noted there are "a lot of Scandinavian metalheads" and that Norway is famous for black metal music, which is not a genre he enjoys.

- At the 2023 Ryder Cup, members of Team Europe listened to part of one of Hovland's favorite songs -- "Instill" by Humanity's Last Breath -- and the reactions ranged from "brutal" to "not even music" to "what is wrong with Viktor?"
- Said in a 2022 interview he "probably averaged (watching) a movie per day" during his high school years. He and a group of friends would watch the Lord of the Rings trilogy together a few times per year. Also learned some English from historical dramas like Lincoln, the Steven Spielberg-directed biopic.
- For a period of time in the early 2020s, got into poker and scoured YouTube for tips on how to improve, saying, "I've gotten to know a few people within the poker community. Maybe I'll get into some games some day."
- Is not superstitious, but noted at the 2022 Arnold Palmer Invitational that he always has his marker in his left pocket because, "When I was a kid, I would put it in my right pocket but I would also put my glove in the right pocket. When I would pull out my glove, the coin would fall off. Even though now I keep it in my back pocket, I always have it in the left pocket."

Charity

- At the 2022 BMW Championship, recorded a hole-in-one at the 206-yard par-3 6th. The shot meant BMW would sponsor a four-year, \$125,000 scholarship for an aspiring college student in the player's name. "That's incredible," Hovland said. "The hole-in-one obviously was nice for me, and while it didn't move me up the leaderboard that much, for it to actually mean something is really cool. I hope that goes a long way."

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Attended the same Norwegian sports academy as tennis star Casper Ruud, the highest-ranked tennis player in history from Norway. While the pair do not know each other that well, Ruud, who is an avid golfer, said, "I probably watch more of his golf than he watches of my tennis."
- Oklahoma State coach Alan Bratton first watched Hovland at the 2013 European Boys Team Championships in Scotland, where he was actually scouting another Norwegian -- Kris Ventura. Bratton recalled, "I saw something I thought was special. As soon as I could recruit Viktor, I did. Went back two summers in a row." Ventura later hosted Hovland on his recruiting visit to Oklahoma State. Ventura and Hovland, who remain close friends today, also represented Norway together at the 2016 and 2017 European Amateur Team Championships, 2016 World Amateur Team Championship (Eisenhower Trophy), and 2024 Olympic Men's Golf Competition in Paris.
- During his college years at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, Hovland rented a room from teammate Austin Eckroat's parents, who had bought a place there to keep up with their son. Hovland returned the favor after he bought a house in Stillwater early in his PGA TOUR career, and Eckroat lived there as one of Hovland's two housemates. Eckroat, who earned his PGA TOUR card via the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season and won his first two PGA TOUR titles in 2024, said of his two years as Hovland's housemate, "He's about as easy a roommate as you can have. He eats popcorn and smoothies all day and watches

movies. Not much that goes on in his life besides golf. He's very easygoing, and I think that's something that everybody can take a part of from him. Just being stress-free, taking life easy."

- Became the sixth Oklahoma State player to win the Ben Hogan Award, accomplishing the feat in 2019. Previous Cowboys to win the national player of the year award were Kevin Wentworth (1990), Trip Kuehne (1995), Hunter Mahan (2003 -- co-recipient with Arizona's Ricky Barnes), Rickie Fowler (2008), and Peter Uihlein (2011).
- In his first Ryder Cup appearance (2020), faced Collin Morikawa in singles. Morikawa clinched the victory for the United States with a tie against Hovland.
- A day after defeating Denny McCarthy in a playoff to win the 2023 Memorial Tournament presented by Workday, Hovland caddied for Zach Bauchou (pronounced BOH-shoo) in a U.S. Open qualifier. Bauchou, who failed to qualify, was Hovland's former roommate at Oklahoma State. Bauchou said of the pairing, "We went to dinner on Saturday and I jokingly said, 'Why don't you come caddie on Monday?' He said, 'Dude, I will.' If he says he's going to do something, he'll do it."

Other

- Represented Norway at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and 2024 Paris Olympics, saying of the experience, "We have a very rich Olympic tradition, and now with golf being an Olympic sport, it would be great for people back home to just get into the sport."
- Collegiate victories included the 2018 East Lake Cup at East Lake Golf Club (home of the TOUR Championship) and the 2019 Prestige (played at PGA West's Greg Norman Course, which is NOT in the current rotation of courses at The American Express).
- Finished T2 at the 2018 European Amateur Championship, which was won by Nicolai Hojgaard. Hovland was also the runner-up finisher at the 2016 European Amateur Championship, where he fell to Italy's Luca Cianchetti on the seventh hole of a sudden-death playoff.

Russell Henley

Things To Know

- Earned his fifth PGA TOUR title (and first since 2022) at the 2025 Arnold Palmer Invitational, where he earned a one-stroke victory over Collin Morikawa. In the final round, notably made a chip-in eagle at the par-5 16th of Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club and Lodge. Following the win, moved into the top 10 of the Official World Golf Ranking for the first time in his career. Said of being in the top 10 of the OWGR, "I don't really feel like a top-10 player. The rankings would tell you that, but I have so much respect for so many players out here who are all so talented... it's hard for me to comprehend that."
- Made his Presidents Cup debut in 2024; he was a captain's pick, and he was emotional upon receiving the call from United States captain Jim Furyk both because he lost his father earlier in the year, and because he developed a friendship with Furyk over the years, with Henley going as far as to say he modeled his game after Furyk.
- Won two of the final five events of the 2012 Korn Ferry Tour season (one of which was the Winn-Dixie Jacksonville Open on the TPC Sawgrass Dye's Valley Course) to finish No. 3 in the standings and earn PGA TOUR membership for the first time. Roughly two months after he earned his PGA TOUR card, won his first TOUR start as a member at the 2013 Sony Open in Hawaii. Said after his first TOUR title, "That's the most nervous I've ever been. I couldn't feel my legs or my arms. They were just numb and just moving fast, and I felt like I couldn't control them." Henley added of his time on the Korn Ferry Tour, "I feel like I picked up right where I left off with the (Korn Ferry Tour) season and carried over my confidence. Not everybody needs the experience before they get out here (on TOUR), but for me it's probably the best thing for my golf game I've ever had to do. The start of last year (2012) was some of the worst golf I've played in a while, but it was probably some of the best things that happened to me. I definitely took a lot from that."
- In the final month of his senior season at University of Georgia (May 2011), won the 2011 Stadion Classic at UGA, a Korn Ferry Tour event played annually from 2006 through 2013. Followed Daniel Summerhays (2007 Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship) as the second amateur winner in Korn Ferry Tour history, and followed Chris Couch (2001 Florida Classic) and Kevin Stadler (2004 Lake Erie Charity Classic) as the third sponsor exemption to win a Korn Ferry Tour event. Henley earned the sponsor exemption as Georgia's scoring average leader at the time it was awarded. After the victory, Henley elected to remain an amateur for the rest of 2011, though he eventually accepted Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2012 season. Ironically, Harris English, who was in the same class as Henley at Georgia, won the 2011 Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship in July, played the remainder of the 2011 season on the Korn Ferry Tour, and earned PGA TOUR membership for the 2012 season through what is now known as PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry.
- Following his win at the 2011 Stadion Classic at UGA, remained an amateur despite the fact he could turn professional and accept Korn Ferry Tour membership for the remainder of the 2011 season. At the time, maintained his amateur status with a goal of representing the United States at the 2011 Walker Cup -- a goal he ultimately achieved. Henley added, "They talk about how much money you can make playing pro golf, but I have never played golf to win money." In 2025, reflected back on the decision in an interview with Smylie Kaufman, saying, "I just didn't feel like I was ready. I knew I could win, but I didn't feel I had a team or anything. I also really wanted to play the Walker Cup. That was really important to me at the time, and I'm really glad I stayed amateur for that."
- Self-taught, Henley has played guitar since he was eight years old. His best friend and brother-in-law (they actually married sisters) always seemed to be in a band, and Henley

loved music, too, particularly newer country music and anything from the '90s. Through PGA TOUR opportunities, has played onstage with O.A.R. (2015 Genesis Invitational), Keith Urban (2015 CVS Health Charity Classic), and Darius Rucker (2014 RSM Classic). Henley also said PGA TOUR winners Jason Gore (now the TOUR's Chief Player Officer) and Kevin Streelman are also talented guitar players, and he noted Gore has an impressive collection of guitars.

Background

- In the late 2010s, with their second child on the way, the Henleys moved from Charleston, South Carolina to Columbus, Georgia, where his wife, Teil (pronounced TEEL), grew up. When not on TOUR, typically plays and practices at either Green Island Country Club or Country Club of Columbus; he occasionally drives to Auburn University (roughly 40 miles from their home) and utilizes their practice facilities with former PGA TOUR player and Auburn alum Blayne Barber.
- Born and raised in Macon, Georgia, where he prepped at Stratford Academy. Competing in the Georgia Independent Athletic Association (GIAA -- separate from the Georgia High School Association), won three Class AAA individual state titles (2004, 2005, 2006) and led Stratford Academy to two team state titles (2004, 2005). Henley was inducted into the Stratford Academy Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017.
- Also played point guard for the Stratford Academy basketball team. Until the end of Henley's high school career, he typically only played golf "five or six times" during basketball season -- which usually ran from October through February.
- Played mostly local and regional tournaments as a junior, eschewing the vast majority of AJGA and other national events. Henley prioritized golf courses he wanted to play and, more importantly, "I always liked going to tournaments and having someone there that I actually knew and could hang out with... and I know that if I went to like Utah in the middle of the summer that I probably wouldn't know anybody, so I just don't think it would have been that fun of an experience for me."
- College golf recruitment picked up after he reached the Round of 16 at the 2005 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship, where he fell to eventual champion Kevin Tway. Knew from the beginning he wanted to play for Georgia, though, so it was not a difficult process or decision.
- Won the 2006 Georgia Junior Championship at The Landings Golf and Athletic Club -- which now hosts the Korn Ferry Tour's Club Car Championship -- in Savannah, Georgia. Other champions of the event include Brian Harman (2002, 2003) and Greyson Sigg (2011).
- Two-time winner of the Georgia Amateur Championship, which traces its history back to 1916, when 14-year-old Bobby Jones won the inaugural title. Henley won the 2008 title at Idle Hour Club in his longtime hometown of Macon, and successfully defended his title in 2009 at Country Club of Columbus. Henley's college teammate and fellow future multi-time PGA TOUR winner Harris English won the 2007 title and finished runner-up to Henley in 2008. Other notable past champions of the Georgia Amateur Championship include Tommy Aaron (1957, 1960) and Brian Harman (2005).
- Played four seasons at University of Georgia (2007-11), where he earned eight individual victories, breaking Chris Kirk's school record of seven career wins. Notably earned individual medalist honors at the 2010 Southeastern Conference Championship, becoming Georgia's first conference champion since Brendon Todd in 2004, and was named the 2010 SEC Player of the Year, becoming the fifth Georgia player to earn the award and the first since Chris Kirk in 2006. Also garnered a 2010 All-America First Team selection, All-America Second Team honors in 2008 and 2009, along with All-SEC First Team laurels in 2009 and 2010. Graduated in 2011 with a degree in Consumer Economics.
- Won the 2010 Fred Haskins Award, one of the three national player of the year awards in college golf, after his junior season at University of Georgia. Notable recipients of the award

include Ben Crenshaw (1971-73), Curtis Strange (1974), Jay Haas (1975), Phil Mickelson (1990-92), David Duval (1993), Justin Leonard (1994), Stewart Cink (1995), Tiger Woods (1996), Luke Donald (1999), Patrick Cantlay (2011), and Justin Thomas (2012).

Family

- Russell and his wife, Teil (pronounced TEEL), have three children -- a son, Robert (2018), and two daughters, Ruth (2019) and Jane (2022).
- Wife, Teil Duncan Henley, went to Auburn University and is an accomplished contemporary artist whose paintings and prints are sold all over the world through her personal brand -- Teil Paintings and Patterns; she paints out of a studio in their backyard in Columbus, Georgia. Additionally, Teil published a book -- "The Color Teil: Life, Work, and Inspiration" -- in 2019 which showcased more than 300 of her works, and served as the illustrator of "Ordinary Love", a children's picture book published in 2020.
- Father, Chapin, passed away in July 2024 at the age of 85. Chapin was a distinguished OBGYN who earned his undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University, followed by seminary at Emory University, and medical school at University of Florida. Chapin notably founded the Macon Volunteer Clinic, where he offered free healthcare to the working uninsured of Macon-Bibb County -- and later expanded to include upwards of 15 counties. Chapin was also known to volunteer for organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together.
- Mother, Sally.
- Older brother, Adam, owns Henley Land Brokerage; he earned a bachelor's degree in political science from University of Georgia in 1999. Adam focuses on rural farmland and timberland brokerage in Georgia. Adam, who was a talented high school baseball player at Stratford Academy in the family's longtime hometown of Macon, Georgia, caddied for Russell throughout his 2012 season on the Korn Ferry Tour (he won twice and earned PGA TOUR membership for the 2012-13 season).

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Fan of Georgia football. Notably watched the 2022 College Football Playoff National Championship (Georgia defeated Alabama, 33-18) with fellow Georgia players on Monday of the 2022 Sony Open in Hawaii. All 10 Georgia players in the field would go on to make the cut, with Henley finishing runner-up to Hideki Matsuyama in a one-hole playoff.

Charity

- Supports Truth Spring -- a faith-based nonprofit organization in Columbus, Georgia. Truth Spring has an academy, trade school, and housing initiative. According to its website, Truth Spring's mission is to "develop and strengthen the North Highland community with Christ-centered projects and strategies."
- Established an annual AJGA event -- Russell Henley Junior Championship -- at Green Island Country Club in Columbus, Georgia in 2025.
- Since 2015, has hosted the Five Star Kevin Brown and Russell Henley Celebrity Classic in his longtime hometown of Macon, Georgia each September. The event was established in 1989 as a three day pro-celebrity tennis tournament, and golf was added in 1992 after professional baseball player Kevin Brown began playing. The event, which is now played across three golf courses and features a sporting clay competition, raises money for the Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia, Macon Volunteer Clinic, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- College teammates at University of Georgia included PGA TOUR winners Harris English (four seasons -- 2007-11), Brian Harman (two seasons -- 2007-09), Keith Mitchell (2010-11 season), Patrick Reed (2008-09 season), and Hudson Swafford (three seasons -- 2007-10).
- Qualified for match play at the 2011 U.S. Amateur Championship at Erin Hills, where he fell to eventual runner-up Patrick Cantlay in the Round of 32.
- Represented the United States at the 2011 Walker Cup; his teammates included Patrick Cantlay, Harris English, Patrick Rodgers, and Jordan Spieth.
- Represented the United States at the 2010 and 2011 Palmer Cups, with the 2010 edition of the event being contested at Royal Portrush Golf Club. Patrick Cantlay was another notable member of the 2011 Palmer Cup team.
- Represented the United States at the 2007 Toyota Junior Golf World Cup in Japan; his teammates included future PGA TOUR winner Andrew Putnam.

Other

- Shared low amateur honors with Scott Langley (both finished T16) at the 2010 U.S. Open, contested at Pebble Beach Golf Links.

Matt Fitzpatrick

Things To Know

- Cover star of the popular video game PGA TOUR 2K; he was on the cover of PGA TOUR 2K25, which marked his second appearance in the game.
- Earned his second career PGA TOUR win at the 2023 RBC Heritage, defeating Jordan Spieth on the third playoff hole after hitting his 186-yard approach shot to 2 feet. Followed Nick Faldo (1984) as the second Englishman to win the RBC Heritage. The victory was also special for Fitzpatrick, as he and his family vacationed at Hilton Head Island throughout his childhood.
- Won the 2022 U.S. Open by one stroke, earning his first major championship title and first career win on the PGA TOUR. He became the first player to earn his first TOUR title in a major since Danny Willett at the 2016 Masters Tournament.
- Became the 13th player to win both the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Open and second to do so at the same course (Jack Nicklaus, Pebble Beach Golf Links), with Fitzpatrick accomplishing the feat at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts.
- Matt is extremely meticulous with his approach and has taken comprehensive notes of every shot he's taken since he was 15 years old. He has boxes upon boxes of books with invaluable information. Inside his notebooks, he charts basic information like what clubs he hit, the wind and whether the ball landed in the fairway or the rough. But he also records information that could never be calculated by even the most advanced supercomputers. That's because he documents his intended result versus the actual one. Fitzpatrick separates the process from the outcome.
- Fan of Sheffield United F.C. (soccer). Received messages after winning the 2022 U.S. Open from two Sheffield United legends -- Billy Sharp and Chris Wilder. Brought the U.S. Open trophy to Bramall Lane, Sheffield United's stadium, on Boxing Day (December 26) for the match against Coventry City.

Background

- Born in Sheffield, England and grew up playing at Hallamshire Golf Club. Famous members of Hallamshire include 2009 Solheim Cup captain Alison Nicholas and BBC Sport presenter Dan Walker.
- Rose to No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking for the first time in August 2013. Totaled 21 weeks at No. 1 (not consecutive -- first stint was nine weeks, followed by a 12-week stint in late 2013 / early 2014).
- Won the 2013 U.S. Amateur Championship at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts. Notably defeated Corey Connors in the semifinals, and defeated Oliver Goss in the 36-hole final.
- Represented Great Britain & Ireland in the 2013 Walker Cup at National Golf Links of America in Southampton, New York. Fitzpatrick posted a 3-1 record for the week, though the United States (led by Max Homa, Patrick Rodgers, and Justin Thomas) won the Walker Cup, 17-9.
- Earned low amateur honors at the 2013 Open Championship (finished T44) and 2014 U.S. Open (finished T48), becoming the first amateur since Bobby Jones in 1930 to hold low amateur titles at The Open Championship and U.S. Open simultaneously.
- Played one semester for Northwestern University before leaving school to focus on golf full-time. Turned professional after the 2014 U.S. Open.

Family

- Married Katherine Gaal on October 18, 2024 in her hometown of Bay Head, New Jersey.
- Parents are Russell and Susan (also goes by Sue). Russell is a bank manager. Both assist him with his professional golf career: Russell manages his earnings and Susan helps with booking flights.
- Russell and Susan are both recreational golfers. According to Susan, Russell started playing at 14 years old and introduced her to the game a couple years after they met (she was 16 when the two met). Susan recalled, "I took a few lessons and Russell taught me the rest." The two wed in their early 20s and traveled to local clubs to play in mixed foursomes competitions.
- Matt has picked Susan as his pro-am partner for multiple playings of the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship on the DP World Tour. The two made history in 2023 by becoming the first all-family squad to win both the team and individual titles. Susan says of playing the event, "I'm so happy he asked me. I loved every minute. I just wanted to make him proud of me and, truthfully, I didn't know if I could. He had faith in me though, and I am so happy I'm doing him proud."
- His parents contacted Rory McIlroy for advice about buying a house in Florida to prepare for PGA TOUR tournaments.
- Notes on Fitzpatrick's younger brother, Alex: caddied for him when he won the 2013 U.S. Amateur. Participated in the Walker Cup in 2019, six years after Matt did (defeated Cole Hammer, 2-up, in Saturday Singles and lost to Isaiah Salinda, 2-up, on Sunday).
- Matt played with his younger brother, Alex, in a PGA TOUR event for the first time when the two partnered at the 2023 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.
- Alex, earned his first professional win in August 2023 at the British Challenge on the Challenge Tour. Matt later posted a video to Twitter of Alex stuffing a giant check into the back of his car quoting "Happy Gilmore."

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

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

Charity

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

Inner Circle/Special Connections

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

Other

- Represents the New York Golf Club alongside teammates Rickie Fowler, Cameron Young and Xander Schauffele 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, fuses advanced technology, innovation and live action for ESPN's primetime television audience. New York Golf Club is owned by Steven A. Cohen and Cohen Private Ventures.

