

Report (13 players)

Viktor Hovland

Things To Know

- Earned his eighth PGA TOUR title at the 2026 Travelers Championship, defeating Scottie Scheffler in a playoff -- conducted Monday morning. Mother, Galina, was on hand for the win, with Viktor saying, "I won a few times now over the world, but never had my mom or dad watch me win one. We get to go home together to Norway... couldn't be a better way to win a golf tournament and celebrate going home." Previously made his professional debut at the 2019 Travelers Championship.
- After his win at the 2025 Valspar Championship, which came amid a rocky multi-year period of swing changes and what was nearly a 19-month victory drought, 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.
- Resides in Stillwater, Oklahoma, though he intends to relocate 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." Shared at the 2026 Masters his house in Jupiter is still under construction.
- 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.

Ryan Gerard

Things To Know

- In a February 2026 interview on The Smylie Show, revealed he does not have a kitchen table in his Jupiter, Florida townhouse because his dining room has multiple putting mats on the floor, as well as three TVs mounted on the wall (mostly for watching sports). Gerard also revealed he would also be installing a Full Swing "Virtual Green" in the near future.
- Clinched a spot in the top 50 of the final Official World Golf Ranking of 2025 -- and thus secured an exemption for the 2026 Masters Tournament (will be his first appearance) -- with a runner-up finish (in a playoff) at the 2025 AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open (concluded December 21st), where he was one of only five Americans in the field. Gerard entered the tournament -- which is co-sanctioned by the DP World Tour and Sunshine Tour -- at No. 57 in the OWGR and rose to No. 46. Mauritius is an island in the Indian Ocean east of Madagascar. Gerard initially looked at playing one of the two DP World Tour events in South Africa in December, but neither was an option since he needed to attend the wedding of longtime friend and fellow PGA TOUR winner Ben Griffin (December 6). The trip consisted of an overnight flight from Miami to Rome, where he had a layover of nearly eight hours and had enough time to tour the Colosseum and visit some ruins, followed by a 12-hour flight to Mauritius.
- Earned his first PGA TOUR title at the 2025 Barracuda Championship. Gerard said of his victory, "It's just a culmination of a lifetime of work. I can't tell you how many hours I've spent hitting golf balls dreaming of winning on the PGA TOUR." Played the Genesis Scottish Open the week prior and arrived in California around 2:30 a.m. Tuesday as the second alternate for the 2025 Open Championship. A text exchange with fellow University of North Carolina alum and PGA TOUR winner Ben Griffin convinced him to stay in the U.S. for the Barracuda Championship. Gerard said in an interview following the third round, "There was some conversations as to whether we should fly back and try and wait (it) out. I love playing golf, so I figured I might as well play this week. It was a tough (decision), because if I skipped going and missed out on a major, would've been a kick in the pants for sure. I'm glad we made the right decision."
- Although the Wyndham Championship was closer to his family's home in Raleigh, North Carolina, the PGA TOUR event he most frequently attended and considers his "home" TOUR event is the Truist Championship at Quail Hollow. The first PGA TOUR event Gerard attended was the 2007 Truist Championship, and he remembered following Tiger Woods (eventual winner) and Vijay Singh in the final groups. Gerard was also in attendance for the 2011 Wyndham Championship, which was won by fellow Raleigh native Webb Simpson.
- Enjoyed playing "Impossible Chipping Contests" with his friends -- a group which included the late Grayson Murray (two-time PGA TOUR winner), as well as fellow professionals Doc Redman and Carter Jenkins -- at Wildwood Green Golf Club in his hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina. They would intentionally give each other the worst lies possible and see who could get the ball closest to the pin. Gerard's family moved into a home near the 15th hole at Wildwood Green Golf Club around the time Ryan was five years old.
- Returned to the PGA TOUR in 2025 following a top 30 finish (No. 12) on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List. Graduated to the PGA TOUR via the Korn Ferry Tour for the first time, doing so off the strength of his first Korn Ferry Tour title at the 2024 BMW Charity Pro-Am just outside Greenville, South Carolina.
- Earned Special Temporary Membership on the PGA TOUR amid the 2022-23 season. Open qualified for the 2023 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, gaining entry to the event via a 5-for-3 playoff Tuesday morning. Finished solo fourth that week at PGA National Resort and

followed it with a T11 at the Puerto Rico Open a week later. Secured Special Temporary Membership after the 2023 Valero Texas Open.

- Played five seasons at University of North Carolina (2017-22), winning once individually and garnering 2022 All-America Second Team and All-Atlantic Coast Conference honors. Also broke Ben Griffin's program record for career scoring average, finishing with a mark of 71.65 (this record has since been broken multiple times).

Background

- Relocated to Jupiter, Florida at the end of 2022.
- Received his first set of golf clubs at age 2. Parents said he tried to sneak out of the house whenever he could to hit balls in his yard. Gerard also noted, "I apparently just loved golf. I was told that as a little kid, I would take shovels and rakes I found at daycare and swing them around like golf clubs. I always got in trouble for doing it, because I nearly took the heads off other kids. Anything that could be turned into a ball or a club was fair game for me."
- Remembered sneaking out of his room after his bedtime as a youngster to watch the conclusion of the 2012 U.S. Open, which was won by Webb Simpson at The Olympic Club. Ryan and Webb -- both Raleigh natives -- played a couple practice rounds together on TOUR in 2023.
- He was passionate about playing both basketball and baseball growing up, but his interest in baseball harmed his golf swing. He said he imitated the golf swing too closely in the batter's box, leading to "too many strikeouts."
- Graduated from Ravenscroft School in his childhood hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina. Notable alums of Ravenscroft School include actor Michael C. Hall (Class of 1989), best known for his award-winning performance in the television series Dexter, and former NFL safety Antwan Harris (Class of 1996), who won three Super Bowls with the New England Patriots.
- Junior golf victories included the AJGA's 2015 Polo Golf Junior Classic, a match play tournament contested at PGA National Resort in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida - which hosts the PGA TOUR's Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches. Gerard defeated fellow Korn Ferry Tour graduate Norman Xiong in the semifinals, and fellow professional Cooper Dossey in the championship match. Other past champions of the event include Stewart Cink (1989), Tiger Woods (1991), Trevor Immelman (1995), Brian Harman (2003), Cameron Young (2013), Akshay Bhatia (2018), and Nick Dunlap (2021).
- Named a 2016 AJGA Rolex Junior All-America First Team selection alongside fellow Korn Ferry Tour graduates Ricky Castillo, Noah Goodwin, John Pak, and Norman Xiong.
- Majored in economics and minored in geography at University of North Carolina.

Family

- Father, Robert (also goes by Bob), played collegiately at Florida Atlantic University and professionally in the 1980s. One of Robert's college teammates was Joseph Vogel, father of Korn Ferry Tour winner T.J. Vogel.
- In 2009, Robert co-founded the Tarheel Golf Foundation, a non-profit organization which operated the Tarheel Junior Golf Tour (for middle school and high school players) and Tarheel Future Stars Series (for elementary school players). Robert co-founded the non-profit with Eric Murray, father of two-time PGA TOUR winner Grayson Murray (who tragically passed away in 2024). Robert said of establishing the Tarheel Golf Foundation, "Basically there was nothing (in Wake County) for kids who were competing and wanted some acknowledgement of where they stood against other players in the state and region." The foundation had more

than 1,000 members by its second season. Robert is no longer involved with the Tarheel Golf Foundation, which sold to Drip Golf and was rebranded as what is now the Tarheel Junior Golf Tour in 2022.

- Mother, Judy.
- The Gerards are a dog-loving family. Judy named one of their dogs Stevie in honor of Steve Stricker, her second-favorite golfer (behind Ryan, of course) because both went to University of Illinois. They also have a Cavapoo puppy named Brookline, a nod to The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, where Ryan made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2022 U.S. Open.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Music. Knows how to play the piano and played violin for 14 years; he previously played in an orchestra and a quartet. Also enjoys listening to hip hop.
- In high school, was president of the badminton club and a member of the chess club. Still enjoys playing chess today. Used to play a lot of online chess, but eventually got frustrated after reaching a relatively high level of competition; he estimated he was a "2 or 3 handicap" in golf terms.
- Devoted fan of the Carolina Panthers (NFL football) and the New York Yankees (MLB baseball).
- Enjoys cooking when at home.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Good friends with fellow University of North Carolina alum Ben Griffin. Gerard grew up playing junior golf against Griffin, and the two lived in the same apartment complex during Griffin's hiatus from golf in 2021. The two also spent a lot of time together when Gerard was a PGA TOUR rookie with Special Temporary Membership in 2023.
- Met fellow University of North Carolina alum Michael Jordan. Jordan gifted him a pair of golf shoes, which he keeps in a case.
- Former University of North Carolina men's basketball coach Roy Williams has been an influential figure in his career. Gerard said Williams helped him find competitiveness through happiness and positivity.

Other

- Used to play custom golf balls numbered 19 because he wanted to win more majors than Jack Nicklaus.

Adam Scott

Things To Know

- One of six Player Directors on the PGA TOUR Policy Board; he will be replaced in 2027 by Lucas Glover, who was elected chairman of the 2026 Player Advisory Council (PAC). Scott is 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.
- Competed in the 2024 Presidents Cup on the International Team for the 11th time in his career, marking the second-most appearances in the event's history, trailing only Phil Mickelson (12).
- Earned his first PGA TOUR title at the 2003 Deutsche Bank Championship at TPC Boston, and followed it with a victory at the 2004 PLAYERS Championship a little over six months later. At the time of his victory, Scott was the youngest winner of THE PLAYERS, as he accomplished the feat at 23 years, 8 months, 12 days of age. Scott's record stood until 2017, when 21-year-old Si Woo Kim won THE PLAYERS.
- Believes the high point of his career was spending 11 consecutive weeks at No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking in 2014 (May 18 through August 2). Scott says of the feat, "Getting to No. 1 when I turned pro seemed like that childhood dream was not realistic anymore. Tiger (Woods) was so dominant. To stick at it and finally get there. . . I didn't keep it very long, but I was there."
- Came close to a first major in 2012, losing The Open Championship to close friend Ernie Els after leading by four with four holes to play. Rebounded by winning the Masters Tournament in 2013, becoming the first Aussie to do so. Famed for screaming "C'mon Aussie" on the 18th green in regulation and beat Angel Cabrera in the second extra hole in a sudden-death playoff.
- Earned the 2020 Jim Murray Award from the Golf Writers Association of America for reflecting the most positive aspects of the working relationship between athletes and journalists. "As athletes and writers, we do different jobs, but we all love the game of golf and its values," Scott said.
- Recognized for his significant service to golf at the elite level in Australia, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours list on Monday, June 13, 2022.
- Represents Boston Common Golf alongside teammates Rory McIlroy, Keegan Bradley and Hideki Matsuyama 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. Boston Common Golf is owned by John Henry, Tom Werner, Mike Gordon and Fenway Sports Group.

Background

- Born in Adelaide, South Australia and moved to the Sunshine Coast before settling down on the Gold Coast. He completed his high school education at the Kooralbyn International School, where he undertook extra subjects in golf with the school noted for its golf program.
- Interest in golf started when he was about four years old after his father, Phil, taught him the game at a par-3 course in Adelaide. Started to beat Phil consistently when he was about 13 years old.

- Also excelled at cricket, tennis, and soccer throughout his youth.
- Was a member of Golf Australia National Squad and won back-to-back Australia Boys Amateur titles in 1997 and 1998.
- Spent a summer playing high-level junior tournaments in 1997 with a goal of qualifying for the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship at Aronimink Golf Club; he accomplished his goal, though he lost in the second round of match play. Scott also made appearances at the 1996 and 1997 Junior World Championships at Torrey Pines, notably finishing T8 in 1997 -- the same year Trevor Immelman was the runner-up finisher to Kevin Stadler.
- Attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) for one and a half seasons (1998-99). Scott was unfamiliar with the college recruiting process as he began hearing from college coaches in summer 1997, when he played a number of high-level junior events in the United States. Scott received several brochures / prospectuses, and he chose UNLV because it had the nicest one, saying, "They had a really beautiful glossy magazine about their golf program. I didn't visit or anything. They were also the No. 1-ranked team in the country at the time I was looking."
- Scott's decision to play at UNLV was in large part because his primary goal was to play on the PGA TOUR, and he believed the college golf experience (even if it was brief) would prepare him for his future as a professional golfer. Scott explained, "I could shoot good scores as a 17-year-old, but could I do it 25 weeks a year in an unlimited wide-open field? The short answer was no... I wasn't ready. Even though golf is golf, it is different in the U.S., so getting comfortable with the culture, the golf courses, the style of golf, all of that kind of stuff was important."
- As a freshman at UNLV -- and what would be his only full season with the program -- Scott finished 11th individually at the 1999 NCAA Championship, contested at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Minnesota. Luke Donald of Northwestern University, who like Scott later rose to No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking, won the individual national title.
- Scott left UNLV after the fall semester of the 1999-2000 season, midway through his sophomore campaign. Scott, who maintained his amateur status for roughly six months between the time he left UNLV and turned professional in 2000, says of the decision, "I felt like, to move forward at that point, I needed to not spend the next three years in college. Looking back on it, it was an incredible experience. I think it was the most challenging year of my life, and I probably learned the most. I was way out of my comfort zone going over (to Las Vegas)."
- Scott also said of his time at UNLV, "We could call up any golf course in Las Vegas and go and play, and we were welcomed out there as a team. We had the best time playing the best tracks. It was great."
- Returned home to Australia at the end of 2022 for the first time in three years to compete in the Australian PGA and the Australian Open. At that time, his last visit home was in 2019, when he won the Australian PGA Championship in the Gold Coast for his 30th professional win and ended a title drought of nearly four years. Has won in Asia, Europe, South Africa and Australia.

Family

- In April 2014, Scott married Marie Kojzar, a Swedish architect. They have a daughter, Bo Vera, and two sons, Byron and Bjorn.
- Father, Phil, picked up golf as a teenager and joined Mount Lofty Golf Club in Adelaide, Australia at 14 years old. Became a trainee pro at a nearby Blackwood Golf Club outside Adelaide, with aspirations of either playing professionally or becoming a club pro. A motorbike accident when he was 19 years old and set to go through the qualifying ranks derailed his aspirations, with Phil saying, "I was a decent enough player to be a pro. I had an

accident that shattered my right leg... shattered my kneecap and did it badly. I had steel pins in my knee for a few years. I just rolled with the punches. My leg fixed up... and I didn't play as well as I did. I found other things to do."

- Phil got Adam started in golf by hitting large balls and gradually worked down to a golf ball. For example, when Adam had plastic clubs as a youngster, Phil had him hit a beachball. Phil says of the logic, "How do you miss a beachball? You can't. So it was always fun to him because he could hit it. And then we just brought the size of the ball down. By the time it got to playing par-3 golf, he was confident. He hit every shot great, but he was confident because he was used to hitting it. We had fun, and that was the key."
- The Scotts moved from Adelaide to Queensland at the end of the 1980s (Adam was about eight years old), and a year after the move Phil became general manager of Twin Waters Golf Club. Phil later entered the golf equipment and course designing industries, as he established Scott Golf Designs in 2001.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- An avid surfer; he picked it up when his family lived in the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast in Australia.
- Collects vintage Rolex watches.
- Other hobbies include photography and architecture, as his wife, Marie, is an architect.
- Favorite sports team is the Adelaide Crows, an Australian rules football club.

Charity

- Global apparel retailer UNIQLO in partnership with the American Junior Golf Association held the first UNIQLO Adam Scott Junior Golf Championship at the River Ridge Golf Club in Oxnard, California (between Santa Barbara and Los Angeles) in February 2022. In a cross-continental golfing collaboration, The AJGA, Japan Golf Association, and Golf Australia selected 78 members (ages 12-18), to join and compete in the tournament. As part of the tournament program, Adam Scott hosted special discussion and golf clinic for the junior players. The tournament was also contested in 2023 (Hammock Creek Golf Club in Palm City, Florida) and 2024 (The Falls Club of the Palm Beaches in Lake Worth, Florida).
- The Adam Scott Foundation was initiated in 2005 and provides life opportunities for Australian children and youth. The Foundation strives to assist and support young people, to provide a greater range of options and to enhance life and career possibilities.
- Scott spent most of his time during the COVID-19 lockdown in Gold Coast, Australia with his family. Conducted talks and golf clinics to junior golfers at Caloundra Golf Club and held IG Live "Nine holes with a mate" a few times to help promote golf in the area, junior initiatives and answer questions from fans.
- Kickstarted a \$5 junior program in the area and urged golf clubs around Australia to latch on. Scott offered cash from his own pocket to any club on the Sunshine Coast who created specific tee time blocks for juniors at just \$5 a head. He challenged the rest of the country to do the same.
- Scott partnered with his sponsor UNIQLO to have 150,000 medical masks donated to the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Australia, a non-profit organization that provides emergency and primary health care services over an area just short of three million square miles. They also donated jackets for the health care workers.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Maintains a friendship with Kelly Slater, a decorated world champion surfer.
- Shares his name with American actor, Adam Scott. The actor noted that he was mistaken for Adam Scott the golfer early in his career and detailed the story on Bravo's Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen.
- Owns a textbook golf swing and previously compared to Tiger Woods due to his days working with Butch Harmon. Has been featured across various media platforms for his golf swing and dashing good looks. He recalls the first time he played with Tiger: "A week or so before the (2000) U.S. Open, I was in Las Vegas and Tiger was stopping in on the Sunday before heading to Pebble Beach. Butch said to me on Saturday, Tiger is coming in and if he goes and plays, you can play with him. So I was nervous, of course. We went out and played and we had a match, and I was maybe 1-down through the turn at Rio Secco, and then Tiger stepped it up and went birdie, birdie, birdie and had an eagle. He closed me out on the 14th and shot 63 - with a double bogey at the ninth. I was a bit blown away by what I saw. It was quite windy and I thought I played quite well. I probably shot even par and I was nine off the pace. I made a throwaway comment to Butch, something like, Maybe I should reconsider turning pro. The only thing that made me feel good was he won the U.S. Open by 15 the next week, so I was quite happy to see that no one else really played like that."
- Teammates in his season and a half at UNLV included future multi-time PGA TOUR winner Charley Hoffman, who was a senior when Scott was a freshman for the 1998-99 season. Hoffman said of their season together, "He was a different specimen than he is now. He was this skinny little kid that had knee problems and could barely walk. It's definitely a different human being now than he ever was in college."
- Dwaine Knight, who took over as UNLV men's golf head coach in fall 1987 and maintained his position until retiring in 2021. Knight said of Scott, "People ask me all the time, who was the most impressive player I've coached, and I've had some obviously win the national championships individually, but the most impressive player for me, just pure talent-wise, was Adam Scott."
- Knight's understated personality was a big factor in Scott signing with UNLV. Scott recalled, "Dwaine had a much quieter nature about him (than other coaches on the recruiting trail), and that probably appealed to me. You could get the feeling that although he may have really wanted me to go there, he was not desperate. He was just calm and confident and kind of reassuring that he had a good program, that it was a good environment to go into."

Other

- Scott typically resides in Switzerland and travels in blocks to the U.S. to compete but in 2023 based himself in Florida between the Arnold Palmer Invitational in March and the U.S. Open in June in effort not to give up ground to U.S.-based players. "I don't live in the States, but I'm going to spend way more time in the States next year to compete seriously," Scott said. "I can't be flying all around the world playing against guys who don't."
- Scott is very particular about his irons. The Miura AS irons that he uses are special because they're made to match Scott's exact preferences; he prefers more offset, higher toe sections and longer blade lengths.

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 Åberg 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 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.
- Enjoys history, especially World War I and World War II.

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.

Scottie Scheffler

Things To Know

- Named one of "The 100 Most Influential People of 2026" by Time Magazine.
- Earned his 21st PGA TOUR title and second win of the 2026 season with an eight-stroke victory at the FedEx St. Jude Championship. Coupled with his eight-stroke win at the 2025 CJ CUP Byron Nelson, became the fifth player in the last 40 years with multiple wins of eight-plus strokes on TOUR, following Tiger Woods (10), Ernie Els (two), Dustin Johnson (two), and Rory McIlroy (two). At 30 years, 1 month, 26 days of age, became the third-youngest player to reach 21 career wins on TOUR since 1970, only behind Jack Nicklaus (27 years, 1 day at 1967 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am) and Tiger Woods (24 years, 6 months, 23 days at 2000 Open Championship).
- Opened his 2026 season with a victory at The American Express for his 20th PGA TOUR title. Became the first player to reach 20 PGA TOUR wins since Rory McIlroy (2021 CJ CUP in South Carolina), and the first player since Tiger Woods (2000 U.S. Open at 24 years, 5 months, 19 days of age) to earn 20 PGA TOUR wins prior to turning 30 years old. Earned his 20th TOUR title in what was his 151st career start -- since 1970, only Tiger Woods (95 starts) reached 20 TOUR victories in fewer starts.
- Serving a fourth consecutive year on the 16-member Player Advisory Council (PAC) for 2026. The PAC serves as a consulting body which vets and recommends changes to the PGA TOUR Policy Board on behalf of the membership.
- Following a seven-win 2024 season, recorded six wins in 2025, joining Tiger Woods (1999, 2000, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009) as the only other player since 1983 to record six-plus wins in multiple TOUR seasons. Scheffler earned the Jack Nicklaus Award as the 2025 PGA TOUR Player of the Year, which marked his fourth consecutive season as the award's winner. Scheffler followed Woods (1999-2003) as the second player to be named PGA TOUR Player of the Year at least four consecutive times. Scheffler also received the Byron Nelson Award as the TOUR's Scoring Average leader (68.131) for the third year in a row.
- Scheffler's six wins in 2025 included a victory at his hometown event (THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson), a successful title defense at the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday, major championship victories at the PGA Championship and The Open Championship (third and fourth major championship titles, respectively), and a FedExCup Playoffs victory at the BMW Championship. Followed Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods as the third player in the modern era to earn 15-plus PGA TOUR wins and three-plus major championships prior to turning 29 years old. Also followed Woods as the second player in history to win consecutive titles at the Memorial Tournament (2024 and 2025 for Scheffler; 1999, 2000, and 2001 for Woods).
- Following his victory at the 2025 Open Championship, Scheffler said of his priorities in life, "My faith and my family. Those come first for me. Golf is third in that order. I've said it for a long time, golf is not how I identify myself. I don't identify myself by winning tournaments, chasing trophies, being famous or whatever it is. I try to live as normal of a life as possible because I feel like a normal guy. I have the same friends I had growing up. I don't think I'm anything special just because some weeks I'm better at shooting a lower score than other guys are." Scheffler added, "It's something I actually talked to Shane (Lowry) about this week... just because you win a golf tournament or accomplish something, it doesn't make you happy. Maybe for a few moments, maybe for a few days, but at the end of the day, there's more to life than playing golf."
- In his pre-tournament press conference at the 2025 Open Championship, spoke openly about what does and does not fulfill him in life, saying, "To win the (CJ CUP) Byron Nelson at home, I literally worked my entire life to become good at golf to have an opportunity to win that

tournament. You win it, you celebrate, get to hug my family... it's such an amazing moment. Then it's like, 'What are we going to eat for dinner?' Life goes on. This is not a fulfilling life. It's fulfilling from the sense of accomplishment, but it's not fulfilling from a sense of the deepest places of your heart. That's something I wrestle with on a daily basis. We work so hard for such little moments. I love playing golf. I love being able to compete. I love living out my dreams. I love being a father. I love being able to take care of my son. I love being able to provide for my family out here playing golf. Every day when I wake up early to go put in the work, my wife thanks me for going out and working so hard. When I get home, I try to thank her every day for taking care of our son. This is not the end all be all. This is not the most important thing in my life. I'd much rather be a great father than I would a great golfer."

- On where his trophies and awards are displayed at home, Scheffler says, "I have a room in my house called 'The Golf Room,' and that's where all my crap goes. Literally. It's just a room full of all my golf junk. I've got some trophies in there as well... I'd like to say that (The Golf Room) is nicely presented, but it's not."
- Following his victory at the 2025 PGA Championship, said of playing golf, "When I think about the game of golf, my favorite thing to do is... when I can be by myself and I can just practice, it's one of the most fun things for me. It's so peaceful, and I love the pursuit of trying to figure something out. That's what I love about this game. I feel like you're always battling yourself, and you're always trying to figure things out. And you're never going to perfect it. In golf, there's always something you can figure out, there's always something you can do better. It's a great challenge, and it's a lot of fun."
- Earned his 14th PGA TOUR title at the 2025 CJ CUP Byron Nelson, where he previously made his PGA TOUR debut as a 17-year-old amateur in 2014. Scheffler tied the lowest 72-hole score in PGA TOUR history (31-under 253), equaling Justin Thomas (253 / 2017 Sony Open in Hawaii) and Ludvig Aberg (253 / 2023 RSM Classic). Said of winning the event, "This tournament means a lot to me. I grew up coming here to watch. It's very special to have won this tournament. It's really fun to be able to play here in my hometown, in front of the hometown fans. This was my first start on the PGA TOUR when I was in high school. The girl I was dating at the time (Meredith) is now my wife. We have one son. My sister (Callie) was caddying for me at the time; she was here today, she has two kids. We have a lot of great memories as kids coming to watch this tournament. I just dreamed to be able to play in it, and it's more of a dream to be able to win it."
- Reached No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking for the first time in his career on March 27, 2022 after winning the World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play. At just 25 years old, he became the sixth-youngest player to reach No. 1 since the OWGR was established in 1986.
- On becoming World No. 1: "It's not something that I didn't want to achieve or didn't believe that I could do. I grew up wearing long pants to go practice because I wanted to be a professional golfer. That's what I dreamed of. I dreamed of being out here. I've always been, I would say, fiercely competitive, and so for me getting out here was a goal per se, and being out here, I like competing and I enjoy the challenge of playing out here every week. The rankings never really crossed my mind. It was always just about being out here and competing."

Background

- Born in Ridgewood, New Jersey; moved Dallas when he was six. The move was a result of his mother, Diane, accepting a position as the chief operating officer of Dallas law firm Thompson & Knight. After the move, Scheffler's father, Scott, gave up his career as a carpenter to be a stay-at-home dad.

- Got started in golf at Orchard Hills Golf Course, a local nine-hole course on the grounds of Bergen Community College in Paramus, New Jersey. At the time, Scottie's older sister, Callie, was part of a swim team which trained at the Bergen Community College pool near the golf course; his father, Scott, needed a way to entertain young Scottie those evenings, so, since Orchard Hills did not have a driving range, they snuck onto the course and hit balls. When it got dark, Scott even stood next to the pin with a flashlight and had Scottie hit balls toward him. According to Scott, "The police would kick us off, and we'd come back on, then the police would kick us off again. One day, the guy (at the course) came out I said, 'Could you just watch for a minute?' And he's like, 'Wow. He's really good at this.' Then they wouldn't bother us anymore."
- Was a Ewing Automotive North Texas PGA Junior Tour member from 2002-2010, competing in 136 tournaments and winning 90 (66.2 percent). Often played in the older divisions, which included players such as Jordan Spieth, though the two were not particularly close throughout those years.
- Attended Highland Park High School in Dallas and won three individual state titles in golf - the only other person to have done that was Jordan Spieth. Notable alumni of Highland Park include Super Bowl champion quarterback Matthew Stafford, World Series champion pitcher Clayton Kershaw, and Pro Football Hall of Fame members Bobby Layne and Doak Walker.
- Won the 2013 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship, defeating Davis Riley in the championship match, and was named the 2013 AJGA Rolex Junior Player of the Year.
- Played the 2014 CJ CUP Byron Nelson via a sponsor exemption as a 17-year-old amateur, finishing T22 with sister Callie on the bag. Carded an ace in the third round, holing his tee shot with a 5-iron from 221 yards at TPC Las Colinas. The high school grad was heading to the University of Texas later that summer to embark on his college career. Asked about not receiving the \$50,000+ that would have come with his finish, Scheffler joked: "Jordan (Spieth) told me I would be mad when I get down to Austin next year and I don't have any money. I guess I'll be mad then. I'm not too upset right now."
- Played collegiately at the University of Texas from 2014 to 2018, where he helped the team win three Big 12 Conference Championships and was named Freshman of the Year in 2015; member of U.S. Walker Cup Team in 2017. At UT, was teammates with future PGA TOUR members Beau Hossler, Kramer Hickok and Doug Ghim.
- After turning professional in 2018, competed on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2019 and earned two victories en route to being named the 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year. Within the next two seasons, Scheffler was named 2020 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year and represented the United States at the 2021 Ryder Cup.
- Breakout season on the PGA TOUR was the 2021-22 season, when he won his first four PGA TOUR titles in a span of six starts, including his first major championship title (2022 Masters Tournament). Scheffler was named 2022 PGA TOUR Player of the Year at season's end and set the single-season earnings record with \$14,046,910 (previous record was held by Jordan Spieth, who amassed \$12,030,465 in 2014-15).
- Became the first back-to-back winner of THE PLAYERS Championship (2023, 2024) in the 50th playing of the tournament.

Family

- Married to high school sweetheart, Meredith Scudder. The pair first crossed paths at Highland Park High School in Dallas, where they began dating as seniors. They stayed close despite attending different colleges - he at University of Texas and she at Texas A&M. The couple wed in December 2020 in a winter wonderland-themed wedding. Meredith was unaware of Scottie's fledgling golf career until 2014, when he received a sponsor exemption into THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson: "We were hanging out with her dad and (THE CJ CUP Byron

Nelson) commercial came on TV. And she was kind of looking around, she was like, 'Wait a minute. Isn't that next weekend? Isn't that what you're doing?' And I was like, 'Yeah, that's what I'm doing.' She's like, 'Wow, that's cool.'"

- Scottie and Meredith welcomed their first child -- a son, Bennett (Bennie) -- in May 2024. Son Remy followed in March 2026, with the family of four on-site at the Masters just nine days later.
- Father, Scott, played high school basketball at the same school Vince Lombardi attended -- St. Cecilia High School of Englewood, New Jersey. Mother, Diane, went to high school with and was friends with the late James Gandolfini at Park Ridge High School in Park Ridge, New Jersey. While Scottie was growing up, Scott was a stay-at-home father for four Scheffler children while Diane was (and still is) Chief Operating Officer at a law firm.
- Three sisters: Callie, Sara and Molly. Callie played golf at Texas A&M.
- Scottie says of his parents and sisters: "A lot of my personality probably comes from my dad. My dad is fiercely competitive like I am. My parents, they made a lot of sacrifices to put me in a position where I'm able to do this for a living, and they made a lot of sacrifices when I was a kid. My sisters as well. They've seen a lot of golf tournaments in their lifetime, probably a lot more than they've wanted to. I'm very grateful for the sacrifices they made and obviously had such a huge impact on my life."
- Grandmother, Mary DeLorenzo, lives in the greater Jacksonville area and was notably in attendance for wins at the 2022 Arnold Palmer Invitational and 2023 PLAYERS Championship.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Makes himself coffee every morning at home in Texas (double shot of espresso with a little honey and cinnamon), but does not drink coffee prior to tournament rounds, and only occasionally before practice rounds. Scheffler developed his at-home coffee routine in summer 2022, when he bought an espresso machine and taught himself how to use it.
- Basketball; he was a good defensive player and a self-described "lockdown guy" and "hustle guy" for his high school team. The Highland Park coaches also noted he was dangerous as a spot-up shooter and aggressive rebounder. Scheffler gave up basketball as a sophomore in high school, but as he went to the games and watched his friends, he was drawn back into the game. Scheffler played on the JV team as a junior and the varsity team as a senior. Scheffler actually helped hold freshman point guard Trae Young (now an NBA All-Star guard) to three points in a tournament his senior year. Scheffler recalled of his basketball days, "I always loved team sports, and I had some of my best friends on that team."
- Wearing the Green Jacket, threw out the first pitch at a Texas Rangers-Houston Astros MLB game on April 27, 2022. In addition to meeting players and coaches, he and wife Meredith were both presented personalized Rangers jerseys. "I love Dallas. It's my home. It's probably where I will live the rest of my life. I don't root for any teams outside of Dallas. We grew up going to a lot of Mavs games in high school and I've become a bigger Rangers fan in the last couple of years. A lot of my buddies from college love the Astros, so it's fun to be a Ranger fan. We have a good rivalry. Hopefully, the Rangers start winning some championships."
- Pickleball. Scheffler teamed up with Jordan Spieth on October 13 of 2022 in Frisco, Texas for the Celebrity Battle of the Paddle against Dallas Mavericks legend Dirk Nowitzki and American tennis star John Isner. Despite a massive disadvantage in reach - Nowitzki and Isner are listed at 7-feet and 6 feet 10 inches tall, respectively, with wingspans to match - Spieth and Scheffler held their own and flashed some skills before ultimately losing 11-6.
- During the 2023 TOUR Championship, announced his co-ownership of the Texas Ranchers, one of the eight founding Major League Pickleball (MLP) teams in the U.S. Pickleball is one of Scheffler's favorite activities outside of golf. Other notable Texas athletes investing in this

new venture include Dallas Cowboys star Micah Parsons, Houston Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud, and former Texas A&M standout Myles Garrett.

Charity

- Close to a non-profit -- Triumph Over Kid Cancer -- founded by his late friend James Ragan who was from Corpus Christi, Texas. The two met while playing on the Texas Legends Tour. Ragan had been diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer, in June 2006, when he was 13. He went on to become a public advocate and fundraising force for pediatric cancer. When Scheffler won the U.S. Junior Amateur in 2013, he choked up during a Golf Channel interview when asked about Ragan. Scheffler said he thought about his friend several times during the final match. Ragan passed away at the age of 20 in 2014.
- Scheffler was surprised with the 2024 PGA TOUR Player of the Year award in December 2024 during a FedEx charity event at a local PGA TOUR Superstore, where he and wife Meredith hosted the Dallas-based charity, Behind Every Door. In honor of Scheffler's historic year, which saw him win the 2024 FedExCup title, FedEx donated \$50,000 to the non-profit, as it is close to the Scheffler's heart. Behind Every Door is committed to creating pathway opportunities of hope for individuals to realize their God-given potential, fostering lasting change in their lives and communities.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Began working with famed instructor Randy Smith at Royal Oaks Country Club after moving to Dallas around the time he was eight years old. Smith guided Scheffler through the pain and adjustments of going from 5-foot-2 in seventh grade to 6-foot-3 by the time he headed to University of Texas. Smith says of his earliest days with Scheffler: "He hit low and high. Here's this tiny little kid who could hit every shot. He could shape it, move it, and he was doing it by feel." Smith says Scheffler has a "blue-collar work ethic with an artist's imagination and high intelligence."
- Randy Smith is a PGA of America Hall of Famer. In a career spanning more than four decades, he developed a reputation as the go-to instructor for young players in North Texas, including 12-time PGA TOUR winner Justin Leonard, four-time TOUR winner Ryan Palmer, three-time TOUR winner John Rollins, TOUR winners Harrison Frazar and Cody Gribble, and 2007 U.S. Amateur Championship winner Colt Knost.
- Scottie says one of the most important things Randy Smith taught him was patience, explaining, "When you're younger and things aren't going the way they're supposed to, Randy always did a really good job of reminding me that it was a long journey to become good at golf. You're going to have ups and downs. I wasn't always the best player. I felt like I could be the best player. Randy was always by my side helping me stay patient, and teaching me little things along the way."
- Agent, Blake Smith, is the son of Randy Smith.
- At University of Texas, played under longtime head coach John Fields, who took over the program in August 1997. One of the biggest lessons Fields taught Scheffler was staying in the present, with Scheffler explaining, "When I first got to college, I was trying to date this girl whose name was Meredith [now his wife], and I would come out to the course and if she shot me a text or gave me a call, I would pick it up. And I would get a little distracted when it came to practicing. Coach [Fields] sat me down and said, 'Hey, listen, when you're at the golf course, you need to be focused on what you're doing at the golf course. When you're in class, you need to be paying attention in class. When you get to do your social stuff, you need to be

present where you are.' It's a daily battle to try and focus on the task at hand... when you're thinking about what you're doing, I think that's when you're living."

- Good friends with Sam Burns, who he faced in the 2023 Charles Schwab Challenge playoff (Burns won). The pair have known each other since they were teenagers, playing AJGA golf events together. Along with spouses Meredith (Scheffler) and Caroline (Burns), the group has vacationed together, including a trip to Greece after the 2022 Open Championship, and are members of the TOUR's Bible study, as faith is a shared foundation of their friendship.
- Scheffler hired veteran Ted Scott to caddie for him starting with the 2021 RSM Classic and won in their fourth official start together at the 2022 WM Phoenix Open -- which was Scheffler's first PGA TOUR title. The two met through a Bible study composed of players and caddies.

Other

- Made a cameo appearance in Happy Gilmore 2, released on Netflix in July 2025.
- Featured in Season 3 of Netflix's Full Swing, an immersive documentary that follows life on the PGA TOUR. Season 3 features returning favorites and new faces offering a look on and off the course across a relentless 2024 season.
- During THE NORTHERN TRUST in 2021, penalized himself one stroke for surpassing the three-minute time period (Rule 18.2) allowed in search of an errant second shot on the 15th hole of the opening round. After the round was over, Scheffler talked with fellow competitor Daniel Berger and PGA TOUR Rules Officials to determine what to do. "We couldn't figure it out", Scheffler said. "They didn't have ShotLink data or anything, so just went with it was over 3 minutes. Just too long."
- Won The Genesis Invitational Collegiate Showcase in 2018 as a senior at the University of Texas at Riviera Country Club. Previous winners included Will Zalatoris (2015) and Sahith Theegala (2017).
- Won The East Lake Cup in 2018. The East Lake Cup is a collegiate competition featuring top-performing teams from the NCAA Men's and Women's Golf Championships.
- Played three times in The Junior PLAYERS Championship conducted by the AJGA and played annually at TPC Sawgrass, home of THE PLAYERS: (2011/5th, 2012/T33, 2013/6th).

Chris Gotterup

Things To Know

- Earned his fifth PGA TOUR title - his third win of the 2026 season and fourth TOUR win in a span of 357 days - with a one-stroke victory at the 2026 John Deere Classic. With his younger brother, Patrick, as his caddie, Gotterup erased a five-stroke deficit with a bogey-free 9-under 62 in the final round. Won in what was his 85th career start on TOUR, making him the fifth player since 2000 to earn five PGA TOUR titles in 85 starts or less, as he followed Collin Morikawa (51 starts), Rory McIlroy (52 starts), Bryson DeChambeau (73 starts), and Jordan Spieth (76 starts) in accomplishing the feat. Previously finished T4 at the 2022 John Deere Classic as a sponsor exemption, noting after the win, "It really kickstarted my whole career. To be able to come back and win makes it even more special."
- Earned his second PGA TOUR title at the 2025 Genesis Scottish Open, posting a two-stroke victory over Rory McIlroy (one of his playing partners in the final group Sunday) and Marco Penge. Gotterup said of his second victory, "I feel like a lot of people say the second one is harder just because you have expectations and whatnot. It's definitely more validation. This one, I feel like I've been talking to my team about wanting to take the next step, and I feel like this is part of that." Longtime Rutgers University head coach Rob Shutte, who Gotterup played under in his four seasons at the school, was in attendance for the win, making a last-minute schedule change while recruiting in Europe. Gotterup says of Shutte, "He believed in me way before a lot of other people did. For him to be here and see that unfold is pretty cool."
- Says of his swing, "I heavily rely on feel and I'm not very technical. I'm not worried about what my swing looks like. I just want to know: does the club feel good in my hands? And can I make the ball go left to right? Can I go right to left? Can I hit my numbers? For me, it's about what I can do to create consistency and feel good about it."
- Gotterup is of Danish heritage. Chris' paternal grandparents were born in Denmark and maintained a residence there for many years until the early 2020s. Chris' father, Morten, speaks Danish as the product of a Danish-speaking household. Chris, however, does not speak Danish. The true spelling of Gotterup's last name has a slash through the o. Chris and his family visited Denmark multiple times throughout his youth, with Chris saying in summer 2025, "I haven't been in the last eight, 10 years. I'd like to go back now that I'm somewhat older and experience it for what it is. We went to Tivoli (Gardens), and then we went to Copenhagen. It's a great place."
- Earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time via the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour season, which saw the top 30 players on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List earn TOUR membership for the 2024 season. Finished No. 23 on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List to earn his TOUR card, recording 21 made cuts -- including three top-10s -- in 24 starts. Gotterup spent the majority of the 2023 season on the wrong side of the top 30 bubble, but closed the season with five top-25s in his final six starts.
- Finished No. 7 in the 2022 PGA TOUR University Ranking after four seasons at Rutgers University (2017-21) and a fifth season at University of Oklahoma (2021-22). Performance benefits for his PGA TOUR U finish included PGA TOUR Canada membership for the remainder of 2022, though he did not make any PGA TOUR Canada starts. Instead, Gotterup elected to play the PGA TOUR via sponsor exemptions in pursuit of Special Temporary Membership.

Background

- Moved to Edmond, Oklahoma in early 2023 to play and practice out of the famed Oak Tree National. Gotterup had a house near the course, but he moved to Florida following the 2025 season for better year-round practice conditions.
- Born in Easton, Maryland but grew up predominantly in New Jersey and says he is "New Jersey through and through." Gotterup grew up in Rumson, New Jersey (Jersey Shore area) and played much of his golf at Rumson Country Club.
- Broke par for the first time with a round of 69 at Rumson Country Club around the time he was 13 / 14 years old. The scorecard (which he framed) hangs in the basement of his parents' home in New Jersey, and it's the only one Chris kept from his childhood -- because it won him a trip to Pebble Beach. Chris and his father, Morten, had a bet that the first time Chris broke par, they'd go and play Pebble Beach. Ahead of his tournament debut at the 2026 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Chris recounted the experience, saying, "I have a video of my brother lipping out a putt on No. 18 and he fell to his knees. It was my first time being a decent player and getting to play a place like (Pebble Beach) and enjoying it, rather than being a young kid and not really know what you're doing. I was able to appreciate the history and greatness of (Pebble Beach)."
- Mostly played local / regional events as a junior golfer growing up in New Jersey. Recalled how he went to Texas once for a junior tournament, "shot a million" and "hated the idea my parents had spent money on me to travel and I'd play like s---."
- Played lacrosse for 12 years; he sustained "a couple" concussions, which contributed to him leaving the sport.
- Played four seasons at Rutgers University (2017-21) and transferred to University of Oklahoma for a fifth-year senior season (2021-22).
- Began to take his fitness a lot more seriously his sophomore season at Rutgers (2018-19); he weighed close to 250 pounds going into that season, but eventually worked his way down to roughly 200 pounds.
- Between his sophomore and junior seasons at Rutgers, won two prestigious tournaments in the Tri-State area in summer 2019, taking titles at the New Jersey Open and Met Amateur. Those wins shifted Gotterup's perspective on the potential of professional golf. Gotterup said, "I didn't go into school being like, 'I'm turning pro after school.' I went in like, 'Alright, let's see how it goes.' Once I started seeing some results... it definitely helped me take it seriously."
- As a junior at Rutgers, was named the 2019-20 Big Ten Conference Player of the Year and finished as the league's Les Bolstad Award winner -- annually bestowed to the player with the lowest scoring average. [NOTE: much of the spring 2020 season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.]
- In the 2019-20 season when he was named Big Ten Conference Player of the Year, tore a ligament in his thumb and was expected to miss time prior to the remainder of the season being cancelled due to COVID.
- Of his decision to transfer from Rutgers -- and leave his home state of New Jersey -- to Oklahoma after four seasons, Gotterup says, "I would never have been able to get to Oklahoma if I didn't have Rutgers. The toughest part wasn't picking Oklahoma. The toughest part was leaving Rutgers. I built myself there. I changed who I was and changed my game there. I did my four years at Rutgers and I loved it, but the opportunity was there and I felt like I had to take it."
- In his lone season at Oklahoma, won the 2022 Fred Haskins and Jack Nicklaus Awards (i.e. - two of the three National Player of the Year awards in collegiate golf), and was a consensus All-America First Team selection. Finished runner-up to Ludvig Aberg at the 2022 Big 12 Conference Championship, where he helped the Sooners win the league title. Also finished T5 at the 2022 NCAA Championship.

- Playing predominantly via sponsor exemptions, recorded six made cuts in eight PGA TOUR starts in summer 2022, highlighted by a T4 at the 2022 John Deere Classic as a sponsor exemption. Gotterup earned enough non-member FedExCup points to qualify for the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Finals, as well as an exemption to Final Stage of the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament (now PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry), where he finished T3 and earned starts for essentially the first half of the 2023 season. [NOTE: beginning with 2023, the Korn Ferry Tour Finals became an extension of the Korn Ferry Tour's season-long points race as opposed to a mechanism for awarding a separate set of 25 PGA TOUR cards.]

Family

- Father, Morten, has five New Jersey State Golf Association victories: 2024 New Jersey Senior 4-Ball Championship, 2022 and 2023 New Jersey Senior Amateur Championship, 2020 New Jersey Four Ball Championship, 2012 New Jersey Pre-Senior Championship.
- Credits his father, Morten, for getting him interested in playing golf. As a kid, he would tag along with his father at their local course in New Jersey and enjoyed playing but did not take it seriously until high school.
- Father, Morten, played tennis at St. Mary's College of California (1985-89) before going on to earn a masters degree at Pepperdine University.
- Mother, Kate, played field hockey and softball in high school.
- Younger sister, Anna, attends the United States Naval Academy and plays on the women's lacrosse team (2026 is her senior season). Anna was diagnosed with Popliteal Artery Entrapment Syndrome, a rare vascular condition which caused the calf muscle in her left leg to atrophy down to a fraction of its normal size. Anna had surgery and sat out her freshman season on the lacrosse team (2023), but made a strong recovery and will attend flight school as a potential Navy pilot in September 2026. Chris says of Anna, "Putting a lot of things to the side and sacrificing a lot of stuff for the country and all the people that are on her team... I have a much greater appreciation for what she does."
- Younger brother, Patrick, caddied for Chris the majority of the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour season. Patrick went from a 10 handicap index to a 2 handicap in roughly a year of playing golf in New Jersey in 2020.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Always plays with his glove's velcro strap unfastened, saying he doesn't like the restrictive feeling of the glove when it's strapped too tight. Gotterup also says, "I find it super comfortable, like an old, warm pair of shoes you slide on and off." Gotterup added that, as a youngster he had a "super strong left grip... the velcro would crunch and I hated it. I hated the sound of it."
- Loves tacos, especially selections from Velvet Taco.
- Got into Formula 1 Racing (F1) via the Netflix series Drive to Survive; he also enjoyed The Punisher series starring Jon Bernthal on Netflix.
- Favorite sports teams are the New York Knicks (NBA basketball) and New Jersey Devils (NHL hockey).
- Often travels with his Xbox while on the road as his getaway from golf during the season.

Charity

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

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Close friends with Oklahoma State alum Austin Eckroat who was his playing partner at the 2024 Zurich Classic of New Orleans (finished T11). Gotterup and Eckroat forged their friendship during the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Finals, and the two regularly play golf together at their home course Oak Tree National in Edmond, Oklahoma.
- Teammates in his lone season at Oklahoma (2021-22) included Korn Ferry Tour winner Logan McAllister (No. 3 from 2022 PGA TOUR University Ranking) and Patrick Welch (No. 8 from 2023 PGA TOUR University Ranking).
- Throughout his 2023 season on the Korn Ferry Tour, would regularly rent houses on the road with fellow Oklahoma alums Logan McAllister and Quade Cummins.
- Friends with Korn Ferry Tour winner Roberto Diaz; they share a mutual connection and the two have known each other for quite some time.

Other

- Won the 2022 Puerto Rico Classic at Grand Reserve GC in Rio Grande, a collegiate event which awarded an exemption for the PGA TOUR's 2022 Puerto Rico Open. Two weeks after his collegiate victory, finished T7 at the same venue in his PGA TOUR debut. At the time, it was the best finish by an amateur on the PGA TOUR since Sam Burns (T6/2017 Barbasol Championship).
- Made his first TOUR start as a professional at the 2022 RBC Canadian Open (MC); he also notably qualified for and competed in the 2022 U.S. Open (T43).
- Featured cast member in Season 4 (2023) of One Shot Away, the Korn Ferry Tour's season-long, six-episode documentary series available on YouTube.

Rory McIlroy

Things To Know

- Named to TIME's list of The 100 Most Influential People in Sports 2026.
- Earned his 30th PGA TOUR title (tying Horton Smith for 16th all time) and sixth major championship (tying Nick Faldo, Lee Trevino, and Phil Mickelson for 12th all time) as he successfully defended his title at the 2026 Masters Tournament. Converted the largest 36-hole lead in Masters history (six strokes) into a one-stroke victory over world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler. Followed Jack Nicklaus (1965, 1966), Nick Faldo (1989, 1990), and Tiger Woods (2001, 2002) as the fourth player in history to successfully defend their title at the Masters. Parents - Gerry and Rosie - were both in attendance for tournament week, and Rory and Gerry played a Sunday practice round together. Rory said of their presence, "It's the second major (win) my mom has been at; she was at The Open at Hoylake in 2014. There was a piece of them that didn't want to come this year... but I'm so glad they got to experience this. They missed it last year, and the first thing I wanted to do was fly home to see them, because I wouldn't be sitting up here if it wasn't for them."
- In his pre-tournament press conference at the 2026 Masters Tournament, said of his remaining goals and ambitions, "I think the story as it relates to me is what do I do from now onwards? What motivates me? What do I still want to achieve in the game? And there's still a lot that I want to do. You think every time you achieve something or have success that you'll be happy, but then the goalposts move, and they just keep nudging a little bit further and further out of reach. I think what I've realized is, if you can just really find enjoyment in the journey, that's the big thing. I felt like the career grand slam was my destination, and I got there, and then I realized it wasn't the destination." Previously said after his victory at the 2025 Masters Tournament, "You think about Gary Player on that list (of career grand slam winners) with nine major championships, probably the greatest international player ever, that's something I'd like to be able to say about myself when all is said and done."
- Named the 2025 BBC Sports Personality of the Year, following Dai Rees (1957) and Nick Faldo (1989) as the third golfer to earn the prestigious award. Other notable recipients, who must either be British or reside and play a significant amount of their sport in the United Kingdom, through the years include David Beckham (2001), Andy Murray (2013, 2015, 2016), and Lewis Hamilton (2020).
- Won the 2025 Masters Tournament to complete the career grand slam, becoming the sixth player in history to accomplish the feat. Followed Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus, and Tiger Woods as winners of all four major championships. Became the first European player to complete the career grand slam, and followed Gary Player of South Africa as the second international player to accomplish the feat. Victory at the 2025 Masters also ended an 11-year major championship drought, as McIlroy had last won the final two majors of the 2014 season (The Open Championship in July, PGA Championship in August). McIlroy later said of his emotion on the 18th green, "The release was my expectations, everyone else's expectations, the narrative that had been built around me at that golf tournament for 15 years, and remembering who I was as a little boy in Holywood, with this dream and making it a reality."
- Of completing the career grand slam, McIlroy said, "It's a dream come true. That was my dream. My dream was to win the four major championships in golf. To be able to say that I've done that, I always go back to eight-year-old Rory that said that, and he would be, hopefully, very proud of the person he's turned into. I had a dream from a very young age, and I've put everything into fulfilling that dream."

- With victories at the 2025 PLAYERS Championship and 2025 Masters Tournament, followed Tiger Woods (2001) and Scottie Scheffler (2024) as the third player in history to win both events in the same year.

Background

- From Holywood, a town of around 12,000 people in the metropolitan area of Belfast in County Down, Northern Ireland. He was raised as a Catholic, and identifies as Irish and Northern Irish.
- He was first introduced to golf by his father, Gerry (a scratch player), who coached him; McIlroy began by swinging a plastic club and trying to mimic his dad's swing. Enjoys playing with his dad to this day - the pair frequently play together at Seminole in South Florida.
- McIlroy became the youngest golfer at the Holywood Golf Club at the age of seven.
- The idea of him as a child prodigy or 'golf's next big thing' was given some credence when at just 9 years of age, he claimed the under-10 World Championship in Doral, Florida.
- McIlroy attended St. Patrick's Primary School and Sullivan Upper School.
- Left school at age 16 to concentrate on amateur golf. To support their son's golf game, McIlroy's father held down several jobs to earn additional income, and Rosie, his mom, worked extra shifts at the local 3M plant.
- Shot 61 at Royal Portrush (the course record) when he was 16 at the Northern Ireland Open. He recalls every shot of the round and has said, "I probably had more confidence [at 16] than I do now."
- At the age of 15, McIlroy was part of Europe's winning 2004 Junior Ryder Cup team at Westfield Country Club, held in conjunction with the Ryder Cup Muirfield Village Golf Club; Tony Finau was on the U.S. Team.
- Initially, McIlroy signed a letter of intent in 2004 to play college golf at East Tennessee State University. However, after becoming the youngest-ever winner of both the West of Ireland Championship and the Irish Close Championship in 2005, he decided to not attend college and continue playing golf around Europe (Seamus Power benefitted from scholarship funds available when McIlroy vacated the spot at East Tennessee State).
- After turning professional in 2007, McIlroy joined the DP World Tour (formerly European Tour). He had his first win on the DP World Tour in 2009 (Dubai Desert Classic in February 2009), and on the PGA TOUR in 2010 (Wells Fargo Championship in May 2010). At the age of 22, McIlroy was the youngest player to achieve 10 million in career earnings on the DP World Tour, and the youngest Affiliate Member to earn a Tour card. In 2012, he became the youngest player to reach \$10 million in career earnings on the PGA TOUR.
- In 2014, McIlroy won The Open Championship at Royal Liverpool, beating Rickie Fowler and Sergio Garcia by two strokes. McIlroy's father won approximately \$342,000 after making a bet with two of his friends that McIlroy would win The Open before the age of 26 (the 2014 event was the last chance for his father/friends to cash in).
- In describing his emotions immediately following his victory at the 2025 Masters Tournament, McIlroy alluded to his devastating final round at the 2011 Masters Tournament, saying, "I released 14 years of disappointments, of frustrations, of pent-up emotion I probably kept in this entire time." In his champion's press conference, McIlroy added, "It's the best day of my golfing life. I'm very proud of myself. I'm proud of never giving up. I'm proud of how I kept coming back and dusting myself off and not letting the disappointments really get to me."

Family

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

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

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

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- His caddie is Harry Diamond, a childhood friend. They began working together in 2017. McIlroy met Diamond when he was seven and Diamond was 12, on the putting green at Holywood Golf Club. "I was an only child, and Harry was a big brother," he said in an interview. They were the best man at each other's weddings.
- Named his first dog after Ernie Els, calling him Theo (Els' first name).

Other

- Partnered with Versant (through his global ambassadorship with GolfPass) to establish Firethorn Productions in December 2025. The mission is to "produce original content and experiences that celebrate Rory's world and the modern golf lifestyle." Firethorn's first major project was "Rory McIlroy: The Masters Wait", which premiered exclusively on Prime Video in March 2026.
- Says of being a two-time winner of THE PLAYERS Championship, "I'm proudest of just figuring out that golf course a little bit more. It's an iconic tournament. All of the best, most relevant players in the world, in history have pretty much won THE PLAYERS. And it seems like it only gets bigger each and every year, its presence in the golf calendar. If you would've asked me from 2009 through 2012 if I thought I'd ever win there, I would have said absolutely not. The fact I've went through my career and I've won a couple, I'm proud of that."

- McIlroy earned an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in 2012 at the age of 22 for his services to sport. Other PGA TOUR players to receive an MBE include Luke Donald and Justin Rose.
- Representing Ireland, lost out on an Olympic Bronze Medal at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo when he was knocked out on the third hole of a seven-man playoff (eventually won by C.T. Pan of Chinese Taipei). McIlroy said, "I've never tried so hard in my life to finish third." Furthermore, McIlroy - who skipped the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio - said, "I made some comments before that were probably uneducated and impulsive, but coming here experiencing it, seeing, feeling everything that goes on, not just Olympic golf but just the Olympics in general, that sort of Olympic spirit's definitely bitten me and I'm excited how this week's turned out and excited for the future."
- Finished T5 at the 2024 Olympic Men's Golf Competition contested at Le Golf National in Paris.
- Featured in Seasons 2 and 3 of Netflix's Full Swing, an immersive documentary series which follows life on the PGA TOUR.
- Made cameo appearances in Happy Gilmore 2, released on Netflix in July 2025, and The Devil Wears Prada 2, released in theatres in May 2026.

Cameron Young

Things To Know

- Captured his third PGA TOUR title (and second win of the 2026 season) with a dominant wire-to-wire victory at the 2026 Cadillac Championship. Recorded a six-stroke victory at Trump National Doral, and notably called a penalty on himself in the final round (caused his ball at rest to move) on the par-4 second -- and saved par with a 13-foot, 6-inch putt.
- Earned his second PGA TOUR title with a one-stroke victory over Matt Fitzpatrick, his playing partner in the final round, at the 2026 PLAYERS Championship. Celebrated on the 18th green at TPC Sawgrass with his wife and three young children, saying, "I've dreamed of having that moment with them for a long time, and last year at the Wyndham Championship happened to be one of the three weeks they missed all year." Closed the tournament with a birdie at the famous par-3 17th, and par at the daunting par-4 18th after a 375-yard drive, the longest by any player on the hole in the ShotLink era (since 2003). Young said of the tee shot on No. 18, "The overarching thought is, 'I'm going to hit the best shot of my life right here.' I don't know if I can think of one that's better." Birdied No. 17 each of the final three rounds, becoming the first winner of THE PLAYERS Championship to accomplish the feat. With the victory, rose to No. 4 in the Official World Golf Ranking, marking his first appearance in the top 10.
- 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."
- 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. 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."

- Following his win at the 2026 PLAYERS Championship, Young said of his on-course facial expressions, "I think if you asked my wife, she would say he's a very, very happy person. And I am. I love my life, I love my family, I love my job. I couldn't ask for much more. I just think it's more... that's the best way for me to play the best."

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."
- Young's family also maintained a residence at Orange Tree Golf Club, less than three miles from Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club and Lodge. Remembered riding his bike over to watch Tiger Woods play in the pro-am of the Arnold Palmer Invitational. Says of Bay Hill, "It's this kind of mystical place, in a sense. I've always loved it and always happy to come here and get to play."
- 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 (2021) and John (2022), and a daughter, Vivienne (2024).
- Father, David, is a PGA of America Professional who retired in fall 2022 after a 21-year run as the head professional of Sleepy Hollow Country Club in Scarborough, New York. 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

- Faith is important to he and his family. While on TOUR, will find a different church and attend mass there. Young says, "It's a nice opportunity for us to be together, to share something together."
- 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.
- Young says of the pause, "I don't really feel it. If I ever do start to feel it, I know something is wrong... there's something moving around up there that probably shouldn't be." Young tried and failed multiple times to eliminate the pause, saying, "I'm like a 3 handicap if I try to get rid of it."
- Said of his decision to delete his social media channels -- which he hardly posted on anyway - - and apps, "It was just consuming content for no reason... I just felt like my time could be better spent elsewhere. And getting rid of it altogether ultimately quieted my mind."

Charity

- In March 2026, following his victory at THE PLAYERS Championship, Wake Forest University announced the Cameron Young Family Men's Golf Scholarship. Young said of the scholarship, "Wake Forest gave me an unbelievable foundation, not just in golf but in life. This scholarship is about giving others the same opportunity I had."
- 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

- 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

- 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.
- 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."

Min Woo

Min Woo Lee

Things To Know

- Represented Australia in the 2024 Olympic Men's Golf Competition in Paris. He was joined by fellow Australian Jason Day. Reflecting on competing in the Olympics, Lee said, "It's special. Obviously representing your country, there's a little bit of pressure... I think the crowds are really special. Every stand-out hole, there were a lot of people... It was special."
- His sister, Minjee Lee, also competed in the 2024 Olympics, which marked her third appearance in the Olympic Women's Golf Competition (2016 Rio, 2020 Tokyo, 2024 Paris). She had the chance to watch a few holes of Min Woo during his final round.
- Selected as a captain's pick for the International Team for the 2024 Presidents Cup at Royal Montreal Golf Club, which marked Lee's Presidents Cup debut; he was one of three Aussies on the team (Adam Scott, Jason Day).
- First DP World Tour victory came at the 2020 Vic Open, finishing two shots clear of New Zealander Ryan Fox. The victory continued a remarkable run of family success at 13th Beach Golf Links in Victoria, Australia, as his older sister, Minjee Lee, is a two-time winner of the Women's Vic Open. Minjee won the event as an amateur in 2014 (which made her the No. 1 women's amateur in the world), when it was a WPGA Tour of Australasia event, and again in 2018, when it was co-sanctioned by the Ladies European Tour.

Background

- Plays out of Royal Fremantle Golf Club in Western Australia. The club was established in 1905 and notably hosted the 1960 Australian PGA Championship. PGA TOUR winner Greg Chalmers rose through the club's junior program, winning both the Junior and Men's Club Championships in 1989 at age 15. Oliver Goss, the low amateur at the 2014 Masters Tournament and runner-up to Matt Fitzpatrick at the 2013 U.S. Amateur, also honed his game at the club and won three consecutive Junior Club Championships from 2009-11.
- Also played soccer, taekwondo, and swam growing up, but dedicated himself to golf at age 15. In a Golf Digest feature in October 2024, Lee said, "I didn't necessarily love golf when I was younger. I quit for a year when I was 11 because I thought it was a boring, old-man's sport. I really liked soccer, [Australian Rules] football, taekwondo and lifting weights. I enjoyed them much more than golf."
- Min Woo and his older sister, Minjee Lee, dominated the junior and amateur circuits in Western Australia. Min Woo won the Western Australia Junior Championships three times (2013, 2014, 2016) to his sister Minjee's two times (2010, 2011). Both siblings won the Amateur Championships of Western Australia twice, with Min Woo winning in 2015 and 2017, and Minjee winning consecutive titles in 2010 - becoming the youngest winner in history at age 14 - and 2011. Minjee one-upped her brother with back-to-back victories at the 2013 and 2014 Australian Women's Amateur Championship. Min Woo's best finish in the Australian Amateur was a runner-up in 2017.
- Won the 2016 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship, defeating Noah Goodwin 2&1 in the final. Min Woo became the first Australian to win the title and, combined with his older sister, Minjee Lee, became the first brother-sister tandem to win USGA Junior Championships. Minjee won the 2012 U.S. Girls' Junior Championship.
- Represented Australia at the 2018 Eisenhower Trophy. Denmark won the title, while the United States team of Collin Morikawa, Justin Suh, and Cole Hammer finished second.

- Earned conditional status on the Korn Ferry Tour for the 2019 season with a T67 finish at Final Stage of the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, which he played as an amateur. Min Woo finished fourth in his second DP World Tour start of the season and missed the cut in his Korn Ferry Tour debut, leaving him buried in the priority ranking and thus leading him to focus on playing the DP World Tour.
- Turned professional in January 2019 at age 21 and made his professional debut at the DP World Tour's Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship. Later made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2021 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Family

- Older sister, Minjee Lee, is two years and two months older than Min Woo. Minjee, who turned professional in 2014 at age 18, is a three-time Olympian representing Australia.
- Minjee and Min Woo speak to each other quite often, but they rarely talk about their golf. Conversations tend to be more about their personal lives rather than their professional careers.
- Minjee caddied for Min Woo in the 2022 Masters Tournament Par 3 Contest.
- Min Woo and Minjee are of Korean descent, as their parents, Soonam and Clara Lee, emigrated from Korea to Australia in the 1990s. Min Woo's upbringing is more in line with Western Australia than his Korean heritage.
- Mother, Clara Lee, was an excellent golfer herself and coached both Min Woo and Minjee as kids.
- Father, Soonam, was also an excellent golfer who played off a +1 handicap. Soonam has also spent time as a swimming instructor.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Loves animals.
- Has never owned a car.
- Although he has not had much of a chance to play the newer versions due to a busy golf schedule, loves playing Call of Duty video games.
- Watched Netflix's "Full Swing" series, saying, "Was incredible actually, just shows how hard it is, showed the highs and lows. And also some personalities, loved the [Matt Fitzpatrick] episode. One day, I hope I can win a major and have my family there."
- Utilizes mementos from his previous major championship appearances, as he carries an Augusta National Golf Club ball marker and a divot repair tool from The Open Championship.
- Favorite sports team is the Fremantle Dockers, an Australian rules football club in the Australian Football League.
- Posted his Spotify Wrapped, which features the musical artists he listened to the most in 2024, which were (in order): Post Malone, Kanye West, Drake, 21 Savage and Travis Scott. Post Malone's song, "Candy Paint," was Min Woo's most played song in 2024.

Charity

- Supports Golf Australia and their initiatives to help more juniors gain access to golf in Australia.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Three months prior to his win at the 2016 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship, met his golfing idol, Tiger Woods, during a clinic at the Junior Invitational at Sage Valley. Tiger was a surprise guest at the clinic and Min Woo received a few notes on how to hit a stinger. Following his win at the U.S. Junior, Min Woo said of the notes, "What he said at the clinic just clicked. I've used (the stinger) a while, but this week I've probably hit it the best. It was a big advantage. It came in handy."
- Asked who would make up his dream foursome, he said his sister (Minjee), Tiger Woods and Jack Nicklaus.
- Views fellow Australian Adam Scott as a mentor: "He's a good role model for golf, and for Australian golf, and I look up to him still, and it's cool to have his as a friend."
- During the 2024 PGA TOUR season, spent time in Las Vegas, Nevada, playing out of The Summit Club and staying with "good mate" Kurt Kitayama. Collin Morikawa also plays out of The Summit Club in Las Vegas.

Other

- Represents The Bay Golf Club alongside teammates Ludvig Aberg, Wyndham Clark 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 and Stephen Curry with limited partners including Andre Iguodala, Klay Thompson, Alex Albon, Leonardo Fioravanti, Kanoa Igarashi and John Stones.
- Nickname is Woozy.
- At the 2024 WM Phoenix Open, over 200 fans - all dressed in Lululemon (Lee's new apparel sponsor) shirts, pants and shoes - followed Lee during his second round. All 200 of the fans wore a red chef hat, which had "Let him cook" across the front, and they also chanted "let him cook" after every one of Lee's made putts. On the origin of how he's been connected with the "let him cook" phrase, Lee said, "A lot of golfers only do their thing and don't do the social media side as well as they can. I really enjoy that side of things. I've done it since I was young. ["Let him cook"] started in a few of my posts, randomly. I don't know if someone commented it, or I said it. It's nice to have something to relate to me, or something that I started."
- In January 2024, he announced a partnership with clothing brand Lululemon, saying, "I'm excited to bring my sense of fun and freshness to the game and lead the way for a new generation of golfers." Lee summarized his excitement for the partnership by adding, "Look good, feel good, play good... you're in front of the cameras and a lot of people. You don't want to be wearing clothes that you don't feel good in. Everyone has that outfit they wear on a night out - you start to feel yourself a little bit. When I'm out on the course and I do wear fits that I love, I have that bounce in my step. I have that swagger."
- Holds a GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS title for the 'Fastest hole of golf by a team of four' achieved a Real Club Valderrama in 2021. The hole was a 501-yard par four, and they holed out the putt in 24.75 seconds to set the new record.

Russell Henley

Things To Know

- Earned his sixth PGA TOUR title at the 2026 Charles Schwab Challenge, as he birdied the final three holes of regulation and defeated Eric Cole with a birdie on the first playoff hole, the par-4 18th at Colonial Country Club. Followed Jordan Spieth (2016) as the second winner of the Charles Schwab Challenge to make birdie or better on the final three holes of regulation. Won a 1982 Schwab Scrambler as a champion's prize.
- 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 married sisters -- in fact, Russell and Teil met at the wedding of Teil's sister, and the couples are now neighbors in Columbus, Georgia) 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 2018, with their second child on the way, the Henleys moved from Charleston, South Carolina to Columbus, Georgia -- which is where Russell's 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.
- For special occasions Teil usually asks Russell to get her a new piece of art to display in their home. Teil's art collection includes large-scale abstracts, moody still lifes, cheerful florals, and loose figure studies.
- 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.

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.
- 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 cuh-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.

Sam Burns

Things To Know

- On the same day as his World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play win in 2023, his childhood idol David Toms won the Galleri Classic on the PGA TOUR Champions. "Growing up watching him play, I can remember sitting on the back of the range and just watching him hit golf balls. It's still one of the most amazing things I've ever seen, just the way he could hit it. So straight and just like his tempo is amazing. Still is. To be able to win on the same day is really cool."
- Three wins during the 2021-22 PGA TOUR season included a playoff victory over good friend Scottie Scheffler at the 2022 Charles Schwab Challenge. Burns said of the victory, "We're probably best friends. But at the same time I can assure you, he wanted to beat me more than anybody else and I wanted to beat him more than anybody else, and it just happened to be the two of us at the end." The win held added meaning given the fact Burns' childhood hero, David Toms, is a past champion of the event. Burns says watching Toms win the 2011 Charles Schwab Challenge remains his favorite golf memory from his youth.
- Owns a house in Choudrant (SHOE-drint), Louisiana, which doesn't even qualify as a 'town,' it's actually a village. With a population of less than 1,000, one stoplight (and a Subway), Burns bucked the trend of his fellow PGA TOUR professionals who set up in popular destinations like South Florida or Scottsdale. He instead decided to buy a home in The Orchards at Squire Creek, a housing development adjacent to Squire Creek Country Club, a private Tom Fazio design about an hour from Shreveport, Louisiana - where Burns grew up.
- A returning member of the 16-member 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.

Background

- When Sam was four years old, his mother, Beth, insisted his older brother, Chase (12 years old at the time), teach Sam how to hit golf balls in the backyard. Chase handed Sam an 8-iron from a brand-new junior set he received for Christmas and dropped a ball. Chase expected Sam to whiff, but Sam launched the ball 70 yards with a tight draw. He did it five times in a row before their father, Todd, walked outside and watched for himself as Sam hit a perfect sixth ball in a row.
- Got deeper into golf one summer when he asked his mother, Beth, if he could get dropped off at the golf course instead of going to the summer camp he traditionally went to. Sam recalled, "That's how I fell in love with it. I was fortunate to grow up with some kids that were much better players than me, and I hated losing to them. My parents never pushed me to practice, never pushed me to play tournaments... they just allowed me to follow my dreams and let me figure out why I love the game on my own."
- Named the 2014 AJGA Rolex Junior Player of the Year. Past recipients of the award include Scottie Scheffler (2013), Jordan Spieth (2009), Brian Harman (2003, 2004), Tiger Woods (1991, 1992), David Duval (1989), and Phil Mickelson (1986, 1987, 1988).
- Decorated junior career included a victory at the 2014 Junior PGA Championship, contested at Miramont Country Club in Bryan, Texas. Burns' victory came one year after a runner-up finish at the 2013 Junior PGA Championship.
- Played two seasons (2015-17) at Louisiana State University, electing to turn professional after a breakout sophomore season which saw him earn the 2017 Jack Nicklaus Award, in addition to being named the 2017 Southeastern Conference Player of the Year.

- In two seasons at LSU, earned four collegiate victories (tied for the second-most career wins in school history, only behind David Toms' six wins in the 1980s), and broke school records for single-season scoring average (70.047 as a sophomore in 2016-17) and career scoring average (71.127).

Family

- Welcomed his second child with wife Caroline, a girl named "Belle" in July 2026.
- Sam and his wife, Caroline, welcomed their first child, a son named "Bear," in April 2024. Regarding the name: "It was one area where I had some say," Burns joked. "But we both like the name. We wanted to do something a little different."
- Proposed to Caroline Friday night of the 2019 RBC Heritage. The two both grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana and met in a class at church when they were little kids. They went to different high schools and didn't start dating until Sam was a freshman at LSU. Caroline was Sam's first Valentine at five years old. The two stayed in Palmetto Bluff, South Carolina outside of Hilton Head during tournament week, and he decided to propose there because Caroline had spent a lot of time there as a kid. They wed on December 14, 2019 in Palmetto Bluff.
- Brother, Chase, and father, Todd, played football at Louisiana Tech. Chase redshirted in 2007 as a freshman and was a member of the scout team in 2008. Todd played in the early 1980s but is not listed on any historical roster.
- Sam played football like his dad and brother but gave it up to pursue golf. Mostly played strong safety and some at quarterback.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Grew up and enjoys hunting, and said during Barstool's Fore Play podcast that he has a pretty good turkey call. Has been on hunting trips with David and Carter Toms. The first time they hunted together, Sam was placed in a prime position to shoot but missed everything. Sam calls David "The Godfather of Duck Hunting".
- Is able to participate in several outdoor activities around his home in Choudrant and loves bow hunting and fresh-water fishing
- Big fan of college football and is passionate about his LSU Tigers.

Charity

- For a period of time early in his career, Sam donated a portion of each tournament paycheck to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He has never visited the hospital before, but he first became passionate about it through the work his wife Caroline's sorority did in college.
- Passionate about charities helping those with Juvenile Diabetes. His best friend is a type 2 diabetic.
- In both 2021 and 2022, hosted the Sam Burns Classic at The Landings Club, an AJGA event in Savannah, Georgia. The 2022 event was won by Kyle Haas, son of longtime Wake Forest University men's golf head coach Jerry Haas, nephew of nine-time PGA TOUR winner Jay Haas, and cousin of 2011 FedExCup champion Bill Haas.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- David Toms is a big supporter of Sam's. Growing up in Shreveport, Louisiana, Sam grew very close with David and his son, Carter, who was his teammate at LSU. Sam used to practice at Toms' 265 Golf Academy in Shreveport. Sam and David are still very close and go duck hunting together during their off time.
- Grew up with APGA Tour player Ryan Alford, who received a sponsor exemption to compete in the 2022 Farmers Insurance Open. The two met when they were 6 years old and lived five minutes away from one another in Shreveport, Louisiana. They competed together in a nine-hole junior league and later as high school teammates at Calvary Baptist Academy.
- Was paired with Tiger Woods in the final round of the 2018 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches. Burns shot 68, Tiger shot 70. As they walked off the first tee, he put his hand on Tiger's shoulders and told him: "Can you believe all these people came out here just to watch me?"
- Represented the United States at the 2014 Junior Ryder Cup; his teammates included future PGA TOUR winner Davis Riley, and Korn Ferry Tour graduate Cameron Young.
- Burns graduated from Calvary Baptist Academy (Shreveport, Louisiana) in 2019. Another notable Calvary Baptist Academy graduate is Addison Rae (Class of 2019), who rose to prominence as one of the most-followed individuals on TikTok and launched careers as both a singer and actress. Rae also briefly attended LSU. Another notable name with ties to Calvary Baptist Academy is Super Bowl-winning NFL head coach Doug Pederson, who began his coaching career at Calvary Baptist Academy, spending four seasons (2005-08) as head coach before accepting his first NFL coaching position with the Philadelphia Eagles in January 2009.

Other

- Finished T5 at the 2014 Junior PLAYERS Championship.

