

Report (10 players)

Alex Fitzpatrick

Things To Know

- With his older brother, Matt Fitzpatrick, as his partner, earned his first PGA TOUR title at the 2026 Zurich Classic of New Orleans. With the victory, earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time, as well as exemptions for the 2026 PGA Championship and 2027 PLAYERS Championship. Said after the win, "At some point it will set in, but it's a pretty life-changing thing. Matt put his arm around me after he just stiffed it to a foot on the last... it was like all the times when we were at Hallamshire Golf Club, our home golf club in Sheffield, and you are putting on the putting green and you have a putt to win a PGA TOUR event. It was an amazing thing."
- After four seasons at Wake Forest University (2018-22), won the 2023 British Challenge in his first season on the Challenge Tour (now known as the HotelPlanner Tour), followed by three consecutive seasons on the DP World Tour (2024-26). Earned his first DP World Tour title at the 2026 Hero Indian Open -- which was one week after his older brother, Matt, earned his third PGA TOUR title at the 2026 Valspar Championship.
- Summarized his journey to the PGA TOUR after his victory at the 2026 Zurich Classic of New Orleans: "Coming out of school, I didn't really know where I was going to end up... I was just trying to grind out to get on some form of a main tour. I feel like I'm just proud of myself for battling the way I did to keep my (DP World Tour) card... just having to deal with the fact you might not have a job next year was pretty crazy."
- [As of May 2026] Although he has yet to establish a "home base", believes he will likely settle in the Jupiter, Florida area, as he is a member at The Dye Preserve Golf Club.

Background

- Born in Sheffield, England and grew up playing at Hallamshire Golf Club. Another notable member of Hallamshire is 2009 Solheim Cup captain Alison Nicholas.
- Earliest golf memory is "winning chocolate bars on the putting green."
- Qualified for match play at the 2018 and 2019 U.S. Amateur Championships, contested at Pebble Beach Golf Links and Pinehurst Resort, respectively. Reached the quarterfinals in 2018 (lost to Cole Hammer) and Round of 16 in 2019.
- Finished No. 6 in the 2022 PGA TOUR University Ranking after four seasons at Wake Forest University (2018-22).
- In four seasons at Wake Forest, earned two collegiate victories and garnered a 2021 All-America First Team laurel, along with two All-Atlantic Coast Conference honors (2021, 2022). Also helped Wake Forest win the 2022 ACC Championship, the program's first team conference title since 1989. Finished his career with a 70.94 scoring average, which ranked third in program history in records dating back to 1981, only behind future PGA TOUR winner Will Zalatoris (70.44) and 2011 FedExCup champion Bill Haas (70.87).

Family

- Parents are Russell and Susan (also goes by Sue). Russell is a bank manager.

- Russell and Susan are both recreational golfers. According to Susan, Russell started playing at 14 years old and introduced her to the game a couple years after they met (she was 16 when the two met). Susan recalled, "I took a few lessons and Russell taught me the rest." The two wed in their early 20s and traveled to local clubs to play in mixed foursomes competitions.
- Caddied for Matt in his victory at the 2013 U.S. Amateur Championship at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, where he became the first Englishman to win the U.S. Amateur since Harold Hilton in 1911. Alex later explained he caddied for Matt because their promised him a new phone, saying, "It was too expensive to buy a caddie for the week... and then he won and I got a new phone, so it was a win-win all around."
- Alex and Matt teamed up for four consecutive playings of the Zurich Classic of New Orleans (2023-26), culminating in their victory in 2026.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Huge soccer fan, with his favorite team being Sheffield United F.C., and one of his favorite athletes being Norwegian striker Erling Haaland, who plays in the English Premier League.
- Also a fan of professional basketball player Lonzo Ball.
- Loves playing Call of Duty,

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- As a freshman at Wake Forest, played the 2018-19 season alongside Cameron Young, who was a senior. Later played two seasons with Michael Brennan (2020-22), notably defeating Brennan in a playoff to earn his second collegiate victory at the 2021 Old Town Club Collegiate Invitational.
- Represented England at the 2019 European Amateur Team Championship alongside fellow future PGA TOUR winner Harry Hall. The duo helped England to a runner-up finish, as they fell to a Sweden team led by future PGA TOUR winners Ludvig Aberg and Vincent Norrman, as well as future Korn Ferry Tour graduate Pontus Nyholm.
- Represented Great Britain and Ireland at the 2019 and 2021 Walker Cups. Teammates in 2019 (contested at Royal Liverpool) included fellow future PGA TOUR winner Harry Hall.
- Represented Team International at the 2020 and 2021 Arnold Palmer Cups. Teammates in 2020 included fellow future PGA TOUR winners Ludvig Aberg and Vincent Norrman.

Other

- Made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2022 Valspar Championship as a senior at Wake Forest University; he earned a sponsor exemption by virtue of his victory at the 2021 Valspar Collegiate.

Kristoffer Reitan

Things To Know

- Pronunciation: RAY-tin
- Earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time for the 2026 season, securing his TOUR card through the DP World Tour -- which awarded TOUR membership to the top 10 players in the 2025 Race to Dubai standings who were not already exempt. Earned his TOUR card largely off the strength of his first DP World Tour title (won the 2025 Soudal Open, following Viktor Hovland as the second Norwegian to win a DP World Tour event).
- Captured his second DP World Tour title in December 2025 at the Nedbank Golf Challenge (contested at Gary Player Country Club) in South Africa. The victory solidified his place in the top 50 of the year-ending Official World Golf Ranking, thus earning him an exemption for the 2026 Masters Tournament.
- Secured a return to the DP World Tour for the 2025 season after a No. 7 finish in the 2024 Challenge Tour standings. Reitan capped his 2024 campaign with a victory at the season-ending Rolex Challenge Tour Grand Final.
- In 2021, almost gave up professional golf entirely to become a YouTube golfer, as he had not progressed through the pro ranks as quickly as he expected. After lengthy discussions with his team and a lot of consideration, he refused to give up on his dream, instead choosing to work harder than ever to achieve his goals as a touring professional.
- While still an amateur, earned DP World Tour membership for the 2019 season via the 2018 DP World Tour Qualifying School, after which he turned professional. Relegated to the Challenge Tour after he struggled as a DP World Tour rookie in 2019.
- In January 2026, was named the Breakthrough Sportsperson of the Year at the Idrettsgallaen, Norway's Sports Gala. The annual award is presented to the athlete who delivered the most impressive breakthrough on the international stage over the previous year.

Background

- Earned individual medalist honors in stroke play at the 2015 European Boys Team Championship and 2017 European Amateur Team Championship.
- Represented Europe at the 2016 Junior Ryder Cup.
- Earned medalist honors in stroke play at the 2016 Boys Amateur Championship, but lost in the third round of match play.
- In November 2016, Reitan signed a National Letter of Intent to play college golf at the University of Texas, but in the months leading up to his enrollment, Reitan announced he would eschew college golf, explaining in a story which appeared in Golfweek in April 2017, "I just felt like I was in a place where my level (of golf) was getting better and another four years of amateur golf wasn't as exciting to me as it probably should've been." Reitan played half a season (fall 2017) at Texas, though he left the team and continued his amateur career outside the college ecosystem in 2018. Reitan eventually turned professional after he played his way through DP World Tour Qualifying School in November 2018.
- Qualified for the 2018 U.S. Open while still an amateur, becoming the first Norwegian to compete in the U.S. Open. Two months later, Reitan qualified for match play at the 2018 U.S. Amateur Championship at Pebble Beach Golf Links, and he was eliminated in the Round of 16 by fellow countryman Viktor Hovland, who went on to win the title and earned an exemption for the 2019 U.S. Open (where another Norwegian, Andreas Halvorsen, also qualified for the event).

Family

- [NOTE FOR CONTEXT: Please do not focus on highlighting members of Kristoffer's family in great detail, as it is preferred the focus remain on Kristoffer and his achievements rather than those of his father, grandfather, and uncle. The information provided below is compiled for background context and accuracy given its public availability.]
- Mother, Siv.
- Father, Magnus, was named CEO of Reitan Kapital, the financial investment arm of REITAN, in 2016. Magnus attended the NHH Norwegian School of Economics, BI Norwegian Business School, and Florida International University.
- Grandfather, Odd Reitan, is the CEO and co-owner (with sons Ole Robert and Magnus -- the latter being Kristoffer's father) of REITAN, a Norwegian conglomerate with businesses in three sectors: retail (Reitan Retail, with Ole Robert serving as CEO), real estate (Reitan Eiendom, with Odd serving as the chair), and financial investment (Reitan Kapital, with Kristoffer's father, Magnus, as CEO). Odd is also the owner and founder of REMA 1000, a discount grocery store he established in Trondheim, Norway in 1979 and grew to nearly 1,000 locations by the early 2020s -- which in turn led to the establishment of REITAN's real estate business (Reitan Eiendom) in the 1990s.
- Odd is the son of Ole and Margit Reitan (Kristoffer's great grandparents), who opened their first grocery shop in Trondheim, Norway in 1948. Odd earned a degree from the Retail Management Program at BI Norwegian Business School and eventually opened his first shop in 1972. Seven years later, Odd founded REMA 1000, the success of which eventually led to the creation of REITAN.
- Uncle, Ole Robert Reitan, was named CEO of Reitan Retail, the retail arm of REITAN, in 2021; he earned a degree from the Norwegian School of Marketing.
- Sister, Viktoria.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Close friends with fellow Norwegians Viktor Hovland and Kris Ventura. The trio represented Norway at the 2013 European Boys Team Championship (runner-up to France), as well as the 2017 European Amateur Team Championship. Reitan and Hovland were also teammates on the Norwegian team at the European Boys Team Championship in 2014 and 2015, the Toyota Junior World Cup in 2014 (when they led Norway to victory) and 2015, along with the 2018 World Amateur Team Championship (also known as the Eisenhower Trophy).
- Reitan and Hovland led Norway to victory at the 2014 Toyota Junior World Cup, where they notably held off a United States team led by PGA TOUR winner Cameron Young and Korn Ferry Tour graduate Zach Bauchou.

Other

- Finished T9 at the 2016 Junior PLAYERS Championship.

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."

Nicolai Højgaard

Things To Know

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

Sungjae Im

Things To Know

- Near the end of the 2025 calendar year, dealt with painful inflammation in his right wrist, resulting in him missing the first seven events of the 2026 PGA TOUR Season. In fact, Im said he "didn't touch a club for about one and a half months," adding, "I've never taken such a break in my professional career, so it was a new experience." Returned to action at the 2026 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard.
- Alongside Si Woo Kim and two amateur teammates, won the gold medal for Korea in the team competition of the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China by 25 strokes. Im also won the silver medal as an individual. The team gold medal exempted Im and Kim from a mandatory 21-month military service term. Im completed three weeks of basic training in Korea following the 2025 PGA TOUR Season. Im shared on social media his three-week boot camp marked the first time since he started playing competitive golf he went more than three consecutive days without touching his golf clubs.
- NOTE TO MEDIA OFFICIALS, BROADCAST ANNOUNCERS: Please do not discuss the military exemption at length. Below is messaging previously agreed upon with Sungjae's agent. On earning an exemption from Military Service with a gold medal in Asian Games: I was focused on the opportunity to represent my country and helping the team win the gold medal while I also won the individual silver medal. I was really happy to contribute to the win in China as we have not won the team gold since 2010. This will allow me to focus on my golf career on the PGA TOUR and I hope I can continue to inspire young Korean golfers to succeed in the game. I think I'm now able to focus even more on my golf career.
- Earned a spot on the 2024 Presidents Cup International Team and made his third appearance in Montreal, Canada. Previously made appearances at the 2019 Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne, and the 2022 Presidents Cup at Quail Hollow.
- Shot a pair of 66s on the weekend of 2022 TOUR Championship to finish T2, one behind winner Rory McIlroy, to post career best finish in FedExCup. Also became Asia's best finisher since the inauguration of the FedExCup in 2007.
- After living from hotel to hotel, bought a house in the TPC Sugarloaf community just outside of Atlanta at the end of 2020.
- Earned his maiden PGA TOUR victory at the 2020 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches with fellow professional golfer Albin Choi as his caddie. They worked together for the first time that week, and knew each other from the Korn Ferry Tour.
- Followed Stewart Cink (1996-97) as the second player to be named the Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year (2018 for Im) and PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year (2018-19) in consecutive seasons. Scottie Scheffler accomplished the feat a year later, earning 2019 Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year and 2019-20 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year honors.
- Was the only rookie to reach the 2019 TOUR Championship, among 23 in the 2018-19 season. At the time, was the fourth-youngest player in history to qualify for the TOUR Championship (21 years, 4 months, 19 days of age), only behind Jordan Spieth (2013, 2014) and Si Woo Kim (2016).
- Earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time after a dazzling rookie season on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2018. At age 19, Im won his Korn Ferry Tour debut at the circuit's season-opening event in The Bahamas in January 2018, following Jason Day (2007) as the second teenager to win on the Korn Ferry Tour. Im finished solo second the following week in The Bahamas and led the Korn Ferry Tour standings for the entire season. Earned a second victory en route to being named the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year. At season's end, Im became the third-youngest graduate in Korn Ferry Tour history (20 years, 5 months,

24 days), behind Jason Day (19 years, 11 months, 23 days in 2007) and Si Woo Kim (20 years, 3 months, 6 days).

Background

- Born in Cheongju, South Korea and moved to Jeju Island -- home to Nine Bridges, the golf club which hosted THE CJ CUP from 2017-19 -- when he was four years old.
- Followed his mom, Mi Kim, to the practice range when he was four and has been hooked to golf ever since. Began playing golf competitively at nine years old.
- Attended Korean National Sport University and turned professional in 2015.
- Came to the United States in 2017 to compete in the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament (now PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry). Im finished runner-up to Lee McCoy and earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2018 season.

Family

- Father, Ji Taek Im. Mother is Mi Kim. Got married on December 17, 2022 in Seoul.(Note: Due to privacy, name of wife is not being shared)

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Has a photographic memory. Once he looks at an object or a picture, he can tell instantly if something has changed.
- Tries to eat Korean food at least once a week on the road.
- Favorite food is the "Jeju Black Pig" and he loves how his mom prepares it with onions and soy sauce. It is a difficult dish to find in America.
- Favorite American foods include pizza, pasta, and Subway sandwiches
- Music interests/Musical inclinations: Korean K-Pop

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Manager/Interpreter: Moon Jo.

Other

- Made 35 starts on TOUR in his rookie season (most of any player in the 2018-19 season). Skipped only two events where he was qualified to play (2019 Puerto Rico Open and 2019 Barracuda Championship).
- A day after winning the Arnold Palmer Award as the 2018-19 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year, made the first ace of the 2019-20 season with a hole-in-one at a Military Tribute at the Greenbrier (223-yard, 15th hole). Became the first player since Tiger Woods to make multiple aces on the PGA TOUR before the age of 22.
- Spent his time during the COVID-19 shutdown in 2020 in Tampa, Florida at Saddlebrook Resort. Went straight after THE PLAYERS Championship to stay with a family friend. Practiced out of TPC Tampa Bay and the Palmer Course at Saddlebrook.
- Was forced to withdraw from the 2022 PGA Championship after testing positive for COVID-19 a week prior to the year's second major while he was home in Korea to compete in a domestic event.

J.J. Spaun

Things To Know

- Earned his third PGA TOUR title at the 2026 Valero Texas Open; he previously earned his first TOUR win at the event in 2022, making him the 11th multi-time winner of the Valero Texas Open. Noted after the win, "I've put way too much pressure on myself that I needed to be the (No. 6) player in the world... that's an uncomfortable position for me because I've never been there, but it was more of the complete opposite mindset I had (in 2025), where last year I kind of accepted playing with nothing to lose. (In 2026) I felt like I needed to be this perfect golfer, I needed to validate whatever I did last year. It just put so much expectation on myself that I couldn't handle it. I was spiraling every week... next thing you know, my whole game was a mess. I think the biggest lesson for me this week was learning I don't have to be perfect to win golf tournaments."
- Received an autographed skateboard from Tony Hawk in the weeks following his victory at the 2025 U.S. Open. Also received congratulatory messages from comedian George Lopez and professional baseball player Mookie Betts, among many others, following the U.S. Open victory.
- Earned his second PGA TOUR title at the 2025 U.S. Open at Oakmont Country Club, sinking a 64-foot, 5-inch birdie putt on the 72nd hole of regulation to clinch a two-stroke victory. Became the first player since Webb Simpson (2012) to win the U.S. Open in his second start at the event (previously missed cut at 2021 U.S. Open, contested at Torrey Pines). Spaun bogeyed five of his first six holes in the final round, then (after a mid-round suspension of play due to inclement weather) rallied to victory with a 3-under 32 on the back nine.
- Three days after his victory at the 2025 U.S. Open, told media members at a Travelers Championship press conference his golf career embodied a Confucius quote. The quote Spaun referenced is: "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but rising every time we fall."
- Following a missed cut at the 2024 RBC Canadian Open in early June, stood No. 183 in the FedExCup. With the potential of losing PGA TOUR status looming, Spaun adopted a more thankful mentality with regards to his career, which he expanded on following his victory at the 2025 U.S. Open. "I just started saying... I'm just happy to have the career I've had. That kind of took a lot of pressure off my back as far as expectations on the golf course." Spaun later drew inspiration from the 2004 movie Wimbledon, which he watched on an international flight in December 2024. Spaun said of the movie, "It was this... not washed up but like older tennis player and he's thinking of quitting, he wants to retire at Wimbledon, and he wins Wimbledon. And it kind of resonated with me... you can't give up yet. I was watching it and was like, 'Maybe that can be me.'"
- Spaun was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes at the end of 2018 after unexplained weight loss and fatigue impacted him throughout the year. After nearly three years of exercising and adjusting his diet, Spaun still felt lethargic and kept losing weight (by that point he had lost nearly 50 pounds), which led him to a specialist. In February 2021, Spaun learned he was misdiagnosed, as he was actually type 1, late onset. Spaun said, "When I got re-diagnosed -- and diagnosed correctly -- it gave me new life. I started to feel better, started to keep weight on, get muscle mass back." Spaun is approved by the TOUR to wear a Libre blood-sugar monitor and check his levels while competing. If his blood sugar is low, he can faint. If it gets too high, his vision starts to blur.

Background

- Grew up playing Arroyo Seco Golf Course, a par-3 course in South Pasadena, California.

- Attended San Dimas High School in San Dimas, California, the same high school that Bill and Ted attended in the movie "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure."
- Played four seasons at San Diego State University (2008-12), where he was credited with five collegiate wins, earned two All-America honors, and was named the 2012 Mountain West Conference Golfer of the Year.
- While at San Diego State University, the men's golf team annually worked at the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines, with team members cleaning shoes of the TOUR pros in the locker room to raise money for the program. Spaun recalled, "It was good memories to go from cleaning shoes to now playing in the tournament."
- Spaun detailed his journey to professional golf throughout the week of his runner-up finish at the 2025 PLAYERS Championship, saying, "I didn't have the pedigree of a junior golfer growing up. I wasn't raised or groomed to be a professional golfer. I walked on to a California state school (San Diego State University). I kind of blossomed as I took on this journey... I didn't know what my ceiling was. If you were to say before I turned pro, 'Hey, you're going to win a PGA TOUR event and you're going to play nine, 10 years out there, you're going to make some good money, and you're going to have fun doing it,' that would be a great accomplishment in my terms."
- Turned professional in 2012 and spent his first three professional seasons on PGA TOUR Canada (2013-15), eventually finishing atop the 2015 Order of Merit for a promotion to the Korn Ferry Tour. Spaun needed only one season on the Korn Ferry Tour to earn PGA TOUR membership, as he finished in the top five of the 2016 Korn Ferry Tour standings to earn his TOUR card.
- After a No. 174 finish in the 2020-21 FedExCup standings, regained PGA TOUR membership for the 2022 season via the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Finals (a system which, from 2013-22, awarded a second set of 25 PGA TOUR cards through a season-ending series of three or four events featuring the top 75 players from the Korn Ferry Tour Points List and Nos. 126-200 from the FedExCup standings). Spaun regained his TOUR card with a T2 finish at the Albertsons Boise Open (the first of three Finals events that year) in August 2021, and earned his first PGA TOUR title less than six months later at the 2022 Valero Texas Open.

Family

- He and wife, Melody have two daughters, Emerson Lili (November 2020) and Violet (June 2023).
- According to J.J., his mother's side of the family is predominantly half Filipino and half Mexican.
- Mother, Dollie. Father, John.
- When Dollie was pregnant with J.J., she asked her doctors if she could still play golf. They approved, so Dollie got her exercise playing rounds at Arroyo Seco, a par-3 course in South Pasadena, California. She played until she was eight months pregnant. Dollie says, "People would always tell me that my son was going to be a golfer when he grew up." Dollie also recounted, "(J.J.) used to watch TV as a little kid and he'd tell me, 'Mom, I don't want to watch cartoons. I want to watch Golf Channel.'"
- As a baby, J.J. would watch from his stroller as his father, John, hit range balls. When J.J. was old enough to walk, he'd go into the family's garage and hit whatever he could into a hitting net (balls, tees, even sockets from the toolbox) John had hung up. Following his victory at the 2025 U.S. Open (on Father's Day), J.J. said, "My dad introduced me to the game and always supported me every step of the way. What better gift to give him than being able to win the U.S. Open." John was on site and following J.J. the entire week at Oakmont.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Huge Los Angeles Dodgers (MLB baseball) fan. He played with Mookie Betts at the 2022 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.
- Grew up skateboarding and dreamt of becoming the next great skateboarder, with his icons being Tony Hawk, Andrew Reynolds, and Erik Ellington. Around the time he was five years old, a skating accident led to Spaun to rethink his dream. Spaun recalled, "I kind of went right under this car (reversing down a driveway) and literally was sitting under it. The lady thought she ran over a cat. Everyone is screaming, dad pulls me out, I have all this grease and oil all over me. That freaked me out. I definitely had scar tissue on what I was trying to accomplish skateboarding." Spaun continued to skateboard and, in April 2020, he landed a backside flip and posted the video to his social media channels, explaining it was "at least 15 years since I've landed one of those." Although he will occasionally "cruise around the neighborhood" on his longboard, Spaun essentially gave up skateboarding in his early 30s, saying, "Falling now is like falling off a 10-story building."
- Plays the guitar and has an interest in music. Can play Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" on the guitar. Previously used custom Led Zeppelin headcovers early in his professional career.
- Previously a season-pass holder for Disneyland. His trips to Magic Kingdom typically began with a ride on the Pirates of the Caribbean attraction.
- He had a practice putting and chipping green installed in his backyard.

Charity

- Finished second in the 2018 RSM Birdies Fore Love competition, allowing him to donate the \$150,000 prize to charity. He selected Los Angeles United Way to support Disaster Relief and Creating Pathways out of Poverty Funds.
- At the 2020 Travelers Championship, won The Umbrella at 15 1/2 (15 and a half) Challenge. The annual closest to the pin contest awards a \$10,000 charitable contribution to a charity of the winner's choosing. Spaun chose Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (now known as Breakthrough T1D), which, according to its website, aims to "lead the way to more effective solutions by connecting the brightest minds to advance treatments, influence policy, and improve access to care." Upon learning of Spaun's choice for the donation, Andy Bessette (at the time an Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer for Travelers) introduced himself and told Spaun his son had been diagnosed as Type 1 before college. This led Bessette and his wife, Cherrie, to match Spaun's donation to what is now known as Breakthrough T1D.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Friendly with fellow multi-time PGA TOUR winner Max Homa, as the two are both members at Whisper Rock Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- Played the 2016 Genesis Invitational as the recipient of the Charlie Sifford Memorial Exemption.

Justin Thomas

Things To Know

- Serving a third consecutive year (and eighth year overall) on the 16-member Player Advisory Council (PAC) for 2026; he previously served on the PAC for five consecutive years from 2017-21. The PAC serves as a consulting body which vets and recommends changes to the PGA TOUR Policy Board on behalf of the membership.
- Underwent a successful microdiscectomy (back surgery) on November 13, 2025 and missed the first two months of the 2026 PGA TOUR Season, as he returned to action at the 2026 Arnold Palmer Invitational.
- Earned his 16th PGA TOUR title at the 2025 RBC Heritage, ending a winless drought which spanned 2 years, 10 months, 29 days (previous title came at the 2022 PGA Championship). Prior to the winless drought, had earned a PGA TOUR victory in seven consecutive seasons (2015-16 season through 2021-22 season).
- With his victory at the 2017 PGA Championship at Quail Hollow Club, became the ninth son of a PGA of America professional to win the PGA Championship; he was the first such winner since Keegan Bradley in 2011. With his victory at the 2022 PGA Championship at Southern Hills Country Club, Thomas followed Raymond Floyd (1969, 1982) as the second son of a PGA of America professional to win multiple PGA Championships. Justin's father, Mike, was the longtime pro at Harmony Landing Country Club in Goshen, Kentucky (roughly 20 miles outside the family's longtime hometown of Louisville). Additionally, Justin's late grandfather, Paul (Mike's father), spent 26 years as the head professional at Zanesville Country Club in Ohio (just under 60 miles east of Columbus). The pro shop at Harmony Landing Country Club has memorabilia from all three generations, including balls from Thomas' wins dating back to his early junior days.
- 2017 FedExCup champion and 2016-17 PGA TOUR Player of the Year; he accomplished both feats in his third season on TOUR with five victories and a runner-up finish at the season-ending TOUR Championship. At the time, followed Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, and Jordan Spieth as one of four players since 1960 to earn at least five victories (with one being a major championship) in a PGA TOUR season prior to turning 25 years old. Also carded an 11-under 59 en route to victory at the Sony Open in Hawaii, becoming the youngest player to record a sub-60 round in PGA TOUR history.
- Called representing the United States in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics "the coolest thing I've ever been a part of."

Background

- Born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, and honed his game at Harmony Landing Country Club in nearby Goshen, Kentucky, where his father, Mike, served as head professional for three decades (1990 through 2020) and later became Golf Professional Emeritus. Justin's mother, Jani, ran the pro shop at Harmony Landing. Once Mike finished his duties for the day, he and Justin would typically play an evening nine holes with a standing bet of one dollar.
- Introduced to golf at an early age, with his father, Mike, saying, "He was not quite two yet and he asked me for a golf club." Justin's also been told his first words as a baby were "bag of balls."
- One of his favorite golf memories is making a hole-in-one with a cut-down driver on the 144-yard par-3 16th at Harmony Landing Country Club when he was six years old. Thomas noted, "For years it was the only hole I could reach in regulation. My dad had made an ace there, and

so had my grandpa, Paul. Three generations scoring aces on the same hole. How many families can say that?"

- At age 7, attended the 2000 PGA Championship (won by Tiger Woods) at Valhalla Golf Club in his longtime hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. Thomas recalled, "(Tiger) and that week was the reason I was like, 'This is really what I want to do.' Watching it in the clubhouse, and he hits the putt on camera, and before it can fall in on TV, I can just hear the roar outside. I'll never forget that."
- Prepped at St. Xavier High School, a powerhouse golf program in Louisville, Kentucky. As a junior, Thomas won the individual state title at the 2009 Kentucky High School Athletic Association Boys State Championship, and helped St. Xavier win back-to-back team state titles in 2008 and 2009 (the 17th and 18th team state titles in program history). Other notable St. Xavier alums include 12-time PGA TOUR winner Bobby Nichols, who won individual state titles in 1953 and 1954, and 11-time PGA TOUR winner Frank Beard, who won the 1957 individual state title.
- As a 16-year-old amateur, made his PGA TOUR debut at the 2009 Wyndham Championship. With his father, Mike, as his caddie, shot 65 in the first round and became the third-youngest player to make the cut in a PGA TOUR event. Earned the sponsor exemption for his TOUR debut as the winner of the 2009 FootJoy Invitational, an AJGA event contested at Sedgefield Country Club. Thomas also laughs as he recalls how Jordan Spieth, his junior golf rival and eventual close friend, called him after the first round, confirmed Thomas shot a 65, and hung up immediately, leading Thomas to tell his family and friends, "I don't think Jordan is very happy for me right now."
- Runner-up finisher at the 2010 U.S. Junior Amateur Championship. Notably defeated Denny McCarthy in the semifinals, but fell to Jim Liu in the championship match.
- Qualified for match play at three consecutive U.S. Amateur Championships (2010, 2011, 2012), with his best finish being a semifinals appearance at Cherry Hills Country Club in 2012. Path to the semifinals in 2012 included victories over Max Homa (Round of 32) and Bobby Wyatt (Round of 16).
- One of three recipients of the Byron Nelson International Junior Golf Award in 2011, with the others being Denny McCarthy and Michael Johnson. The award recognizes the achievements of junior golfers who distinguish themselves with a high level of junior tournament play, as well as excellence in academics, exceptional character, and a commitment to community service.
- Played two seasons at University of Alabama (2011-13), where he broke school records for career scoring average (70.73), career wins (six), single-season scoring average (70.44 in 2011-12), and single-season wins (four in 2011-12). Notably earned individual medalist honors at the 2012 Southeastern Conference Championship.
- As a freshman at Alabama, earned the 2012 Jack Nicklaus Award and 2012 Haskins Award -- two of the three national player of the year awards for collegiate golf. Also earned the 2012 Phil Mickelson Outstanding Freshman Award.
- Alongside fellow PGA TOUR winner Trey Mullinax, helped Alabama win its first national title at the 2013 NCAA Championship. Alabama defeated a University of Illinois team led by PGA TOUR winners Brian Campbell and Thomas Detry in the championship match, though Thomas lost his match against Thomas Pieters. A year later, by which time Thomas turned professional and forewent his final two seasons of eligibility, Alabama won the 2014 NCAA Championship.
- Earned PGA TOUR membership for the first time after a standout season on the Korn Ferry Tour, as he finished in the top five of the 2014 Korn Ferry Tour standings off the strength of a victory at the 2014 Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship in Columbus, Ohio. Thomas said of his time on the circuit, "I learned how to be a professional golfer. It also taught me how to win."

Family

- Justin and his wife, Jillian (also goes by Jill), have one child -- a daughter, Molly Grace (November 2024). The family also has a dog, Franklin. Jillian grew up in Kentucky and earned a degree in journalism from University of Kentucky in May 2015.
- Justin and Jillian wed in November 2022 in Franklin, Tennessee. Jordan Spieth served as his best man (Justin and Jordan met and developed their friendship as they competed against one another on the national junior golf circuit), with fellow professionals Rickie Fowler and Bud Cauley also serving as members of the wedding party. Entertainment host Jason Kennedy was the officiant.
- Father, Mike, followed his father, Paul (Justin's grandfather), into the club pro ranks and is the only coach Justin has ever had. Mike, who became a PGA of America professional in the 1980s and later earned PGA Master Professional status, served as head professional for three decades (1990 through 2020) and later became Golf Professional Emeritus at Harmony Landing Country Club in Goshen, Kentucky (roughly 20 miles outside Louisville). Prior to his time at Harmony Landing, Mike played collegiately at Morehead State University, spent time as an assistant pro at multiple clubs in Pennsylvania (noting he crossed paths with Davis Love Jr.), and became head professional at Cherrington Golf Club in Pittsburgh in 1987.
- Grandfather, Paul, who also went by PT, passed away at 89 years of age on February 6, 2021, the Saturday evening of the WM Phoenix Open. Paul attempted to play on the PGA TOUR in 1957 with little success, though he qualified for the 1960 PGA Championship (Firestone Country Club), 1961 PGA Championship (Olympia Fields), and 1962 U.S. Open (Oakmont). Paul most notably began a 26-year stint as head professional at Zanesville Country Club in Ohio in 1963, and later finished his career at Peek'n Peak Resort in Clymer, New York prior to retirement.
- Paul's dream was to get together with Justin and hold the Wannamaker Trophy -- a dream which was realized after Justin's victory at the 2017 PGA Championship.
- The 2021 PLAYERS Championship marked Thomas' first win after his grandfather passed away in February 2021. One of Thomas' two tattoos is in honor of his grandfather (his signature on the inside of his right upper arm), which he inked shortly before Paul passed. In his post-win interview at the 2021 PLAYERS, Thomas held back tears and said "I wish he could have been here."

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Avid collector -- predominantly shoes, athlete jerseys, and Rolex watches. Enjoys collecting / gifting Rolex watches to mark special occasions or dates; he had a gold Rolex engraved with the date he first reached No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking (May 13, 2018). Framed and signed jerseys he owns include those of Tom Brady, Vince Carter, Stephen Curry, Josh Donaldson, Wayne Gretzky, Derek Jeter, Michael Jordan (college and professional), Peyton Manning, and Aaron Rodgers.
- Entered the golf course design business with Panther National, a luxury golf community in Palm Beach County, Florida. Thomas co-designed the property, the county's first new golf course community in nearly two decades, with Jack Nicklaus. Thomas' biggest influence was the layout of the driving range and practice facilities. The project broke ground on February 22, 2022 and officially opened on November 17, 2023. The opening featured a star-studded exhibition match with Rickie Fowler, Xander Schauffele, Morgan Hoffmann, Erik van Rooyen, and Lexi Thompson.
- Grew up a Boston Red Sox (MLB baseball) fan thanks to his Uncle Bill (brother-in-law of his mother, Jani), who is from the area. Every birthday and Christmas, Uncle Bill gifted Justin Red

Sox gear, with one of the earliest and most cherished gifts being a David Ortiz jersey. Justin threw the first pitch at Fenway Park in August 2018 ahead of his title defense at the Dell Technologies Championship, formerly a FedExCup Playoffs event at TPC Boston. Justin also threw the first pitch for a Chicago Cubs game at Wrigley Field earlier that month.

- Also a fan of the Florida Panthers (NHL hockey).
- When going on "boys trips" with three / four of his close friends, who often want to just play golf, will bring a left-handed set of clubs to use throughout the trip. Has one friend in particular who hates losing to him playing left-handed, with Justin saying, "I have one friend who talks a lot of s***, and I just love beating him left-handed, because then he can't say anything. I remind him of that quite often." Has only played a couple 18-hole rounds left-handed but says he will typically shoot in the mid-40s for nine holes.
- Featured in a spread "The Young Gentleman of Golf" in the Cigar Aficionado June 2022 issue. Said his foray into cigars came from his late grandfather, Paul, who always had one on him, and then later at Alabama, where it was tradition to light up a cigar if it won the annual football game against Tennessee. Thomas' cigar of choice is Montecristo No. 2.

Charity

- Launched the Justin Thomas Foundation in 2019 in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky to positively impact children in need, junior golf, and military families with the intent of helping all achieve their full potential. The Justin Thomas Foundation has made significant charitable contributions to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kentuckiana, First Tee, Kentucky Golf Foundation (via the Justin Thomas Fund), and USA Cares.
- Established the Justin Thomas Junior Championship, an American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) event, in 2016. Following the inaugural event at University of Louisville Golf Club, the tournament relocated to Harmony Landing Country Club in Goshen, Kentucky, where Thomas learned the game as a youngster while his father, Mike, served as head professional. After the tournament moved to Harmony Landing in 2017, Mike took a more active role and later became tournament chairman of the event, which has won several AJGA Tournament Awards, including the Charitable Giving Award, Volunteer Award, and multiple Tournament Fundraising Awards. In 2023, Thomas announced a personal commitment of \$40,000 to provide a \$500 stipend to every player in the tournament field, making the tournament as accessible as possible. A notable past champion of the event is Austin Greaser, who won the title in 2018 and later finished runner-up at the 2021 U.S. Amateur Championship.
- Established the Cameron Young/Justin Thomas South Florida PGA Junior Tour Challenge Cup, a Ryder Cup-style event set to be played for the first time in winter 2026. The event will feature two teams of 12 players each (eight boys, four girls) at Emerald Dunes Club in West Palm Beach, Florida. Thomas said of establishing the event, "Cameron and I had such a great partnership together at the (2025) Ryder Cup, and we looked at what we could do with this incredible opportunity through the PGA of America. With both of us having family associated with the PGA of America, this runs in our blood. I'm excited Cameron and I can do this together."
- Raised money for ALS Bridge Foundation through a charity auction in early 2026, as he auctioned off a round of golf with he and his father, Mike, at Panther National -- which Justin co-designed with Jack Nicklaus.
- In December 2025, donated \$1 million to his alma mater, the University of Alabama, to be directed to the men's and women's golf facility, the Crimson Reserve.
- After experiencing a skin cancer scare, has been very vocal about protecting your skin and wearing sunscreen. Launched his own sunscreen line -- Wear SPF -- in May 2022, with a portion of proceeds from every sale going directly to the Justin Thomas Foundation.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Developed a close friendship with Tiger Woods, who he first met in 2015 on the range at THE PLAYERS Championship during his rookie season. The pair are known to practice together at home in South Florida. Justin and his father, Mike, played alongside Tiger and his son, Charlie, in the PNC Championship in 2020 (where the Thomas' won) 2021, 2022 and 2023, with Charlie referring to the Thomas' as family.
- Thomas knew Michael Jordan long before they were both members at The Bears Club or at Jordan's private club, The Grove XXIII in South Florida. He first met MJ as a teenager in Kentucky. Every year, MJ and a group of friends would play Harmony Landing (where Mike Thomas was head pro) before the Kentucky Derby. Thomas would caddie for the group as early as 13, and finally got a chance to play with MJ years later (playing from the same tees).
- Maintains a friendship with retired University of Alabama football head coach Nick Saban. The two first met during Thomas' recruiting visit to Alabama, and Saban personally invited Thomas back to campus after his victory at the 2017 PGA Championship. Thomas also called Saban to congratulate him after Alabama defeated Georgia and won the 2018 College Football Playoff National Championship. As part of media day for the 2022 PLAYERS Championship, Saban surprised Thomas on the 16th tee at TPC Sawgrass, and the pair played Nos. 16-18 together.
- In the late 2010s, had a custom shoe tradition with Michelle Wie, a Nike ambassador; she often designed custom shoes for Thomas after his victories or major awards. One special pair of Nikes in Thomas' collection are a pair Wie designed in honor of his being named the 2016-17 PGA TOUR Player of the Year.
- Through their mutual partnership with WHOOP, Thomas participated in a PGA TOUR Originals piece with 23-time Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps in summer 2022.
- Ahead of the 2023 Nedbank Golf Challenge, an annual DP World Tour event in South Africa, Justin and his wife, Jillian, joined close friend Max Homa and his wife, Lacey, on a safari trip to Madikwe Game Reserve in South Africa.
- Faced Max Homa (Cal) and Jordan Spieth (Texas) as he helped University of Alabama reach the championship match of the 2012 NCAA Championship as a freshman. Thomas, who won two of the three national player of the year awards (Nicklaus and Haskins awards) and Phil Mickelson Outstanding Freshman Award in 2012, lost his individual matches against Homa and Spieth, and Alabama fell to Texas, 3-2, in the championship. Thomas said in a 2016 interview the loss to Texas "hurts me today like no other loss ever has." Alabama notably defeated a Kent State University team which featured future PGA TOUR winners Corey Connors, Mackenzie Hughes, and Taylor Pendrith (Thomas faced Kevin Miller) in the match play quarterfinals of the 2012 NCAA Championship. A year later, Thomas led Alabama to victory at the 2013 NCAA Championship for the program's first national title.
- Represented the United States at the 2012 and 2013 Palmer Cups, 2012 World Amateur Team Championship (won Eisenhower Trophy), and 2013 Walker Cup, his final event as an amateur. Teammates on the victorious Walker Cup team included Max Homa, Michael Kim, and Patrick Rodgers. Teammates on the victorious 2013 Palmer Cup team included Kim, Rodgers, and Daniel Berger.
- At the 2013 Palmer Cup at Wilmington Country Club in Delaware, met Arnold Palmer, who recalled playing with Thomas' grandfather, Paul Thomas, in PGA TOUR events in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Thomas recalled how Mr. Palmer impressed upon him to always make his autograph legible.
- Represented the United States at the 2010 Junior Ryder Cup at Gleneagles Resort in Scotland; his teammates included Denny McCarthy and Jordan Spieth.
- In November 2023, teamed up with Spanish Formula 1 driver Carlos Sainz Jr. to win the Netflix Cup, the first live sports event on Netflix. The match play event at Wynn Golf Club in

Las Vegas paired PGA TOUR players (Tony Finau, Rickie Fowler, Max Homa) with F1 drivers (Alex Albon, Pierre Gasly, Lando Norris) featured in the Netflix documentary series "Full Swing" and "Drive to Survive."

Other

- Represents Atlanta Drive GC alongside teammates Patrick Cantlay, Billy Horschel, and Lucas Glover in TGL presented by SoFi, a primetime golf league in partnership with the PGA TOUR which launched in January 2025 on ESPN. The new golf league, which will complement the PGA TOUR season, was created by TMRW Sports whose co-founders include Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, and fuses advanced technology, innovation and live action for primetime television audiences. Atlanta Drive GC is part of Arthur M. Blank's AMB Sports and Entertainment (AMBSE) portfolio.
- Previous sons of PGA of America professionals to win the PGA Championship (according to PGA of America records): Melvin "Chick" Harbert (1954), Doug Ford (1955), Jack Burke Jr. (1956), Dave Marr II (1965), Raymond Floyd (1969, 1982), Davis Love III (1997), Rich Beem (2002), Keegan Bradley (2011).
- In the leadup to the 2024 PGA Championship, contested at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Kentucky, Thomas was named a Kentucky Colonel -- the state of Kentucky's highest honor -- by Governor Andy Beshear. As part of the same ceremony, a "Hometown Hero" banner was unveiled, and Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg proclaimed May 6th "Justin Thomas Day" in Louisville. The "Hometown Hero" banners are public displays sponsored by the Greater Louisville Pride Foundation recognizing famous Louisvillians. Other notable "Hometown Hero" banners include Muhammad Ali, Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee Paul Hornung, Academy Award-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence, 12-time PGA TOUR winner Bobby Nichols, National Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Pee Wee Reese, and two-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback Phil Simms. An emotional Thomas said of the recognition, "The things I've felt today, I've never felt in any golf tournament I've won. It's just an unbelievable honor. There's a reason why when I tee off, I announce I'm from Louisville, Kentucky."
- Made a cameo appearance in Happy Gilmore 2, released on Netflix in July 2025.
- Played his first professional round at St. Andrews as part of the 2013 Alfred Dunhill Links Championship on the DP World Tour.
- Appeared on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon in August 2018 and October 2022. Later appeared on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert in March 2024.
- Cover star of PGA TOUR 2K21, the August 2020 release of the popular sports video game franchise PGA TOUR 2K.
- Appeared in GQ's "10 Things You Can't Live Without" (March 2022) and "The Walk-In" (June 2020).
- Named the 2022 Best Male Golfer ESPY Award winner.

Tommy Fleetwood

Things To Know

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

Background

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

Family

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

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

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

Charity

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

Inner Circle/Special Connections

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

Other

- Known for his flowing mane, Tommy grows out his hair because his father, Pete, is bald and he wants to grow hair while he can.
- Represents the Los Angeles Golf Club alongside teammates Sahith Theegala, Collin Morikawa and Justin Rose in TGL presented by SoFi, a primetime golf league in partnership with the PGA TOUR which launched in January 2025 on ESPN. The new golf league was created by TMRW Sports whose co-founders include Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, and fuses advanced technology, innovation and live action for ESPN's primetime television audience. Los Angeles Golf Club was founded by Alexis Ohanian, Seven Seven Six, Serena Williams, and Venus Williams. Limited partners include The Antetokounmpo brothers, Alex Morgan, Servando Carrasco, Michelle Wie West, Tisha Alyn, Carolyn Tisch Blodgett and Shonda Rhimes.

Kurt Kitayama

Things To Know

- Note to PGA TOUR Media Officials: Has anxiety around public speaking. Prep in advance of interviews and trophy ceremonies.
- Earned his second PGA TOUR title at the 2025 3M Open. Older brother, Daniel, was his caddie for the victorious week. Daniel previously caddied for Kurt's two victories on the DP World Tour in December 2018 and March 2019. Kurt said in his champion's press conference, "This win's going to be extra special having him on the bag. Very cool experience, and really happy he's part of it."
- After a trio of notable runner-up finishes in 2022 and 2023 (finished T2 behind Jon Rahm at 2022 Mexico Open at Vidanta World, solo second to Xander Schauffele at 2022 Genesis Scottish Open, and solo second to Rory McIlroy at 2023 CJ CUP in South Carolina), earned his first PGA TOUR title at the 2023 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard. Won the title by one stroke over McIlroy and Harris English, with a birdie on the par-3 17th at Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge providing the winning margin. Kitayama was the first player to win their Arnold Palmer Invitational debut since Robert Gamez (1990). Kitayama said of the victory, "I've always dreamed of winning on the TOUR, and to finally do it, yeah, it's pretty amazing."
- Named the 2023 Chico Sports person of the Year Award after becoming the first Chico, California native to win a PGA TOUR event. Kurt was unable to attend the award presentation, as he was playing THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson in Dallas but his parents, Cliff and Rumiko, accepted on his behalf, and Kurt sent an acceptance video via YouTube.
- A true globetrotter, Kitayama played events sanctioned or co-sanctioned by 12 tours recognized by the Official World Golf Ranking prior to his first season with PGA TOUR membership (2021-22): PGA TOUR, Korn Ferry Tour, DP World Tour, Asian Tour, Asian Development Tour, PGA TOUR Canada, China Tour, PGA TOUR Series - China, PGA Tour of Australasia, Japan Golf Tour, KPGA, Sunshine Tour.
- Prior to his first season with PGA TOUR membership (2021-22), Kitayama won twice on the DP World Tour, capturing titles at the AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open in December 2018 and the Oman Open in March 2019. Also earned a victory on the Asian Development Tour in January 2018.
- Courtesy of one of Kitayama's college coaches at University of Nevada-Las Vegas, JC Deacon (now the head coach at University of Florida): Kurt's nickname at UNLV was "The Project" and many people still call him that. He earned the nickname because his game was so bad as a freshman, but he was SUCH A NICE kid and everyone wanted to help him. He also wasn't afraid to put in the work. That earned him the program's Michael Maze Award for 2012, which is presented annually to the UNLV golfer who best exemplifies the spirit of Rebels golf. As a sophomore, "The Project" who couldn't sniff the lineup the year prior, holed out a 7-iron from 208 yards on his final hole of stroke play at the 2013 NCAA Championship. The eagle was enough for UNLV to tie for 6th as a team and get into a four-way playoff for the final three spots of match play. UNLV earned one of the three spots. One of the other teams in the four-way tie? Arizona State, led by none other than Jon Rahm. According to Coach Deacon, Kurt has always been special and clutch. He plays better under pressure, and that shot he hit at Capital City Club's Crabapple Course (in Milton, Georgia) is one none of his teammates or coaches will ever forget.

Background

- Born and raised in Chico, California (roughly an hour and a half north of Sacramento), where he attended Chico High School.
- Member of -- but not necessarily known for being in -- the famed "Class of 2011" and competed against Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas, Daniel Berger, Xander Schauffele and Emiliano Grillo during amateur golf days.
- His passion growing up was basketball. A talented junior basketball player despite his diminutive 5-feet 7-inch frame, a young Kitayama harbored dreams of the NBA, not the PGA TOUR. Started at point guard for the Chico High School varsity basketball team as a junior and senior, with Kitayama helping the team win Northern Section titles in 2010 and 2011. "(Basketball) was my favorite sport growing up," Kitayama said. "That was probably the dream until I realized I wasn't going anywhere with that."
- Notably finished T3 (with Wyndham Clark) at the 2009 Junior World Championships (Boys 15-17 Division), contested at Torrey Pines - South Course. Emiliano Grillo won the title that year.
- Played four seasons at University of Nevada-Las Vegas (2011-15), where he earned three individual victories, including individual medalist honors at the 2015 Mountain West Conference Championship. Earned All-Mountain West First Team honors in 2014 and 2015.

Family

- Parents are Clifford and Rumiko. Mother, Rumiko, was born and raised in Japan, while his father, Clifford, was born in the U.S. (he grew up in Redwood City, California -- between San Jose and San Francisco) and identifies as Japanese-American. Kurt still has cousins living in Japan.
- Father, Clifford, is an entomologist (study of insects) by trade and owner of Kitayama Ag Services in Chico since 2015. The company consults with tree-crop farmers, with a particular specialty in almonds, walnuts and plums.
- Older brother (by five years), Daniel, played one season (2006-07) of college golf at University of Hawaii-Hilo, an NCAA Division II program. After he gave up competitive golf, Daniel picked up work as a caddie at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, which led to him participating in a caddie exchange program for six months at Cape Kidnappers Golf Course in New Zealand. Eventually returned to college and earned a bachelor's degree in finance from California State University, Chico in 2014. In addition to working as a caddie at Bandon Dunes for many years, Daniel also caddied for Kurt throughout his time playing international tours in the late 2010s and early 2020s. Daniel was on the bag for Kurt's DP World Tour wins in December 2018 and March 2019, and he later served as a fill-in caddie for Kurt at the 2025 3M Open -- where Kurt earned his second PGA TOUR win.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Watch aficionado.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Resident of Henderson, Nevada (just outside Las Vegas) who plays much of his golf at Summit Club when not on TOUR. Also plays across the Las Vegas area with several professionals, including TOUR members Collin Morikawa and David Lipsky, and multi-time LPGA Tour winner Danielle Kang.
- Rented out a room to fellow PGA TOUR winner Min Woo Lee at his Las Vegas, Nevada residence for the 2024 season, which was Min Woo's first as a member. The two became

friends playing on the DP World Tour together. Kurt shared, "We would have weeks off where, instead of going to Australia, he would come to Vegas. We had a lot of good times. He figured Vegas was going to be a good spot for him."

- Friends with Xander Schauffele, with the two forming their friendship while playing on the Korn Ferry Tour together in 2016. At the 2023 Arnold Palmer presented by Mastercard, Schauffele revealed Kurt is also known as "Quadzilla", "Quadz", or "The Quadfather" given the size of his imposing thigh muscles. "When Xander and I were playing on the Korn Ferry Tour they got pretty big," said Kitayama with a wry smile. "I got a little overweight I'd say. Also, when I was working out, the one thing I loved doing was squatting. That was the only thing I lifted pretty much."
- Played his final two seasons at UNLV (2013-15) alongside Taylor Montgomery, who joined the program as a freshman in 2013.

Other

- "I've just always looked at getting better each year and not thinking too far ahead; just continue to keep moving up. "Hard work has gotten me to where I am now ... When I'm doing something that I really want to do, I'm willing to put in the work and sacrifice social time with friends or something to get better."

Matt McCarty

Things To Know

- Followed his Three-Victory Promotion from the Korn Ferry Tour with his first PGA TOUR victory at the 2024 Bank of Utah Championship, the inaugural playing of the event. McCarty previously won three times in a six-start stretch in July and August 2024 as he earned the Korn Ferry Tour's Three-Victory Promotion, which granted him eligibility for the 2024 FedExCup Fall events.
- In 2024, followed Jason Gore as the second player in history to earn the Three-Victory Promotion and earn a PGA TOUR win in the same season. Gore previously accomplished the feat in 2005, winning three times on the Korn Ferry Tour and winning the 84 Lumber Classic on TOUR.
- Became the 13th player in Korn Ferry Tour history to earn the Three-Victory Promotion, which was established in 1997. Prior to McCarty, the last player to earn the Three-Victory Promotion was Mito Pereira, who accomplished the feat amid the 2020-21 season, which spanned two years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to McCarty, the last player to win three times in a single calendar year season was Wesley Bryan in 2016. Clinched the No. 1 position on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List one event prior to the season-ending Korn Ferry Tour Championship, as he built a substantial lead via his three victories.
- Says the biggest difference between the player he is now and the player who joined the Korn Ferry Tour as a rookie in 2022 is his distance. McCarty was a shorter hitter coming out of college and put a greater emphasis on working out and gaining distance in his three years on the Korn Ferry Tour.
- Attended the WM Phoenix Open for a number of years growing up in Scottsdale, Arizona, with some of his favorite viewing spots being No. 7 tee and No. 13 green. As a youngster, served as a standard bearer at the tournament, and remembered Ken Duke being incredibly friendly. Later attended the event as part of a "boys trip" while in college (2020). Also played the Champions Course at TPC Scottsdale growing up, as Matt remembered the junior rate being \$20.
- His personal mantra, "Be where your feet are." reflects his focus on preparation, presence, and steady progress.

Background

- Continues to reside in Scottsdale, Arizona. Plays and practices at TPC Scottsdale when not on TOUR.
- Born in Scottsdale, Arizona, but actually spent much of his childhood in Seattle. Moved back to Scottsdale when he was 10 years old.
- Introduced to golf at an early age through time spent with his father, Scott, as they regularly practiced at the covered driving range and par-3 course at Riverbend Golf Complex in Kent, Washington (south of Seattle). After Matt returned to Arizona, developed his game at Dobson Ranch Golf Course, a municipal course in Mesa, and McDowell Mountain Golf Club in Scottsdale. Occasionally got to play the Champions Course at TPC Scottsdale, as they offered an affordable junior rate.
- Began playing golf left-handed as he mirrored his father's right-handed swing -- a reflection of the hands-on, family-centered way he learned the game.
- One of Matt's favorite memories was beating his father in their annual Thanksgiving match around the time he was 12 or 13 years old.

- Grew up taking lessons with Dave Williams (not to be confused with the famous University of Houston golf head coach bearing the same name) at McCormick Ranch Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- As Matt's tournament schedule expanded, his mother, Deanna, played a central role in his development, driving him to junior events throughout the region and supporting his competitive schedule. Those early years were very much a family effort, and Matt remains close with his two younger sisters, Amanda and Lauren. Matt often cites his family's steady support as the foundation for his journey to professional golf.
- Incredibly thankful for his opportunity to play at Santa Clara University, where he played five seasons (2016-21) and earned three All-West Coast Conference honors (2018, 2019, 2021). McCarty was lightly recruited and was thankful for the environment, support system, and opportunity to play a wide variety of golf courses in California, which were very different from the courses he grew up playing in his native Scottsdale, Arizona. McCarty followed Jim Wiechers as the second Santa Clara alum to earn PGA TOUR membership. Wiechers played 11 consecutive seasons on TOUR from 1967 through 1977. McCarty will also make note of the fact two-time NBA Most Valuable Player Steve Nash played college basketball at Santa Clara in the 1990s.
- Earned a bachelor's degree in finance, and a master's degree in marketing from Santa Clara.
- Turned professional in 2021 and earned Korn Ferry Tour membership for the 2022 season via Q-School (now formally known as PGA TOUR Q-School presented by Korn Ferry). Recorded top 75 finishes on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List in his first two seasons on Tour (No. 55 as a rookie in 2022, No. 35 in 2023).

Family

- Fiancee, Madi; the two are high school sweethearts.
- NOTE: Matt's parents (Scott and Deanna) are divorced, but Matt maintains relationships with both of them. Deanna still goes by Deanna McCarty, but please avoid any references of "Scott and Deanna McCarty" together. Please see a PGA TOUR media official if additional context is required.
- Has two younger sisters -- Amanda and Lauren.
- Grandpa, Ray Prokopchak, played one season of football at Arizona State University in 1958. Although he is not credited as a letterwinner, Prokopchak was listed on the program's all-time roster as having worn No. 85 for the 1958 season -- which was College Football Hall of Fame inductee Frank Kush's first season as head coach of the Sun Devils.

Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Uses a 10-finger grip. It was simply the way he learned to play the game and never saw the need to change.
- Avid sports fan who supports the Seattle Seahawks (NFL football) and enjoys watching the Phoenix Suns (NBA basketball).
- Investor in Studio Golf SF, a bar and grill featuring three golf simulators. Located in downtown San Francisco, the business opened in 2025.

Charity

- In 2025, partnered with the Junior Golf Association of Arizona, a junior golf circuit he played in his youth, to sponsor the long-running Mesa Junior Championship at Dobson Ranch Golf Course, a municipal course he grew up playing. The 2025 playing of the tournament --

renamed the Matt McCarty Mesa Junior Championship -- was contested June 25-26. McCarty says of sponsoring the event, "To come back now and support the next generation of Arizona golfers, it means the world to me."

- Working with his mom and his business manager, Matt created Team McCarty's Heart Under Par for Cancer. Under the fundraising initiative, Matt donates \$10 for every stroke he is under par during the season to Cancer Support Community Arizona. Matt first made his annual pledge in 2022. In June 2023, Matt presented a \$1,000 check to Cancer Support Community Arizona. His interest in Cancer Support Community Arizona was encouraged by his mother, a breast cancer survivor whose battle began around the time Matt was 12 years old. Matt recalled, "I remember how tough it was for all of us when she was diagnosed, and I was really excited to support an organization that helps people in similar circumstances." Although Deanna did not utilize the resources available through Cancer Support Community Arizona - which, according to its website, include more than 100 free monthly programs such as support groups, cancer recourse navigation, social activities, mind and body therapies, nutritional counseling, and educational seminars - she was aware of the organization and supported its mission. Matt also comes from a family which recognizes the importance of giving back, with Matt's philanthropic grandmother being a key influence throughout his upbringing.

Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Spent a lot of time playing and practicing at Dobson Ranch Golf Course in Mesa, Arizona during his formative golf years. Dobson Ranch was also the home course for multi-time PGA TOUR winner Chez Reavie, who attended nearby Dobson High School prior to playing collegiately at Arizona State University. The two met for the first time at the 2024 Bank of Utah Championship, which McCarty went on to win.
- Shares a deep friendship with his caddie, Devrath Das (just goes by Dev, or Das - rhymes with Nas, like the rapper). The two were classmates and spent three seasons together on the golf team at Santa Clara (2016-19). The two typically get a house together while on the road, and Matt says just having a close friend to pass time on the road with has been tremendous. The two usually just watch movies or play video games to pass downtime.
- Close friends with fellow Korn Ferry Tour graduate Mason Andersen. The two played junior golf against one another in Arizona, and later played the 2023 and 2024 seasons together on the Korn Ferry Tour.
- Developed a close friendship with fellow Korn Ferry Tour graduate Mac Meissner (pronounced MIZE-nur) as the two played the Korn Ferry Tour together in 2022 and 2023.
- McCarty prepped at Desert Mountain High School in Scottsdale, Arizona. NFL All-Pro tight end Mark Andrews (Class of 2014) is also a Desert Mountain High School alum.

