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**2020 Safeway Open select player information**

**Sponsor Exemptions**

**Ricky Barnes**

* Made five cuts in 11 starts last season, finishing No. 195 in the FedExCup
* Shot career low 61 in second round of 2018 Safeway Open, eventually finishing T69
* 2009 U.S. Open runner-up seeks first PGA TOUR title

**Akshay Bhatia**

* Left-hander missed the cut in PGA TOUR debut as an amateur at 2019 Valspar Championship but finished T42 in Korn Ferry Tour debut at 2019 Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship
* Wake Forest, North Carolina resident made first TOUR start as a professional at age 17 at 2019 Sanderson Farms Championship (MC)
* Runner-up at 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur
* Youngest ever player to be named to the United States Walker Cup team, on the winning 2019 team
* Despite posting under-par opening-round scores in each of his six PGA TOUR starts since turning professional, has yet to make a cut

**Tom (Joohyung) Kim**

* Won the 2019 Panasonic Open India as a 17-year-old to become the second-youngest professional to win on the Asian Tour
* At 18, won 2020 Gunsan Country Club Open to become the youngest winner on the Korea PGA Tour, which moved him into the top-100 on the OWGR and earned a spot in the field for the 2020 PGA Championship
* Only PGA TOUR start was 2020 PGA Championship at TPC Harding Park (70-77/MC)
* Seoul, Korea native has lived in various countries including Australia, China, Philippines and Thailand

**Peter Kuest (quest)**

* Missed cut in first four PGA TOUR starts (2020 Travelers Championship, 2020 Rocket Mortgage Classic, 2020 the Memorial Tournament, 2020 3M Open) before posting 65th in his fifth start (2020 Barracuda Championship)
* Fresno, California native played collegiate golf at BYU after attending Clovis West High School
* Finished the recent collegiate golf season with a school-record 69.42 scoring average after 10 wins in 49 starts
* His dad played soccer at Fresno State

**Bryson Nimmer**

* Former Clemson golfer made PGA TOUR debut at 2019 Puerto Rico Open (T47); returned in 2020 (MC) for his second TOUR appearance
* Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada member has competed in four 2020 LOCALiQ Series tournaments, winning two (Alpharetta Classic and The Championship at Echelon Golf Club), losing in a playoff (The Invitational at Auburn University Club) and tying for 13th (The Classic at Callaway Gardens); sits atop the Race to The Bahamas Points Standings, 756 points ahead of No. 2 Hayden Shieh
* He and his father, Tony (1980-83), comprise the only father-son combination in Clemson history to both earn All-ACC honors
* Once shot 13-under 59 in a practice round at the 7,100-yard Jack Nicklaus designed The Reserve at Lake Keowee
* While in high school, volunteered at the RBC Heritage at Harbour Town Golf Links, distributing balls on the range to PGA TOUR players; once drove a cart for PGA TOUR Radio’s Mark Carnevale, who was covering the tournament

**Isaiah Salinda**

* After being a member of winning 2019 U.S. Walker Cup team, former Stanford standout made professional debut at 2019 Safeway Open, finishing T33 (72-70-71-68)
* Advanced to his second PGA TOUR start (76th/2019 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open) via a 6-for-2 playoff after posting 64 at the Monday qualifier
* Making sixth PGA TOUR start after missing the cut in his three most recent starts
* Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada member has competed in three 2020 LOCALiQ Series events
* Averaged 71.74 over 113 rounds to finish 10th on all-time Stanford career scoring list
* Finished second in 2008 “Drive, Chip and Putt”

**Sahith Theegala**

* 23-year-old former Pepperdine University golfer from Chino Hills, Calif., makes seventh PGA TOUR start; PGA TOUR debut came at 2017 The Genesis Invitational (T49) after winning the Collegiate Showcase to earn a spot in the field; only other cut he has made on TOUR came in his most recent start (T41/2020 Barracuda Championship)
* Played final 36 holes at 2017 The Genesis Invitational with Phil Mickelson; “He was great. He played well and I thought it was pretty cool the way his family and friends came out and supported him. That was pretty neat.” – Phil Mickelson
* Finished the abbreviated college season with two individual wins in eight starts, four additional top-10 finishes and no finish outside the top 20 while boasting a 69.04 scoring average in 24 rounds
* Won the Fred Haskins Award, the Ben Hogan Award and the Jack Nicklaus Award in 2020 – marking the fifth time in the last 30 years that one player has grabbed all three honors, the last coming in 2014 with Stanford’s Patrick Rodgers
* In June 2020, made his professional debut in an Outlaw Tour event

**Johnson Wagner**

* After failing to reach the FedExCup Playoffs the last four seasons, three-time PGA TOUR winner makes 340th career start
* Makes eighth appearance at Safeway Open where T3 in 2016 is his lone top-10

**Steve Watanabe, Jr.**

* PGA Section champion has been a golf instructor at The Bridges GC since 2007; won NCPGA Section Championship at Sonoma GC with 36-hole score of 140 (-4)

**Monday Qualifiers**

The Monday Qualifier for the Safeway Open was played at Chardonnay GC (par-71) and the following players advanced:

**Shintaro Ban (61)**

* Won four times as a UNLV senior before turning pro in 2018
* Played in 101 rounds for UNLV with a career scoring average of 72.28 (sixth in program history)
* Missed cut as an amateur at 2018 U.S. Open with 81-78; played 2018 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (MC), 2018 Mayakoba Golf Classic (72nd) and 2019 A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier (MC)

**Andy Zhang (64)**

* 22-year-old Chinese golfer spent his childhood in Beijing, China before moving to Bradenton, Florida at age 10
* At age 14, replaced Paul Casey, who withdrew from the 2012 U.S. Open due to injury, to become the youngest player to ever participate in the U.S. Open (MC); only other PGA TOUR appearance was 2019 Houston Open (T23) after Monday qualifying with 66
* Played college golf at the University of Florida before turning professional in 2018
* Posted one top-10 (2019 Nashville Golf Open/T10) in 23 Career Korn Ferry Tour starts

**MJ Daffue (da-fee) (65)**

* Advanced in a 4-for-2 playoff to make fourth PGA TOUR start; Finished T52 at 2020 Puerto Rico Open while playing on a sponsor exemption, Monday qualified for 2020 Workday Charity Open with a 63 before finishing T22 and missed the cut at 2020 Barracuda Championship as a sponsor exemption
* Former Lamar University golfer notched three top-25s in nine starts on Korn Ferry Tour in 2019
* 31-year-old native of South Africa finished T73 at 2020 Panama Championship on Korn Ferry Tour

**Luke Schniederjans (65)**

* Advanced in a 4-for-2 playoff to make his PGA TOUR debut
* Georgia Tech grad won the 99th Georgia Amateur in July 2020 at the Atlanta Athletic Club on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff
* Five years younger than his PGA TOUR-member brother, Ollie