

## Sanderson Farms Championship Rd. 4 telecast notes

Mark Hubbard

### Things To Know

- Has played across PGA TOUR, Korn Ferry Tour and PGA TOUR Canada since 2013. Turned pro in 2012.
- Known for The Snail putting stroke at the 2021 American Express.  
[https://twitter.com/PGATOUR/status/1352804291304689664?s=20&t=3IROXc\\_ztMe4384Y-hu9JA](https://twitter.com/PGATOUR/status/1352804291304689664?s=20&t=3IROXc_ztMe4384Y-hu9JA)

### Background

- From Colorado, big Denver sports fan. NFL's Denver Broncos are his favorite team but enjoys them all.
- Started playing golf his junior year of high school. Understood his potential his senior year of high school and started playing more national tournaments, qualifying for The Optimist tournament at PGA National which he won the tournament on a sprained, braced ankle after injuring it at summer basketball camp in Wyoming.
- Both Hubbard and his wife went to San Jose State
- Looked at a few different schools where he could play golf and basketball, but ended up sticking to golf at San Jose State. He still teases his wife that he could have gone to Davidson to play golf and basketball but he chose her over being best friends with Steph Curry (they are roughly the same age). He conceded he wasn't tall enough to play in the NBA.
- Social media handles are "@HomelessHubbs." Everyone calls him "Hubbs" and when he first turned pro and was playing mini-tours, he was couch surfing among close friends, PGA TOUR caddies John Ellis and Brady Stockton, living rent free. That mixed in with what he called a "scruffy appearance" led to the nickname "Homeless Hubbs."
- Earliest golf memory was hitting golf balls in family backyard in the mountains and then having an "Easter egg hunt" to find them.

### Family

- Has four brothers and one sister; Hubbard's brother, Nathan, is the co-host of the Fairway Rollin' podcast on Bill Simmon's Ringer Network and is very active on Twitter.
- Proposed to wife Megan on the 18th green of Pebble Beach after the first round of the 2015 AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. Both have been together since they were freshman in college, 18 years old. It was his mother-in-law's idea to do it there. He "figured she couldn't say no on 18 at Pebble Beach"
- Megan finally took up golf (Covid 2020) and even took lessons from Mark's instructor, Kevin Kirk. Megan and Mark have one child, Harlow. They live in The Woodlands (Houston).

### Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- For over a decade drove a 2010 Honda CRV. Gave it to his brother after ordering a Ford Bronco thinking he would get it in a month or two, but it took almost two years to get it. Got it yesterday (July 15, 2022). Has not had a car since giving away the Honda until now.
- Afraid of heights and would take two club lengths back from the tees on the first hole at Riviera so he wouldn't be so close to the edge.
- Despite the fear of heights, his biggest hobby is skiing. Says he's probably as good a skier as he is a golfer. Wife, Megan also skis with Mark.
- Avid gamer - Strongest at Madden, likes Assassin's Creed for its history element and Call of Duty
- Enjoys being outdoors - hikes at events.
- If not a professional golfer, he would probably just move to Bora Bora, open a tiki bar and disappear off the grid.
- Dream foursome would be E. Harvie Ward, Walter Hagen and Yohann Benson.
- Bucket list includes playing Augusta National, setting foot on every continent and skiing in Europe.
- Big foodie and wine connoisseur. He keeps notes of restaurants when he travels

#### Charity

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

#### Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Joel Dahmen and Brandon Harkins are good friends having played with them on PGA TOUR Canada in 2013. Dahmen and Harkins FaceTimed a friend while Hubbard was finishing his win at 2019 LECOM Suncoast Classic.

#### Mackenzie Hughes

##### Things To Know

- As of July 19, Hughes was missing his golf clubs, four suitcases and two car seats from his travels to Scotland (has documented the headache on Twitter). On July 26, PING was able to make him a set like he had before (he didn't have a backup set) but his putter is about 10 years old and the equipment company doesn't make that edition anymore, so they tried their best to make something similar.
- Has wins across multiple PGA TOUR-sanctioned Tours: 2016 RSM Classic (PGA TOUR), 2016 Price Cutter Charity Championship (Korn Ferry Tour), 2013 Cape Breton Celtic Classic (PGA TOUR Canada).
- Credits the 2020 Honda Classic, and runner-up finish, as a turning point of sorts on his mentality inside the ropes. from an April 2022 Toronto Sun article, he admitted that he's "sometimes prone to thinking negatively. Of contemplating worst-case scenarios on the course. Of maybe being too nice between the ropes." He also said he craves "having a bit more of that step-on-your-throat mentality....I'm super competitive and have a lot of grit and fight, but sometimes it's saying "Look, I'm better than you and I'm going to beat you."

- Inducted into the Varsity "K" Hall of Fame at Kent State University in October 2021 alongside Corey Conners and Taylor Pendrith. The 2021 class includes 14 former student-athletes.
- Was a standard bearer in Mike Weir's group at the 2004 RBC Canadian Open, shortly after Weir won the Masters.
- Had "goosebumps and shivers" the first time he played with Tiger Woods, which was during the third round of the 2018 PLAYERS Championship, and ended up shooting his best round of the season. He had the chance to meet Woods about two months earlier at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, as Woods was sitting five feet away from Hughes in the locker room, but he couldn't muster up the courage to walk over and say hello.

## Background

- Born in Dundas, Ontario, Canada; currently lives in Charlotte, North Carolina
- Got his start in golf at 7 when his parents brought him along to the driving range at Dundas Valley Golf and Country Club (Stanley Thompson-designed course) instead of hiring a babysitter. In 2017, the Par-3 course at Dundas Valley was renamed the 'Mackenzie Hughes Par 3' as a homage to the place where it all began for Hughes.
- After going back and forth between PGA TOUR Canada and the Korn Ferry Tour from 2013-2016, he broke through in 2016 for his first Korn Ferry Tour title (2016 Price Cutter Charity Championship) to secure PGA TOUR card.
- Won his first PGA TOUR title in only his ninth start at the 2016 RSM Classic in a 5-man playoff that went to Monday. He became the first rookie in 20 years to go wire-to-wire for his first PGA TOUR victory. According to his good friend Corey Conners, Hughes celebrated by splurging on a new TV.
- Grew up wanting to play hockey professionally but pursued golf instead. He went on to win the 2011 and 2012 Canadian Amateur Championship; turned pro in 2013.
- Played for the Kent State University golf team with Corey Conners under Coach Herb Page (Canadian Golf Hall of Famer).
- When in Charlotte, plays golf at Longview Country Club in Waxhaw.

## Family

- Married to wife Jenna (2016) and has two sons: Kenton Robert (2017) and Cohen Alan (2020); Kenton is named in part as tribute to Kent State, where Mackenzie and Jenna met. Expecting third child in December 2022
- According to good friend Corey Conners, Hughes "spent a long time convincing Jenna to go out with him at Kent State..."
- Moved to Charlotte, North Carolina with wife, Jenna in 2012. The duo decided on Charlotte when Jenna was offered a job there, and it so happened to be warm enough during the winter months for Mackenzie to train and practice. Now with two kids, the city of Charlotte is the perfect place to raise a family; "It's hard to imagine us being anywhere else. Charlotte is a growing city with a lot of families that seem like us in that they're young and blossoming. It's a great place to raise a family, and we see ourselves here for a long time."
- Mom (Sandra) is a vascular access nurse at Hamilton Health Sciences in Ontario, Canada; worked on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic; calls his mom his "biggest supporter." He helped raise money for the Hamilton Health Services COVID Response team (where his mother works as nurse) with the funds used for vital medical equipment, research and patient amenities.

- Jenna, Kenton and Cohen travel with Mackenzie on TOUR for most tournaments. Hughes notes: "It's nice since I get to see them every day, which I know eventually won't be the case. There are many families out there that also travel and have kids similar ages that we'll hangout and do fun things with. We also have daycare on the road for our kids. These teachers travel with the TOUR and help kids learn and discover things from a young age. The environment for families is great."
- Notes his mom (Sandra), wife (Jenna), and in-laws (Jenna's parents Alan and Karen) as integral parts of his support system.

#### Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Grew up a loyal Toronto Sports fan; supports hockey team Maple Leafs (NHL), basketball team Raptors (NBA) and baseball team Blue Jays (MLB); since moving to Charlotte, has adopted the Carolina Panthers as his football team (NFL).
- Favorite college team is Kent State Golden Flashes.
- Enjoys fitness, playing other sports and being outdoors.
- Motto he lives by: "Success is never owned. It is rented, and the rent is due every day."
- Dream foursome would include Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods.
- Lists Arnold Palmer as one of his idols.
- MacKenzie will not eat anything chocolate.

#### Charity

- Hughes was heartbroken by the spring 2022 fatal auto accident that killed six members of the University of the Southwest golf teams as well as the coach. Two other members of the men's golf team, both from Canada, survived the crash, and Hughes donated \$500 per birdie during the Valspar Championship to their care. His week "didn't go as planned" but his seven birdies "meant something much more" as he was able to donate \$3,500. Fellow Canadian and TOUR player Nick Taylor also donated \$500 per birdie, and raised an additional \$6,000 via his 12 birdies at the Valspar Championship.

#### Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Friends with former NFL quarterback Alex Smith; met during 2018 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.
- Helen Ross wrote a great piece on the friendship between MacKenzie Hughes and Corey Conners, which has endured nearly two decades. The two grew up 75 miles from each other, idolizing Mike Weir (and Tiger Woods, of course). They were members of the Canadian National Team, as well as at Kent State, represented Canada in the 2020 (21) Tokyo Olympics and were in each other's weddings. The story is full of great quotes from the two of them and photos from their friendship, as well as a painting of the two of them as children that Conners' grandmother had commissioned. "For two kids that grew up and trained together and came from small towns in Ontario to both be finding some pretty good success on the PGA TOUR and to do it together is really quite extraordinary," Hughes says. "But that's why you dream big, and you work hard."

## Garrick Higgo

### Things To Know

- Won the 2021 Palmetto Championship at Congaree in his second career start on the PGA TOUR after receiving a Commissioner's exemption to compete in the event. Hit 75% of his greens that week and received a congratulatory call from fellow South African Gary Player during his winner's press conference. Player has been one of Higgo's biggest mentors and has supported him through his father's passing and professional career through countless letters and phone calls.
- Won twice in three starts on the DP World Tour in April-May of 2021, which elevated him to 51st in the Official World Golf Ranking. Playing the final round with a lead for the first time at the Grand Canaria Open, Higgo said he leaned on advice from Gary Player to secure the win: "He said there is no such thing as a lead and you should play like you are two behind. That was nice from him and he has said it so many times, but I have never really had a lead, so I haven't had to worry about that".
- Attended the University of Nevada-Las Vegas for two semesters in 2017 and 2018. Unlike other high-profile international recruits who elect to attend college in the United States, college life wasn't really for him and returned home before deciding to turn pro. "I didn't play that well. I knew if I was at home, I knew where I could get my game. And I wasn't going to get there at UNLV. I loved it there. I just don't think it was the right fit for me."
- Turned professional in 2019 and won in his debut on the Big Easy Tour, a developmental tour in South Africa. In his next start, he won his first tournament on the Sunshine Tour.
- Would become the first Junior Presidents Cup player to compete in the Presidents Cup should he qualify in 2022 at Quail Hollow. Competed in the 2017 Junior Presidents Cup as an 18-year-old for Captain Trevor Immelman, who will lead the International Team at the 2022 Presidents Cup. "That would be an amazing story [with Trevor as his captain again]. I'm just taking it week to week. It's been a very quick rise so it's definitely a goal and one that I'd like to do."
- Played a practice round in Abu Dhabi in January 2021 with Justin Thomas, who said, "He had some serious, serious speed."
- Made his major debut at the 2021 PGA Championship (T64), which due to the DP World Tour's COVID protocols, was the first time he played in front of full galleries of fans. Spent two weeks after the PGA in Sea Island playing with Dru Love (son of Davis Love III) before traveling to the Palmetto Championship at Congaree.

### Background

- Plays left-handed but is naturally right-handed. Started focusing on golf at age 13 after breaking his elbow playing rugby.
- Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, but attended high school in Stellenbosch, a town located east of Cape Town where he became the No. 1-ranked amateur in South Africa by age 17. He now resides in Sea Island, Georgia.
- In 2016, became the first South African to qualify and play in both the U.S. Amateur and U.S. Junior Amateur in the same year.
- Beat University of Texas standout Cole Hammer in the round of 16 at the 2017 U.S. Junior Amateur at Flint Hills National GC in Andover, Kansas, before losing on the 17th hole of the semifinals to Matthew Wolff.

## Family

- Lost his father (Michael) when he was 9 years old when the entire family was in a car accident -- parents (mom - Susan), one older brother (Michael) and one younger sister (Calista). Received a letter from Gary Player after the accident, who also lost his mother around the same age. "He's been such a support since then and has sent me a lot of letters throughout the years, or called me at times to help. He's been incredibly nice to me, and we've played a few times since then, and I feel very lucky for that."
- His mother, Susan, was in attendance for his first PGA TOUR victory at the Palmetto Championship at Congaree. The two shared an emotional hug on the range once it became official.
- Got engaged to girlfriend Chandre (SHUN-drae) Janeke on Dec. 10, 2021, one month after celebrating their four-year dating anniversary.

## Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Interests include Rap music, sports and Chelsea FC (soccer/football).

## Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Has worked with swing coach and mentor Cliff Barnard since he was 9. Cliff is currently the head pro at The Plettenberg Bay Country Club located east of George, South Africa. Cliff has been involved in the golfing industry for nearly 30 years and has been apart of the South African PGA since 2002.

## Scott Stallings

### Things To Know

- After withdrawing from the 2015 Charles Schwab Challenge, Stallings underwent numerous tests at UCLA's Medical Center after consulting with an endocrinologist due to a number of symptoms including a general lack of energy. Stallings said it was a difficult decision to withdraw from the event - one of his favorites on TOUR -- but there was not another appointment on the books at UCLA for two months. A first step was sinus surgery to alleviate sleep apnea. After receiving a diagnosis of adrenal failure, the doctor sent Stallings on an all-encompassing path to wellness that included fitness (Crossfit) and a revamped diet. Among the more interesting discoveries? He was deathly allergic to sweet potatoes, as well as barley and milk. Stallings started working with a Renaissance Periodization dietician from Charlotte, N.C. He can now talk with authority about carbs, fats, caloric efficiencies and macronutrient consumption - as well as how different times of the season (tournaments held in hotter, humid temperatures, for example) change the fuel he puts into his body. In the beginning, Stallings would print a template of what he was eating and drinking on a daily basis. Through meal planning, Scott was able to lose 55 pounds (240 to 185), mostly between the 2018 and 2019 Valspar Championship. He also reduced his body fat from 26 percent to approximately 10 percent.
- About his dedication to fitness and wellness: his words to live by are "Pay the man today." When he first heard the phrase, he didn't understand what it meant. He came to learn that he can

control only two things in his life - his attitude and his effort. "And, the rent for both is due every day." He became so taken by the mantra that it is engraved into his wedges.

- An unintended consequence of Stallings' journey has been his ability to help and inspire others: "The vanity aspect of getting in a lot better shape was never the goal. That was something that just kind of happened. And I understand when you start dealing with media the vanity will be part of it, but overall feedback has been amazing. I get direct messages from guys saying, "I weighed 350 pounds and I lost 70 pounds all because of an interview you did." That makes me want to keep putting my story out there on social media. The more I hear from people thanking me for helping them get off the couch, the more it motivates me to keep doing this."
- Trains at his home gym, known as "The Barn" on his property in Knoxville. The way Stallings trains depends on if he's at a tournament or if it's an off-week, or the offseason. But it's typically an everyday Crossfit-type program going from hard, heavy workouts early in the week to lighter, faster stuff by the weekend. The Barn also has a garage door that allows Stallings to hit balls on his property. He told his wife Jennifer that if he ever hit his home he would quit the game.

### Background

- Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, but attended Oak Ridge High School in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.
- Attended Tennessee Tech and played golf, where he was a two-time Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year. Named an all-American in 2006.

### Family

- Wife, Jennifer; Known each other since kindergarten and went to the same elementary, middle and high school. After graduation, Scott went to Tennessee Tech and Jennifer went to University of Tennessee; They eventually started dating during sophomore year of college.
- Two kids: Finn and Millie; Jennifer says "It doesn't matter if he shot 80 or 60, when he's home, he's just dad. He never brings the golf course home with him."
- Resides in Knoxville, Tennessee, which is their full-time residence .

### Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Faith is very important to him.
- His first love was baseball. Dreamt of playing for the Boston Red Sox.
- Favorite college team is Tennessee Volunteers and he roots for the Boston Red Sox, Boston Celtics and New England Patriots.

### Charity

- The Scott Stallings Kids Play Free Junior Golf Initiative: In order to increase golf accessibility for those who might not be able to consistently afford a round, Scott has teamed up with the Tennessee Golf Foundation to set-up free golf at multiple locations in Knoxville, TN for anyone 18 and under, 365 days a year.
- In 2018 more than 1,600 kids played over 4,850 free rounds of golf in the Knoxville area thanks to the Scott Stallings Kids Play Free Initiative. Stallings kids are part of the program that is thriving after launching in 2015.

- Other charities include Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Birdies for the Brave.
- Annually hosts the Tennessee Junior Cup (official title is Tennessee Junior Cup hosted by Scott Stallings and Friends - <https://www.tnjuniorcup.com/>), which is a Ryder Cup-format tournament pitting East Tennessee against West Tennessee, with 10 boys and four girls on each team. The winners earn the Scott Stallings Cup. Also puts on The Scotty, which is Tennessee's junior four-ball championship. The inaugural event was in 2020 and this year's event is set for this coming Tuesday and Wednesday at Oak Ridge Country Club.

#### Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Stallings' trainer is Adam Kerley, and Scott prides himself on being one of the fittest players on TOUR. Their longest session is 90 minutes on Monday, and the routines change depending on traveling and off days (some days start at 6 am whereas other days start at 4 am). He and his trainer also read a lot of fitness books.

#### Other

- In 2022, Stallings began working with Hunter Stewart, who is a former No. 1 ranked amateur, as his strategy coach. Hunter works with several other TOUR players and Stallings credits a lot of his success in 2022 to Hunter. He was too aggressive on certain holes, not as aggressive on others and Hunter helped him rethink his approach. Stallings advanced to the TOUR Championship in 2022 for the first time in his career.
- On Wednesday of the 2022 Travelers Championship, Stallings' strategy coach Hunter Stewart explained that his iron play was the worst in his career, when it had always been the staple of his success. Stallings called a friend to help find his old set irons in storage, not knowing which set was the right one he shipped three of them (\$400 shipping bill) to Scott at the Travelers Championship. Stallings struggled during the first round in Hartford after only hitting them briefly on the range prior to the round, but then got on a hot streak beginning in the second round. This kickstarted a two-month run that would propel Stallings to his first ever appearance in the TOUR Championship at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, including a runner-up finish at the 2022 BMW Championship.
- His golf ball marker is in the shape of a kettle ball with name of his kids and wife and logos of the New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox
- One of Stallings sponsors, NOBULL, became a TOUR OMP in March 2022.

#### Sepp Straka

##### Things To Know

- Played at the University of Georgia from 2011 to 2016, where his teammates included his twin brother, Sam, Keith Mitchell, Joey Garber and Greyson Sigg. Was a co-captain with Lee McCoy his senior season. Remains a huge Georgia Bulldogs fan.
- Earned his first PGA TOUR title at the 2022 Honda Classic, becoming the first Austrian and the 14th player from the University of Georgia to win on TOUR. Wife, Paige, flew in Sunday morning at 5:30 a.m. to surprise him, after spending Saturday night at her father's surprise 60th birthday party.
- Was born in Austria and lived in Vienna until he was 14, when his family moved to Valdosta, Georgia. Became the first PGA TOUR member from Austria.

- Represented Austria at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo and finished T10. 2021-22 PGA TOUR rookie Matthias Schwab was also a member of Team Austria (T27).
- Will bring Diet Coke to tournaments if he knows they will only provide Pepsi. After Sepp lost in a playoff to Will Zalatoris at the FedEx St. Jude Championship, his wife, Paige, joked on Instagram, "I'm not saying he would have won if this were a Coke week, but I'm also not NOT saying it."
- Was so discouraged by his rough start to the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour season that by July, he had already registered for Q-School again. He won the following week at the KC Golf Classic, and eventually secured his PGA TOUR card through Korn Ferry Tour Finals (T3/2018 Korn Ferry Tour Championship).
- Entered the 2021-22 PGA TOUR Season as a newlywed. Married Paige Dean (an Auburn graduate) the weekend before the start of the new season. The couple got engaged in December 2020 and were married on September 11, 2021 at Shoal Creek in Alabama. Georgia friends in attendance included UGA head men's golf coach Chris Haack, Keith Mitchell and Chris Kirk. Paige was certain she'd marry an Auburn man, but met Sepp at a bar in Auburn in November 2017 only to learn he was a UGA fan and the rest was history!
- His mother, Mary, first traveled to Austria to be with her boyfriend, who was designing a golf course in Salzburg. After they broke up, Mary remained in the country and began working in a golf shop, where she one day sold a glove to Peter, Sepp's father.
- Credits brother, Sam, with getting him into golf, despite both parents being big fans of the sport. Both boys grew up playing soccer (Sam was a forward and Sepp a goalie), but one day, after they attended a week-long junior golf camp, Sam told Sepp they were quitting the soccer team and picking up golf. The twins went on to play at the University of Georgia together. Sam currently sells real estate in Valdosta.
- In his PGA TOUR debut, opened the 2018 Fortinet Championship with a 63 to hold the solo-lead (went on to finish T46).
- Often plays Yahtzee! with the players he is staying with on the road, including Chris Kirk, Brendon Todd and Denny McCarthy.
- Reached the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking for the first time on April 30, 2022 (No. 50).
- Sepp is a nickname for Josef.

Keegan Bradley

Things To Know

- Nephew of LPGA great and World Golf Hall of Fame member, Pat Bradley. Keegan was born in 1986, the year Pat won three of four major championships on the LPGA.
- Had never played in a PGA TOUR tournament until his rookie season of 2011. Won his first PGA TOUR event in his 11th start at the AT&T Byron Nelson and the PGA Championship later that season in his first major championship start.

Background

- Led Hopkinton High School to back-to-back state titles in Massachusetts.
- Was inducted into the St. John's Hall of Fame in 2019 and remains close to many college friends and faculty members.
- Bypassing most of the premier golf schools, Bradley settled for St. John's, which was hardly a force on the national collegiate scene. Playing for the Redmen, however, Bradley got

opportunities to play many classic layouts in the Metropolitan area – and his favorite was Bethpage Black.

#### Family

- Married Jillian Stacey, his longtime girlfriend and Vermont sweetheart, in Palm Beach, Florida in 2016. Among the PGA TOUR colleagues who attended were Luke Donald, Camilo Villegas, and Austin Johnson, the caddie for his brother Dustin.
- Keegan and Jillian welcomed son Logan James Bradley into the world Nov. 13, 2017 and son Copper Leo (Leo was Keegan's grandfather's middle name) on Jan. 26, 2021.
- His father Mark (one of Pat Bradley's brothers) is a member of the PGA of America, and serves as Director of Instruction at Jackson Hole Golf. While a club pro in Hopkinton, Mass., in the summers, Mark and Keegan lived in a trailer which they named "Tin Cup II." Keegan loves the story, but wants people to know it didn't indicate that he grew up poor. Quite the opposite; his family had resources, just not enough to provide for a national golf life as a kid, so Keegan rarely played in AJGA tournaments.

#### Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Big fly-fisherman
- Huge Boston fan – most passion for Patriots and Red Sox. Big fan of Boston-based rock band, Dropkick Murphys.
- Was a competitive ski-racer early on in Vermont, competing at a very high level. March 3, 1999, as a 13-year-old, finished T-9 in one of his last races at a Vermont State Championship J-4 Alpine competition. T-9 may not sound like much, but the kon it, Tim Kelley, went on to ski World Cup level and US National Team level. Keegan told his dad he was quitting because "I don't want it to hurt my PGA TOUR career," so that race in '99 was one of his finales. He skied a little in 1999-2000 but eventually hung up the boots and poles.

#### Charity

- Has a foundation that supports causes in his home state of Vermont. The Keegan Bradley Charity Golf Classic is held in late August.

#### Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Has played a lot of golf with Michael Jordan, with trash-talking a big part of it (Keegan wears MJ brand golf shoes). Has been known to "hang out" with on occasion with Tom Brady, as well.
- Closest friends on TOUR are Jon Curran, Brendan Steele and Jamie Lovemark. He is also close to many of the Jupiter-based PGA TOUR pros like Luke Donald.
- Keegan was the first ever Jordan Brand ambassador in the golf space. Since the brand didn't manufacture golf shoes back when they started working together about 10 years ago they created custom Jordan golf shoes for him. Today, despite the brand expanding into golf shoes, Keegan still receives one of one shoes from Jordan brand. He has a dedicated team at Nike HQ that works with him on his shoes.

#### Other

- At the age of 12 in 1998, caddied for his father Mark at Innisbrook Resort for the unofficial JCPenney Classic – a mixed team competition. Mark was paired with his sister, LPGA Hall of Famer Pat Bradley.
- Is billed as Barstool Sports’ “People’s Golfer,” in large part due to their common love of all things Boston.

Nick Hardy

#### Things To Know

- Finished the 2021-22 PGA TOUR season - his rookie season - ranked 126th on the final FedExCup Playoffs and Eligibility Points List, one spot out of securing his TOUR card for the 2022-23 season. He then went to the three-event Korn Ferry Tour Finals where he posted T15 (Albertson Boise Open), T28 (Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship) and T12 (Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance) to finish 10th on the Korn Ferry Tour Finals Points List and earn his PGA TOUR card for the 2022-23 season.
- After a T21 finish at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans with teammate Curtis Thompson, Hardy missed a month of PGA TOUR action with a wrist injury. He made his return near his hometown at the Korn Ferry Tour's NV5 Invitational presented by Old National Bank in Glenview, Illinois.
- Grew up playing a local par-3 course in Northbrook, Illinois (Anetsberger Golf Course). Oftentimes as a pre-teen, he would ride over to the course on his bike with his clubs on his back and play in the morning, either alone or with friends. He and his, John, had a "30-degree rule" where as long as it was above 30 degrees outside, they would go play, no matter the time of year. Nick holds the course record of 6-under 21 and they have a display in the pro shop with the scorecard; he actually had a 5-footer for a 7-under 20 on the final hole that hit the back of the cup and stayed out, and he was so mad the whole way home he didn't speak.
- Played four seasons at University of Illinois (2014-18) under longtime head coach Mike Small. His 70.61 scoring average as a senior (2017-18) set a single-season school record. He was a 2018 All-America First-Team selection and the 2018 Big Ten Player of the Year. Three-time All-Big Ten First Team (2015, 2017, 2018). Became the fourth two-time Big Ten Championships medalists in school history, joining Luke Guthrie (2011-12), Steve Stricker (1986, 1988-89), and Richard Martin (1930-31). Helped Illinois win four consecutive Big Ten Championships (2015-18).
- Earliest golf memory was attending the Tucson Open and getting a golf ball from Payne Stewart Award winner Billy Andrade after the round

#### Background

- Got his first set of golf clubs when he was four years old; he started playing golf by chipping in the backyard
- Advanced to the semifinals of the 2014 Western Amateur, defeating Scottie Scheffler 5&4 in the quarterfinals before losing to the eventual champion, Beau Hossler
- 2014 Rolex Junior All-America First Team selection (chosen by the AJGA) with the likes of Sam Burns, Doug Ghim, and Davis Riley

#### Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Considers himself a sports junkie. Big Chicago sports fan: NFL's Chicago Bears are his favorite football team; NHL's Chicago Blackhawks are his hockey team; MLB's Chicago Cubs are his baseball team; NBA's Chicago Bulls are his basketball team.
- Noticed early in his professional career he drove the car slower, ate his slower, and essentially did everything slower than he did when he was a collegiate golfer. Learned how to slow everything down.
- His fiancée, Liz, is a vegan, and has helped him start to eat healthier, but he still considers himself a "big meat guy." His favorite meats are steak, chicken and fish, and he says, "I'm a rib-eye guy, though."
- His favorite type of music is classic, old-school rock & roll, including The Rolling Stones, AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, Grateful Dead and Tom Petty.
- His mother, Kim, took him to a Rolling Stones concert in Chicago when he was 10 years old, which he considers his favorite concert. He also saw Tom Petty at Wrigley Field in 2017, prior to Petty's passing, which Nick is very grateful for getting to experience.
- Recently read Matthew McConaughey's book, "Greenlights." Said it's a great book because there was a lot of wisdom in it. "I think it's cool he spent a lot of his life to himself, especially now with social media and all that in our lives, we never really leave time to think for ourselves, and I think that's why he provides a lot of wisdom."

#### Charity

- On October 5, 2021, Nick announced that he's officially become an Honorary Ambassador for the First Tee of Chicago. His hometown is nearby Northbrook, Illinois.

#### Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Got engaged to Liz Elmassian on December 2, 2021. Elmassian, who was born in Sydney, Australia and has competed professionally in golf, previously represented Australia in the 2014 Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China. The two first met at Nick's home course (The Merit Club - Libertyville, Illinois) in 2016 when they were both amateur golfers, and officially began dating in June 2017. Photos of their engagement can be found on Liz's public Instagram account (@lizelmassian).
- 2017 Palmer Cup teammates with Sam Burns, Doug Ghim, Maverick McNealy, Collin Morikawa
- Competed against Doug Ghim frequently in tournaments in Illinois during their junior careers
- Has worked with his swing coach, Brett Packee, since he was nine years old.
- Nick's caddie is veteran Jeff King. King came highly recommended to Nick's agent, Brad Buffoni, from fellow PGA TOUR player Kramer Hickok. King has 26 years of professional experience on the bag, including 16 on the LPGA and 10 on the PGA TOUR. Some TOUR players he's worked with include Hickok, Luke List, Vaughn Taylor and Bo Van Pelt.

#### Other

- Had a "fist-pump" clip go viral after he finished birdie-birdie to force a playoff at a Monday qualifier for the 2021 WM Phoenix Open (he won the playoff and finished the tournament T42)
- Describing his game and where he hopes it'll take him: "Consistency. That's what I take pride in. It's one thing to stay at the top for a year, it's another to stay at the top for 10 years."

- Describes his go-to shot as "a straight ball. " He elaborated by saying, "When it's windy, I try to play with the wind, and curve the ball with the wind. I like to hit a lot of straight shots. I'm not a big curver of the golf ball."
- Earned his first PGA TOUR card by finishing 21st in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour regular season points standings; he was one of three players among The 25 to secure a TOUR card despite not winning a tournament during the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour season

S.H. Kim

#### Things To Know

- Played his way through First, Second, and Final Stages of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament to earn membership for 2022, then earned his first PGA TOUR card via the Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season with a stellar rookie year. Highlights of his Korn Ferry Tour season were a pair of runner-up finishes and a solo-third in his second career start. Kim said reaching the PGA TOUR fulfilled a lifelong dream.
- Four-time winner internationally who boasts victories on the Korean Tour, Japan Golf Tour, Abema TV Tour (also known as the Japan Challenge Tour), and Srixon Tour (operated by the KPGA and one level below the Korean Tour). Kim's first win came at the 2019 Heiwa PGM Challenge on the Abema TV Tour. The second came on the Srixon Tour in June 2020, two months before a breakthrough victory at the 2020 KPGA Championship, one of the two longest running and most prestigious events on the Korean Tour; he was the eighth and final Monday qualifier for the event, and he became the first Monday qualifier in history to win on the Korean Tour. Kim's most recent win came at the 2021 Japan PGA Championship, one of Japan Golf Tour's five major championships.
- One of two players in history to win both the KPGA Championship and Japan PGA Championship, with the other being Hyung-Sung Kim.
- Fellow South Korean K.J. Choi is an iconic figure for Kim; the two often play together at Texas Golf Center in Fort Worth. The two also share a connection through Ferrum Club, a private country club in Yeosu, South Korea which is one of Kim's sponsors and the host of the Korean Tour's K.J. Choi Invitational. The two were first introduced in summer 2021 when Kim came to the United States for the Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament. K.J. helped Kim with both his golf skills and life lessons, specifically mastering bunker shots and how it is important to give back to Korea to grow golf in their home country.

#### Background

- Based in Dallas, Texas, mostly living in hotels in the area when he is not traveling for events. With PGA TOUR membership secured, he plans to establish something a little more permanent.
- Started golf because his father recommended it as a hobby; his father ran a driving range at the time.
- When he started playing golf, saw some juniors going abroad in the winter, and he decided he wanted to become a professional so he could travel abroad when Korea got cold. His first-time winter training in the United States took place in Tampa, Florida, followed by Hawaii.
- Represented South Korea on the national team as an amateur.
- Turned professional at 19 years old in December 2017 and prepared for the 2018 Korean Tour Qualifying Tournament. Although Kim failed to garner Korean Tour status, he finished fourth at

Japan Golf Tour Qualifying School in December 2018 and earned status for Japan Golf Tour and the Abema TV Tour (also known as Japan Challenge Tour); he played both tours all of 2019.

- Played the Japan Golf Tour for all of 2021, recording a win at the Japan PGA Championship. Made one start on the Korean Tour, finishing solo second, and burst onto the scene in the United States at the PGA TOUR's 2021 CJ CUP @ SUMMIT, which he gained entry to as one of the highest ranked South Koreans in the Official World Golf Ranking. Kim shot a 9-under 63 in the second round and entered the weekend in T2 position before he settled for a T32 finish.

#### Family

- Mother, Yun Yeon Kong (pronounced YOON YEON Kong), father, Tae Woo Kim (pronounced TEH WOO Kim), and younger brother all live back home in South Korea.
- Kim's father caddied for him in his win at the 2020 KPGA Championship.
- Kim's family had modest financial means, and his father, with tears in his eyes, recalled in an interview a particularly difficult time when he wanted S.H., who was in middle school at the time, to get a lesson from a well-known professional near Seoul, which was roughly a four-hour drive from their home in Changwon. In order to save money to pay for the lesson, S.H. and his father stayed at a 24-hour spa instead of a hotel and ate cheap meals (mostly instant noodles) at a local convenience store. Kim's father still gets emotional talking about it because he felt he was unable to provide a comfortable environment for his son.

#### Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- Believes self-assurance helps things materialize, so he always tries to think positively.
- Learned tae kwon do and how to play piano as a child, but was not passionate about either and quit once he took up golf; his piano teacher still stays in touch with the family and roots for him.

#### Charity

- Participated in a First Tee clinic alongside K.J. Choi back home in Korea in summer 2022; he spent roughly a month back home since his PGA TOUR card was already secured.

#### Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Has worked with the same coach, Chang Soo Ahn (pronounced Ch-AHNG SOO AHN), since high school; the coach emphasized fitness, which led to significant distance gains for Kim.
- Forged a friendship with fellow South Korean Sangmoon Bae on the Korn Ferry Tour.

#### Other

- Two of his biggest moments to date - a win at the 2020 KPGA Championship as a Monday qualifier on the Korean Tour, finishing on the number for guaranteed starts at Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament - were the result of birdies on the 71st hole of competition.
- Should he qualify for the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday, Kim intends to wear a scarlet Ohio State hat a fan gifted him at the 2022 Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship, a Korn Ferry Tour event held at Ohio State University Golf Club in Columbus.

## Dean Burmester

- Burmester was born in Mutare, Zimbabwe but holds a South African passport
- His father, Mark Burmester, played international cricket for Zimbabwe while his mother Michelle holds (as of 2022) the women's course record at Royal Harare Golf Club, his home course
- Lists Nick Price and Mark McNulty as his golfing inspirations growing up
- Given the honor of hitting the inaugural tee shot on the DP World Tour (formerly European Tour) to get the 2022 season underway at the 2021 Joburg Open in his native South Africa
- Enjoys fishing on his off-weeks
- Has eight Sunshine Tour victories

## Emiliano Grillo

### Things To Know

- Born in the city of Chaco, in the province of Resistencia in Argentina, he grew up playing the same course, Chaco Golf Club, as PGA TOUR winners José Cócercs and Fabián Gómez.
- He loves soccer and is a diehard fan of Argentina's River Plate football club. He always keeps track of big games or competitions going on or coming for River.
- Fishing is one of his biggest passions. Joking, he has even said that if he could earn as much as he does in golf, he would consider giving it a shot as his sport. It's something he has done his entire life, going out fishing at the river in Chaco since he was a little boy in Argentina.
- Emiliano Grillo has completed the rare feat of winning on all three Tours: 2014 Visa Argentina Open, 2015 Korn Ferry Tour Championship, 2015 PGA TOUR Fortinet Championship

### Background

- Left Chaco at age 14 to work on his game and then left Argentina at age 16 to attend the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Fla.

### Family

- Emiliano and his girlfriend, Alexia Garcia Morris, welcomed their first child, Andre Milan Grillo, on March 3rd, 2022

### Interests/Hobbies/Quirks

- If you look at the front side of his golf bag you'll see a date in there in Spanish format: 9/12/18, which is December 9, 2018. River won the 2018 Copa Libertadores Final after beating fierce rival Boca Juniors 3-1 in Madrid, Spain on that date.

#### Inner Circle/Special Connections

- Member of famed "Class of 2011" and competed alongside Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas, Daniel Berger, Xander Schauffele and Ollie Schniederjans during amateur golf days.