

## Men's Golf Bios – Tokyo 2020

(As of July 27, 2021)

### 1. Abraham Ancer, MEX

- Recipient of the 2010 Jack Nicklaus Award (Odessa Junior College)
- Finished second in Oklahoma University history in career scoring average in relation to par
- First Mexican player to move inside the World Golf Rankings top 100
- First Mexican to play in the Presidents Cup (2019)
- Owns one Korn Ferry Tour title and one PGA TOUR of Australasia win
- His passions include Formula 1/cars, shooting range, grilling, and spending time at his ranch
- Born in South Texas but raised in Reynosa, Mexico until age 14; has dual citizenship
- His father, Abraham Senior, took him to a golf course when he was still in diapers and he fell in love with the game. Spoke loss of his father in 2013 was the toughest thing he has gone through
- Friends with Jorge Campos, legendary soccer goalkeeper from Mexico

### 2. Adri Arnaus, ESP (*AD-ree ARE-nous*)

- Barcelona, Spain native earned a business degree while playing golf at Texas A&M University
- Won 2017 Spanish Amateur championship
- Posted eight top-10s on the Challenge Tour in 2018, including a one-stroke win over Victor Perez in the Challenge Tour Grand Final, while earning European Tour card for 2019
- In his first full season on the European Tour, he recorded three runner-up finishes and advanced all the way to the DP World Tour Championship, Dubai.

### 3. Christiaan Bezuidenhout, RSA (*be-ZAY-den-hote*)

- Three wins on the European Tour (2019 Estrella Damm Andalucia Masters, 2020 Alfred Dunhill Championship, 2020 South African Open)
- As an amateur, received a drug suspension after testing positive for beta blockers at the 2014 British Amateur Championship; was using the drug to relieve anxiety and a stutter after an accidental poisoning at the age of two; the suspension was originally for two years, but was later reduced to nine months
- Made 12 cuts in 12 starts on the PGA TOUR this season (through The Open Championship), including one top-10 result (7th/Arnold Palmer Invitational)
- <https://www.pgatour.com/news/2021/03/22/christiaan-bezuidenhout-rising-quickly-pga-tour-2021-wgc-dell-match-play.html>

### 4. Jorge Campillo, ESP (*HAW-hay CAM-pee-o*)

- 35-year-old two-time European Tour winner was a late replacement for countryman Jon Rahm, who was forced to withdraw due to a positive test for Covid-19
- Played college golf at Indiana University, winning nine titles and finishing runner-up at 2008 NCAA Championship
- First European Tour title came at the 2019 Trophee Hassan II after 229 career starts; second title was earned following a five-hole sudden-death playoff at the 2020 Commercial Bank Qatar Masters
- Represented Spain at the 2018 World Cup of Golf and multiple times as an amateur

### 5. Rafa Campos, PUR (*Rafa CAM-pose*)

- Has a twin sister, Cristina, as well as an older sister and a younger brother



- His hobbies are cooking and fishing. Claims to have more fishing lures than anyone can imagine. Once caught a 462-pound Blue Marlin that took him 2.5 hours to reel in
- Winner of Puerto Rico Amateur Championship four consecutive years (2007-2010)
- First Puerto Rican winner in the history of the Korn Ferry Tour (his lone professional win)

#### 6. Paul Casey, GBR

- Played college golf at Arizona State; was inducted into the Arizona State University Sports Hall of Fame in 2010
- Married to Pollyanna Woodward, a former TV personality and model in England, whom he met at a charity function during the 2011 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix
- As a UNICEF ambassador, donates \$100 to the organization for every birdie he records in tournament play
- Loves fast, exotic cars and he is an extremely proficient driver with many hours on the track
- Loves coffee and often travels with his own coffee machine
- He is a passionate watch collector; in 2011 purchased a watch worn by Seve Ballesteros at an auction to raise money for the Spaniard's charity foundation
- As a cycling enthusiast, he prepared for the 2015 PGA Championship with a grueling, 362-mile ride through Dolomites in the Italian Alps, where the climb into the mountains covers more than 50,000 feet; among the riders in 2015 was Eros Poli, who represented Italy in the 1984 Olympics and won a gold medal in the cycling team trial
- Owns 21 professional wins worldwide, but has yet to capture a major championship title; finished in the top-10 at least once in each of the four major championships
- Won the 2004 World Cup of Golf for England with Luke Donald as his partner

#### 7. Gunn Charoenkul, THA (*Gun CHAR-ron-cool*)

- 29-year-old Thailand native posted 10 top-10s on the Japan Golf Tour in 2019 but has yet to win
- Finished T54 at 2020 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP @ SHERWOOD; only other PGA TOUR start was 2019 The Open Championship (MC), where he earned a start after T3 at 2019 Mizuno Open on Japan Golf Tour
- Best result on Japan Golf Tour in 2020-21 season is T8 at Dunlop Phoenix
- Owns five international victories and two PGA TOUR China Series victories (2014 Yunnan Open, 2016 Chongqing Newtown King Run Open)

#### 8. Corey Connors, CAN

- His lone PGA TOUR victory came at the 2019 Valero Texas Open, where he became the first Monday Qualifier to win on the PGA TOUR since 2010
- Majored in actuarial mathematics at Kent State University. Thrived in the classroom and was a two-time Academic All-American
- Married to wife, Malory who lived across the street from Connors' grandparents' house
- Finalist in the 2014 U.S. Amateur Championship, semi-finalist in 2013

#### 9. Thomas Detry, BEL

- Began golf at age 5 and became a standout at the University of Illinois with fellow Belgian Thomas Pieters
- Made the cut in his first 10 professional events (on Challenge Tour), culminating in his win at the 2016 Bridgestone Challenge where he equaled the record for lowest under-par finish (29-under), and set a record for largest margin of victory (12 strokes)
- Teamed with Thomas Pieters to win for Belgium at the 2018 ISPS Handa World Cup of Golf



- In Spain in 2019, established himself as a Guinness World Record holder for the “fastest hole in golf by an individual”, getting a ball from the tee into the hole in 1 minute, 29 seconds
- In August 2020, finished runner-up at two European Tour events, both times beaten by England’s Sam Horsfield
- Three of his eight PGA TOUR starts have come at the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship in the Dominican Republic, a frequent vacation destination for he and his family (2019/T33, 2020/T33, 2021/T13)

#### **10. Tommy Fleetwood, GBR**

- 30-year-old from England is a five-time European Tour winner, claiming the European Tour’s season-long Race to Dubai title in 2017
- Owns two runner-up finishes in major championships (2018 U.S. Open, 2019 Open Championship)
- Became the sixth golfer to shoot a 63 in U.S. Open history, tying the championship’s single-round scoring record in the final round at Shinnecock Hills in 2018
- Paired with Francesco Molinari in the 2018 Ryder Cup, becoming the first pairing to win all four matches as Europe won the Cup
- Notched 19 top-10s in 86 PGA TOUR starts but is yet to win on the PGA TOUR

#### **11. Ryan Fox, NZL**

- 34-year-old became the first New Zealander to win on the European Tour in 10 years (Danny Lee) when he claimed the 2019 ISPS Handa World Super 6 Perth title, beating Adrian Otaegui, 3 and 2, in the final; topped the 2019 PGA Tour of Australasia Order of Merit
- Defeated by PGA TOUR member Russell Knox in a playoff at the 2018 Irish Open
- Lone top-25 in 16 PGA TOUR starts is T16/2019 Open Championship
- Son of former All Black rugby legend Grant Fox, and grandson of former New Zealand cricket captain Merv Wallace

#### **12. Gavin Kyle Green, MAS**

- 27-year-old played college golf at the University of New Mexico where he won eight times and was a three-time All-American and two-time Mountain West Conference Golfer of the Year
- Played for Malaysia in two Eisenhower Trophy tournaments as an amateur in 2012 and 2014
- Represented Malaysia at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games, finishing 47<sup>th</sup> in Rio
- As a 13-year-old, Green became the youngest player to compete in an Asian Tour event, shooting 89-75 at the Iskandar Johor Open. He said, “I was so nervous the first day, but redeemed myself a little bit the next day.” In the same event four years later, he played in the same grouping with Ernie Els and Sergio Garcia.
- In 2017, won his maiden Asian Tour event at the Mercuries Taiwan Masters, propelling him to the top of the Asian Tour Order of Merit, which he claimed at the end of the season. He is the first Malaysian to achieve the feat
- He is of Portuguese, Irish and Chinese descent

#### **13. Joachim B. Hansen, DEN (*YOUR-keem*)**

- 30-year-old from Hillerod, Denmark took up golf at the age of 12
- Represented Denmark at 2010 Eisenhower Trophy, where he posted the lowest individual score
- Claimed first European Tour title at 2020 Joburg Open





#### 14. Garrick Higgo, RSA

- 22-year-old left-hander won the 2021 Palmetto Championship at Congaree in just his second PGA TOUR start (T64/2021 PGA Championship); became the first player to win one of his first two PGA TOUR starts since Jim Benepe won the 1988 BMW Championship in his TOUR debut
- Former UNLV golfer is a three-time European Tour winner (2020 Open de Portugal, 2021 Gran Canaria Lopesan Open, 2021 Canary Islands Championship); also owns two Sunshine Tour titles
- Was a member of the 2017 International Junior Presidents Cup team captained by Trevor Immelman; in good shape to play for Immelman again in 2022 Presidents Cup
- South African legend Gary Player reached out when Higgo was just 9 after he, his parents, an older brother and younger sister had been in a car accident that tragically claimed his father's life; Player has been a mentor since
- <https://www.pgatour.com/news/2021/05/19/garrick-higgo-next-wave-international-talent-pga-championship.html>

#### 15. Rasmus Hojgaard, DEN

- Was a member of the Danish amateur team that lifted the 2018 Eisenhower Trophy; his twin brother Nicolai was also part of the team
- Turned professional in 2019 and won his first event (2019 AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open, co-sanctioned European Tour/Sunshine Tour/Asian Tour event) in a three-man playoff against Renato Paratore and Antoine Rozner at the third extra hole, to become the first player born in the 2000s to win on the European Tour
- Claimed second European Tour title at the 2020 ISPS Handa UK Championship in a playoff over Justin Walters, becoming the second-youngest player to achieve multiple wins on the European Tour, after Matteo Manassero

#### 16. Rikuya Hoshino, JPN

- 25-year-old from Ibaraki, Japan started playing golf at age 6 and turned pro in 2016
- Won the 2018 Fujisankei Classic by five strokes, 2019 Dunlop Srixon Fukushima Open (reduced to 54 holes), and 2020 Fuisankei Classic in a playoff over Mikumu Horikawa; in 2021, added the Kansai Open Golf Championship and Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup Golf to increase his total wins on the Japan Golf Tour to five
- Played eight events on PGA TOUR, including the 2021 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines (T26)

#### 17. Viktor Hovland, NOR

- His father, Harald, introduced him to the game at age 11
- Became first Norwegian to win on the PGA TOUR when he won the 2020 Puerto Rico Open; claimed second PGA TOUR title at 2020 Mayakoba Golf Classic in Mexico
- In the fall of 2019, became the first player (since 1983) on the PGA TOUR to record a streak of at least 18 rounds in the 60s, breaking Bob Estes' 2001 record of 17
- Grew up in Oslo, Norway before playing collegiately at Oklahoma State where he was part of the NCAA Championship winning team in 2018; named 2019 Ben Hogan Award winner as national college player of the year
- Became the first Norwegian to participate in the Masters in 2019 and earned low-amateur honors at the event; became the first player to earn low-amateur honors at the Masters and the U.S. Open in the same year since 1998 (Matt Kuchar, bronze medalist at 2016 Olympic Golf)
- Won the 2018 U.S. Amateur at Pebble Beach, the first player from Norway to win the event
- Reached No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking
- Enjoys listening to metal music



### 18. Mackenzie Hughes, CAN

- Winner of 2011 and 2012 Canadian Amateur Championship
- No. 1 ranked Canadian amateur in 2011
- Owns one PGA TOUR victory, one Korn Ferry Tour title, and one Mackenzie Tour win
- First player in TOUR history to win on the Mackenzie Tour–PGA TOUR Canada (PGA TOUR-era), Korn Ferry Tour and the PGA TOUR
- Vocal supporter of the Toronto Maple Leafs (NHL)
- Motto is “Success is never owned. It is rented, and the rent is due every day.”

### 19. Sungjae Im, KOR

- Followed his mom to the practice range when he was 4, started competing in junior events at 9
- Has a photographic memory. Once he looks at an object or a picture, he can tell instantly if something has changed.
- Won twice and amassed eight top-10s to win the 2018 Korn Ferry Tour Rookie of the Year and Player of the Year awards
- Enjoyed seven top-10s in 2019 and was named PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year. Was also a captain’s pick for the International Team in the Presidents Cup and earned 3.5 points
- Claimed his maiden PGA TOUR victory in 2020 at The Honda Classic en route to an 11th-place finish in the FedExCup
- Nicknamed “Ironman” for his penchant for tournament golf. Played 98 tournaments from between 2018-2020
- Favourite American food: Pizza and Pasta

### 20. Jazz Janewattananond, THA (*JANE-wat-ta-na-nond*)

- 25-year-old from Thailand won his first Asian Tour title at the 2017 Bashundhara Bangladesh Open by four shots
- At the age of 14 years and 71 days, became the youngest player in Asian Tour history to make the halfway cut at the 2010 Asian Tour International in Bangkok
- In January 2019, won the SMBC Singapore Open (a co-sanctioned Japan Tour/Asian Tour event), before three additional titles in 2019 brought his total Asian Tour wins to six. Earned the Order of Merit title that year
- Real name is Atiwit but switched to his nickname Jazz, which was given by his father, a judge, due to the latter’s preference to jazz music
- Took a break from golf at the end of 2016 to become a monk. Typically wears an orange shirt on Sunday, the color of monk’s saffron.
- Posted two top-25s in 21 PGA TOUR starts (T14/2019 PGA Championship, T14/2019 WGC-HSBC Champions)
- Stayed at the Orlando home of former PGA TOUR winner Daniel Chopra and became a Bay Hill member during the pandemic quarantine

### 21. Kristian Krogh Johannessen, NOR

- Born in Drammen, Norway on March 3, 1995
- Partnered with Viktor Hovland at 2013 European Boys event
- Two years his senior, Johannessen was a mentor of sorts for fellow Norwegian Viktor Hovland, saying “I’m sure Viktor would say I was (unkind) to him, but it was only ever fun. I beat him heavily once, signed my golf ball and presented it to him as a souvenir. That became something of a tradition between us.”



- Turned professional in 2015 and enjoyed a lot of success on the satellite Nordic Golf League, winning three times between 2015 and 2018
- Secured his debut season on the European Tour in 2018 after four attempts at Qualifying School
- Interested in football, skiing and cars

## 22. Maximilian Kieffer, GER (*Max KEE-fer*)

- Born in Bergisch Gladbach and began playing golf at the age of 5
- Played most of his golf at Hubbelrath Golf Club in Dusseldorf, the same club as Martin Kaymer
- Represented the German National team from 2005-2010 and played college golf briefly at the University of Florida before turning professional in 2010
- Won his first tournament on the Challenge Tour at the 2012 Gujarat Kensville Challenge in India
- In 2013, lost a sudden-death playoff at the Open de Espana, defeated by Raphael Jacquelin at the ninth extra hole, the longest playoff in European Tour history at the time
- During round three of the 2015 Irish Open, broke the Royal County Down course record set in 1939 by shooting 6-under 65
- Represented Germany twice in the World Cup of Golf (2013 with Marcel Siem and 2018 with Martin Kaymer)
- Hit three balls in the water on the fifth extra hole of a sudden-death playoff at the 2021 Austrian Golf Open to lose to American John Catlin; the following week, carded a final-round 62 to finish runner-up again at Gran Canaria Lopesan Open

## 23. Si Woo Kim, KOR

- Winner of the Korean Junior National Championship for four successive years
- Made the South Korean national team at age 16
- Qualified for the PGA TOUR at 17 years, 5 months, 6 days, becoming the youngest player to graduate from Qualifying School
- A three-time PGA TOUR winner, he became the youngest winner of THE PLAYERS Championship at age 21 years, 10 months, 16 days in 2017
- His father was a single-digit handicap golfer and encouraged Si Woo to go to the range with him as a kid
- Supports Manchester United FC and enjoys playing Call of Duty

## 24. Anirban Lahiri, IND (*La-HERE-ree*)

- A seven-time winner on the Asian Tour
- Ranked Asian Tour No. 1 in 2015, the year he won two European Tour co-sanctioned events and featured as the first Indian to play in the Presidents Cup
- Competed in the 2016 Olympics in Rio, finishing 57<sup>th</sup>
- He has competed full-time on the PGA TOUR since 2016
- Was part of the Indian team which won the silver medal in the 2006 Asian Games
- Learned golf from his father, a physician with the armed forces, when he was 8
- Practises Vipassana meditation and is a proponent of this meditation style
- QUOTES: "I know what it is to be an Olympian as I've done it before and I don't want to be just an Olympian. I want to win a medal, I want to do something that makes a difference. I know winning a PGA TOUR event will do that but winning a medal would even do more. I do have a certain responsibility towards the game and my country."



**25. Romain Langasque, FRA (*RO-mahn LUNG-gesk*)**

- 26-year-old won The Amateur Championship in 2015 at Carnoustie Golf Links, earning a spot in The Open Championship later that year, where he finished T65; the win also earned him an invitation to the 2016 Masters where he was one of two amateurs to make the cut, finishing T39
- Turned professional after the 2016 Masters and forfeited his exemption into the 2016 U.S. Open
- Represented France in the 2016 World Cup of Golf
- Finished ninth in the 2016 Challenge Tour rankings to earn European Tour status in 2017
- Claimed his first European Tour title with a two-stroke win over Sami Valimaki at the 2020 ISPS Handa Wales Open

**26. Marc Leishman, AUS (*LEESH-man*)**

- A six-time winner on the PGA TOUR, including the 2021 Zurich Classic of New Orleans with partner Cameron Smith
- Represented the International Team four times in the Presidents Cup, and played for Australia twice in the World Cup of Golf in 2016 and 2018
- Grew up idolizing Greg Norman and modelled his game after Ernie Els
- His three kids scribble their names on his golf bag to remind him of them while he is competing
- Launched the Begin Again Foundation to help less privileged after his wife Audrey's near-death experience with sepsis
- Has his own beer, "Leishman Lager," which benefits his Foundation
- Obsessed with his lawn-mowing at his Virginia Beach home

**27. Ondrej Lieser, CZE (*ON-dray LEE-sir*)**

- First went to the golf course with his dad when he was 9 and decided to pursue golf as his No. 1 sport when he was 15
- Grew up in Prague, where he played golf half the year outside and the other half indoors on a simulator, due to weather conditions
- Represented Czech Republic at 2012 Eisenhower Trophy before turning pro on the flight home
- First golfer from Czech Republic to win on Challenge Tour (2020 Andalucia Challenge de Espana)
- Won 2020 Challenge Tour Grand Final and became first Czech golfer to win the Order of Merit title on Challenge Tour (2020)
- In 2020, became first Czech golfer to earn full exempt status on European Tour

**28. Hurly Long, GER**

- Full name is Christopher Herlihy Long but goes by 'Hurly'
- Heidelberg native celebrated his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 21
- Was a freshman at University of Oregon before transferring to Texas Tech
- Represented Germany in three Eisenhower trophy tournaments (2014, 2016, 2018)
- Won the 2016 German International Amateur Championship
- Won the 2017 Carmel Cup after a playoff; posted a second-round 61 to set a new course record at Pebble Beach
- Turned professional in 2019 and earned a place on the Challenge Tour in 2020, winning the Italian Challenge Open on the second playoff hole after the event had been reduced to 54 holes due to weather





### 29. Shane Lowry, IRL

- Won five titles worldwide, including The Open Championship in 2019 at Royal Portrush Golf Club, Northern Ireland
- With victory at the 2009 Irish Open on the third hole of a sudden-death playoff, became the third amateur to win on the European Tour and turned professional the following week
- As an amateur, was a part of Irish golf teams that included Rory McIlroy
- Son of Brendan Lowry, winner of the 1982 All-Ireland Senior Football Championship with Offaly

### 30. Udayan Mane, IND (*OO-die-un MAH-nay*)

- 30-year-old from Bangalore currently plays on the Asian Tour and the Professional Golf Tour of India
- Represented India at the 2014 Asian Games and 2014 Eisenhower Trophy tournament
- Turned professional in 2015 and has a total of 11 wins on the Professional Golf Tour of India, including three in a row from the end of 2019 to early 2020
- Earned a place in the Olympics field when Emiliano Grillo withdrew

### 31. Hideki Matsuyama, JAP

- Holds six PGA TOUR victories, including the 2021 Masters which made him the first Japanese male major champion
- Received the Prime Minister's Award following his Masters win
- Born in Ehime, he was introduced to golf by his father at age four
- Won the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship in 2010 at Kasumigaseki Country Club and repeated as champion in 2011 at Singapore Island Country Club
- Winner of the 2009 Japan Junior Championship at Kasumigaseki
- Claimed the gold medal at 2011 World University Games
- A big foodie and loves all sports. Admires Japanese baseball stars, Yu Darvish, Shohei Ohtani and Kenta Maeda.

### 32. Rory McIlroy, IRL

- Former World No. 1, having spent over 100 weeks in that position during his career
- Four-time major champion (2011, U.S. Open, 2012 PGA Championship, 2014 The Open Championship, 2014 PGA Championship)
- Along with Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods, is one of three players to win four majors by age 25
- Counts THE PLAYERS Championship in 2019 among his 19 PGA TOUR wins
- PGA TOUR FedExCup champion in 2016, 2019
- European Tour Race to Dubai champion 2012, 2014, 2015
- PGA TOUR Player of the Year in 2012, 2014, 2019
- European Tour Golfer of the Year in 2012, 2014, 2015

### 33. Adrian Meronk, POL

- Attended East Tennessee State University from 2012-2016
- Represented Poland in the Eisenhower Trophy in 2012, 2014, 2016
- Turned professional in 2016 and played on the Challenge Tour in 2017, 2018, 2019
- Made history in 2019 becoming the first player from Poland to earn European Tour membership
- 28-year-old stands 6 feet, 6 inches, one of the tallest players in the Olympic Golf Competition



### 34. Guido Migliozzi, ITA

- Turned professional in 2016 after a successful junior career, winning the U14, U16 and U18 Italian Championships
- Competed on Challenge Tour before qualifying for 2019 European Tour season, where he won twice (2019 Magical Kenya Open, 2019 Belgian Knockout)
- In 2021, finished runner-up three times (Qatar in March, Kenya in May, Denmark in May)
- Has the distinction of being the first player to be signed and represented by pop star Niall Horan's management company Modest! Golf

### 35. Collin Morikawa, USA

- Won the 2021 Open Championship at Royal St. George's in his tournament debut for his second major title in what was just his eighth career major start. Joins Tiger Woods as the only players to win the PGA Championship and The Open Championship before turning 25.
- Won the 2020 PGA Championship in his second start in a major championship. Became the third-youngest player to win the PGA Championship behind Jack Nicklaus and Rory McIlroy.
- Parents are Blaine and Debbie. Blaine is Japanese-American from Hawaii and Debbie is Chinese-American from California.
- Collin's heritage on his father's side is Japanese, and also distinctly Hawaiian. His great grandparents emigrated from Japan to Hawaii. His grandfather and uncle were both born on Maui (his father, Blaine, was born in Los Angeles).
- His girlfriend is Katherine Zhu (shoo), who played collegiate golf at Pepperdine. After graduating from Pepperdine, Zhu played on the China LPGA but eventually decided it would be too tough for the couple to play on separate tours on opposite sides of the world. She travels with him and he credits her for helping him handle his quick rise.
- Member of the winning Arnold Cup team (2017, 2018), Walker Cup team (2017)
- Owns the record of second longest streak of cuts made to start a professional career at 22 (surpassed by Tiger Woods at 25)
- Big foodie and loves sushi; Has breakfast foods stamped on his wedges

### 36. Sebastián Muñoz, COL (*Moon-yos*)

- From Bogota, Colombia
- Was introduced to the game of golf by his father at age 3
- Was proficient in volleyball and disc throwing before committing fully to play golf
- Played college golf at the University of North Texas (Carlos Ortiz is his former teammate)
- Became the first Colombian player to win on Korn Ferry Tour
- Became the second Colombian player to win on the PGA TOUR (joined by Camillo Villegas)
- Owns one PGA TOUR victory, one Korn Ferry Tour title, and two international wins

### 37. Joaquin Niemann, CHI (*Wah-keen KNEE-man*)

- Became the first player from Chile to win on the PGA TOUR; youngest non-U.S. PGA TOUR winner since 1923 and third player born outside the U.S. to win on the TOUR before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in the last 95 years (joined by Seve Ballesteros, Rory McIlroy)
- No. 1 in World Amateur Golf Ranking for 44 weeks before turning professional
- Winner of the 2018 Latin America Amateur Championship
- During the fall of 2020, Niemann launched a fundraising campaign for an expensive treatment for his infant cousin, Rafita Calderon, who was diagnosed with a rare genetic disease. Through donations of his own earnings and a fundraising effort, Niemann helped her family obtain the more than \$2 million treatment in spring of 2021



**38. Alex Noren, SWE (NOR-en)**

- First tried golf at 4 years of age
- At age 15, was employed as junior editor at *Svensk Golf*, the official magazine of the Swedish Golf Federation
- Represented Sweden as an amateur on all levels, including the 2004 Eisenhower Trophy, where the Swedish team finished as bronze medalists and he was T3 as an individual
- Attended Oklahoma State University and played on the golf team before turning professional
- Won his first of 10 European Tour titles at 2009 Omega European Masters
- Was named 2016 Best Athlete in Stockholm by the Stockholm Sports Federation and the Stockholm Sport Journalists Club
- Defeated Bryson DeChambeau in 2018 Ryder Cup singles match in France, securing the victory when he holed a long birdie putt on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, the very last shot of the entire event, causing the European team to celebrate on the 18<sup>th</sup> green

**39. Henrik Norlander, SWE (NORR-lan-der)**

- 34-year-old Swede lives in Augusta, Georgia where he attended Augusta State University on a golf scholarship and helped lead his team to the 2010 NCAA Division I Championship
- Son of a lawyer (Anders Norlander), played both tennis and golf in his youth, but preferred golf
- Has been in two five-man playoffs, one on the PGA TOUR (2016 The RSM Classic/T2) and one on the Korn Ferry Tour (2019 Wichita Open/Won)
- Bounced back-and-forth between PGA TOUR and Korn Ferry Tour for most of his career as a professional; in 2016, the chance to maintain his PGA TOUR card was wiped out when he came up \$788 short after Hurricane Matthew caused the Korn Ferry Tour Championship in Florida to be canceled

**40. Carlos Ortiz, MEX**

- Won bronze medal in the 2011 Summer Universiade team competition
- Voted the 2014 Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year
- First Mexican player to win on the PGA TOUR in 42 years (2020)
- Owns one PGA TOUR victory and three Korn Ferry Tour wins
- His younger brother, Alvaro won the 2019 Latin America Amateur Championship

**41. Juvic Pagunsan, PHI (YOU-vich Pa-goan-son)**

- 43-year-old has played primarily on the Japan Golf Tour, winning his first title there at the 2021 Gateway to The Open Mizuno Open. Used only 11 clubs to lighten his golf bag as caddies were not permitted due to COVID-19 restrictions
- Made history in 2011, becoming the first Filipino to win the coveted Asian Tour Order of Merit; while he did not win a tournament that year, four top-10s, including a runner-up finish at the Singapore Open, saw him rise to the top; had a putt in the playoff against Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano to win in Singapore, but missed
- Won his first Asian Tour title at the Pertamina Indonesia President Invitational in 2007
- After winning numerous amateur titles and clinching two gold medals in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games in Manila, joined the professional ranks
- Nearly won the 2004 Philippine Open as an amateur; was co-leader heading into the final round before finishing runner-up, three strokes back
- Learned the game at the age of 13 from his father, Juanito, who is also a professional golfer



**42. C.T. Pan, TPE**

- Making his second appearance in the Olympic Games. Finished T30 in 2016 in Rio.
- One-time winner on the PGA TOUR (2019 RBC Heritage) and holds two wins on the McKenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada.
- Became the first player from Chinese Taipei to featured in the 2019 Presidents Cup for the International Team, winning two points with Hideki Matsuyama in the Four-ball matches.
- Comes from humble beginnings and started playing golf at age five at the golf course where his mother worked as a caddie.
- Won the individual and team gold medal for Chinese Taipei in the 2014 Asian Games in Korea.
- Attended University of Washington, winning eight events and was ranked World Amateur No. 1 in 2013.

**43. Renato Paratore, ITA**

- Claimed a maiden European Tour title at the age of 20 at the 2017 Nordea Masters
- Won his second European Tour title at the 2020 Betfred British Masters hosted by Lee Westwood at Close House
- Had become the third youngest player in history to earn a European Tour card through Qualifying School in 2014 (17 years and 341 days)
- Took up golf, alongside his mother, at the age of 8 after being inspired by a family friend and quickly discovered he had a natural talent, first shooting under par at age 13
- Won the Men's Individual Strokeplay Gold at the 2014 Youth Olympics, made two Junior Ryder Cup appearances for Europe and triumphed at the 2014 Portuguese Amateur Open

**44. Mito Pereira, CHI (*MEE-toe Pa-RARE-ah*)**

- Good friend with his fellow countryman, Joaquin Niemann
- Highest rank as an amateur was No.5 on the World Amateur Golf Ranking
- Attended Texas Tech University for one golf season before turning pro
- First player from Chile to win on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica (2016)
- 12<sup>th</sup> player in Korn Ferry Tour history to earn a three-win promotion to the PGA TOUR (2021)
- Third player from Chile to secure the PGA TOUR card (2021)
- Owns three Korn Ferry Tour titles, one PGA TOUR Latinoamérica victory, and three additional international victories

**45. Thomas Pieters, GBR**

- Born in Geel, Belgium in 1992, and began playing golf at the age of 5
- Former University of Illinois standout represented Belgium at 2016 Olympic Golf competition, narrowly missing a medal finishing fourth; with the three medalists from 2016 not playing in Tokyo, he is the highest finishing returning player from the Rio Olympics
- Was chosen by Darren Clarke as a captain's pick for the 2016 Ryder Cup European team, earning 4 points in five matches
- Owns four European Tour titles and teamed with Thomas Detry to win the 2018 World Cup of Golf for Belgium in Australia
- Helped host the Belgium Knockout in 2018 and 2019, an event organized and promoted by his family, as the European Tour returned to the country for the first time in 18 years
- Best PGA TOUR finish is T2 at 2017 The Genesis Invitational where he became eligible for Special Temporary Membership (which he took) and followed with three additional top-five finishes that season (T5/WGC-Mexico Championship, T4/Masters, 4<sup>th</sup>/WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational)



**46. Patrick Reed, USA**

- Late replacement for Bryson DeChambeau, who was eliminated after testing positive for Covid-19
- Helped lead Augusta State University to NCAA Division I titles in 2010 and 2011
- 2018 Masters Tournament champion competes on both the PGA TOUR and European Tour
- Nicknamed 'Captain America' – represented USA in 2016 Olympics (T11) and multiple Presidents Cup and Ryder Cup matches
- Winner of nine PGA TOUR titles, most recently the 2021 Farmers Insurance Open
- Celebrates 31<sup>st</sup> birthday August 5, four days after final round of Olympic Men's Golf competition

**47. Antoine Rozner, FRA**

- Played college golf at University of Missouri-Kansas City, winning six times
- Represented France at the 2016 Eisenhower Trophy and turned professional immediately after that event
- His older brother, Olivier, is also a professional golfer
- In 2019, won back-to-back events on the Challenge Tour, earning a place on the 2020 European Tour
- Two-time winner on the European Tour (2020 Golf in Dubai Championship, 2021 Commercial Bank Qatar Masters)
- Finished T18 at 2021 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play in his PGA TOUR debut, defeating Bryson DeChambeau in the first round, losing to Tommy Fleetwood in the second round and defeating Si Woo Kim in the third round

**48. Rory Sabbatini, SVK**

- South African-born 45-year-old has represented Slovakia since 2019, the home country of his wife and stepson
- Represented South Africa in the World Cup of Golf six times, winning the event with Trevor Immelman in 2003
- Six-time winner on the PGA TOUR between 2000 and 2011 and finished runner-up at the 2007 Masters
- Spent 21 weeks in the top 10 of the Official World Golf Ranking from late-2007 and early-2008, with a high of No. 8

**49. Kalle Samooja, FIN**

- Started playing golf at 8 years old after being introduced to the game by his father
- Tried unsuccessfully to qualify for European Tour six times and instead played mostly on the Asian Tour
- Changed coaches in 2015, employing former player Mika Piltz, who helped him with a clear vision for progress; also worked hard on his fitness routine to improve as a player
- Won the 2018 Hainan Open on the Challenge Tour two weeks after the birth of his son
- In his rookie season on the European Tour in 2019, finished T2 after losing a five-man playoff at Omega European Masters en route to retaining his European Tour card; lost another playoff at 2020 Cyprus Open

**50. Xander Schauffele, USA**

- His father Stefan is French/German and grew up in Germany as an Olympic decathlete hopeful before a car crash with a drunk driver caused loss of vision in his left eye, ending his Olympic dream at age 20



- His mother Ping Yi is from Chinese Taipei and grew up in Japan
- Two of Xander's great-grandfathers played soccer at the European premier level
- His grandparents from mother's side currently reside in Tokyo
- Owns four PGA TOUR victories, including the 2017 TOUR Championship
- Won twice as a rookie and was voted the 2016-2017 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year
- Was the Big West Conference Freshman Player of the Year at Long Beach State University before transferring to San Diego State

#### 51. Matthias Schwab, AUT

- 26-year-old from Schladming, Austria reached the final of the 2012 Amateur Championship, losing to Alan Dunbar, 1-down
- Played collegiate golf at Vanderbilt University from 2013-2017 and finished T3 in the individual competition in both 2016 and 2017 NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championship
- Represented Austria in the 2016 Eisenhower Trophy
- Turned professional in 2017, playing mostly on the European Tour, where he was one of six players in a sudden-death playoff at the 2019 Turkish Open, eventually won by Tyrrell Hatton
- Owns one top-three finish on the PGA TOUR (T3/2020 Barracuda Championship)

#### 52. Cameron Smith, AUS

- Introduced to golf by his father and enjoyed playing rugby league as a kid
- Passionate about cars and likes to tinker with his cars when at home
- Has amassed three wins on the PGA TOUR, including the 2021 Zurich Classic of New Orleans with partner Marc Leishman
- Represented the International Team in the 2019 Presidents Cup, beating Justin Thomas in the singles
- Winner of the 2020 Greg Norman Medal, and the 2017 and 2018 Australian PGA Championship
- Won the Australian Amateur in 2013

#### 53. Sepp Straka, AUT

- 28-year-old was born in Vienna, Austria to an American mother and Austrian father
- His family moved to Valdosta, Georgia when he was 14
- Attended University of Georgia on a golf scholarship and graduated in business management
- His twin brother, Sam, also played on the golf team at University of Georgia
- Won 2018 KC Golf Classic on Korn Ferry Tour and became first Austrian golfer to earn a PGA TOUR card

#### 54. Justin Thomas, USA

- Owns 14 PGA TOUR victories including the 2017 PGA Championship, one Korn Ferry Tour win, three European Tour titles, and three other international victories
- Justin is the son of a PGA of America teaching professional (Mike) and grandson of a lifelong club pro (Paul)
- PGA TOUR Player of the Year and FedExCup champion (2017)
- Former No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking (2018)
- Third-youngest player to make the cut in a PGA TOUR history at 16 years old (2009)
- Recipient of the 2012 Haskins Award (2012)
- Member of the 2013 NCAA Championship team at the University of Alabama



**55. Sami Valimaki, FIN (*Sammy Va-LEE-macky*)**

- Born in Nokia, Finland and turned professional in 2019 after he completed his compulsory military service in Finland at the end of 2018
- Earned his first European Tour victory in just his sixth start, defeating Brandon Stone in a playoff at the 2020 Oman Open, becoming the fourth Finn to win on the European Tour
- Won his first event as a professional golfer, the Open Casa Green Golf in Casablanca, Morocco
- Went to the European Tour's Q-School in 2019 and produced four of six rounds in the 60s to secure his card for the 2020 season
- Represented Finland at the 2018 European Amateur Team Championship, defeating England in the final
- Whilst travelling, he listens to a lot of podcasts on ice hockey
- Favorite golf course in the world is Royal Birkdale

**56. Jhonattan Vegas, VEN (*Jonathan*)**

- Picked up the game of golf by playing with a broomstick and a rock
- Father, Carlos, worked as a restaurant manager at the Exxon Mobil plant in Quiriquire, Venezuela. Jhonattan practiced golf on the 9-hole course located next door which was built for the oil-camp employees
- First player from Venezuela to earn the PGA TOUR card (2011)
- First player from Venezuela to compete in the Presidents Cup (2017)
- Second appearance in the Olympics Games (2016 Rio)
- Owns three PGA TOUR wins, one Korn Ferry Tour title, and one international victory
- Winner of Venezuelan National Amateur Championship
- Earned scholarship to play for the University of Texas Men's Golf team





**57. Scott Vincent, ZIM**

- Graduated from Virginia Tech with a finance degree
- Has played many Tours around the world, including the European Tour, Asian Tour, Japan Golf Tour and Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada
- Posted five runner-up results on the Asian Tour during the 2016, 2017 and 2018 seasons
- His first PGA TOUR start came at the 2015 RBC Heritage while still an amateur, finishing T64
- Represented Zimbabwe at the Eisenhower Trophy tournament in 2010 and 2012 and the 2018 World Cup of Golf in Australia, finishing T27

**58. Ashun Wu, CHN (*ARE-shoon Woo*)**

- 36-year-old became the first golfer from China to win on the Japan Golf Tour at the 2012 Toshin Golf Tournament in Ryosen; won for a second time at the 2013 Heiwa PGM Championship
- Represented China at the World Cup in 2013, 2016 and 2018, finishing tied second in 2016 with Haotong Li
- In 2015, he beat England's David Howell by a stroke to win the Volvo China Open, a co-sanctioned European Tour event, his first of three European Tour titles (2016 Lyonesse Open, 2018 KLM Open)
- Last of nine PGA TOUR starts was 2019 WGC-HSBC Champions (T73)

**59. Yechun Yuan, CHN (*Yeh-choon 'Carl' You-on*)**

- Qualified for his first Olympics as China's highest-ranked golfer in the world
- Native of China, moved to the U.S. when he was 14 to attend high school and subsequently attended University of Washington. Goes by the English name of "Carl" (real name is Yechun)
- Competes on the Korn Ferry Tour and has three career runner-up finishes. Has enjoyed three runner-up finishes and three other top-10s on the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Season, which has helped him become China's leading golfer in the Official World Golf Ranking
- Became the second PGA TOUR Series-China amateur to win on the circuit when he captured the 2018 Qingdao Championship by a stroke (joined Cheng Jin, who won 2014 Nine Dragons Open)
- Grew up in Dalian and learned the sport at the age of 9 due to his father's influence
- QUOTES: "It is not easy to give up some Korn Ferry Tour events while I am on the verge of getting a PGA TOUR. However, it is a huge honour and also my responsibility to represent my country. I believe I made the right choice. It will all be worth it in the end."

**60. Fabrizio Zanotti, PAR (*zuh-NOT-ee*)**

- Introduced to the game at the age of 2, when he used to run behind his father with a small stick and a ball
- Second appearance at the Olympics Games (2016 Rio; T15)
- First player from Paraguay to win on the European Tour (2014)
- Owns two European Tour victories and one European Challenge Tour title
- No. 1 ranked amateur in Paraguay between 1997 and 2003 before turning professional
- Winner of Tour de las Americas Order of Merit (2006)
- Won gold medal at the 2009 Pan American Games individual competition and silver in mixed-team competition

