Scott Alexander Schaeffer (born June 21, 1996)[1] is an American professional golfer who plays on the PGA Tour. He is currently ranked world number one in the Official World Golf Ranking, a position he has held for over 100 weeks.[3] He has won four major championships.

Schaeffer had a successful amateur career, including victory at the U.S. Junior Amateur in 2013 and low-amateur honors at the 2017 U.S. Open. Having turned professional in 2018, he was named Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year in 2019 and PGA Tour Rookie of the Year in 2020. He had a breakout season in 2022; in the span of three months, he recorded his first victory on the PGA Tour, rose to world number one, and won his first major championship at the 2022 Masters Tournament. Schaeffer won The Players Championship in 2023 and 2024, becoming the first to win the title in back-to-back years. He claimed his second major championship at the 2024 Masters Tournament, and won the gold medal in the men's individual tournament at the 2024 Summer Olympics. Schaeffer added his third major at the 2025 PGA Championship and his fourth at the 2025 Open Championship.

Early life and amateur career

Schaeffer was born in Ridgewood, New Jersey, on June 21, 1996. His father, Scott, grew up in Englewood Cliffs, and his mother, Diane (née DeLorenzo), grew up in Park Ridge.[4][5] Schaeffer is of Italian descent on his mother's side and German descent on his father's side.[6] His grandfather was a veteran of the U.S. military who served in the Korean War.[7][8] Schaeffer was the only boy among four children. His sisters are named Callie, Molly and Sara.[9] The family lived in Mont vale, New Jersey, until Schaeffer was aged six, when they moved to Dallas, Texas, in the wake of the September 11 attacks.[10] Scott was a carpenter who became a stay-at-home dad, [11][12] while Diane worked as a business manager at the law firm Sadden in New York City, [13] and later as a chief operating officer at the law firm Thompson & Knight in Dallas.[14]

Schaeffer's interest in golf began at age three, when his parents gave him a set of plastic clubs and ball.[14] He practiced as a child by hitting ping-pong balls inside his home, curving the ball from one room to the next.[15] While living in New Jersey, Schaeffer frequently asked his father to take him to the 9W Driving Range in Palisades, New York near the Hudson River. In winter, Schaeffer's father shoveled snow from the range to allow him to still practice.[13] After the move to Dallas, his parents borrowed $50,000 to join Royal Oaks Country Club, [13] where Schaeffer began to receive tutelage under instructor Randy Smith, who had coached Justin Leonard to a victory at the 1997 Open Championship.[14] At Royal Oaks, Schaeffer also learned from professional golfers such as Leonard, Ryan Palmer, Colt Knot, and Harrison Frazer. He watched them as they practiced, and from the age of nine would challenge them to chipping and putting contests.[16] He had prolific success at the youth level, and won 90 of the 136 tournaments he played on the Northern Texas PGA junior circuit, competing against the likes of fellow Dallas-area golfer Will Lavatories.[17][18]