

Masters-winner Jordan Spieth's caddie, Michael Greller, hails from Gig Harbor

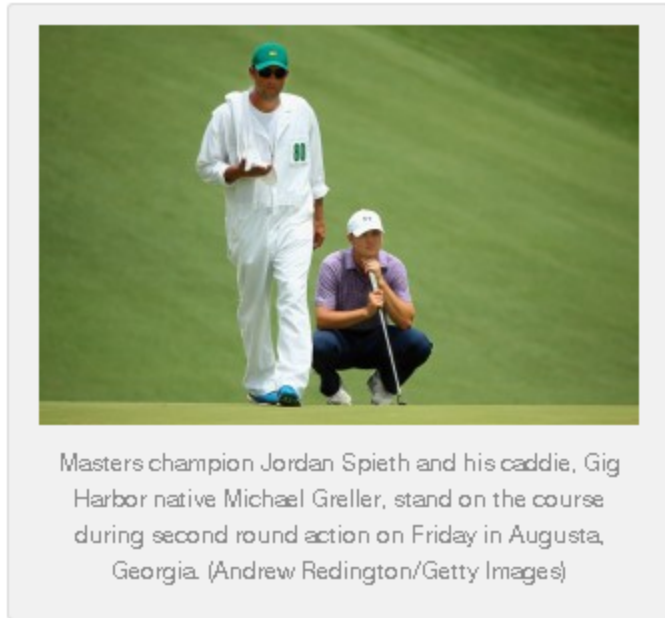
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Jordan Spieth had quite a weekend. The 21-year-old Dallas native led wire-to-wire at the Masters to become the second-youngest golfer to win golf's biggest tournament, tying Tiger Woods' course record of 18-under in the process.

His caddie had quite a weekend, too.

Michael Greller, 37, is from Gig Harbor, and was there on the green in Augusta, Georgia, as Spieth's final putt fell. He embraced Spieth, 16 years his junior, after the young man's bogey putt clinched a four-stroke victory over Phil Mickelson and Justin Rose.

For Greller, this weekend marked the ultimate success of a decade of work at a completely new career. The former school teacher only began caddying in 2006, when, according to the [Wall Street Journal's Brian Costa](#), Greller attended the 2006 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship at [Gold Mountain Golf Club](#) in Bremerton as a viewer. When he noticed a young player, Florida State's Matt Savage, struggling while walking with his clubs, Greller hopped over the rope and carried them for free.



Masters champion Jordan Spieth and his caddie, Gig Harbor native Michael Greller, stand on the course during second round action on Friday in Augusta, Georgia. (Andrew Redington/Getty Images)

That began the pursuit of a second career for Greller. While continuing his day job teaching math and science at Narrows View Intermediate School in University Place, [according to GolfChannel.com](#), Greller spent much of his free time caddying, particularly at nearby Chambers Bay Golf Club — the site of this summer's U.S. Open. He had caddied for a few amateur golfers in tournaments in the Northwest, and was planning to caddie for Gavin Hall in the 2011 U.S. Junior Amateur, but Hall injured his wrist shortly before the tournament.

That was when Greller received a call from Spieth.

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"I still remember it like it was yesterday," Greller told [GolfChannel.com's Jason Sobel](#) in 2013. "I went out for a run. When I came back, I had a phone call from Jordan."

Greller caddied for Spieth and helped the Texan win his second U.S. Junior Amateur championship, becoming the second player to ever win the tournament twice, after only Woods. It also began a friendship that blossomed into a consistent working relationship in 2012, when Greller carried Spieth's clubs at the U.S. Open.

The rest is history. Spieth decided to go professional late in 2012, and he and his father asked Greller if he'd consider caddying full time, according to the Wall Street Journal. Greller accepted, quit his job as a teacher and set out on the road with Spieth. Greller's wife, Ellie, also left her job as a kindergarten teacher to travel with Greller and Spieth.

Two-and-a-half years later, that decision looks like a good one. In the last 30 days, Spieth has competed in four tournaments, winning two and finishing second in two. If Greller is on a typical caddie salary, according to [Golf Digest](#), he has likely made about \$375,000 in the past month.

That's a bit more than Greller would have made teaching.



Michael Greller
@michael_greller



What a special walk around Augusta National
[@TheMasters](#) with Jordan, a lifetime of memories!
Blessed to work for such a selfless person.

7:07 AM - 13 Apr 2015

199 RETWEETS 508 FAVORITES

