



Trans-Miss Transcript

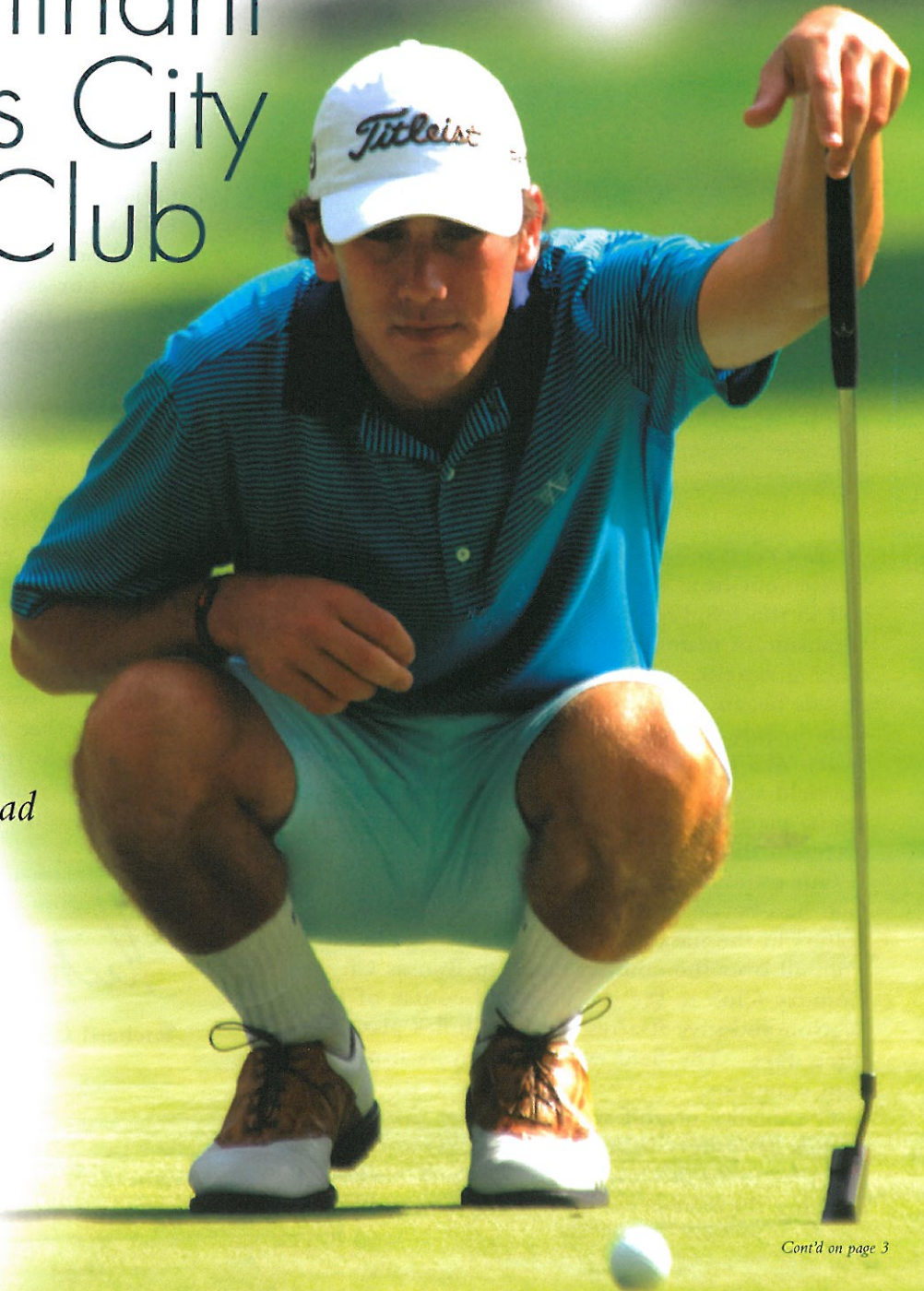
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108th Trans-Mississippi Championship

Kraft dominant at Kansas City Country Club

Though contested at traditional Kansas City Country Club in July, the 108th Trans-Mississippi Amateur Championship had a decidedly Texas flavor. Southern Methodist University golfer Kelly Kraft, buoyed by his red and blue-clad Mustang teammates the last 18 holes, turned in his fourth straight round in the 60s and topped several players with Texas ties to win his first national championship.



Cont'd on page 3

To Trans-Miss Supporters,



“Ye Old Trans-Miss is back in the saddle!” That is a statement from the ultimate authority on amateur golf in the US, Fred Solomon, whose Scratch Players organization maintains a meticulous amateur golf ranking system. After our championship field of 138 players began its first round at Kansas City Country Club in July, word came from Solomon that the Trans-Miss had significantly hardened the strength of the field such that it was well on its way to reclaiming its place as one of the most prestigious amateur events in the country.

Our estimates told us that the 2011 Trans-Miss field had between 35 and 40 of the top 200 amateur golfers in the nation competing. Collegiate golfers from all over the country came to Kansas City Country Club to see the boyhood course of Tom Watson and give it a test over 72 holes played in three days. The field even had players from six foreign countries.

The quality of golf was impressive. After two rounds 28 golfers, 20% of the field, were under par and the cut to the low 60 and ties was made at an amazing three-over par 143. Sixty-one golfers

advanced to the final grueling day of 36 holes to determine the first Trans-Miss champion named in a 72-hole stroke play format.

Please enjoy the game story found in this issue of the Transcript and see our website (trans-miss.com) for a complete record of players and scores. I will predict that you will see some of these names again in a few years when they start cashing checks on Sundays!

My fellow directors and I are excited about the future of our Championship. Steve Hatchett has led the charge to climb the hill of national prominence. By first securing a line-up of the nation’s best known venues we hope to be getting the players’ attention. The confirmed list is Oak Tree National (Edmond, Oklahoma), Meadow Club (San Francisco), Southern Hills CC (Tulsa), The Olympic Club (San Francisco) and Brook Hollow GC (Dallas). The next step was to put our event in front of college golf coaches who are always looking for non-collegiate events for their players to improve their skills and confidence. It’s proving to be a winning strategy.

We extend our sincere thanks to the staff and membership at Kansas City Country Club for hosting the 2011 championship. Everything was perfect. Our players and volunteers were warmly greeted and made to feel at home. The golf course was superbly prepared and while the weather presented some challenges, the superintendent and his crew were quick to respond and provide a wonderful test for our golfers. Kansas City CC has now hosted our Championship nine times!

Finally, I want to thank all of my fellow directors and the other area volunteers who came to Kansas City to help run the event. We could not have done it without you!

Best wishes throughout the remainder of the season,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Coon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Coon, TMGA President



“This is an awesome win for me. My only two amateur victories came in the Texas Am,” said Kraft, 22 and coming off his Lone Star State triumph at Austin Country Club just days prior to the Trans. “Those were state tournaments so this is my first big, national win. So it’s pretty special and I’m glad to be a part of helping those (Trans scholar students).”

Goin’ to Kansas City turned out to be a great week of golf for Denton, Texas’s Kraft, whose 14-under-par 266 total after four rounds topped the field by four shots in his first-ever Trans appearance.

“I think I just had fun all week,” he said. “Coming in here I wanted to win. I knew I was playing good. That was my main goal. I didn’t even think about the cut or anything. I definitely had a lot of confidence coming in and I played a lot of golf with my buddies for three or four days. ...I had been hitting the ball well and playing good. I just expected a lot from myself.”

‘Keeping the throttle down’

Dominant through the first two rounds of the 2011 Trans, Kraft saw his lead slip away in the third round as South African Dylan Frittelli of the University of Texas caught him at 10 under par. But Kraft said he thought a fast start in the final round would go a long way to separating himself from the field again. So he went out and did just that.

With his SMU teammates in tow, Kraft birdied the short, par-3 second hole from about 10 feet, knocked his approach stiff at the par-4 third and rolled in a 15-footer at the difficult par-3 fourth. Once again he owned the three-shot lead over Frittelli he’d enjoyed when the long day of golf dawned.

Making it look easy, Trans-Miss champion Kelly Kraft was direction and distance control were superb for 72 holes allowing for impressive win over a strong field of outstanding amateurs.



"I was thinking if I could get off to a hot start and keep the throttle down," Kraft said. "I tried my hardest and I was feeling really good." It appeared Kraft would make it four birdies in five holes at the par-4 fifth, but the Mustang suffered what he called "a stupid three-putt from four feet." Fortunately for the leader, Frittelli was making a bogey of his own on the hole and Kraft maintained his three-shot margin. Frittelli then bogeyed the par-3, sixth hole and Kraft's lead had swelled to four.

"I still knew I was right there and you know you can't get ahead of yourself and think 'Oh man' and start feeling bad for yourself," Kraft said of his slight misstep at No. 5.

Though he wasn't sure how the rest of the field stood on the back nine of the final round, Kraft continued to push for more birdies and he got two, one coming on a 6-foot putt at the par-4 13th and another after a fine tee shot to 3 feet at the 219-yard, par-3 14th.

"I didn't know how far ahead I was...I didn't know how the guys ahead of me were playing," Kraft said. "I asked my caddie 'How big do you think my lead is?' And he said 'Don't worry about it. Try to make another birdie.'"

Kraft had a bogey at the difficult, par-4 16th hole. But he responded with two solid pars to close out his final-round, four-under 66. That gave him a four-round total of 14-under

266 and a four-shot victory over a field that included nearly 40 of the top-ranked amateur players in the United States.

The Longhorns' Frittelli of Pretoria, South Africa, had a pair of back-nine birdies but settled for an even-par 70 in the final round and his 270 total (66-68-66-70) tied him for second place with yet another player with Texas ties. Plano's Tanner Kesterson, an 18-year-old headed to the Oklahoma State University golf team this fall, used a third-round 66 to move within one shot of the lead. He added 69 in the final round and joined Kraft as the only players in the field to have four rounds in the 60s after opening the championship with 68-67.

Alex Moon of Dallas claimed solo fourth with 70-68-65-68 271. Three players tied for fifth another shot back including Carmel, Ind.'s Brad Gehl, Lake Forest, Ill.'s Brad Hopfinger and Wichita mid-am Jonathan May. Sixty-one players survived the cut which came at three-over-par 143.

Kraft, who plans to embark on a professional career later this year including a run at PGA Tour Q School, said he felt the Kansas City Country Club course was a good fit for his game coming off his Texas Am win at similarly tree-lined Austin County Club. That showed as he opened the Trans with a five-under 65.

"(Kansas City Country Club) is a special place and I had talked to people about it and heard nothing but good things about it, so I was pretty excited to get out here and play it," Kraft said. "I was thinking if I could hit a lot of fairways I could fare well...I could shoot quite a few under par if I did that. The first round was by far the easiest one. I missed one green and I hit every fairway. There were hardly any errors...it was just smooth going."

Wichita's May is top mid-am

Thirty-year-old Wichita golfer Jonathan May was pleased as punch that he could compete right with some talented collegiate players entered in this year's Trans at Kansas City Country Club. May turned in the low total of the final round with his five-under 65 and finished in a tie for fifth place overall as his eight-under 272 total earned him low mid-am honors.

"I just tried to keep my composure all week; tried to play my game," said May, director of operations at Flint Hills National Golf Club in Andover, Kan., site of the 2003 and 2009 Trans Championships. "You know these college kids bomb it by me and it's not fun watching that, but I like to think I can compete in some other areas."



Pictured left to right: Tanner Kesterson, Nate McCoy, Dylan Frittelli, Jonathan May and Steve Hatchett, Cody Gribble

May, though he lives less than three hours from Kansas City, had never played the KCCC course prior to the Trans Championship. But after a Monday practice round with fellow entrants and K.C.-area players Bryan Norton, Tyler Shelton and Doug Albers, he felt it was a course that might fit his game.

"They kind of pointed me around and showed me the lines and the spots to hit it. I didn't really have it all figured out, but I did my best from there," said May, who reached the semifinals of match play at Brook Hollow in 2006 in his only other Trans appearance. "It was a fit for me for sure because it wasn't 7,800 yards long. This is the type of golf course where you have to drive it in play and that's kind of my strength."

May slipped to a disappointing two-over 72 in the third round after opening the event with 66 and 69 to trail by just four entering the final day. But he got hot on the front side in his fourth round, making birdies at Nos. 1, 3, 5 and 7. May then added birdies at the par-4 11 and finished off a five-under 65 with a birdie at the home hole to close out a long day of golf.

"It's a marathon and obviously I'm not used to something like this, in this kind of heat and conditions, and walking," May said. "I just really tried to pace myself and watch my rhythm all day. I got off to a rough start this morning. I bogeyed three of the first

four holes. I just tried to stay patient. But I played pretty good from there on in."

May's eight-under 272 was six shots ahead of West Des Moines, Iowa's Gene Elliott among mid-ams in the field. Elliott had rounds of 72-70-67-69 for 278. West Des Moines' Mike McCoy (71-70-68-74) was third at 283. Menasha, Wisc.'s Robert Gregorski, Mission, Hills, Kan.'s Norton and Kansas City, Mo.'s Jorge Rubio tied for fourth at 284.

McCoys enjoy K.C. father/son outing

There were no Hatfields in the 2011 Trans field, but the player roster did include a pair of McCoys. Two-time Trans champion Mike McCoy was joined by his up-and-coming national amateur son Nate as the pair of Iowans traveled south for some competitive golf in Kansas City.

Mike McCoy, who won the 2008 Trans at his home Wakonda Club in Des Moines after a 2000 triumph at Minnesota's White Bear Yacht Club, said Nate has been playing more of a national schedule lately and thought the Trans would be a good event for them.

"What better place than the Trans-Miss, which is an important tournament in the summer schedule?" asked McCoy, 48, and a longtime Trans director. "It means a lot. This is a great organization with its scholar-

ships to support turf students and the great championships it runs. It's just a great group of people."

Nate McCoy came into the event after winning the Dogwood Invitational at Druid Hills in Atlanta, which boosted him to 38th in the Golfweek's world amateur rankings. He wound up tied for 12th at Kansas City including 67s the final two rounds.

"I finished sixth in the Trans last year," the 20-year-old Iowa State University communications student said. "This is fun. It would be awesome to win it...to have my name up there with (my father). I really enjoy it. I know a lot of people with the Trans and the tournament has really grown a lot just from last year."

Mike McCoy settled for 36th at Kansas City Country Club with his three-over 283. The accomplished national amateur player recently watched his son surpass him in the amateur rankings, but says he's really enjoying watching the younger McCoy blossom as a player.

"He's having some success and those points pile up when you're getting those high finishes," Mike McCoy said. "I'm certainly more interested in his golf these days than mine. I love being out here playing against the kids. It keeps me sharp and feeling young. It's a great joy to travel with (Nate). We get to know each other better and these are good days you remember forever."



Gene Elliott, Mark Hubbard and Alex Moon

Breedlove, staff host four hot rounds of '11 Trans

Longtime superintendent enjoying run at K.C. Country Club

A true team player that found a team atmosphere he could blossom in, Kansas City Country Club superintendent Loren Breedlove has enjoyed a long run at the venerable Midwest private facility. The early "home" to golf legend Tom Watson, KCCC played host to the 108th Trans-Mississippi Amateur Championship in July as Breedlove and staff provided championship caliber conditions for four rounds of stroke-play golf over just three days.

"It's the people that you're working around," the 55-year-old Breedlove listed as the reason for his successful 33-year run at the facility, including the last 28 as superintendent. "The members have been just so nice here and supportive of what we do here... a lot of them being (involved) with the Trans-Miss and being supportive there. It seems like we work as a team here, from the clubhouse to tennis to the golf shop, everybody is working together. It's a very pleasant place to work."

Preparing for the Trans in the transition zone

Kansas City Country Club's traditional layout with its rolling terrain and mature trees offers a beautiful setting and that's one of the perks of being the superintendent there, Breedlove says. But those trees battle the sun-loving zoysia grass in his

fairways, and K.C.'s nasty summers with their high temperatures and brutal humidity levels can make a turf manager's job a difficult one.

"Zoysia grass being a warm-season grass likes the sun and likes the heat and we have a lot of shade," he says. "It's a challenge to keep the zoysia healthy throughout the growing season. Kansas City and St. Louis are always the extremes of temperatures, humidity, you name it, we can get it here, so that's always a challenge." Breedlove is part of a staff of seven full-time employees (including two assistant superintendents) that expands to around 20 seasonally. It maintains the 130-acre KCCC property which includes the golf course, practice facility, pool, tennis and paddleball courts – "anything outdoors" – and that means everything from landscaping upkeep to snow removal in the winter.

"It's not a large piece of property but it has its challenges with the creeks going through it and the flooding possibilities on a regular basis," he says.

The golf course utilizes zoysia on its fairways and tees, with a few of the more shaded tee areas in bent, Breedlove says. Roughs are a combination of fescue and bluegrass with Poa mixed in. KCCC's challenging putting surfaces are L93 bentgrass.

"There are not a lot of major differences other than getting things done in a shorter period of time," Breedlove said of prepping the course for the Trans. "We've been trying to get the green speeds up,

but with the heat and the humidity and the rains we've received here the last couple of years the greens are soft. But that's something you have to live with. Most of our greens are the old push-up style with the heavy soil so they get soft real quick."

Trans scholar support

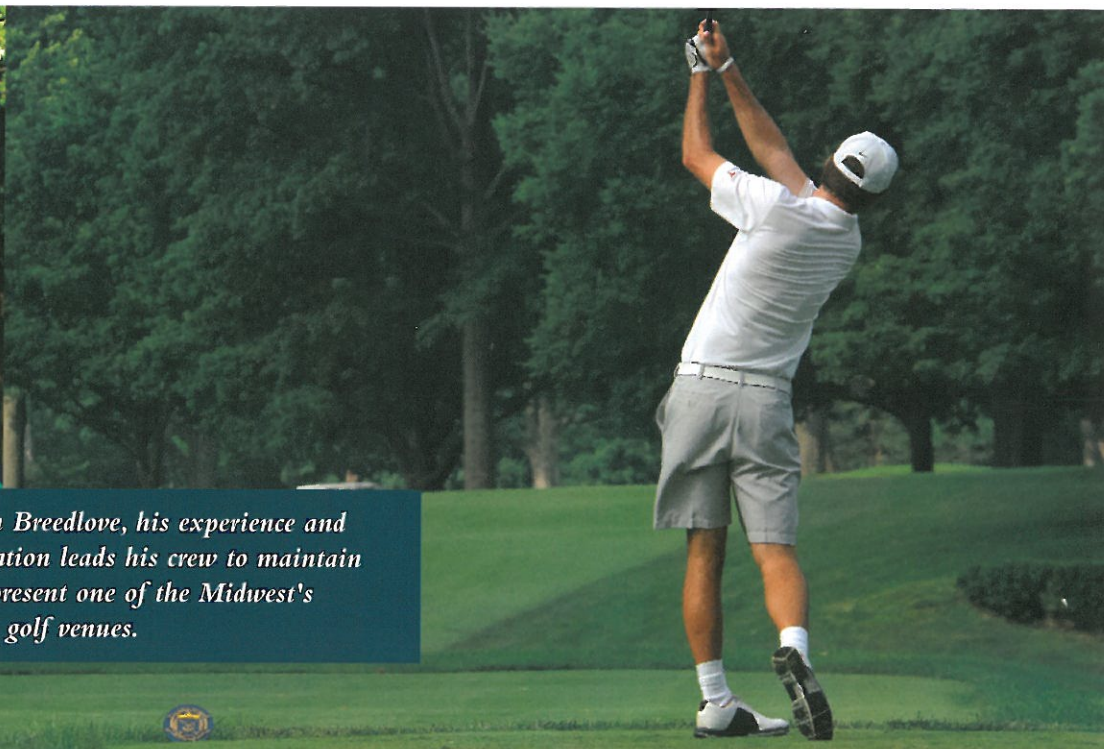
Breedlove, a Kansas State University graduate who interned at KCCC before taking an assistant position, knows the importance of hosting the Trans and the benefits of its scholarship program as the golf course superintendent profession evolves. This summer, the Kansas City Country Club maintenance staff has included Trans scholar Grant Suderman of KSU.

"It's great. I'm fortunate enough to get a Trans-Miss scholar here this summer. It's just great for the kids as it helps them with the finances as they're going through school," Breedlove says. "I wish I knew about it as I was going through school. But anyone who has a chance to better their education, the Trans is really helping out.

"Everything is getting very technical and things have changed since when I first started out. There weren't even a lot of hydraulics in mowing equipment, everything was very simple. Now everything is specific mowers for specific jobs... pretty high-tech. A lot of new products are constantly coming out that you have to stay on top of so keeping up with things is always a challenge."



Loren Breedlove, his experience and dedication leads his crew to maintain and present one of the Midwest's finest golf venues.





Pictured left to right: Rafael Becker, Austin Cook, Josh Manske, Kevin Dougherty and Mark Hubbard



Crazy little birdies there...