

Crawford wins boys city title in two-hole playoff



Kolton Crawford of Mansfield shot a 1-under-par 69 Thursday at Colonial Country Club to overcome a five-shot deficit, then birdied the second playoff hole to beat Nathan Anderson of Burleson for the Fort Worth City Boys Junior Golf Championship.

For Crawford, it seemed a fitting ending after tying with Anderson for second last year but losing the runner-up trophy in a scorecard playoff. Crawford and Anderson, who had led after the first and third rounds, tied at 285 over the 72-hole tournament that was played at Rockwood G.C., Ridglea C.C. North, Mira Vista and Colonial, which was played from the Blue tees, measuring 6,837 yards. The total was three over par after treks around the four courses.

Kolton Crawford reaches to take his winning birdie putt from the hole on No. 2 at Colonial Country Club. He birdied to win the two-hole playoff against Nathan Anderson.

After nine holes at Colonial, on another day when temperatures reached the 100-degree mark, Crawford found himself five behind Colby Webb of Burleson. The 16-year-old former teammate of Anderson was playing Colonial for the first time and had scorched the front nine with a 4-under 31. Webb had moved three shots in front of Anderson, who had carded a 1-over 36. Anderson, who graduated this year, had held a two-shot lead over Webb and Gregory Yates of Mansfield entering the final round. Crawford, 17, had been another shot behind. Yates would finish with a 78 and drop to fifth, behind Jeff Hageman, who shot a 71 after a 67 at Mira Vista.

However, Crawford toured the back nine in 1 under par while Webb faltered with two double-bogeys and a bogey on the 18th hole to shoot a 40 and fall a shot out of the playoff.

Anderson, one over on both nines, finished with a 72 to tie Crawford.

Webb appeared to be taking control through the front nine after birdies on Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7 and 9. His only setback was a bogey on the par-4 third. So, he played the famous Colonial "horseshoe" in 1-under. But his unraveling began on the 11th, where he hit a wayward tee shot to the right that hit a tree. Yet, he hit a good second shot, and his third was just a few yards over the green. But he flubbed his pitch short of the putting surface, then pitched on and two-putted. The double-bogey cut his lead to two shots. Then, after saving par with a nice up-and-down from left of the green on the par-3 16th, Webb stumbled with another double-

bogey on the par-4 17th when his second shot from the right rough hit a tree 20-30 yards in front of him and fell straight down. His third shot to the green rolled over and he failed to get up-and-down in two from behind the green.

That threw him, Crawford and Anderson into a three-way tie. Crawford, playing a hole in front of Webb, Anderson and Yates, parred the 18th, leaving his fate to the other leaders. Anderson hit the green on his second shot to the par-4 18th, but was about 20-25 feet away. Webb, after a big drive in the left rough, went slightly over the green on his second and pitched up to within four feet. He missed the par putt, however, to fall a shot behind Crawford. Anderson two-putted to force the playoff.

Anderson seemed to hold the upper hand after his and Crawford's second shots on the par-5 first as he was just in front of the green. Crawford had driven into a left bunker, had blasted out left and then sent a wedge to the right fringe. Anderson couldn't take advantage, however, and left his pitch some 15-20 feet short and both parred.

On the par-4 second, both hit drives to within 10 yards of each other, just barely in the left rough and within 100 yards of the green. Anderson's wedge came up short of the pin by about 25 feet. Crawford sailed his second shot to within 10 feet. Anderson just missed his birdie attempt, but Crawford sank his for the victory. "I knew that was my chance," he said.

Crawford said he believed Webb was en route to winning after the front nine. But he heard about Webb's troubles on 11, a hole he had birdied. Suddenly, his five-shot deficit was cut to two. Webb had a five-foot birdie putt on the par-3 13th rim out. After missing birdie putts of about 20 feet on the next two holes, he saved par on the 16th, then suffered his second double-bogey after hitting his tee shot near a tree in the right rough. He tried going over another tree about 20-30 yards in front of him, but said he "thinned" the shot and the ball hit into the tree and came straight down. "I knew I needed to two pars on the last holes, but couldn't do it," he said.

"I was surprised (at the turn of events)," Crawford said. "But it's great to win, especially at Colonial. There's a lot of history here. It's nice to win after finishing second last year, too."

He and Anderson had tied for second last year, but Anderson had taken home the second-place trophy after winning a scorecard playoff.

Anderson said it appeared he was playing for second again until Webb's problems. Anderson bogeyed the 11th, so gained only one shot. He lost another

shot when he couldn't get up-and-down from a greenside sand trap on the par-3 13th. It was his third bogey from three attempts from sand traps. "I guess I'm just not a good sand player," he said. But he carded his first birdie on the day on the par-4 14th to pull with two shots. Then he parred the 17th when Webb doubled to draw even.

"It was disappointing not to win," said Anderson, who will be playing for McLennan Junior College this year. He had led the first round after a 67 at Rockwood and led by two after the third round at Mira Vista.

A frustrated and disappointed Webb, 16, said he probably had become a little too overconfident after his 4-under front nine. He made no excuses about his duffed pitch on the 11th after hitting his third shot over the green. "I had a good lie. It was just one of those things."

But he liked his overall play and said "I still have two more years (to win the city title)."

Other 18-hole division winners were Blake Pugh, 16, of Southlake, First Flight; Robert Perry, 17, of Fort Worth, Second Flight; Jonathan Roberson, 16, of Fort Worth, Third Flight; Andrew Reiling, 15, of Arlington, Fourth Flight; Pearce Lentz, 15, of Richland Hills, Fifth Flight; Scott Toner, 16, Fort Worth, Sixth Flight; Garrett Brown, 15, Fort Worth, Seventh Flight; Nick Cornelius, 14, Arlington, Eighth Flight; Blake Bishop, 15, Arlington, Ninth Flight; and Parker Chapin, 10th Flight.

Winning the 9-hole 12-13-year-old division Championship Flight was Riley Shryoc, 13, of Aledo. He beat Mason Greenberg, 12, of Southlake, 1-up, at Sycamore Creek G.C.