



# Tournament Fact Sheet

## Visit Knoxville Open (Korn Ferry Tour)

Holston Hills Country Club • Knoxville, Tenn. • May 21-24, 2026

### Golf Course Superintendent

**Ryan Blair, CGCS, GCSAA**

Years as GCSAA Member: 31

Years at Holston Hills: 25

Years as Superintendent: 25

Hometown: Knoxville, Tenn.

Education: University of Tennessee

### Other Key Agronomy Personnel

Lincoln Hurd, Michael Salvatore assistant superintendents;  
Donnie Lequire, equipment manager; Christian Melson, PGA professional

Agronomy Employees: 17 / Tournament Volunteers: 10

### Course Architect

Donald Ross (1927)

Renovation: Tom Doak (1998)

### Notable

- A warmer than average spring has helped this year as warm season grasses breaking dormancy earlier has allowed a little more of a growing window headed into tournament week.
- In 2024 all the course bunkers were rebuilt to closer reflect the original design. A few sand bunkers were converted to grass bunkers, and a few new bunkers were added.
- Blair grew up in Knoxville, graduated from the University of Tennessee, was assistant at Cherokee Country Club before taking superintendent job at Holston Hills, all here in Knoxville.
- Course was built on a part of McDonald Farm, one of the largest farms in Knoxville in the 1920s.

### Tournament Setup

Par: 36-35--71

Yardage: 7,267

### Turfgrass

Greens: Crenshaw bentgrass .135"

Collars: None

Approaches: 419 bermudagrass .300"

Tees: 419 bermudagrass .300"

Fairways: 419 bermudagrass .400"

Rough: 419 bermudagrass 2"

### Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 5,600 sq. ft.

Total Property Acres: 150

Acres of Fairway: 33

Acres of Rough: 100

Number of Sand Bunkers: 100 (124,000 sq. ft.)

Number of Water Hazards: 2

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 2

Soil Conditions: Loamy

Water Sources: Holston River

Drainage: Good

Average Fairway Widths: 40-45 yards

### Links

GCSAA Tournament Fact Sheet Home:

<https://www.gcsaa.org/media/tournament-fact-sheets>

GCSAA Website: <https://www.gcsaa.org/>

GCM (GCSAA Magazine): <https://gcmonline.com/>

Course X: @HolstonHillsCC

Tournament X: @VKopen

GCSAA X: @GCSAA

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Since 1926 the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to 21,000 members in more than 78 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and improve communities through enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf