

## **Brendon Lowrance moves into one-shot lead as second-round leader struggles at Shady Oaks**

Brendon Lowrance managed for the first time in the FWJGA Boys City Junior Golf Championship to avoid a double-bogey. But he also couldn't make a birdie at Shady Oaks C.C. in the third round of the 72-hole tournament. (Photo is view of course from behind



No. 18)

Lowrance, 17, of Mansfield (pictured) got up and down from a green-side trap on the final hole to cap a 4-over-par 75 and a 218 54-hole total. That allowed him to pull ahead by one shot over Chase Wilson, 17, of Mansfield and Luke Griggs, 16, of Argyle. Griggs

improved his position by carding a 72 as he rallied for a 1-under 35 on the back nine after a two-over 37 on the front.



The biggest mover on the hot, sunny day was Zach Cole, 18, of Fort Worth. Cole, who went to Arlington Heights, knocked two shots off par for a 70 with a flurry of six birdies on the fast greens that were a problem for most of the players, including second-round leader Brendon Massey of Fort Worth. The 15-year-old Massey said he had "six or seven" three-putt greens en route to an 80, dropping him three shots behind Lowrance as the Championship Flight finishes Thursday at Colonial C.C. Cole improved from a tie for 17th to a tie for fourth at 220 with Garrison Smith, who shot a 76.

Massey had taken a two-shot lead over Lowrance and 2014 champion Collin Clark, 18, of Mansfield after the second round thanks to a 69 at Ridglea C.C., his home course.

Clark had said he liked putting on the Shady Oaks fast greens after Wednesday's round of 71 at Ridglea C.C. However, he had trouble on the greens, carding "six" three-putts, at Shady Oaks, which also features many tight fairways and trees on the undulating terrain. Clark dropped four shots behind Lowrance after a 79.

Those who survived the cuts in the Championship, First, Second and Third flights advanced to Colonial. In the Championship Flight, scores of 226 and lower made the cut.

Massey described his putting as "terrible" and was three over after four holes "and I just couldn't get anything going." He's looking forward to Colonial, though. "I love that course," he said. "Love the layout."

Lowrance, who had double-bogeys at Rolling Hills C.C. and Ridglea C.C., carded four bogeys and no birdies at Shady Oaks. He had seven birdies in the previous two rounds.

“The greens are really fast, which is hard to handle,” he said of Shady Oaks. Lowrance also discovered that attacking a hole can be dangerous. On the par-5 14th, he had about a 10-foot downhill birdie putt “that I really wanted to make.” However, his aggressive putt missed and zipped past the hole about four-five feet and he missed that coming back up the hill. “Downhill putts were really hard to manage. You had to lag them about four feet short” of what a usual attempt would be. “And then they would go three feet past. But I liked the course. It was my first time to play it.”

He said he was somewhat fortunate, too, because two of his tee shots flirted with water hazards on the 14th and 15th holes. He didn't see the water off the tee because of the hilly terrain. “But I played pretty well. I struggled for pars on the last two holes,”

Lowrance is excited about playing Colonial. “It's a fun course and you don't get to play it very often.”

Clark said he tried playing conservative the front nine, but discovered it was a bad plan. He was trying to hit fairways and laying back. However, he was leaving himself with longer shots into the greens, leaving himself with long, difficult putts. He finished the front with a 41. Clark said he mixed it up on the back. He started with a birdie on the par-4 10th, but bogeyed the par-5 14th when his tee shot found the water hazard. He also bogeyed 18 by three-putting from the fringe for a back-nine 38.

Cole, meanwhile, was three-under par through eight holes on the front before being slapped with a double-bogey on the par-4 ninth. He followed that with a bogey on No. 10, but rang up back-to-back birdies on the par-5 14th and 15th. He bogeyed the par-3 16th, but got that back with a birdie on 17. He finished with a bogey for his 70.

In the 8-10 division, a three-way battle is underway in the Championship Flight at River's Edge. Mark Neeley, 9, of Mansfield continues to hold the lead in the Championship Flight after shooting a 31 for a 92 total. He's two shots in front of Titus Johnson, 9, of Cleburne, who also had a 31 and three ahead of Jacob Tice, 9, of Trophy Club, who shot a 30. In the First Flight, Soren Harris, 9, of Trophy Club increased his lead after following his first-day 39 with a second consecutive 37. The 11-13 division is down to the final two players in each flight with Tanner Smith and Jackson Naeger battling for the Championship trophy in their final match play test.