

TOP Assistants

Matt Breeden recently joined Evanston Golf Club



Editor's note: Top Assistants will feature a question-and-answer session with an assistant superintendent every month. If you'd like to nominate someone for the feature, please send an e-mail to Larry Aylward at lalward@questex.com.

Matt Breeden, assistant golf course superintendent at Evanston Golf Club in Skokie, Ill., knows how to raise the profile of golf course managers. The 25-year-old has initiated Habitat for Humanity projects through his local chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and the response has been overwhelming. He's been working in the profession for seven years, and he's looking forward to taking the helm of his own club some time soon.

Golfdom: What's your favorite part of the job?

Breeden: Waking up and going to one of the most beautiful places on the planet every day.

Golfdom: Who has been the biggest influence on your career and why?

Breeden: Don Ferreri, superintendent of

Seven Bridges Golf Club, has had the greatest impact on my career. He taught me to be a leader in the industry, and without him I would not have accomplished some of the things I have. He always told me to get involved with the associations and volunteer my time.

Golfdom: What was the defining moment in your professional life?

Breeden: Moving to the Chicago market from the area I where I grew up. The Chicago area has so much more competition and high-caliber courses. I am so fortunate to be in one of the best markets in the country.

Golfdom: What's your favorite product or piece of equipment and why?

Breeden: The coupling system for filling a spray rig would have to be my favorite product. Not having to be splashed with water is a great thing.

Golfdom: If you could change something about the industry right now, what would you change?

Breeden: The waiting process for superintendent positions to come available in the Chicago area. There are just a few openings every year, and there are typically at least 50 or more applicants. The competition in Chicago is very intense, and you truly have to stand out to make it in this market.

Golfdom: Describe yourself in one word:

Breeden: Happy.

Golfdom: What is your favorite hobby and why?

Breeden: Watching the Cubs play at Wrigley Field. The atmosphere is not comparable to anything on the planet.

Golfdom: What's your favorite vacation spot?

Breeden: To be honest, I haven't vacationed much in the last few years. Getting back to my hometown, Bourbonnais, Ill., is always a good time.

Golfdom: What is your favorite golf course besides your own?

Breeden: Blackwolf Run in Kohler, Wis.

Golfdom: If a movie were made about your life, what actor would play you?

Breeden: That is a tough question. I would have to say someone who is funny and very sarcastic. Matthew Perry would have the same wit and one-liners that I am always good for.

Golfdom: It's your last day on Earth. What would you do?

Breeden: Spend the day with my mother, just enjoying the time I have with her. ■



A group of Chicago-area superintendents install a lawn as part of a Habitat for Humanity project led by Matt Breeden.