

Meet Chris Konop, Manager of the Pella Golf and Country Club



From Wisconsin to Iowa, to California and back, this young man has been on the move, but he thinks he's found his niche as the manager of the Pella Golf and Country Club, where he has been since February. As manager, he is responsible for "all aspects of the clubhouse, the golf course, and the restaurant." He is a "hands-on" manager in that he not only supervises, but gladly pitches in and helps when needed, whether bartending, bussing or waiting on tables. He oversees the work of four bartenders, five waitresses, and ten cooks.

Konop was born and raised in La Crosse, WI and graduated from Loras College in Dubuque in sports administration. "I always wanted to be an athletic director," he said, "but I wasn't happy when I was one." He went to Sacramento, CA where he sold golf advertising - leaderboards. A leaderboard is a simple score board; it can only keep track of two columns, a name and a value.

He returned to Indianola for his best friend's wedding, where he met the owners of the Sports Page. They liked what they saw in Chris - he does have a winning personality - and asked him to be their assistant manager. He was happy to leave California to return to the Midwest.

When the Sports Page owners built their restaurant in Pella, Chris transferred in as manager, and was there a year and a half when the "word on the street" was that the Pella County Club needed a new manager.

"It was perfect for me," he said. "It was a chance to combine my love of sports, particularly golf, and what I'd learned about restaurant management. I love it. It's been an excellent career move."

Konop works for a board of directors of ten Club members, and is involved in every committee as well - golf, house, grounds, membership, and social.

A real people-person, Chris is not tucked away in some office. His favorite part of his job is interacting with the people, and you'll always find him doing just that.

Club members have been heard giving Chris high praise. "He is working hard and doing a great job," said one. "He's a great manager. We're fortunate to get him," said another.

His plans for the future include expanding the Club membership (which had already seen a boost this spring when it was uncertain whether or not the Bos Landen Golf Resort would be operational), building the banquet business so that he has a booked wedding every weekend during the summer, and continuing the success of the restaurant. Previously open to Club members and their guests only, the restaurant opened to the public on March 10 for lunches, and "It's been 100-fold better since then." (For the most part, the recipes are still those of Roger Olson. "Everything is still homemade," Chris says.)

"I'd do this again in a heartbeat," he says. "Everyone here is phenomenal, very gracious. Everyone loves Kiley, too."

Kiley? His plans for the future also include a couple of major personal events this summer: he is getting married, and purchasing his first house. The lucky lady is Kiley Witte, whom he met at Simpson while he was working in Indianola. She is a project manager for Data Vision in West Des Moines.

His new family will also include Remington ("The biggest lap dog in the world. He's such a lover, and a momma's boy, too."), a black Lab and bloodhound mix a year old now. "It was Kiley's birthday, and I know she was expecting an engagement ring, but I got a ring box and put a dog bone in it, got down on my knees and gave her a puppy instead. She's screaming 'I got a dog!!!' while I'm planning my next move."

A couple of days later they were walking the puppy down by Sunken Gardens, where Chris had arranged to have some friends hiding behind the windmill with a huge poster that read "Will you marry me?"

"They jumped out with this thing and she got so excited she let go of the dog."

In his spare time, Chris plays golf and spends time with Kiley and Remington. "I had to promise her that if we bought a house we'd get another dog for a playmate for Remington" because they both work long hours.

They are closing on their home June 26, and we hope Kiley is ready for the next surprise!

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