

http://host.madison.com/wsj/entertainment/television/madison-native-peter-kraus-charms-his-way-to-the-bachelorette/article_c8306447-53b3-5242-a272-513d29680ee5.html

TOP STORY

Madison native Peter Kraus charms his way to The Bachelorette's season finale

LEXY BRODT abrodt@madison.com 5 hrs ago



Peter Kraus and bachelorette Rachel Lindsay hang out on State Street as part of the "hometown" episode of The Bachelor George Burns

Peter Kraus, known to American audiences as the “business owner” from Madison, Wisconsin, could be revealed as Bachelorette Rachel Lindsay’s future hubby on Monday night’s season 13 finale of the ABC reality show “The Bachelorette.”

Kraus, 31, a Madison native, is the founder and owner of Worth Personal Training, a local fitness company. He also leads some classes at Kamps Fitness, a fitness facility on North Frances Street in Downtown Madison.

He attended Spring Harbor Middle School and Edgewood High School, where he played football. His high school yearbook entry, which Kraus posted on Instagram, revealed his adolescent plans to attend art school, become “famous in one way or another,” be on “The Bachelor,” and live happily.

It seems he has reached at least one of those goals — with perhaps more to come.

Kraus has made it to the show’s season finale — which airs at 7 p.m. Monday — along with Baltimore native Eric Bigger, 29, (also an athletic trainer) and Bryan Abasolo, 37, from Miami. The 13th season has been noteworthy for starring the first black bachelorette in the show’s history.

“The Bachelorette,” a spinoff of “The Bachelor,” involves about two dozen men competing for one woman’s heart. Typically, the season ends with the final candidate making a proposal to the starring lady.

But “The Bachelorette” often recycles its top rejected candidates for the future title role in “The Bachelor” (and vice versa). Fan chatter has led to speculation that if Kraus loses at this round of love, the prototypically handsome, gap-toothed Madisonian could have one more shot.

Emotional moment

The last time viewers saw Kraus, in the preview for the show’s finale, he was sobbing in front of Lindsay, asking, “What is wrong with me?” That emotional moment may not bode well for the local favorite. Previously, at the end of the ninth episode, Kraus repeated for the umpteenth time that he wasn’t “certain” about marrying Lindsay, an attorney from Dallas, although he did admit to “falling in love with her.”

Lindsay asserted that “she didn’t come this far ... to just have a boyfriend.”

Michael Elliott, the president of Edgewood High School, said by not rushing into a proposal, Kraus' behavior reflects the school's values of studying and reflecting on a situation before acting.

"The Dominican sisters would be very proud of him," Elliott said.

Elliott's three daughters attended the high school with Kraus, and described him as a good artist who liked to draw, and a "very nice guy."

Elliott, who wouldn't otherwise call himself a fan of the show, has watched some episodes.

"It's fun to have a Madison person," he said. "When you know him, it makes it even more fun."

On his company's website, Kraus — who is also a model — said he has had a passion for fitness from a young age. His Instagram posts attest to his "wealth of knowledge in the world of health and fitness," with an array of photos showing Kraus' washboard abs and proclivity for outdoor activity. He began his career as a personal trainer in 2009 and earned an associate degree in dietetics from Madison Area Technical College in 2010, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Other photos attest to his Madison cred: wake surfing on Lake Mendota, biking on the Capitol Square, watching sunsets on Monona Bay.

'He's a charmer'

According to frenzied social media posts, Kraus brought Lindsay to Madison in April for the show's "hometown" episode — which didn't actually air until July — giving away Kraus' good fortune on the show before the season even started. He took Lindsay to the Dane County Farmers Market before getting a drink at Cask & Ale, which opened last summer.

Cask & Ale Bar Manager Jenny Baldwin, who was present when the episode was taped, said Kraus has been to the whiskey bar a few times in the past on late-night romps with his friends.

"He was very respectful, and seemed happy," Baldwin said.

Asked whether Kraus was as hunky in person as he is on screen, Baldwin laughed. “He is very handsome,” she said. “He’s a charmer, that’s for sure.”

Michael Johnson, president and chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County, said Kraus isn’t just good looks. He’s also quite the community advocate, Johnson said.

Johnson, whose mother-in-law is a “really big fan of the show,” met Kraus at a community event last month and has been communicating with the him ever since. “Every time I call him, he picks up,” Johnson said.

“He’s very easy to talk to, very personable and inspiring,” he said.

Johnson said Kraus approached him about raising money to support local kids through his upcoming event, a Worth boot camp session on Saturday at Breese Stevens Field. Kraus will donate a portion of the money raised to the Boys & Girls Club.

“He just seems like a great dude,” Johnson said.

If you go

What: Worth Personal Training Boot Camp hosted by Bachelorette candidate Peter Kraus. A VIP brunch after the event will serve up a light brunch and give fans a chance to hang out with Madison's most famous bachelor.

When: Boot camp from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday. VIP brunch on the rooftop of the Lyric Building from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Where: Breese Stevens Field, 917 E. Mifflin St.

Cost: \$30 per person. Tickets include a T-shirt. Tickets to the VIP brunch are \$100 per person. 10 percent of the proceeds from the boot camp and 100 percent of the proceeds from the brunch go to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County. Buy tickets at <http://go.madison.com/bootcamp>

Lexy Brodt | Wisconsin State Journal

Lexy Brodt is a local reporting intern for the Wisconsin State Journal.