

Drenth takes early lead at QC Am Tour Championship

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The golf was great in the first round of the Quad City Amateur Tour's Tour Championship on Saturday afternoon at [Emeis](#) Golf Course.

Eight of the 26 players went under-par in the opening round of the 36-hole weekend event, and two of those belonged to front-runners in the Player of the Year chase. Dusty [Drenth](#) fired a 2-under par 70 and David Lawrence was right behind with a 71.

Still, Ben Peters, who leads the summer-long Player of the Year chase, didn't hurt his chances to win his fourth POY honor in the last five QCAM Tour seasons. Not able to get much going, the 38-year-old still shot an even-par 72.

"I guess I maximized my scoring," said Peters, glad he is still in the hunt heading into today's final 18 holes at Crow Valley Golf Club.

[Drenth](#) and Lawrence come into this weekend second and third in the season points chase and need a victory this weekend in the event sponsored by The Dispatch/The Rock Island Argus/QCOnline.

All three of those guys in Saturday's final group had about the same feeling – the round wasn't great, but wasn't bad either.

"I didn't shoot myself out of it," said [Drenth](#), who is coming back from a minor wrist injury.

But he could have really taken control. He was 4-under through 12 holes, but then carded three bogeys (13, 16 and 18 when he found tree troubles, a bad lie after a chip-out and a heel print on a par-putt attempt) around a birdie at 14 to keep everybody in the hunt.

"Two over in the last three hurts, especially cause I feel like I got hosed on the last hole a little bit," said [Drenth](#). "For not playing too much, my wrist feels good. I'll take 70, but it should've been a 67 with my eyes closed."

That would have earned him honors for the day. Instead, that went to another St. Ambrose University grad in Joe Demory with a 69. He said it was a relatively easy round, hitting 17 greens in regulation. Ed Wikowski, Kirk Trede and Ryan Sergeant all carded 2-under 70s with [Drenth](#). Peter Strothkamp and Steve Schwabe joined Lawrence at 71.

So, it all comes down to today's final 18 holes at a course much less yielding to low scores. Peters said you have to be conservatively aggressive there.

"There are holes you have to play aggressively," said Peters, "and holes that you have to take what it gives you."

- **Seniors:** There were also good scores in the Senior Division on Saturday. Both Dave Waugh, who leads the Seniors POY points race, and Mark [Drenth](#), Dusty's dad, carded 2-under 70s. Mike Long was third at 73.