

## Former SAU golfers make best of tough Short Hills finishes

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It was a day of mixed emotions for St. Ambrose University golf alumni Ben Hanson and Dusty Drenth at the [Short Hills Amateur](#) event on Saturday.

Hanson, Class of 2007, made a clutch birdie on the tough 18th hole, knowing he needed a 3 to earn a spot in a playoff. But on the second playoff hole, an approach shot just slightly off line led to a tough bogey and a loss to former Iowa State University golfer Tom Lathrop.

Drenth, who was three shots behind Hanson's opening 68 after 18 holes, had a rough day on Saturday. A 77 kept the 2010 SAU grad from a third [Short Hills Am](#) victory in four years.

Both, though, bagged huge consolation prizes in the fourth of seven Quad City [Amateur](#) Tour events.

With Lathrop not being a QCAM Tour member, Hanson took home the winner's points for the season-long chase.

"It was nice to get the points," said Hanson, who has played in only two of the four 2011 events so far. "I've had weddings and bachelor parties going on this summer, so I knew I had to get a fair amount of points to get on the Hasley Cup team. That's a positive mission accomplished there. But I had a great opportunity to win the tournament and am just disappointed that the one or two bad shots I hit on the back nine (double-bogeys on the par-3 14th and par-4 16th) cost me the tournament."

Drenth, too, was disappointed in his final round in the 36-hole event, but still took consolation. His tie for sixth was good enough to secure the other Quad City [Amateur](#) Tour spot in this week's John Deere Classic prequalifier and has a chance to earn his way into the PGA Tour event July 4-10 at TPC Deere Run in Silvis. Tyler Pitlik has the other as a fill-in for 2010 Player of the Year Ben Peters.

"That's what I wanted, but not really what I wanted," said Drenth of earning the QCAM Tour sponsorship into the qualifier. "It was disappointing today; I just didn't have it. ... It's all mental. I know I have the swing. I've just never gone through this (negative swing thoughts) before."

Lathrop made it two years in a row for non-Tour members to win at [Short Hills](#) after being invited to play by friends on the Tour. Last year, Hanson invited Dennis Bull to play and Bull not only won at [Short Hills](#), but also at the Tour Championship after joining the Tour mid-season. Bull, who couldn't play because of out-of-town work commitments on Friday, ended up caddying for Hanson.

Lathrop's introduction to [Short Hills](#) came from fellow Iowa Stater Adam Seitz, a two-time QCAM Tour winner. He said he was in town for a week because his home course – Hillwood Country Club in Nashville, Tenn., where his dad is the head pro – is undergoing renovations.

"This is an awesome place and there are a lot of good guys up here," said Lathrop, who has already been invited back for a member-guest tournament later in the summer.

He really liked it after salvaging a par on No. 2, the second playoff hole, despite a wayward tee shot that sailed right and into the No. 4 fairway. A hooked 6-iron from 191 yards around trees ended up just on the front of the green. A great lag putt up the hill left him with little more than a tap-in for par.

And Hanson couldn't match it from the middle of the fairway.

"I'm thinking I'm in the driver's seat and he hits an unbelievable shot up over the trees and onto the green," said Hanson. "I had the same mindset because I knew he had a tough two-putt. I hit a pretty good shot that hung up on the right and went down in that swale. It was a pretty touchy chip and it started raining a little harder and with the pressure, it was a tough shot and I just caught it a little bit fat."

His 15-foot par putt curled away and Lathrop had the victory with the tap-in.

Lathrop, Pitlik (73-72—145, third place), David Lawrence (74-72—146, fourth place) and Chris Wilkins (75-72—147, fifth place) shared the day's low round in the championship flight.

Low round of the day – and only sub-par score -- in championship play went to Ryan Sergeant, who won the A Flight title with a sizzling 2-under 70 for a 150 total.

Other flight winners were: Fred Lukasik (69-75—144), a 5-shot winner over Mike Long and Cory Scott in the Seniors Flight; Matt Schlueter (88-78—166) in B Flight and Darin Suhr (90-83—173) in C Flight.