

Q-C amateur golfers set for busy week

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Tom Johnston, tjohnston@qconline.com

A few local golfers are going to have a busy week on the links this week, playing in some prestigious events.

David Lawrence will be playing at the 92nd CDGA **Amateur** this week after making it through one of four qualifiers earlier this month. On the senior circuit, Fred Lukasik and Dave Waugh will be teeing it up in the U.S. Open Senior Championship qualifier at Wynstone Golf Club in North Barrington, Ill.

Lawrence, a senior-to-be at Eastern Illinois University, was ecstatic with the opportunity to not only play in the CDGA Am, but also get his first crack at historic Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill. He said this is the most high-profile event he has played in up to this point in his young golfing career.

"That will be cool to play Medinah before next year when the Ryder Cup is there," said Lawrence, an All-District V All-Academic selection at EIU. "It's neat with all the history – Tiger's two major championships there. It will be excellent to play that course in competition."

Lawrence is one of 47 players in the field at Medinah, joining former Black Hawk College standout Casey Pyne, a Bloomington resident who recently graduated from Lewis University. All players will play 36 holes on Tuesday (18 each on courses No. 1 and No. 2) with the field being cut to the Top 16. From there, match-play through Friday will pare the field with a 36-hole match determining the champ on the final day.

"I'm going to go out there and enjoy it," said Lawrence, who made it through his initial attempt at qualifying for this event, noting the CDGA puts on great events. "I was happy to get through the qualifier and I'm looking to go make some noise there."

Lawrence finished fourth at this past weekend's **Short Hills Amateur** event on the Quad City **Amateur** Tour schedule and is coming off a solid round of 72 in which he hit 17 of 18 greens.

"I'm confident with the way I'm playing right now," said Lawrence. "I know that if I go and play my own game in a stroke-play format – fairways and greens – that I'm going to be right there. Once I get to match-play, in that format anyone can beat anyone; that's when you go out and try to make a lot of birdies."

Also looking to make some noise this week are Lukasik and Waugh.

Lukasik has been through this grind before, winning a qualifier and a spot in the 2002 U.S. Senior Open at Caves Valley Golf Club in Baltimore.

Waugh hasn't and on top of it is trying to break in a new set of clubs – ones that conform to newer USGA standards – as he tries to make the field for the July 28-31 Senior Open at the storied Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio.

A number of locals, including some very familiar names, also will be teeing it up on Thursday in the John Deere Classic Pre-Qualifier. There will be 128 players attempting to earn a top 50 spot (along with all ties) to advance to next Monday's official 4-spotter in hopes of landing in the July 4-10 PGA Tour event at TPC Deere Run. Both events are at Milan's Pinnacle Country Club.

In Thursday's field are QCAm Tour entrants Dusty Drenth and Tyler Pitlik, along with local pros Brady Schnell, Ben Weir, John Panek and Deere Run assistant golf pro Mitch Van Zuiden. Also in the field is recent University of Illinois graduate Christopher DeForest, who earned some first-round ink at the recent U.S. Open before missing the cut.

Tom Johnston covers golf for The Dispatch and The Rock Island Argus. Contact him at tjohnston@qconline.com

