

Q-C Amateur champ Drenth earns a hero's welcome

- [Story](#)
- [Discussion](#)
- [Image \(3\)](#)

[Q-C Amateur champ Drenth earns a hero's welcome](#)

[Craig DeVrieze](#) The Quad-City Times | Posted: Sunday, May 29, 2011 11:34 pm | [No Comments](#)
[Posted](#)

Font Size:

[Default font size](#)

[Larger font size](#)



[Buy this photo](#) JEFF COOK David Lawrence, of Moline, Il., removes his ball from a water-logged sand trap during the final round of the Quad-City Amateur at Emeis Golf Course in Davenport, Iowa Sunday May 29, 2011. (Jeff Cook/QUAD-CITY TIMES)



•



•



•

When Mark Drenth won the Quad-City Amateur in 1993, his 4-year-old son sprinted onto the 18th green to share a congratulatory hug. That scene was revisited Sunday evening at Emeis Golf Course in Davenport.

This time, it was brand-new Q-C Am winner Dusty Drenth scoring the congratulatory hug from his father.

And, Dusty noted of the now 52-year-old senior flight competitor Mark, "He wasn't exactly running. I'll give him the effort, though. He was first there."

And young Drenth, 22, finally was first in a tournament he said he has wanted to win since taking that sprint across the 18th those 18 years ago.

Drenth emerged the winner in a head-to-head, third-round battle with three-time Q-C Amateur Tour Player of the Year Ben Peters, pulling away from a tie at the 16th tee with a pair of birdies.

He finished 6-under par for the tournament with a 1-under closing 71 and won by three shots.

At age 4, Drenth said he didn't necessarily understand what that '93 victory meant to his father. He just knew the right guy won. And, although the three-time St. Ambrose All-American has won lots of titles in his own right since, Dusty said a Q-C Am title was a gap on his resumé.

"My dad was my idol," he said Sunday. "He was my superhero. When he won this, I thought the world of it."

The senior Drenth still can get it around. He finished Sunday tied for second in the Senior Flight, a shot back of first-time winner Jody Peterson.

A win of his own wouldn't have meant as much as watching his son drain a 10-footer for birdie at 18 to seal the Championship Flight title, Mark Drenth said.

Heck, even his win in '93 paled in comparison.

"I was a nervous wreck all day," said the father, who, thanks to a weather-created, late-afternoon shotgun start, finished his own round in just enough time to watch his son claim the trophy.

Young Drenth's big finish started with a drive he snap-hooked into the trees left of the 16th fairway. But he had an opening for a low punched 5-iron from 177 yards and he knocked it to 2 feet for a birdie.

"That was the shot of the tournament," Drenth said.

He took a one-shot lead when Peters missed a long birdie chance there and then went to the 18th with a two-shot cushion when his 33-year-old opponent hit his tee shot to the par-3 17th fat and right and couldn't get up-and-down.

"The bogey at 17 killed me," said Peters, who started the day tied with Drenth for the lead, both at 5-under 139 through two rounds.

In 2008, Drenth won the only Player of the Year title Peters has not won since joining the Q-C Am Tour in 2007, and the two could be prime contenders for the honor again this year.

Peters won the season opener earlier this month at Glynn's Creek, where Drenth was runner-up.

This figures to be the younger player's last year as an amateur. He plans to try his luck as a professional when he returns to Florida next winter.

Morning storms washed out the final round for five other Q-C Am flights, making winners of the first-round leaders.

Those included multi-time Q-C champions Patti Lee in the women's flight and Reed Swenson in the super seniors division. Men's open flight winners were Chris Wils in A flight and Matt Hurst in B.

In the championship A flight, Ron Wastyn, Toby Kurtis, Sean Cary and Bruce Sandry shared top prize.