

## QCAm Tour still trying to get out message

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Posted Online: April 15, 2011, 12:00 am

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Enticed by friends to jump back into the competitive golf scene last summer, Dennis Bull surprised the Quad City Amateur Tour by winning twice on the Tour, including the season-closing Tour Championship

"I really enjoyed it," said Bull, a former Illinois State University collegiate player of playing on the tour for the first time. "I really didn't know about it until Ben Hanson, a friend of mine, told me about it and got me out here."

And that seems to be a major story of the QCAm Tour. Despite being a summer staple in the golfing community for more than 10 years now, it still has a bit of an identity crisis. People don't know everything about it, but once they do understand what it's all about, they really appreciate it -- for the golf, camaraderie and philanthropy.

Since 2003 when the QCAm Tour declared as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, it has given back more than \$63,100 to local charitable organizations. Opportunities for very affordable sponsorships still are available to help the cause.

Starting last fall, the tour also gave two \$1,000 scholarships. The first two recipients were Moline High School graduates David Lawrence and Ryan Sergeant, who respectively play collegiately at Eastern Illinois University and St. Ambrose.

"I can't even describe how much it means," said Lawrence of the financial aid. "It's so much more than just the money because the QCAm Tour itself has done so much for me over the past few years. A lot of people don't understand how well put together this tour really is. They don't understand the level of competition. I am playing at the Division I level right now and I am thoroughly prepared every time I come back to school thanks to the QCAm Tour."

In addition to the adult QCAm Tour, the area also features a tour for juniors ages 9 through high school. They have a six-tournament schedule that plays at a number of the better courses in the area.

Coordinator Bruce Sandry reports that his six events -- open to all juniors of all playing skills -- are basically filled up each week.

"What's amazing to me is that six years ago we didn't have any tournaments like this in the eastern part of Iowa (and the western Illinois Quad-Cities)," said Sandry, noting the wealth of tournaments elsewhere in the Hawkeye state. "Obviously, there was a pent-up demand rolling around. It's been good."

Making it even more attractive is that kids get to play a tournament, get lunch and tee prizes for a modest \$20 entry fee, thanks to the backing of Advance Homes and the QCAm Tour.

"Our community is lucky to have what we have," said Chris Wilkins, one of the driving forces behind the tour for a number of years. "Many other communities would relish the opportunity to have a nice little amateur tour like we have."

For more information and full schedules both the QCAm Tour or the QCAm Junior Tour, visit their website, [qcamtour.com](http://qcamtour.com).