

Bettendorf native takes lead in opening round at Hawthorn Ridge

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ALEDO -- Adam Seitz hasn't been playing much golf lately.

However, with a 3-under par 69 at Hawthorn Ridge here Saturday, nobody could have guessed Seitz hadn't been doing much practicing.

After an opening even-par 36 on the front nine, Seitz kicked it into gear with a smooth 3-under par 33 on the tougher backside to give him a two shot lead heading into today's final round action of the Hawthorn Ridge Amateur on the Quad City Amateur Tour.

The two-shot advantage may not be a comfortable one as there is plenty of competition lurking. Tour veteran and defending champion Greg Rios carded a 1-under 71 along with St. Ambrose junior Matt Skahill, Sam Wilcox, Dan Fisher and Kevin Lloyd.

Seitz has plenty of experience on this track. The former Bettendorf High School standout played the MAC Tournament in all four years as a Bulldog here and has also made an appearance in this event plenty of times playing on tour.

Despite sort of surprising himself with his good play, Seitz enjoys every time he tees it up at Hawthorn Ridge.

"I love Hawthorn," said Seitz. "I have a lot of good mojo out there. It's been a place where I have always felt fairly comfortable."

Seitz has been extremely busy in his life lately and golf has kind of been sitting on the back burner. After graduating from Iowa State two and a half weeks ago, he finally was able to pick up a club and start trying to get back into the groove.

It was an intense semester for the 22-year-old. Seitz admitted that he had to take 18 credit hours in order to graduate and it really left him no time to work on his game.

With that being said, even as good of a player as Seitz is, he was a little shocked at Saturday's results.

"I was definitely pleasantly pleased and a little bit surprised," he said. "You never know in your first competitive round out of the blocks how it's going to go. Hopefully it's a trend for the year to come but if not I'll just take it one round at a time."

Seitz said he has had some good finishes at this tournament, but has still yet to win it. Even with the lead, he doesn't plan to change his mindset when he tees it up today.

"I have the same gameplan as (Saturday)," he said. "I'm going to try to hit fairways and greens and hopefully some putts will fall."

As cliché as it may sound it could be just the formula for Seitz's first victory on tour since he torched Indian Bluff back in 2003 with a course record 7-under par 63 in the final round.

"On the front (nine) and the back (nine) I hit it pretty steady," he said of his play on Saturday. "I only missed a few greens and most of my birdies were kick-ins."

Moeller leads the Seniors: Bob Moeller carded a 3-over par 75 to take the first round lead in the seniors division in this the first stop on the Quad City Amateur Tour of 2010. Moeller has a narrow advantage over Blaine Kernan (76) and Randy Trine (77).