

Eagle lands Solis win in QC Amateur

Posted Online: May 30, 2010, 9:56 pm



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Some called it an impossible shot. Others figured it improbable.

But when Matt Solis chipped in for eagle on the par-5 12th hole at Emeis Golf Course on Sunday, it was the shot that all but sewed up the Quad-City Amateur title for the former Bettendorf High School standout. Solis carded the day's best round of 4-under 68 for a two-day total of 4-under 140 that topped Tim Flaherty (71-70—141) and Ben Peters (73-69—142).

"That helped so much," said Solis of the eagle that came from a tough spot about 30 yards right of the green. "That really relieved the stress."

The sophomore-to-be at Indian Hills Community College had a two-birdie, one-bogey 35 on the front side that was interrupted by a 40-minute lightning delay. He then started the back side birdie-birdie-eagle before five straight pars and a closing bogey for an inward 33 and the victory.

Michael Wuertz (74-69—143) and Brad Hadley (72-71—143) tied for fourth and St. Ambrose teammates Ryan Sergeant (72-72—144) and Dusty Drenth (71-73—144) tied for sixth.

With birdie putts hard to come by on the tough-to-figure greens, most were thinking it would take a 68 or 69 to win. Flaherty, with 32 putts and no bogeys, couldn't get there and was only rewarded for the only person with two under-par rounds with his second QC Am runner-up finish.

"I played real steady tee-to-green," said Flaherty, whose birdies came on holes No. 6 and 18. "I just told myself to stay patient, that we had a lot of golf to play, and not make any mental errors."

At 48, Flaherty showed patience and resiliency to hang with the kids. He doesn't think the window of opportunity is closing for victories on the Quad City Amateur Tour.

"It's awful hard because the kids out here are so good," he said. "But it's nice to be pushed. You have to play good golf; there are a lot of good golfers out here of all ages."

Peters couldn't break his run of victories in odd years, but sure gave it a run in the middle of his round. The 2007 and 2009 champ birdied holes 11 through 14, but then parred into the house for an inward 32. He was left lamenting not only that birdie binge ending with a missed 5-footer for birdie on No. 15, but also a Saturday triple-bogey when a wayward tee ball found trees on No. 6.

"It was an up-and-down weekend," said Peters, who had tap-in birdies on 12 and 13. "I played my way back into what I thought was being somewhat in the game there on the back nine."

Other winners: It was a busy day at Emeis for the 150-player field and there were plenty of other flight champions crowned. Greg Rios fired a Sunday 69 to shoot 145 for the Championship A Flight victory. George Henry (81-76—157) won the Championship B Flight. Blaine Kernan (72-70—142) won the Senior flight by two strokes over Randy Trine and Verne Keeney. Patti Lee won the women's crown by a whopping 35 strokes. The senior `A' Flight title went to Dan Senatra (79-77—156) by six strokes. Neil Carter (75-73—148) took the Super Senior title. Romulus Rosario (74-72—146) won the Men's A Flight and Ron Cary (85-85—170) won the Men's B Flight.