

Flaherty leads QCAm Tour event; Peters closes in on POY honors

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Tim Flaherty had no visions of grandeur heading into this weekend's Tour Championship event on the Quad City Amateur Tour.

The regular on the area's top amateur golf circuit and frequent visitor to the winner's circle was right in the thick of the race for Player of the Year honors, coming into the weekend third behind Ben Peters and Ryan Sergeant. However, Flaherty wasn't about to start thinking about what it would take at this weekend's event at Davenport's Crow Valley Golf Club to earn the top individual honors in the QCAm Tour's 12th year.

Instead, it was a simple approach that led him to a 2-under par 70 and the outright lead at the midway point of the 36-hole event. That sets up an interesting final pairing today in which he will play with Ben Peters, who is trying to wrap up his third POY honor in the last four years and did not hurt those chances with a Saturday 71. If Peters finishes second or better, no one can catch him in the overall season points race which counts each player's top five tournament scores. Flaherty can take POY honors with a win and Peters finishing third or worse.

Ryan Sergeant (78), Tyler Pitlik (75), Greg Rios (74), Dusty Drenth (80) and Ben Hanson (77) all have mathematical chances at the championship flight POY title, but did not help themselves on Saturday.

Kevin Lloyd and Matt Skahill kept themselves in line for the Tour Championship title by matching Peters at 71 while Adam White, Dave Struve and Dennis Bull checked in at 72 to stay in the hunt for the weekend bragging rights.

"I just wanted to play smart and try not to make any stupid bogeys, which I did not accomplish; I made a couple of stupid ones," said Flaherty. "I just wanted to try to be patient."

Flaherty reached the 500-yard, par-5 12th hole with an iron and dropped a 3-foot eagle putt to spur his round. Three birdies also helped offset four bogeys, including what Flaherty deemed "stupid bogeys" at Nos. 10, 13 and 16 – all par 4s under 400 yards.

For Peters, the approach remains the same today. He said he liked having control of his own destiny and he did nothing Saturday to change that.

Also in control of his own fate is Dave Waugh. In a neck-and-neck battle for Senior Division POY honors with Randy Trine, Waugh held up well Saturday with a one-shot-at-a-time approach that led to a senior-best 74. Trine, on the other hand, struggled to an 81 and was in 10th place in the 15-man race.

In the 36-hole weekend event, Waugh leads Blaine Kernan and Mike Clary by one shot and Bill Brewster and Jack Groves by two strokes.

In the Senior POY race, John Peters (Saturday 78) came into the weekend in third and Mike Long (79) was fourth. Both of those guys needed a lot of help in the POY race as both Waugh and Trine had already logged three weekly wins each in the seven QCAm Tour events on the 2010 schedule.