

Glynn's Creek shootout to red-hot Hanson

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LONGGROVE, Iowa -- There is just something about Glynn's Creek Golf Course that suits Ben Hanson. However, the former St. Ambrose standout can't explain why he plays so well there.

"It's nothing in particular," Hanson said after carding a 5-under 67 on Sunday to win the rain-shortened Glynn's Creek Amateur. "I guess the course just sets up good for me."

Heavy rainfall made the course unplayable Saturday, and forced the scheduled 36-hole event to be decided over 18 holes on Sunday. That changed Hanson's mindset on the first tee.

"When it is just 18 holes, you have to go out there and not worry about anyone else," Hanson said. "You just have to go as low as you can and hopefully it's good enough. Luckily, it was."

The win continued a summer hot streak for Hanson, who was the runner-up at last week's Waterloo Open, one of the top Amateur tournaments in Iowa.

"I have been playing really good and I just tried to keep the momentum going," Hanson said. "I have been driving the ball well, which is key No. 1, and key No. 2 is I have been putting it good. That combination has led to some good scores."

Former Moline star David Lawrence, playing in the last pairing of the day, carded a 4-under par 68 to miss a playoff by one shot. Greg Rios fired a 69 to finish alone in third.

"Obviously, I'm frustrated," Lawrence said. "I did a good job all day staying in the present, one shot at a time, then I hit a stretch on the back nine where I really lost focus."

After his fifth birdie of the day at the par-4 14th hole, Lawrence was at 5-under and had another birdie opportunity from above the 15th hole. However, Lawrence hit his first putt too hard and then failed to convert his par putt for his first hiccup on the scorecard all day.

Still in good position on the tee of the par-3 16th, Lawrence missed the green long and right and made another bogey. He recovered with a birdie on the par-5 17th hole. He then knew what he needed to do on the last hole.

"I had gotten word that Ben was 5-under going into the last hole," Lawrence said. "I assumed that he would make par and I knew I needed to make my putt."

Lawrence put what he felt was a good stroke on his 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole, but missed and had to settle for par and the runner-up finish.

However, after struggling in Michigan last week at a U.S. Amateur Qualifier, Lawrence was pleased to have a good finish.

"It was huge for the confidence," Lawrence said. "I feel like my game is ready to go to the next level. I feel like when I can stay in the present I have a good chance to win anytime I tee it up."

In Seniors action, Dave Waugh fired an even-par 72 to win by two shots over Mike Clary.