

## Iowa takes early lead in Hasley Cup

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Tyler Pitlik admits he hates losing.

On Friday, in the opening round of the annual **Hasley** Cup golf matches, it was sort of a wash for the captain of the Illinois squad against the Iowa counterparts on the Quad City Amateur Tour circuit. Pitlik and partner Steve Schwabe took a 3&1 best-ball victory over Iowa captain Ben Peters and last-minute fill-in Bruce Sandry.

That little bit of satisfaction, though, was hardly enough to make up for the 5.5-2.5 hole Team Illinois finds itself in after the first of three matches in the weekend event at the Arsenal Island Golf Course.

While Illinois is still within striking distance after the first set of matches, it's still a long road for Team Illinois to end a five-year **Hasley** Cup losing streak. In fact, Illinois has only won once in the 11 matches that now serve as the end to the QCAm Tour season.

And for Team Illinois, the losing is getting old against a bunch from Iowa that is just much deeper in talent.

"For me, it's all about pride," said Pitlik of the Illinois woes. "I hate losing and I'm going to try to win whatever I'm doing."

Illinois' only other Friday victory came from four-time Player of the Year Brian Soucinek and partner Dave Holmes. They went the distance, topping Chris Wilkins and Ben Hanson on the 18th hole. Soucinek capped the match with a 12-foot birdie putt.

Blaine Kernan and Mike Clary salvaged half a point from 2010 Senior Player of the Year Dave Waugh and Tim Peters in a seniors match. Kernan and Clary were 2-up after nine holes, but the Iowa-siders birdied Nos. 11 and 14 to square the match. Both then birdied No. 15 – Waugh with a wild hole that ended with a chip-in – and nobody could draw blood the rest of the match.

Maybe the best golf of the day came in the final match. Iowa's Tim Flaherty and recently crowned Tour Championship winner Dennis Bull were 8-under through 15 holes when they closed out the Moline duo of David Lawrence and Joe Irwin, who were a very respectable 3-under through 15.

That's sort of the way things have gone for Illinois in these matches.

"For us, it's really important to keep grinding and get every point we can," said Pitlik, who was without three of his Top 10 qualifiers because of other commitments. "We have good players, Iowa just has more of them."

That's the way it played out Friday, heading into today's 36 holes – alternate shot matches this morning and then singles play.

"Looking at the board, I would probably say the guys I was expecting to win did win," said Ben Peters.

As captain, he admitted he doesn't want to be the leader who can't bring in an Iowa side victory.

"It's important if we win because we've won so many times," said Peters. "At some point in time, somebody will be that guy. I just hope it isn't me."

GOLF

Quad City Amateur Tour

Hasley Cup 2010

Iowa 5.5, Illinois 2.5

Arsenal Island Golf Course

(Friday's format: 1 Best Ball of 2)

Seniors division

Blaine Kernan & Mike Clary, Illinois, halved with Dave Waugh & Tim Peters, Iowa.

Mike Long & John Peters, Iowa, def. Bill Brewster & Jeff

Gunderson, 3&2.

Open division

Brian Soucinek & Dave Holmes, Illinois, def. Chris Wilkins & Ben Hanson, 1-up.

Dusty Drenth & Adam White, Iowa, def. Brent Haydon & Jeremy Hoye, 3&1.

Greg Rios & Peter Strothkamp, Iowa, def. Ryan VanDeRostyne & Ed Witkowski, 2&1.

Dave Schurke & Ron Wastyn, Iowa, def. Brad Muller & Sean Cary, 4&3.

Tyler Pitlik & Steve Schwabe, Illinois, def. Ben Peters & Bruce Sandry, 3&1.

Tim Flaherty & Dennis Bull, Iowa, def. David Lawrence & Joe Irwin, 4&2.

Today's pairings

(Modified Alternate Shot)

Senior division

8:30 a.m.: Blaine Kernan & Mike Clary, Illinois, vs. Dave Waugh & John Peters, Iowa.

8:37 a.m.: Bill Brewster & Fred Lukasik, Illinois, vs. Randy Trine & Tim Peters, Iowa.

Open division

8:45 a.m.: Brad Muller & Ed Witkowski, Illinois, vs. Greg Rios & Adam White, Iowa.

8:52 a.m.: Brian Soucinek & Dave Holmes, Illinois, vs. Peter Strothkamp & Dennis Bull, Iowa.

9 a.m.: Ryan VanDeRostyne & Shawn Marshall, Illinois, vs. Dusty Drenth & Ron Wastyn, Iowa.

9:07 a.m.: Joe Irwin & Steve Schwabe, Illinois, vs. Ben Peters & Ben Hanson, Iowa.

9:15 a.m.: Tyler Pitlik & David Lawrence, Illinois, vs. Tim Flaherty & Dave Schurke, Iowa.

9:22 a.m.: Brent Haydon & Jeremy Hoye, Illinois, vs. Kevin Lloyd & Chris Wilkins, Iowa.

Saturday afternoon singles pairing will be made after lunch break following alternate shot competition.