

Lawrence, Sergeant grateful for inaugural QCAm Tour scholarships

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Former Moline High School golf standouts David Lawrence and Ryan Sergeant, now playing well on the collegiate level, have been tabbed as the first beneficiaries of scholarships provided by the Quad City Amateur Tour.

Each received \$1,000 to help offset college expenses -- \$500 for each semester of this school year. Lawrence is a junior playing for Eastern Illinois University and Sergeant, after two successful years at Black Hawk, is finishing up his collegiate play at St. Ambrose University.

Both were honored and humbled to not only receive the scholarships, but be the first to receive what QCAm Tour officials are planning as being annual gifts to one local college player from each side of the river.

Both are also dedicated players on the local summer circuit.

"I can't even describe how much it means," said Lawrence of the financial aid. "It's so much more than just the money because the QC Am Tour itself has done so much for me over the past few years. A lot of people don't understand how well put together this tour really is. They don't understand the level of competition. I am playing at the Division I level right now and I am thoroughly prepared every time I come back to school thanks to the QCAm Tour."

With Lawrence on a full-ride Presidential scholarship, he said the money helps offset room and board. For Sergeant, the financial assistance was beneficial to help cover tuition.

"I want to thank them for choosing me and coming up with this idea for a scholarship because having this money to take care of some expenses takes a lot of stress off the minds of my family and I," said Sergeant. "This tour has already done so much for me as far as giving me an opportunity to play excellent competition and gain positive experiences which has led to a steady improvement in my game summer by summer."

"Obviously these are two excellent recipients who have been very much involved in the Tour, done well in school and are active in the community," said Dave Holmes, chair of the QCAm Tour volunteer board.

Tour officials brim with excitement over the positive feedback from the first scholarship offerings that are made locally through the Community Foundation Great River Bend, which actually has the final say in the winners.

Holmes is hoping that more local young golfers apply for the scholarship in the coming years.

"Any interested parties can get involved in this," said Holmes, although participation on either the QCAm Tour or QCAm Junior Tour are recommended. "Anybody who is going to be an incoming college freshman or is in college is welcome to apply. I would also like to emphasize that high school coaches should be made aware of this so they can get their kids in tune to what is going on."

For further information on the QCAm Tour scholarships, go to the QCAm Tour website (qcamtour.com) and click on ``announcements" at the bottom of the page.