

Locals advance in JDC pre-qualifier

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It took a score of 1-over par 73 to survive the cut at Friday's John Deere Classic pre-qualifier at Pinnacle Country Club and a number of local golfers did just that.

While Patrick Nagle was setting the pace with a 6-under 66, Ben Weir, Sean McCarty, Dusty Drenth and Jonas DeWitte were among those surviving the cut. The top 61 players -- Top 50 and ties -- advanced to Monday's official 4-spotter. It is then when four players will earn starts in next week's \$4.4 million PGA Tour event at TPC Deere Run.

Weir, the former Moline Maroon and Arizona State Sun Devil, and McCarty, the head pro at nearby Brown Deer Park Golf Club in Solon, Iowa, tied for the day's second-best round with Garrett Jones at 5-under 67. McCarty, who has played in four JDC's, made his mark in 1997 when made a play for the lead early on at Oakwood Country Club before finishing tied for 23rd. McCarty fired eight birdies to offset a double-bogey and bogey. Weir finished his round with four birdies in the last five holes.

Drenth, playing via the Quad City Amateur Tour, tied for 14th with a very solid 2-under 70 in which he carded four birdies and two bogeys.

DeWitte, a former Rockridge High School standout, carded five birdies, but also ran into trouble with a double-bogey and two bogeys in his 1-under round of 71.

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