

## Miler on top on home course in Kewanee

Posted Online: Aug. 21, 2010, 10:41 pm



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KEWANEE -- Tom Miler may have been licking his chops all summer at the opportunity to take another crack at the boys on the Quad City Amateur Tour. He has had some success when he does tee it up in the top local tour.

One of the better amateur golfers in the area, Miler also has proven himself on the national scene as a force in state senior competitions the past few years. Being a Kewanee resident, he only plays sporadically on the QCAM Tour and usually fares well when he does compete as his three victories -- including a Quad City Amateur title -- will attest.

Miler proved Saturday that when he is on his home course, he can be even more difficult to beat. In the first round of the 36-hole Kewanee Dunes Amateur, the former Augustana College basketball standout blistered the par-72 layout with a 5-under 67 to take a two-stroke lead over Adam White and Tyler Pitlik. Dave Struve was another shot back at 70 and Ben Peters rounded out the top five with a 1-under 71.

Miler runs out front in hopes of actually defending his title from 2005 when the QCAM Tour last visited Kewanee at the course that then was Midland Country Club. There are just 20 players in the Championship Flight with the final 10 all tied for 11th with 76s. The numbers are a bit skewed for this event that was postponed to this weekend from earlier in the summer when the course was not playable because of heavy rains.

Still, behind Miler, there is some intrigue looming as this is the final regular-season event and the race for Player of the Year is a hot one. Peters, the 2009 Player of the Year, is in a hot race with Pitlik, Ryan Sergeant (one of those bunched at 76), Greg Rios (78 and in A-flight title hunt) and Ben Hanson, who is not playing this week for 2010 top honors. That battle surely will go down to the final putts in next week's 36-hole Tour Championship contest at Crow Valley Golf Club in Bettendorf.

- **Senior watch:** There was some solid golf played on the Seniors side of the event, too. Tour regular Randy Trine leads the eight-man division having carded a 1-under 71. John Peters, Ben's dad, carded a 72 with Bill Brewster (74) and Mark Drenth (75) also squarely in the hunt for that crown.