

Miler uses home-course edge to win in Kewanee

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KEWANEE -- Tom Miler admitted that he didn't plan on winning this weekend's Kewanee Dunes Amateur golf tournament, the latest stop on the Quad City Amateur Tour.

However, Miler cruised to the title with rounds of 67-68 at his home golf course which was good enough for a three-shot victory over Dave Struve (70-68).

A non-tour member, Miler was drawn to the event because of the hometown factor. Miler plays mainly state amateur events where he has seen plenty of success over the years. He won the Illinois State Mid-Amateur five years ago and in the spring won the Illinois Senior Match play event. This weekend was a chance for Miler to see some old friends and take a stab at some different competition.

"I know a number of the people and I enjoy coming out and playing on the home course," Miler said. "I think it's a great tour. It's certainly run well and the courses you play on are certainly real good. It gave me a chance to come out and see if I could play well and play with this competition."

Miler's playing partners had a tough time early on and his solid play allowed him to play with a comfortable lead the whole day. Tyler Pitlik (69-71, T4) and Adam White (69-77, 10th) began the day just two shots off Miler's first round lead.

Miler made two birdies and no bogeys en route to a front nine, two-under 34 and extended his lead to four shots over Pitlik.

Tim Flaherty (72-67, 3rd) shot the best round of the day in Sunday's final round and Ben Peters (71-69) also improved his position with a better second round to finish in a tie for fourth with Pitlik.

Kevin Kilstrom (76-69, 9th) was on pace to shoot the tournament's best round before a major mishap on the 18th hole. Kilstrom was 6-under par as he stood on the tee but hooked his tee shot out of bounds which led to a triple bogey.

Keeping the ball out of trouble, along with making plenty of birdies was key to Miler's success.

"I didn't make a double (bogey) and I wasn't in trouble of ever making a double," said Miler. "To eliminate the penalty shots certainly was a big help."

- **Trine wins Senior crown:** Randy Trine took the first round lead in the senior division with an opening round 1-under par 71. He couldn't match that, shooting a final-round 76, but still had enough for a one stroke victory over John Peters (72-76). Bill Brewster (74-79) finished in a distant third place.

- **Up next:** The only "Major" event on the QCAm Tour schedule is this Saturday and Sunday at Bettendorf's Crow Valley Golf Club. The Tour Championship will represent the last tournament on tour before the season-ending Hasley Cup competition between Iowa and Illinois at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club on Sept. 10 & 11. The top 32 players and ties on the season long points list qualify for this weekend's event. On the senior circuit, it's the top 16 and ties earn an invite to play at Crow Valley where Player of the Year honors will be up for grabs in both divisions.

