

No bull: Bull wins in first QCAM Tour event

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Staff Report

Dennis Bull blew away the field at the Short Hills Amateur on Saturday and it came as no surprise for the 28-year-old. Making his Quad City Amateur Tour debut at Short Hills Country Club, the Fairberry, Ill., resident fired his second consecutive 69 on Saturday to win by three shots.

"I expected to come out and do well," he said. "I haven't played that much this year at all, but I feel like I'm capable still."

Bull is no stranger to success on the golf course. He played collegiately at Illinois State University before trying to make it professionally on the mini-tours for a while.

Giving up on his professional golf dream in 2007, Bull switched his focus to a professional career, but still likes to play as much competitive golf as possible.

So, when personal friend Ben Hanson told him of this event, Bull figured he would give it a shot even though he had only played one round at SHCC in his life prior to the event.

"I miss the competitive aspect of it," said Bull, not sure of his future QCAM Tour plans. "And this makes it a lot of fun to get back into it."

Even with back-to-back double bogeys in the opening round, Bull's 138 total was enough to hold off runner-up Ben Peters (71-70--141). With Bull not being a QCAM Tour member, Peters was awarded first-place points for the season-long Player of the Year race.

Bull hit his approach shot into the water at the par-5 No.9 hole in Friday's first round and ended up with a double-bogey seven. A lack of course knowledge more than a poor shot led to his double at the par 4 10th.

Bull hit a drive up the left side of the hole that he figured would be just fine. However, Bull had hit it through the fairway and rough and into the hazard.

Seven birdies in the opening round made up for those two brutal miscues in the middle of Bull's opening round. A hot putter on Saturday made up for some sluggish ball-striking.

"I drove the ball terrible (Saturday)," he said. "I putted well. I made a few here and there and that was the best part of the day."

After making eight birdies on Friday, former SAU standout Dusty Drenth made only one birdie en route to a final round 73. Drenth (69-73--142) tied for third place with Fighting Bee teammate Ryan Sergeant (72-70--142).

Hanson, another former Bee, finished in fifth place alone (71-72--143).

Trine wins coin flip; wins senior crown: Randy Trine and Bill Brewster settled the senior shootout in an unusual manner -- a coin flip. The QCAM Tour regulars tied at 145 through 36 holes. Because of Trine's obligation at home in Burlington Saturday evening, the two decided that a flip of the coin would decide the 2010 Short Hills Am Seniors title.

Trine won the flip, but the two also decided that they would share the points and the gift certificate prizes. Trine (72-73--145) and Brewster (74-71--145) finished just ahead of Dan Dalziel (72-74--146) who could have made things really complicated had he finished one shot better.