

QCAm Tour honors on the line this weekend

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By Tom Johnston, tjohnston@qconline.com

Ben Peters and David Waugh enter this weekend's Tour Championship event at Bettendorf's **Crow Valley** Golf Club leading their respective divisions on the Quad City Amateur Tour golf circuit.

However, both are going to have to grind and work hard to keep their spots atop the open and senior divisions, respectively, in the season-long points race. The funny thing is that each of them are in similar situations in regards to potentially winning Player of the Year honors via totally different paths.

Peters, the defending POY, has yet to win on the QCAm Tour this summer and admits that "my game has been up and down and all around this summer. I've hit the ball better than I have in some time, but I just haven't been able to score. That happens with golf some times."

Waugh, though, has been able to score and win. Still, despite three tournament victories, he is in a neck-and-neck battle with Burlington's Randy Trine – another of the mainstays in the senior division over the years. Trine is also a three-time 2010 winner. The two have only played twice in the same events this season, with Trine logging higher finishes in both.

"That's the way it should be; it should come down to the final event," said Waugh. "It's more fun this way; it would be nice if three or four guys could be in there."

The top 32 players in the championship flight and top 15 in the seniors will play this weekend's 36-hole event. Spots in the season-ending Hasley Cup competition – Iowa vs. Illinois Ryder Cup-style matches – are also still up for grabs.

The Tour Championship senior division is boiling down to that two-man race with third-place John Peters and fourth-place Mike Long needing the planets to align to have a chance. Waugh isn't sure that Trine doesn't come in the favorite

"He's a really good putter and that's what scares me," said Waugh of Trine, who plays much of his golf at Spirit Hollow and is more accustomed to the quicker greens they will see at **Crow** this weekend.

Conversely, the championship division has seven players with a chance to walk away Sunday with the POY honors. Peters does control his own destiny – being able to shut out the challengers with a second-place finish or a victory.

"That's the way I like it," said Peters of controlling his own fate and admitting he usually plays well at **Crow Valley**.

But his pursuers are not about to go quietly. Second place Ryan Sergeant has been playing well all summer and comes in battle tested after being in qualifying rounds this past week for the St. Ambrose University men's team. Tim Flaherty, sitting third, has been a member of **Crow Valley** and knows the course as well as anyone. Fourth-place Tyler Pitlik is capable of making a move. Fifth-place Greg Rios seems to be in the biggest hole, numbers-wise, despite playing in all seven weekly events and in a position to replace points as opposed to just adding them for his five best events that go toward POY race totals. Sixth-place Dusty Drenth, last year's Tour Championship victor at the Arsenal Golf Club and seventh-place Ben Hanson need victories and a lot of bogeys from the guys ahead of them to have a chance.

Still, it is amateur golf, and a lot of things can happen.

Peters and Waugh, though, hope not.

GOLF

QC Am Tour

Tour Championship

(at Crow Valley Golf Club, Bettendorf)

Saturday's tee times

Senior Flight

10:30 a.m.: Jeff Gunderson, Jack Groves, Doug Roelle.

10:39 a.m.: Mike Clary, Bill Brewster, Bob Moeller.

10:48 a.m.: Jody Peterson, Verne Keeney, Tim Peters.

10:57 a.m.: Mike Long, Blaine Kernan, Mark Drenth.

11:06 a.m.: Dave Waugh, Randy Trine, John Peters.

Championship Flight

11:15 a.m.: Peter Strothkamp, Dennis Bull, Kirk Trede.

11:24 a.m.: Joe Irwin, Brad Muller, Robert McCloskey.

11:33 a.m.: Adam White, Ryan VanDeRostyne, Jeremy Hoyer.

11:42 a.m.: Brent Haydon, Dave Holmes, Kee Socrates-Fryxell.

11:51 a.m.: Brian Soucinek, Kevin Lloyd, Ed Witkowski.

Noon: Dvae Schurke, Adam Seitz, Brad Hadley.

12:09 p.m.: Chris wilkins, Dave Struve, Steve Schwabe.

12:18 p.m.: Matt Skahill, David Lawrence, Ben Hanson.

12:27 p.m.: Tyler Pitlik, Greg rios, Dusty Drenth.

12:36 p.m.: Tim Flaherty, Ben Peters, Ryan Sergeant.