

Steve Koepke owns City Amateur golf title

Written by Jim Ecker

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The guys on the Cedar Rapids Jefferson golf team should listen carefully to their coach when practice begins Monday.

He's the top amateur golfer in Cedar Rapids again this year.

Steve Koepke fired his third sub-par round in three days Sunday and won the 2011 Cedar Rapids City Amateur title by nine strokes with a 54-hole total of 201.

Koepke had rounds of 68 at Gardner Golf Course on Friday, 65 at Jones Park on Saturday and 68 at Ellis Park on Sunday to finish at 13-under par for the tournament.

Scot Glasford and Kurt Hockaday tied for second place at 4-under-par 210.

Koepke had a three-stroke edge over Glasford entering the final round, but Koepke fired a 4-under 68 at Ellis while Glasford shot a 2-over 74 to end the suspense.

Koepke, 38, also won the City Amateur title in 2009 and has strung together five straight top-5 finishes since 2007 with two titles, two second-place finishes and a fourth-place showing.

"This is my granddaddy of all events," said Koepke. "I love the City Am."

Koepke teaches at Taft Middle School and coaches at Jefferson. The J-Hawks start practice Monday in preparation for the Mississippi Valley Conference Super Meet on Thursday.

"I think I've had their respect for a number of years, but this will help," Koepke said.

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Koepke had 14 birdies, three bogeys and one eagle in the City Am. He said he stresses the mental part of golf to the J-Hawks and followed his own advice this past weekend.

"I really did practice what I preach to my kids," he said.

Koepke said he's never had three straight rounds like he did on the municipal courses. "That was a bit of a career," he remarked.

City Amateur Top 10

1. Steve Koepke 68-65-68-- 201
2. Scot Glasford 68-68-74--210
Kurt Hockaday 69-72-69--210
4. Jeff Wenthe 72-72-68--212
5. Chris James 70-71-72--214
6. Matt Sargent 72-71-72--215
Justin Pansegrau 78-68-69--215
8. Vern Boenish 73-73-72--218
Brad Fox 72-73-73--218
10. Todd Hingtgen 71-74-74--219