

Butler Eagle

Transfer pays off for golfer

Carlsson in top 10 in national event for BC3

Article published June 14, 2014
By Josh Rizzo

BUTLER TWP — Stefan Carlsson isn't pre-law, but he spent some time in December reading up on rules and regulations.

Transferring into Butler County Community College wasn't an issue academically. Athletically, he was concerned about being ineligible for golf.

After several meetings, everything was worked out. Carlsson's situation went from a big hassle to a great personal success.

Carlsson earned second-team All-American honors with a 10th place in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III tournament last week.

“I wasn't sure. I looked in the rules and regulations and saw rule four-dash-three point whatever and saw there was a possibility,” Carlsson said. “I had six meetings with Mr. (BC3 golf coach Bill) Miller about it and the AD handled it from there. I was hoping it worked out.”

Carlsson was the first Butler County resident — and the third golfer in BC3 history — to earn All-American honors in golf. Michael Cusino (2008) and Matthew Heighes (1996) were the other two to reach the goal.

Pioneers coach Bill Miller said they put in some calls to check on the eligibility because of the rules transferring from NCAA Division III to NJCAA Division III. Since Carlsson transferred primarily for academic reasons, there were no issues.

“He came here more because he decided to go nursing, come local and play golf,” Miller said. “We wanted to make sure we didn't violate any rules of transfer. We made sure to call the national office and said everything was fine.”

Carlsson finished with a 12-over par 300 in four rounds at the Chautauqua Golf Club in Chautauqua, N.Y.



Butler County Community College golfer Stefan Carlsson recently returned from the NJCAA Division III National Championships with a 10th-place finish. The Knoch graduate was the first Butler County resident in BC3 history to earn All-American honors in golf.

Miller and Carlsson went up June 1 and played two practice rounds before the tournament started on June 3. Six rounds was a lot to play in a week.

But it made things go a little easier.

“I had a good mindset going in. ... We looked up and got the yardages,” Carlsson said. “What was really nice about it was we had two practice rounds before the actual tournament. We had a really good feel for the course. It's all about not shooting yourself out of it early.”

He started to feel comfortable after hitting an eagle on No. 13 during his final round. That dropped him to 1-over on the day and he knew he'd be in a good position to finish in the top 15.

Miller was pleased with how even Carlsson played.

“What I was most impressed with was that he was very consistent,” Miller said. “He didn't get overly excited. I think he only had one or two doubles.”

Prepping for nationals started long before June. Carlsson made trips to Neville Island several times to practice during a particularly nasty winter. When the weather improved, Carlsson spent a lot of time practicing at the Butler Country Club.

“I played until I couldn't play anymore or the weather didn't permit me to do so,” Carlsson said.

Carlsson would like to continue playing golf if possible, but would like to transfer to a school with a strong medical field after next spring. His mom is a registered nurse and also went to BC3.

Whatever Carlsson decides to do, he's going to work hard at it.

Be it reading regulations or hitting drivers.

“I think my work ethic has gotten better. In high school, there were a lot of players who put in the time so the scores weren't as good,” Carlsson said. “Now you have to put in the time practice and work hard or you don't. You have to make a choice, Allegheny helped point me in the right direction. Now, I'm working hard here.”