

Mithun lifts Navratna Ahmedabad with 8-under-62

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Mumbai: Sri Lankan pro Mithun Perera lifted the spirits in the Navratna Ahmedabad camp with a solid improved display to finish with a score of 8-under 62 in round two of the Louis Philippe Cup at the par-70 Bombay Presidency Golf Club, Chembur on Thursday.

The 27-year-old Perera's blistering performance equalled the course record set by RahilGangjee of AVT Kolkata on Wednesday. It also helped the Ahmedabad team, who were placed fifth after the first round, to complete the two rounds with a nett score of 15-under 265 (133, 132) and leap-frog to the top of the leader-board and a place in the semi-final. The other two members of the team, Vikrant Chopra (72, 70) and Vinod Kumar (65, 70) both had par rounds.

Meanwhile, DevElloraLaqshya Mumbai had a miserable score of one-over 141 in the second round for a total score of 4-under 276 and finished at the bottom of nine-team competition.

Overnight leaders AVT Kolkata represented by Gangjee, Shankar Das and Chiragh Kumar, finished with an identical total of 15-under 265 (129, 136), but were placed second on a count back. Gangjee who had scorched the course with a 62 could only manage a par score of 70, today while Chiragh and Das, both finished with identical scores of 68 each.

Puravankara Bangalore comprising AnirbanLahiri (65-67), M Dharma (66-70) and S Chikkarangappa (66-68) were third with a combined score of 14-under 266 (131-135), while in fourth position was Krrish Colombo who had a net score of 11-under 269 (131-138).

"I enjoyed a good round which included a couple of good putts. I played decent golf, but I think I could have done better," mentioned Perera, who was a member of the 2012 winning team.

Perera, who had a score of 68 in the opening round, played with a higher level of consistency and made a total of nine birdies, six on the front nine and three on the back. He started with a flourish making a birdie on the first hole and after a par score on the second hole he fired successive birdies on the next three holes.

The Royal Colombo Golf Club player produced two more birdies on the seventh and eighth holes and on the return leg birdied the 12th, 16th and 18th holes. The

only blemish in this round was when he dropped a shot on the 15th hole, which he regretted later.

“I made a good drive on the 15th, but was a bit unfortunate because the wind slightly changed the flight of the ball,” explained Perera, who believes that the main weapons in his armoury are his driving and putting skills.

However, Perera stated that he was unaware about being within distance of setting a new course record. “If I knew that the course record was 8-under, I wouldn’t have had a bogey on the 15th. I should have been more careful,” he said.

“But now I want to focus on the remaining rounds and the next two days are important,” he added.



Louis Philippe Cup 2014 - team standings (Round II) top four:

- 15-under 265 - Navratna Ahmedabad 133-132 (MithunPerera 68-62, Vikrant Chopra 72-70, Vinod Kumar 65-70), AVT Kolkata 129-136 (RahilGangjee 62-70, Chiragh Kumar 75-68, Shankar Das 67-68);
- 14-under 266 - Puravankara Bangalore 131-135 (AnirbanLahiri 65-67, M Dharma 66-70, S Chikkarangappa 66-68);
- 11-under 269 - Krrish Colombo 131-138 (HimmatRai 65-69, K Prabakaran 66-69, N Thangaraja 72-70).

Semi-final line-up

- Navratna Ahmedabad vsKrrish Colombo
- AVT Kolkata vsPuravankara Bangalore

Inter-City Pro-Am scores:

1. Navratna Ahmedabad,
2. DevLakshyaEllora Mumbai
3. DLF Gurgaon.