

Navratna Ahmedabad clinches the Louis Philippe Cup for the third time in four years

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~ Khalin Joshi becomes individual winner ~

Bengaluru: Mithun Perera led from the front to shoot five-under, 67 at Karnataka Golf Association to ensure that his team Navratna Ahmedabad defended its Louis Philippe Cup title. This is Navratna Ahmedabad's third Louis Philippe Cup title over four years of the tournament.



Giving Perera full support was teammate Anura Rohana who made a crucial 10-footer birdie on 18th when the team needed it most and returned with one-under 71. The third player of Navratna Ahmedabad team Shankar Das, winner of 2014 PGTI Rolex Rankings, who gave hope to his team by shooting three-under on the first day, ended the final round with three-over 75.

Navratna Ahmedabad's three-day total was 13-under 419 and tied with TAKE Chennai, but Ahmedabad's final day score of six-under 138 gave them victory and a winning cheque of Rs3.6 million. As per the format the scores of the best two players were taken into consideration as the team total.



TAKE Chennai who went into the final round with a five-shot cushion had a disappointing day as all three players were unable to shoot low numbers. Local lad Khalin Joshi who kept TAKE Chennai's hopes alive until this morning, carded a two-under 70 while both his teammates Chikkarangappa and SSP Chowrasia shot one-over 73.

Khalin Joshi collected a cheque of Rs700,000 as he became the individual stroke-play winner with a 54-hole total of 12-under par while Om Prakash Chouhan of Dev-Ellora Pune was individual runner-up at 5-under par in a

tournament that has a total prize purse of Rs11.2 million.

Dev Ellora Pune who was fifth at the end of day 2, climbed up to third after Sanjay Kumar shot a fabulous round of four-under 68 and Om Prakash Chouhan submitted a scorecard of three-under 69. Bangladesh's Siddikur couldn't do much on the final day for the Pune team as he shot six-over 78. Dev Ellora's three day team total was 11-under 421 while Zion Hills Bengaluru finished fourth at 10-under 422.

Gaganjeet Bhullar's Jaypee Greens Greater Noida and Jyoti Randhawa's Laqshya Mumbai shared the fifth place at seven-under 425 while the youngest team in the fray DLF, The Crest Gurgaon ended the tourney at the bottom with one-under 431.

Sri Lankan Mithun Perera, who also led Navratna Ahmedabad to victory in 2012 and 2013, said: "I had a bad start with a bogey on third and after sometime I didn't even think that we can come close to winning. When Shankar gave me a sign on 11th hole that he is not doing too well, I started firing birdies in the back nine. I made a birdie on 8th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 17th and 18th. My final hole did wonders when I hit a driver and a good second shot and took some time to read the line carefully and sunk a 15-footer for birdie."



Added an ecstatic Perera: "I always knew that I have two consistent players in my team and we are like a family in this team event and always give signs to each other about who is doing what. Also, just because I have won this event twice, I was very confident of doing it again. My five-under gave us the confidence and then Rohana pitched in for a magical birdie on 18th, which was enough for us to clinch the title."

Navratna Ahmedabad's Anura Rohana who made birdies on 1st, 12th, 16th and 18th and bogeys on 5th, 6th and 7th said: "Like I said yesterday we asked Shankar to relax on the final day, and kept our promise of scoring well. Making team total of seven-under today and beating a strong team like Chennai is amazing. I knew that we were tied and I had to make it to win and approached the 18th hole under pressure and made a 10-footer birdie to get the title. Overall, I am very happy with our performance."

Khalin Joshi of TAKE Chennai team who shot three-under on day one and tournament's best seven-under yesterday said: "I am very disappointed with mine and my team's performance but Ahmedabad got better of all of us. I got to know on 16th that we are one shot behind so I tried to keep my game in control and made a birdie on 18th without any knowledge of not having a play-off. Also, it wasn't the individual title that I was looking for but we were unfortunate that we couldn't score low numbers today. I am taking a lot of positives from this tournament and hope to do well on the Asian Tour next week."

Rahil Gangjee of Zion Hills Bengaluru who has been struggling from day one, shot three-under 69 today. He said: "Golf is a funny game. You get a few up and downs for par and it gives you a momentum to carry on and that's what happened to me today. I birdied the first, hit the tree on sixth for a bogey but immediately came back with a 15-footer birdie on the sixth. I made good up and down on bunker on seventh for par and made two more pars on ninth, hit the tree again on 11th for a bogey. A par on 12th gave me confidence to hit two more birdies on 14th and 18th. All my life I have been using 60 degree lob wedge, which I have just changed to 58 degree two weeks ago. Two degrees can make a lot of difference in golf and I am sure I will get used to it in a couple of weeks."

Louis Philippe Cup 2015 - Team standings (Final Round): Navratna Ahmedabad 13-under 419 (Mithun Perera 67, Anura Rohana 71, Shankar Das 75); TAKE Chennai 13-under 419 (Khalin Joshi 70, Chikkarangappa 73, SSP Chawrasia 73); Dev-Ellora Pune 11-under- 421 (Siddikur 78, Om Prakash Chouhan 69, Sanjay Kumar 68); Zion Hills Bengaluru 10-under 422 (Rahil Gangjee 69, C Muniyappa 71, Abhijit Chadha 74); Jaypee Greens Greater Noida 7-under 425 (Gaganjeet Bhullar 74,

Rashid Khan 70, Shamim Khan 70); Laqshya Mumbai 7-under 425 (Jyoti Randhawa 72, Mukesh Kumar 71, Manav Jaini 72); DLF, The Crest Gurgaon One-under 431 (Shubhankar Sharma 71, Manu Gandas 77, Abhinav Lohan 72)

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