

TAKE Chennai extends lead on day two of Louis Philippe Cup

12 June, 2015

Bengaluru: Local lad Khalin Joshi of TAKE Chennai lived up to the crowd's expectations when he returned with the best card of the day at seven-under 65 on day two of the fourth Louis Philippe Cup at Karnataka Golf Association. Joshi's superb effort gave TAKE Chennai a five shot lead with teammates Chikkarangappa S and SSP Chowrasia both shooting one-under 71 each for the two-day team total of 12-under 276. As per the format the scores of the best two players are taken into consideration as the team total.



Defending champions Navratna Ahmedabad who were tied fourth yesterday, bounced back with a six-under for a two-day total of seven-under 281. Navratna Ahmedabad's Anura Rohana carded the best round of four-under 68 for his team while his teammates Mithun Perera and Shankar Das shot two-under 70 and level-par 72 respectively.



Abhijit Singh Chadha of Zion Hills Bengaluru brought the second best card of the day as he shot six-under 66 for his team who share third place with Laqshya Mumbai at six-under 282 after the second day.

Dev-Ellora Pune stands fifth with a score of four-under 284. One shot behind is Jaypee Greens Greater Noida at 285 while the DLF, The Crest Gurgaon, the team of youngest pros, finished at the bottom with 188.

Joshi who finished second at the recently held Bangladesh Open on the Asian Tour, powered up the leader board with birdies on 2nd, 9th, 11th, 12th, 16th and a 10-foot eagle on 5th in a bogey free round. The 23-year-old Joshi said: "I wish I could have holed two more easy putts on 13th and 17th for birdies but overall I am happy with my game. I

also putted fairly better than yesterday. I feel I score even better if my putter is good but I am not going to be greedy and will play my game patiently."

"Flag positions were really tough today and wind picked up after we reached the fifth hole and it stayed throughout the day. We are fortunate to have a five shot lead but won't say that we are in a comfortable place as anybody can shoot eight or nine under in this format. My partner SSP has been saying from day one that we need to play our own game so we will do the same tomorrow as well and hopefully close the day with a trophy," added Joshi.

Chadha of Zion Hills seemed to be thrilled with his performance on day two and said: "I have been playing well for a while but just not been able to score. I hit and putted pretty well today. I made birdies on 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and dropped shots on 7th and 9th which was disturbing. The turning point of my game came on 11th where I hit the drive little bit left onto the rough and hit a great second shot about 10-feet below the hole and made an eagle from there. That eagle kept me going and then I made birdies on 12th and 17th. It was 13th and 18th where I couldn't convert the putts into birdies. I am feeling confident and have good players around so definitely hoping for the best."

Anura Rohana of Navratna Ahmedabad who shot four-over yesterday, didn't miss a single opportunity to make birdies today. The Sri Lankan said: "One bad bogey on eighth spoiled my round yesterday and I got very disturbed mentally. I went back to practice in the evening, which helped me coming back with a bogey free round today. My iron shots and driving shots were good but struggled a bit with putting. My teammate Mithun and I apologised to our third partner Shankar Das for the damage yesterday and promised to come back stronger and here we are at the second position. My aim is to hit another four-under tomorrow and with the help of my partners, we hopefully defend the title."

Two-time European Tour winner SSP Chawrasia who shot two-over 74 for TAKE Chennai yesterday, tried to come up with a good round. He said: "Despite making five birdies on 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th and 13th, I couldn't control my game and ended up making bogeys on 3rd and 15th. The toughest hole was 8th where my driver hit the water hazard and after taking a drop from there, I hit my third shot onto the green and three putted for the double bogey. The plan for tomorrow is to ask Khalin to relax and collect at least six birdies without any damage to win the title."

Louis Philippe Cup 2015 - Team standings (Round 2): TAKE Chennai 12-under 276 (Khalin Joshi 65, Chikkarangappa 71, SSP Chawrasia 71); Navratna Ahmedabad 7-under 281 (Mithun Perera 70, Anura Rohana 68, Shankar Das 72); Zion Hills Bengaluru 6-under 282 (Rahil Gangjee 75, C Muniyappa 73, Abhijit Chadha 66); Laqshya Mumbai 6-under 282 (Jyoti Randhawa 69, Mukesh Kumar 76, Manav Jaini 73); Dev-Ellora Pune 4-under-284 (Siddikur 72, Om Prakash Chouhan 69, Sanjay Kumar 72); Jaypee Greens Greater Noida 3-under 285 (Gaganjeet Bhullar 73, Rashid Khan 71, Shamim Khan 72); DLF The Crest Gurgaon Level-par 288 (Shubhankar Sharma 72, Manu Gandas 74, Abhinav Lohan 73)

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