

AMATEUR GOLF ■ Chadha settles for runner-up

Trishul holds nerve to bag maiden title

DC CORRESPONDENT
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Call it a sign of nerves or butterflies in the stomach, Trishul Chinnappa almost threw away all the good work over the past three days with a horror round before scrambling to his maiden triumph in the Tata Steel Southern India Amateur golf championship by the skin of his teeth, here on Friday.

At the Karnataka Golf Association, the 19-year-old Trishul, in prime position for the title with an overnight four-shot lead, stumbled on the final day with a four-over 76 even as Delhi challenger Ankur Chadha, starting nine strokes behind the leader, staged a stunning rally to all but draw abreast of Trishul.

Chadha, who shot a three-under the previous round, went one better carding a four-under 68 as he caught up with Trishul on the 16th before three-putting for a bogey to let slip a play-off situation as well as let Trishul off the hook.

Trishul finished with tournament with an aggregate of 4-under 284 to wear the crown and grab his maiden title on the IGU Amateur Tour while Ankur settled for the runner-up spot, just a shot behind.

Another Bengaluru youngster Udayan Mane, who trailed the leader by four strokes, stumbled in the final



Trishul Chinnappa poses with his maiden trophy after winning the Tata Steel Southern India Amateur golf championship on Friday.

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round with a 5-over 77 to end up third. Ainesh Ahluwalia finished fourth at 290 while Jaibir Singh and Manu Gandas shared the fifth place at 292. Aman Raj was seventh at 293 while Vikram Rana was eighth at 294.

"I am thrilled to win my maiden title. I am elated that I achieved the feat in front of my home crowd," said Trishul after his narrow, yet thrilling victory.

"I had not envisaged a threat from Ankur. I thought Udayan would go all out and was considering a late charge from him," said the winner.

"I felt my game was

shattering a bit but the chip-in birdie on the ninth gave me the confidence," he signed off.

Final scores (after 72 holes)

284 - Trishul Chinnappa (69, 72, 67, 76); 285 - Ankur Chadha (72, 76, 69, 68); 289 - Udayan Mane (71, 71, 70, 77); 290 - Ainesh Ahluwalia (72, 75, 69, 74); 292 - Jaibir Singh (74, 77, 67, 74); Manu Gandas (74, 72, 73, 73); 293 Aman Raj (71, 72, 74, 76); 294 - Vikram Rana (72, 75, 70, 77); 295 - Samarth Dwivedi (72, 78, 74, 71); 296 - Pratap Atwal (75, 71, 75, 75); 297 - Hemendra Chaudhary (73, 75, 70, 79); Nikhil S Sekhawat (71, 78, 71, 77); 299 - Syed Saqib Ahmed (75, 72, 74, 78); 299 - Piyush Sangwan (73, 78, 74, 74); 300 - Advait Luthra (72, 78, 73, 77); Lokesh Lakshman (74, 74, 78, 74)