

Trishul tops despite Chadha charge

Ankur Gives Champ A Scare With 4-Under 68

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: Despite shooting a poor closing four-over 76, Trishul Chinnappa managed to score a thrilling wire-to-wire victory for his maiden success at home in the Tata Steel Southern India Amateur Golf Championship on a drama-filled day at the KGA here on Friday.

It has been the 19-year-old's dream to win at his home course or long. But Gurgaon's Ankur Chadha, nine shots behind the leader at the start of the day, very

nearly dashed the homeboy's hopes with a stunning round of four-under 68. But even as the officials were gearing up for a play-off, Chadha, playing a group ahead and tied for the lead, three-putted the 18th hole to fall one behind. Trishul may have struggled on the day, but pulled off two brilliant shots on the two closing holes and a great putt on the

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16th under pressure to notch up a dramatic one-shot victory over Chadha.

Trishul finished with an aggregate of four-under 284. Udayan Mane (77), four behind the leader going into the final round and in second spot, failed to get going on the day to finish three shots behind Chadha in third place on 289. "I've been dreaming of this day for a long time and it feels special to win here,"



Syed Asif

MAIDEN SUCCESS: Trishul Chinnappa with the winner's spoils in Bangalore on Friday

said an elated Trishul. "Everybody at the KGA are so supportive and winning is a way of repaying them."

At the halfway stage though, it appeared that a win would just remain a dream as Trishul struggled with his game and appeared a bundle of nerves. He dropped shots on the third, fifth and eighth holes to slip to five-under for the tournament. He holed from the bunker for a birdie on the ninth, but the struggle continued on the back nine.

Trishul bogeyed the 11th and 12th holes as well to see his lead being whittled down to one shot with six holes to go. Chadha had birdied the 10th, 11th and 13th holes. He had picked up two shots on the front nine as well.

On fire now and sensing an unlikely victory, Chadha was unlucky to see his birdie putts lip out on the 15th, 16th and 17th holes. It was all over bar the shouting when he missed an eight-foot putt for par on the closing hole. Given

a lifeline, Trishul, who sank an 8-footer earlier to save par on the 16th, and the 17th after finding the fairway bunker, came up with a brilliant second shot on the 18th hole to roars from the crowd.

The caddies celebrated when Trishul uncorked a superb 5-iron second shot between the trees and a light post to reach the green in two. He then two-putted for par to raise his arms in celebration. "I thought Mane was the only threat and never expected Ankur to nearly pull it off," Trishul, who admitted to being nervous at the start, said.

Final scores: 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:** Samartha Dwivedi (72, 78, 74, 71); **296:** Pratap Atwal (75, 71, 75, 75).