

# It's CLT+ALT+DEL for Gangjee

Rahil Gangjee seeks to block out emotions as he charts a new course with a clean slate every day

Pranjal Protim Boruah  
pranjal.boruah@timesgroup.com

It took a moment of brilliance – four birdies in the final five holes in the final stage of the Asian Tour Qualifying School in Thailand – that saved talented Rahil Gangjee from the ignominy of no international tour card for the year.

After unsuccessfully trying his luck for two years at the web.com tour in US, it could have been a heartbreak for the Kolkata-based professional.

Life in the US was surely never easy. "It needs a lot of travelling. Mostly you are alone. It is easier said than done," the 34-year-old had told *Mirror* last year. Though Gangjee has the privilege of his extremely supporting wife Maithreyi, who used to travel with him, the emotional vacuum was surely too much for him.

It was the emotion, Gangjee felt, affecting his game. "It struck me two years back at Tollygunge (during PGTI Players Championship)," he said yesterday. "I was nine-under after the end of the first day and then I had one-over round on the second day," he revealed, adding, "I was disappointed as I know this course as back of my hand. I started in this course. But then it struck that I was perhaps overwhelmed with emotions."

And then, Gangjee started his 'process'. "It is then I decided not to remember my rounds, shots or anything from the preceding day," he said, adding "it was far from easy. But I worked closely with my mental conditioning coach Pradeep Aggarwal and



BOGOTA, COLOMBIA - MARCH 05: Rahil Gangjee of India hits off the twelfth tee during the second round of the Pacific Rubiales

now I can go blank completely. I can clean the slate at the end of the day and start afresh again," said the golfer.

When asked if 'deleting his memories' also had the danger of deleting his success stories from earlier day, Gang-

jee further explained his concept.

"The whole idea is to black out the memories, the emotions. I knew there is a danger so I keep a book where I write down my good shots. In a way I am not losing the knowledge of the

shots I played in a particular hole," he revealed. "I know the experience (of playing in a certain hole matters) and the book helps me revisit the shots without the risk of carrying the emotions," Gangjee explained.

The process however is not new for me. "As a budding golfer I was made to take a note of my shots that I played in the day. I had this habit but it is just now that I started to maintain the book," he added.

His newfound process appeared to come handy yesterday, when Gangjee played a three-under round that helped him move up 21 places to be tied eighth with former champion Gaganjeet Bhullar and the USA's Daniel IM at the end of the second round of The Gujarat Kenville Challenge.

Starting the day at 10th hole, Gangjee hit birdie in his second hole and added two more on the 13th and 14th hole to finish the front nine at three-under.

He had a cautious start in the back nine, before two back-to-back bogies in the sixth and seventh hole pegged him back. However, he pulled himself with two successive birdies in his final holes to end the day at three-under.

Scotsman Andrew McArthur had a sedate three-under round to lead the pack with eight-under while Shiv Kapur led the Indian charge to be placed at tied second with six-under at the end of the round.

## LEADERBOARD

1. Andrew McArthur 8-under 136;
2. Shiv Kapur 6-under 138;
3. Tim Sluiter, Agustin Domingo and Wallace Booth 5-under 139;
6. Victor Riu and Andrea Pavan 4-under 140;
8. Gaganjeet Bhullar, Rahil Gangjee, Daniel IM 3-under 141

# 'God must be crazy! He's hitting it straight'

After making the nation fall with his batting skills, Sachin Tendulkar woos legions of fans in the city with his golf skills; son Arjun plays cricket at Motera

Ahmedabad Mirror Bureau  
am.sports@indiatimes.com

Thwatt! The sound – and sight – of the god himself hitting the drive surprised many. At the Kenville Golf and Country Club, where the Sachin Tendulkar descended, it was absolute madness as hordes of people queued up to catch a glimpse of the batting maestro.

"God must be crazy. Driving is one of the most difficult aspects of the game and this man is hitting it straight. Are you sure he doesn't play golf?" a golfer enquired with *Mirror* after being told about the fuss. "He might be a cricketer but he surely can play golf. A lot of them play ain't it?" said the golfer. That was the suggestion as made when Tendulkar sat down to talk to the media. Despite a gag on asking questions on cricket, Tendulkar played it with a straight bat, "I



don't play golf on a regular basis, but yes on occasions I do catch up with friends and mates over golf."

"Be it cricket or golf, I like to hit the ball. The sound of hitting the ball gives an immense satisfaction," he added.

You can take the man out of cricket, but you can't take cricket out of the

man. When asked whether he had ever played a cricket shot that resembles golf, Tendulkar was honest. "At some point of time, I might have played a shot that looked like a golf shot. There is definitely some sort of similarity between batting and golf shot, especially while swinging," he explained.

Tendulkar also connected the two games on the mental level. "When you play any sport on the competitive level you need to have mental toughness. It is difficult to have a vision to come out of difficult period," he said.

"There are times when you will find bowlers dominating you. You need to have the mental toughness to come out of that phase. I think it's similar in golf also as you need to be consistent over all 18 holes," he explained.

Though he made an interesting observation, it appeared that Tendulkar had answered THE question that many in the media fraternity was so eager to hear – without even veneering near to it.

That also means his golf dreams will be on hold for some time. "I have no such plans as of now or in the near future. Maybe in future, but there is no decision as such for now," Tendulkar simmered any speculation on his fu-

ture. Golf took a second fiddle, as Tendulkar arrived for a religious ceremony on his plot at the club. Despite polite requests from the organisers, it appeared that Amdavadis were in no mood to relent as they took out their smartphones, iPods and tabs to record his every mood.

Suddenly, everyone forgot that a prestigious European Challenge Tour event was being conducted at the club.

For the record, Tendulkar scored his maiden double ton – a 217 against New Zealand in the third Test in 1999 at Sardar Patel Gujarat Stadium at Motera. When asked whether he visited his son, who was part of the Mumbai under-14 team playing West Zone league tournament, Tendulkar answered in negative. The dotting father has his reason, "I haven't visited him yet. I want to leave him alone. He needs to enjoy his freedom and I need to let him enjoy the game."