

# ON THE TREADED PATH

**After leading the field at the end of third round in Gujarat Kensville Challenge, Rahil Gangjee finds himself on a familiar path**



Maximilian Kieffer

the Indian charge at the tournament. And at the end of the final round, they found themselves in a familiar territory.

Shiv Kapur faltered, a story that has

been

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**I**t was not the road not taken, but the beaten track that Rahil Gangjee found himself after taking a stroke lead on the penultimate round in Gujarat Kensville Challenge on Saturday. At Kensville Golf and Country Club, Rahil had a tumultuous one-over for the day but still managed to hold on to the lead at six-under.

Under windy conditions, US' Dodge Kemmer and Maximilian Kieffer of Germany shot two-under for the day to be tied second, at five-under.

However, it was seasoned Phillip Archer of England who tamed the conditions with four-under for the day to position himself for his fourth Challenge Tour title.

## INDIAN CHALLENGE

The mind, however, reverberated with the thoughts of two golfers who led

often been repeated across the nations, when he needed to hold on. Perhaps it was the wind, perhaps it was the pressure but the effect was telling, as usual.

After holding on too far for the first seven hole, Kapur double bogeyed the eighth but handed the lead to Gangjee despite a birdie in the ninth.

Gangjee, on the other hand, also had a par front nine with three birdies and equal number of bogeys.

## TURNING POINT

The equation changed in the back nine, where Gangjee shot a birdie in the 15th before hitting a bogey and double in the next two hole. Gangjee, however, ended the day on a high with a birdie in the final hole.

Pressure was eminent as Kapur struggled with the wind and hard greens. He went on to bogey the 11th, 13th and 14th to fell behind. The double bogey at the 18th symbolised what

is common in these days – failing to live up to his own high standards.

## THAT FAMILIAR FEELING

It won't be the first time that Gangjee will be leading the field going into the final round. In recent past, he was leading the field at the European Tour's Avantha Masters in 2010 and Nationwide Tour's Albertsons Boise in 2011.

However, since Volkswagen Masters-China, in his rookie Asian Tour year in 2004, Gangjee is yet to register a win outside the country.

A man with unflustered approach to the game, Gangjee invokes golf legend Jack Nicklaus as he seeks to break the jinx.

"I know what it is to be in the lead on the last day of a tournament. Many top players suffered the same fate. But I have learnt from it," Gangjee said at the end of the day.

"As Jack Nicklaus puts it: 'Have fun



and learn to become comfortable being uncomfortable,'" he shared his mantra.

## KEY TO SUCCESS

While very few will admit to pressure, the 33-year-old seems to have no qualms about it. "Of course, there will be nervousness. I am a little nervous too," he said, adding, "it is only natural when you are in the lead."

It is this nervousness that Gangjee will be looking to overcome, as he seeks to break his title drought.

## Niraj, Siddharth shine for CBC Ahmedabad

**G**ood all-round show by CBC Ahmedabad helped them thrash Kheda by a huge margin of 171 runs in Reliance Inter-District Cricket Tournament.

Winning the toss, CBC elected to bat at Motera 'C' on Saturday. Outstanding display by Niraj Patel (99), notable contribution by Rajdeep Darbar (63) and unbeaten Rujul Bhatt (58) helped the team to post a total of 297. Though Swapnil Patel and Vijay Gadhwani took three and two wickets respectively, it didn't help the opponents to restrict their scores. Kumar Sambhav (70) was the only major contributor for the losing side. The batting line-up of Kheda folded up for a mere 126. Siddharth Dave was the star for CBC as he grabbed six wickets. **AM**

## Twist in tale favours Kahaani

**T**he pendulum of fortune swung in favour of the beaten semi-finalists and Kahaani made most of it after they won the U-18 Sintex Cup on Saturday.

Kahaani and YCC Rajkot lost their semi-final matches against Ranger's Football Club and Mehsana United Football Club respectively.

While the Mehsana club was dis-

qualified after being probed for the presence of an over-age player, Ranger's were found to have added new players to their squad that increased their strength to 17, one more than the maximum number of players allowed.

Though they were given the chance to replay their match, they failed to show up. Kahaani made most of it as they beat YCC Rajkot 3-1 in the final.

YCC took the lead through

Manan Sharma in the 31st minute but Sushil Punkear equalised for the home team in the 37th minute. Malhaar Jalgaonkar (40th) then increased the lead while Sushil sealed the issue in the 61st minute.

Meanwhile, Anand Niketan overcame Nameless 11, 5-3, in tie-breakers for the under-15 title while Barca Football Club and YCC Rajkot will vie for the honours in under-13 category. **AM**

## Spandan CC script easy win

**S**pandan CC brushed aside Modi CC six wickets in Indian Bank Cup (Minor) one-day tournament on Saturday. Modi CC won the toss and elected to bat at C N Vidyalay

ground. Jesal Shah and Kishan Sarvaiya were the stars for Spandan CC as they picked three and two wickets respectively. They restricted Modi CC to 115 in 31.2 overs. Rushi Panchal was the only saving grace

with 41 for Modi CC. Unbeaten Mohit Shah (36) and Manthan Patel (25) helped Spandan CC to raise 117 for four in 23.1 overs. Het Mehta picked three wickets for Modi CC. **AM**

## Nat level chess meet in Rajkot from Feb 6

**A** national level FIDE rating tournament is being organised by Gasiford Chess Club, Rajkot, from February 6 to 12. The tournament will be held at Jyoti CNC Automation sports complex at Methoda village, and as many as 250 players are likely to participate in it.

Entry will offered on first come first served basis. Interested players can contact Upendra Patel (9979862231) or Kaushik Solanki (9909777666). The organiser will arrange for board and lodging for the players.

The winner will get Rs 30,000, first runner-up will receive Rs 25,000 and the second runner-up will take home Rs 20,000, an official release said.

As many as 40 top finishers will get a prize of Rs 750 each. **AM**