

SO NEAR, YET SO FAR

Title was Rahil Gangjee's to take, but Maximilian Kieffer held on to his nerve to win Gujarat Kensville Challenge

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Despite some twists in the tale, the ending remained the same for Rahil Gangjee as Maximilian Kieffer edged him out in the playoffs to win the Gujarat Kensville Challenge 2012 on Sunday.

"It went both ways. At one point I thought it was mine," Gangjee later said at the Kensville Golf and Country Club.

DRAMA UNFOLDED

The drama unfolded in the eighth hole where Gangjee suffered a bogey. Playing in the leadergroup, Kieffer, who started a shot behind, fell further behind with a bogey in the fifth. But the 21-year-old surged ahead with birdies in the 6th, 7th and 9th hole.

The Indian pro then lifted the home hopes with 10th, 12th, 13th and 14th, while his German group mate suffered bogeys in 10th and 13th. From greenkeepers to 'golf experts', the verdict was written – in the land of his ancestors, Gangjee will break his title draught.

GAME-CHANGER

However, destiny had different plans. Gangjee's old frailty appeared again when he bogeyed 15th and 16th holes and saw his rival scoring birdies in 14th and 16th. "16th hole was the turning point of the game," Kieffer declared. "The 16th was the game changer. It's difficult to be aggressive



Rahil Gangjee

after that," Gangjee added. It was all over when Gangjee found his second shot, in the playoff, into the water hazard. "I was desperate to put it right but I did not have a good stance. It was just bad luck as I hit the lip and the ball went into the water," he said after the shot that ended it all.

NO REGRETS

Taking the time back to 2010 when he lost on the final day of the Avantha Masters, there was a different side of him to see. While at Avantha Masters, Gangjee kept it to himself but at the Kensville Golf and Country Club, he surprised the ones who knew him as he mingled with the crowd, signing autographs and posing for pictures after his loss. His positive attitude despite the loss was refreshing.

"I played solid but I also played some bad shots. However, I have no regrets about



Maximilian Kieffer with the trophy

the decisions that I made this week," Gangjee said.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

With Gangjee's impressive beginning at the start of the back nine, a victory was not in Kieffer's mind. But as he said, "Expect the unexpected and so I always keep trying."

His attitude paid off after the birdie in the 16th hole that levelled the scores and pushed for a playoff. Rest, as they say, is history. "Of course, there were a few nerves on the inside, but I was delighted with how I coped mentally," said the golfer who won his maiden European Challenge Tour title.

Incidentally, Kieffer was supposed to come to India two years ago for the Bonallack Cup – an amateur event between Europe and Asia-Pacific teams. However, the young German made his maiden Indian tour a memorable one.



ELECTRONIC MEDIA WIN CRICKET TOURNEY

Electronic Media won Indian Oil-Gujarat Media Club cricket tournament-2012, defeating Print English squad by eight wickets in the final at Sardar Patel Stadium on Sunday. Indian Oil Deputy General Manager Jaspal Singh presented the winner's trophy to Electronic Media team. Earlier, Print Media got the better of Media Associates while Electronic Media battered Print Language. The finale also saw a lot of sports and other fun events for the kids and other family members of the participating members.

M K win U-16 GLS school tourney

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MK Secondary and Higher Secondary school thrashed Hiramani by virtue of the first innings lead of 284 runs in the three-day final of Under-16 GLS school tournament. M K won the toss and elected to bat at Motera 'B' ground. Jash Patel (138) and

Jay Mori (145) were the stars of the match with a 194-run partnership to post a massive 488 runs. Hiramani bowlers struck too late to take the crucial wickets. M K tight bowling bundled out Hiramani for 204 runs. Jaydev Parmar (123) was the only saving grace after Hiramani was forced to follow on. Harsh Shastri gave nightmares to Hiramani as he picked five wickets for 46 runs.