

Mane, Carballo take opening-day honours

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Udayan Mane made a sensational return to the Garden City with an opening seven-under 63 in the inaugural \$75,000 Louis Philippe Cup, an Asian Development Tour, at the Prestige Golfshire on the city outskirts on Tuesday.

The former Bengalorean, who moved to Ahmedabad a year ago, shot a bogey-free round to join former PGA Tour player Miguel Carballo of Argentina atop the leaderboard. American Sam Gillis, Om Prakash S Chouhan and Divyanshu Bajaj were tied third, two strokes further back.

Solid off the tee and untroubled on the large and quick greens, the 27-year-old Mane made scoring look so easy on a windswept day. The only thing that seemed to bother the tall pro was the intermittent showers in the morning. Having broken his umbrella recently, Mane used a towel to shield himself.

Coming off a tied sixth-place finish at the Indonesian Open two weeks ago, Mane was spot on with his game from the word go. A 10th tee starter, the Indian ace had a hat-trick of birdies from the 11th hole. He holed a 10-footer for his first birdie, nailed his lob-wedge second shot on the 12th and was two on the green on the par-5, 13th-hole and two-putted for his third birdie.



LOOKING GOOD: Udayan Mane

He had a tough save for par on the 16th, originally a par-5 but shortened to make it tougher for the seasoned pros. He had another tough par on the first where he went from the fairway bunker to the greenside bunker before holing a 10-footer.

On the his back nine, Mane picked up shots on the second and fourth, where he nailed the pins with his second shot, and sank two long putts (20-footers) on the seventh and ninth for a brilliant day in the office. "I was good off the tee and putted even better," Mane said of his round.

Carballo too, was solid with his putting. But he didn't leave himself any long putts as he nailed his approaches. The 39-year-old, who has registered five top-10s on the ADT in six starts, continued in the same vein. His lone blemish came on the tricky 16th hole.