

Kapur four shots clear of the field

McArthur Second, Followed By Archer, Sluiter

Ajit Bezbaruah | TNN

Pix: Yogesh Chavda

Ahmedabad: Shiv Kapur doesn't remember the last time he went into the final day of a tournament with such a lead. But he has done well to remind others that he is man to hunt for as the Indian shot into sole lead with 13 under 203, coming after a new course record of seven under 65 in the third round of the Gujarat Kenville Challenge 2013 played at the Kenville Golf and Country Club on Saturday.

Like the first day, Kapur had another bogey-free round on Saturday with a birdie in the first hole which set the tone for the day.

He had birdies in the third, fourth, sixth and ninth hole on front nine and started back nine with a birdie in the 10th and another on the 14th while scoring at par on the rest.

"I got off to a good start today that sort of set the tone for the whole day, made couple of putts early in my round with three birdies in my first four, and was no looking back after that," said Kapur after another successful day under the sun.

Kapur was six under after the 10th hole and could have increased the tally but he decided to take an aggressively conservative approach without dropping any shot to stay at the top.

"I wasn't really disappointed with the way things went after the 10th hole. I shot the course record and there were a lot of holes where you could have slipped, but I didn't drop any shots. Obviously I would have liked to pick up one in 17th or 18th but as I said I didn't actually do anything wrong. In the 17th, I thought I



Shiv Kapur in action; (right) Tim Sluiter lines up a putt on Day Three of the Gujarat Kenville Challenge on Saturday

Tim Sluiter (70) was lying fourth at seven-under 209. First round leader Agustin Domingo was tied fifth with three others at five-under. Mukesh Kumar (68) and Peter Uihlein, the 2010 US

of unbelievable up and downs which kept it ticking for him."

On his own game, the 33-year-old said, "I actually played really well. I definitely didn't putt as well as previous days and had three three-putts from the fringe so that was disappointing. I just need to get off to a quick start now, do the same as I did on the first day, when I got a few 30 footers and hit it a few stiff to the pin. You want to be within a couple going into the back nine to get amongst it. I'm not 100 per confident in my lines with the grain on the greens but I'm picking a line and going with it and if they go in they go in."

Amateur champion, were tied at ninth at four-under 212.

McArthur was all praise for Kapur, as he said, "Shiv didn't miss a chance today and I just left too many out there but tomorrow is another day. I seemed to get really tired out there but I played good golf for the most part. Shiv just played great. He had a couple

'I want to be in charge of my own destiny'

Ajit Bezbaruah | TNN

Ahmedabad: After taking a big lead after round three, Shiv Kapur now looks to stay positive, play aggressive golf and extend that lead so much that he doesn't have to depend too much on the performance of his competitors to shape his destiny.

"I think I want to be in charge of my own destiny and not really leave it in the hands of my competitors. So I will look to just go out there and play like the way I have played the last three days. If somebody can shoot something crazy low like 62 or 63, good luck to them," said Kapur and added: "My goal will be to extend the lead, that's the way I have approached it, not to defend the lead. I have found from past experience that if you try to defend the lead you tend to get defensive and get away from your natural gameplan. So the idea is to stay positive and stay aggressive."

"It is always nice to have a lead, it is better than chasing. I know everybody would be coming hard at me but it is a kind of course that can give a lot of birdies and at the same time you hit one or two bad shots others can catch up with you in a hurry and so you have to keep doing the same thing right over and over again. I have got my own target of what I need to shoot, and I have just go out keep making birdies and do what I have been



doing, not really pay too much attention to the what others are doing. If I can shoot 67 or 68 tomorrow I don't think anyone can

catch me," said the leader.

"The pin positions were not that easy on Saturday either but when you are playing well and shooting something like seven under you don't find the pins hard. But I won't say they were easy flags, couple of them I thought were quite approachable, which they could have made a bit trickier, but you always have to do that because Saturday they like to see a lot more volatility of movement in the scoreboard and you get more friendlier pins and come tomorrow, they will be pretty tough where a lot of strategy comes into play," said Kapur and added: "I think it is the lack of wind which resulted in lot of four under or five under scores. Friday, I think, was the toughest of all three days. I left a few shots out there on Friday but that's what golf is all about, it is not a sprint, it is a marathon and you need to be patient, minimize the mistakes and put yourself in any position because you never know when you can get caught."

He was also happy with the way the greens behaved this year.

GUJARAT KENVILLE CHALLENGE 2013

had a perfect putt but it didn't drop," said Kapur. "I didn't have a figure in mind after the 10th, that I am six under and now I need to get to nine or 10. I just kept playing golf and so it added up in the end."

Behind Kapur was overnight leaner Andrew McArthur (71) and Philip Archer (66).

