

Lahiri maintains lead

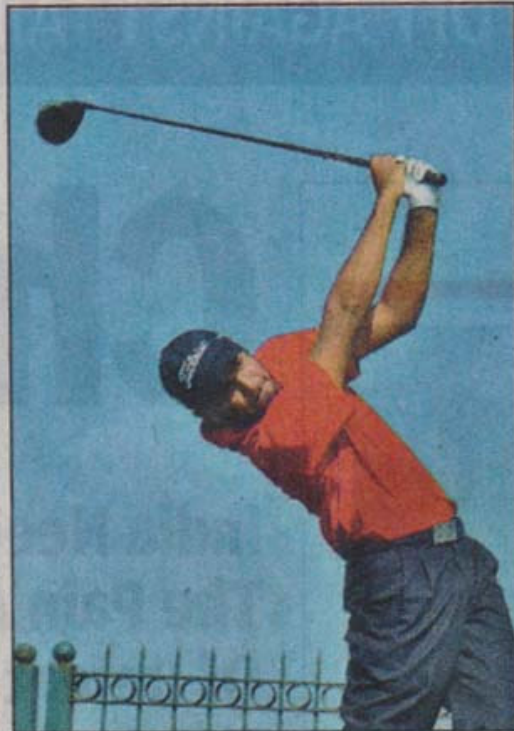
Lohan Two Shots Behind In 2nd Place

Ajit Bezbaruah | TNN

Ahmedabad: Overnight leader Anirban Lahiri continued to be in sole lead as 55 professionals and three amateurs made the cut, which fell at seven-over 151, in the Ahmedabad Masters PGTI Super Series event at the Kalhaar Blues and Greens course here on Thursday.

Ahmedabad's 15-year-old Varun Parikh was one of three amateurs to make the cut. He shot 75 each in the two rounds to be placed tied 48th at the half-way stage. Parikh made two birdies and five bogeys in his second round.

Lahiri didn't have as smooth a sailing as on the opening day but managed to post two-under-70 to be two strokes ahead at 10-under-134. Lahiri, who started from the back-nine with the wind slowly picking up towards the after-



Abhinav Lohan

noon, had an indifferent round and had four birdies but also dropped a triple-bogey on the 14th. He came back well with two long birdie putts on the 15th and 16th.

Panchkula's Angad Cheema, who was second overnight, is tied third at four-under-140. So is Chandigarh's Sujjan Singh who came from one-over-73 to fire the day's best score of 67. Kolkata's Rahil Gangjee shot three-under-69 to

add to his first-round score of one-under-71. Kanishk Madan of Delhi and Mhow golfer Om Prakash Chouhan both had identical first and second-round scores (67 on Day 1 and 73 on Day 2) and remained tied third.

But the star of the day was Faridabad's Abhinav Lohan, who carded four-under for the second successive day to be second with eight-under-136. Lohan, joint sixth overnight, didn't start well as he bogeyed the first and ninth holes, but had birdies on the seventh and eighth. He started the back-nine with a bogey but birdied the 12th, 14th, 16th, 17th and 18th to jump to second place.

Local boy Parikh was also elated. "It feels great to make the cut in my very first appearance in a professional event and that too in the presence of such big names in the field. I sank a 30-footer for birdie on the 17th today and holed a 10-foot putt for my other birdie on the ninth. I've been striking it well over the last two days and that has helped me earn my place in the final two rounds."