

Young Asian stars to the fore

2009/08/07

ASIA'S rising stars Noh Seung Yul of South Korea and Thailand's Kiradech Aphibarnrat shared the limelight after taking the joint second round lead at the Worldwide Holdings Selangor Masters yesterday.

The 18-year-old Noh and Kiradech, 20, shot a three-under 68 and 70 respectively to head the pack with their two-day total of seven-under 135 at the Seri Selangor Golf Club.

The duo lead by one stroke from South Africa's James Kamte and Malaysian Shaaban Hussin in the RM1 million Asian Tour tournament. Kamte stayed in the hunt with a battling 70 while Shaaban produced a 69 to fly the local flag.

Australian Mitchell Brown, Taiwanese veteran Lu Chien-soon and another Malaysian, S. Siva Chandhran lie in tied fifth position on 137, going into the final two rounds.

"Overall, I am happy with my game but it is still too early to be excited because it is only the second day. I'm looking forward to do better in the final two days," said Noh.

The burly Kiradech, a former world junior amateur champion, could have taken sole lead but double bogeyed the 18th hole after sending an errant drive into the water hazard.

The Asian Tour rookie is still confident of producing his career breakthrough.

"I was aiming for the right side of the fairway on the 18th hole but it went too far right," lamented Kiradech. "I'm just going to keep going for the next two days."

Overnight leader Danny Chia of Malaysia, still suffering from flu, slipped back to tied 30th place after a 77 while title holder Ben Leong is in joint 55th place on 144.

Leading scores, 2nd round:

135 - Noh Seung-yul (Kor) 67-68, Kiradech Aphibarnrat (Tha) 65-70; 136 - James Kamte (SA) 66-70, Shaaban Hussin (Mas) 67-69; 137 - Lu Chien-soon (Tpe) 71-66, S. Siva Chandhran (Mas) 69-68, Mitchell Brown (Aus) 68-69; 138 - Gaurav Ghei (Ind) 71-67, Iain Steel (Mas) 66-72, Bae Sang-moon (Kor) 69-69, Guido Van Der Valk (Ned) 73-65, Kim Dae-hyun (Kor) 73-65, Marcus Both (Aus) 70-68; 139 - Muhammad Munir (Pak) 73-66, Andrew Dodt (Aus) 69-70, Rick Kulacz (Aus) 68-71, Son Joon-eob (Kor) 73-66