

Kim keeps lead on Garcia in Tour Championship

By Doug Ferguson

ATLANTA — Thanks to the cup, the Tour Championship finally might be worth watching.

No, not the FedEx Cup. Six days after Anthony Kim routed Sergio Garcia in the opening singles match at the Ryder Cup, two of golf's most dynamic young players square off again in the third round at East Lake.

Kim had to settle for a 1-under 69 yesterday after making bogey from the bunker, giving him a two-shot lead over Garcia and putting them in the final pairing today at the Tour Championship.

This is not match play. There are 36 holes remaining. At stake is \$1.26 million, not a 17-inch gold trophy to share. Besides, it was only a month ago that they played together the first two rounds of the PGA Championship.

Even so, the fact they are playing together so close to the Ryder Cup figures to bring the Tour Championship to life.

"We had one day of golf — really, 14 holes of golf," Kim said, trying to downplay the pairing and instead drawing laughter for his veiled reference of a 5-and-4 victory at Valhalla.

Kim was at 7-under 133, and while he will have a 2-up lead of sorts today at East Lake, the momentum might lie with Garcia. He was 4 over through his first six holes of the tournament, rallied for a 70, then followed that with nearly flawless play for a 65.

Not to be forgotten was Kim's tag-team partner from the Ryder Cup — Phil Mickelson, who ran off five birdies over the last seven holes for a 68 that put him three shots behind.

Mike Weir of Bright's Grove, Ont., shot

a 69 to move into a fifth-place tie, six strokes out.

There's more at stake than just a big cheque and an elite title for the winner. Mickelson, Garcia and Kim are the top contenders to win the Vardon Trophy for the lowest adjusted scoring average on the PGA Tour.

"We still have a lot of golf left this weekend that will probably decide it," Mickelson said.

They were among six players in the 30-man field who managed to break par over two days, joined by Camilo Villegas (66) at 2-under 138, and K.J. Choi (70) and Weir at 139.

Even without their recent Ryder Cup history, Kim and Garcia are two of golf's most dynamic young players. Both can energize the crowd with their personalities, and they are loaded with talent.

Both consider the Ryder Cup history.

"It's Saturday of the Tour Championship," Garcia said. "It's a totally different event. Tomorrow is an important day to give yourself a chance on Sunday. You're not going to win the tournament tomorrow unless you shoot 52."

Kim, whose opening 64 was eight shots better than the field average, looked as though he might go even lower when he stuffed his approach inside three feet on the first hole and hit two more approaches inside six feet through five holes.

But he made enough mistakes — a pair of three-putt bogeys on the front nine — to keep enough players in range.

"I feel pretty positive about shooting under par on this golf course and not feeling like I got a lot out of my game," he said.

The Associated Press

Ochoa one stroke back at Navistar

The Associated Press

PRATTVILLE, Ala. — Recharged after a month off, Lorena Ochoa shot her second straight 5-under 67 yesterday to move within a stroke of leader Janice Moodie halfway through the Navistar LPGA Classic.

The top-ranked Ochoa is making her first start since tying for sixth in the Safeway Classic on Aug. 24, her fourth top-seven finish in a row, but seventh straight winless start. She opened the year with six wins in nine starts, including four straight.

Moodie followed her opening 66 with a 67 on the links-style Senator Course at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's Capitol Hill complex. The Scot won the last of her two LPGA Tour titles in 2002.

Jill McGill shot a 69 to match Ochoa at 10 under.

Michele Redman was 9 under after a 65, and Christina Kim (66) and Song-Hee Kim (68) were 8 under. McDonald's LPGA Championship winner Yani Tseng (66) was another stroke back along with Safeway champion Cristie Kerr (71) and Ji Young Oh (70).

Maria Hjorth, the winner last year in the inaugural event, followed her opening 76 with a 68 to easily make the cut at 4 under.

Hamilton's Alena Sharp shot 2 under and sits in a tie for 55th at even-par. Calgary's Cindy Pasechnik shot a 3-over 75 and sits tied for 101st while Lorie Kane, of Charlottetown, shot 2 over to finish at 5 over.

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Having enough doctors is essential to every community, especially one looking to attract new and educated people to join its workforce.

The inaugural Waterloo Region's Vital Signs report, a snapshot on the quality of life in our community, told us that Waterloo Region has one of the lowest numbers of physicians per capita with 128 per 100,000 people.

Unfortunately, we are not alone in this dilemma. There are several other similar sized urban centres also suffering from doctor shortages. And, like many of those communities, Waterloo Region has placed an ongoing and concerted effort on improving those numbers.

To start, we have the new Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine. The medical school actively encourages and provides incentives for its students to remain in Waterloo Region after their training is complete.

Family Health Teams are popping up all over the Region. These teams allow nurse practitioners and other medical professionals to take care of commonplace ailments allowing the practicing physician to focus on the more pressing and complicated medical concerns of his/her patients.

With the establishment of the Doctor Recruitment Task Forces, our local Chambers of Commerce have very focused recruitment initiatives that have been successfully attracting physicians to practice in our Region each year.

Waterloo Region can also be seen as a role model for other communities. With the establishment of the Integrated Primary Care Clinic, the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy has partnered with McMaster's Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine to allow pharmacy students to train alongside medical students. This program is the first of its kind in North America. This type of training provides further opportunities for learning and development that wouldn't necessarily be covered in regular learning.

Healthcare is an important part of our community's vitality. Let's continue to support the local Chambers of Commerce with the important work they've already begun and our new medical school — with hopes that medical students who train here, stay here.

Waterloo Region's Vital Signs is an annual checkup through which The Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation and the Cambridge & North Dumfries Community Foundation measure the vitality of our Region, identify significant trends, and invite community supporters to assign grades in 11 key areas critical to Waterloo Region's quality of life.

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