

Harradine on the cusp of qualifying for final stage of Asian Tour Qualifying School

Dubai-based Michael Harradine was on the verge of qualifying for the final stage of the Asian Tour Qualifying School after a battling three-under par 69 round left him just one shot behind the leader at Suvarnabhumi Golf & Country Club in Thailand Friday.



Stage B of the Asian Tour Qualifying School is being held over two courses – Suvarnabhumi and Windsor Park Golf Club. The top-25 players and ties from Harradine's golf course make it to the Final Stage next week, while top-26 players and ties advance from Windsor Park.

After opening with a 66 and then going on top of the leaderboard with a sensational eight-under par 64 – his career-best round so far – on Thursday, Harradine added a bogey-free three-under par 69 to finish one shot behind Junhyeok Park of Korea at 17-under par 199.

Park traded six birdies against one bogey to sign for a 67 to tally 18-under par 198.

"I managed to scramble well today and hole important putts to save a lot of pars," said Harradine, a multiple Emirates Golf Federation Order of Merit champion.

The 33-year-old Swiss made birdies on the sixth, 10th and 11th holes, and even though the birdies dried up thereafter, he managed to keep his card clean by keeping the bogeys away.

Harradine has been showing good form recently, having won the Sharjah Open over Rayhan Thomas a couple of weeks ago.

Another Korean, Youngjea Byun, topped the leaderboard at Windsor Park.

Starting the day two shots back, Byun fired a six-under par 66 to lead by one shot over compatriot Songgyu Yoo, who also returned with a 66, on 13-under-par 203.

American Ryan McCormick stayed two shots off the pace in third place with overnight leader Kento Nakai of Japan.

The Final Stage will be played at Suvarnabhumi Golf & Country Club from January 11-14.