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# Glimmer of hope for champ

**DEFENDING** champion Mohd Wafiyuddin Abdul Manaf bounced back from a poor opening day on the second day at the Higher Education Ministry Chief Secretary's Cup yesterday.

Mohd Wafiyuddin, who on Thursday hit a disappointing 11-over 83, did well to fire two-under 70 yesterday and keep his title hopes alive going into the final round at the Rahman Putra Golf and Country Club today.

The Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) student is currently in fourth place with a 153 two-day total.

Muhammad Thaznim Hamdan, who carded a two-over 74 yesterday, retained his overall lead with a 148 total. Ahmad Zahir Abdul Ghani, who shot five-over 77, is second on 152 (on countback) while Amirul Aizat Abdul Bahar is third, also on 152, after managing one-over 73.

The trio are also from UUM.

Wafiyuddin, who lost the title on countback to Muhamad Shafiq Sai-

ful Anuar in 2011, said he believes he is still capable of clinching a second consecutive title in Sungai Buloh today.

"I had a lot of trouble with concentration due to the slow pace of the game yesterday (Thursday) but luckily, I managed to get my focus back," said the 22-year-old.

"My coach (Wan Rosni Wan Chik) told me not to think about things I cannot change and just focus on my own game.

"I did just that and it worked well for me.

"It will not be easy to overtake Muhammad Thaznim as he is five strokes ahead."

The women's competition saw no surprises as defending champion Hilferah Tan of UUM took a comfortable eight-stroke lead (153

from two days) when she carded five-over 77 yesterday.

International Islamic University Malaysia's Khairunhamisah Azlan Hanif retained second place overall (161) when she scored nine-over 81 while Nurul Atirah Abdullah of UUM, who managed 80 yesterday, is in third position on 162. **By Fadhli Ishak**