



Press Release

Wirszbitzki takes the glory

Gold medal in seniors 8-ball for German player

Friday, 12 August 2011: In a hotly contested final match, Reiner Wirszbitzki (GER) wrestled Zoltan Kocsza (HUN) down with a margin of 7:6.

The drama in the screenplay for the final match can hardly be enhanced. Here is what happened: Wirszbitzki got the better start, taking a quick 2:0 lead over Kocsza. He ran both racks without any mistake. Then he scratched on his own break. The next time he was able to approach the table, the score was 2:2. Kocsza has dealt him an adequate answer. The 5th rack was a turning point for Wirszbitzki. He broke the balls, ran the rack and had position on the 8-ball. But he missed it. "The 8-ball did not really go into the center of the pocket. It was a bit covered by my opponent's object ball. That's why I tried to play it into the left side of the pocket, but I aimed it too far left and therefore missed it", said Wirszbitzki in an interview after the match. "My power just went down. I had a long day playing pool and I needed to focus on my remaining energy."

Then the match went on with an odd order. The player who broke made a ball, ran all balls but the last one or ran out of position for the 8-ball, allowing the opponent back to the table and run out the rack. That happened five consecutive times until the score was 5:4 in favour of Kocsza. Then both players took a time out. "During the time-out I believed in my own strength and I knew I could still win this match. I would have the break in a possible 13th rack if it comes to that", said Wirszbitzki. But after both athletes arrived back from the time-out, Wirszbitzki made another position error and allowed Kocsza to get on the hill, taking a 6:4 lead over him.

Something must have happened with Wirszbitzki at that point in time since he really got back into gear, firing balls in and tying the match at 6:6, making it a hill-hill thriller.



European Champion 8-ball:
Reiner Wirszbitzki (GER)
Foto: EPBF/DK



www.dynamic-billard.de



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In the 13th rack, Wirszbicki had the break shot. He did not make any ball and Kojcsa found himself with an open table on the road to glory. But he got no position on his third last ball and had to play safety. Wirszbicki made some balls but then also missed his 3rd last ball. Kojcsa came back to the table, made two balls and missed his final object ball. At that point in time one could hear a pin drop in the audience. Tension was so real it could almost be physically felt. Wirszbicki tried to pocket a ball, missed and luckily hid the cue ball behind one of his remaining object balls. Kojcsa let his shoulders down. He knew: "That was it!" He tried to kick his last object ball in but failed to hit it at all. With ball in hand, Wirszbicki ran the remaining balls and won the final match with 7:6, becoming the new European Champion in Seniors 8-ball. "I am playing pool billiard since 34 years now. When I was on the podium for the first time in my life on the European level and heard the German national anthem being played for me, I had a shiver running down my spine, thinking that I had won an event with so many fine players and achieved the title of a European Champion for the first time in my life", said a happy Wirszbicki before leaving the press room with a smile.

Final standings in 8-ball:

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|----|-------------------|-----|
| 1. | Reiner Wirszbicki | GER |
| 2. | Zoltan Kojcsa | HUN |
| 3. | Pascal Budo | BEL |
| | David Plattner | SUI |
| 5. | Christian Ederl | AUT |
| | Manuel Pereira | POR |
| | Stefano Bazzana | ITA |
| | Steffen Gross | GER |

The European Championships are hosted by the European Governing Body for Pool, the European Pocket Billiard Federation (EPBF) and organized by International Billiard Promotion (IBP). For further information and reference please go to the federation website www.epbf.com, follow us on twitter @EPBF_News or contact our press office.



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