

STEIERMÄRKISCHER **GOLFCLUB MURHOF**

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Frohnleiten, Styria, Austria. Dramatic conclusions, marked by outstanding play, to both the boys' and girls' competitions unfolded in the third and final round of the 11th edition of the European Young Masters (EYM) golf in Austria's south-east near Graz. In the 95 player field of under-16s, 22 had sub-par scores on a difficult and wet Golf Club Murhof golf course.

Play was suspended for approximately two hours while storm rain swept the course, with the topseeded groups left on holes 1 to 4. courageous mop-up effort by local greens staff, play resumed at 14:45.

Intense competition followed despite the conditions. After the first nine, only four shots separated the 36hole tied top three-seeded girls with Carly Booth of Scotland taking the upper hand turning in 33. On the back nine, the tournament favourite and defending champion, Carlotta Ciganda of Spain, made her move carding four birdies to complete a four under 68. However, the day belonged to Saskia Hausladen of Germany. An inspiring two-under par 34 front nine, which placed her second, seemed to be merely a warm-up to the back nine, where she made six birdies. Her bogey-free round of 64 gave her the girls' title by four from Ciganda and seven from Booth, who played a very respectable final round 71 to take third.

Following a close contest on the previous two days, little still separated the top seeded boys following the front nine on the final day. Anders Kristensen (Norway) moved from equal third to first position turning in 33, with overnight leader, Pedro Figueiredo (Portugal), one further back. Victor Dubuisson (France) was another to advance his placing following a 34. He joined Maximilian Kiefer and Sean Einhaus of Germany in third, one behind Figueiredo.

As the back nine unfolded it was Dubuisson and Kiefer to advance. Both returned 33s on the final nine holes and took equal honours on a nine under total. Solid 36s from each of the other three contenders were not enough.

The sudden death playoff on Murhof's 18th hole began with Dubuisson's drive splitting the fairway. Kiefer's tee shot found rough left, still heavy from the day's rain. However, still with a clear shot to the par four, Kiefer's approach found the green. Dubuisson's second missed the putting surface only fractionally right, but with large, rolling mounds a feature of Murhof's greens, a tough third shot resulted. Unable to save his par, Kiefer made a routine two-putt to win the playoff and take the title of European Young Master - Boys.

With their success in the individual competition, no team was able to prevent Germany increasing their overnight lead in the Nation's Cup. The team of Nicola Rössler, Hausladen, Kiefer and Einhaus finished on 624 (-24; top three scores from four counting each day) to be comfortable winners from France (645) and Spain (646).

Scores:

Girls:

Saskia Hausladen (GER) 72 71 64 207 Carlota Ciganda (ESP) 72 71 68 211 Carly Booth (SCO) 70 73 71 214 Marta Silva (ESP) 72 73 71 216 Giulia Molinaro (ITA) 72 73 72 217 Laura Gonzales-Escallon (BEL) 79 71 69 219

Maximilian Kiefer (GER) 70 68 69 207 Victor Dubuisson (FRA) 69 71 67 207 (Kiefer won playoff) Anders Kristensen (NOR) 68 71 69 208 Pedro Figueiredo (POR) 66 70 73 209 Sean Einhaus (GER) 70 69 71 210

For the complete leader board see: http://www.golf.at/turniere/live_score.asp?clubnr=6 01&turniernr=317&a=netto

The standard of golf played here this week indicates that Europe will have a formidable Junior Ryder Cup Team to meet the United States at Celtic Manor in September. The team was selected today:

Girls:

Saskia Hausladen (GER) Carlota Ciganda (ESP) Carly Booth (SCO) Marta Silva (ESP) Giulia Molinaro (ITA) Laura Gonzales-Escallon (BEL)

Boys:

Maximilian Kiefer (GER) Victor Dubuisson (FRA) Anders Kristensen (NOR) Pedro Figueiredo (POR) Sean Einhaus (GER) Are Friestad (NOR)

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We look forward to the 2007 edition, hosted by France.

Richard Heath EGA Championship Manager

































