

World Cadet Challenge (WCC) 2016 Shanghai, China

1. Composition of the team Europe:

The European Team was this year composed of following persons:

- 1) **Anastasja Kolish (RUS)**
- 2) **Tanja Plaian (ROU)**
- 3) **Zdena Blaskova (CZE)**
- 4) **Anna Wegrzyn (POL)**
- 5) **Vladimir Sidorenko (RUS)**
- 6) **Carlo Rossi (ITA)**
- 7) **Maciej Kolodziejczyk (AUT)**
- 8) **Csaba Andras (HUN) – replaced injured Truls Moreghard (SWE) in the very last minute**
- 9) **Csila Batorfi (HUN) – coach**
- 10) **Marc Closet (BEL) - coach**
- 11) **Jarek Kolodziejczyk (POL) – Team Manager**



2. Preparation in Europe:

Most of the European delegation has gathered on Sunday, 16th of October in Schwechat (AUT). However, due to different objective reasons we could not spend the time until departure day (19th of October) all together which I personally, based on my experience from WCC Project in the past and analysing the on-going situation, was not the optimal

solution. Certainly the times have changed and players and coaches have nowadays more duties and obligations to cover (really full playing calendar, school obligations, duties in the daily basic work), but I believe, for the benefit of the whole project, which is clearly a part of common development and for the full benefit of the players as well, it could be very useful to try to be more streaked regarding the participation in the Cadet Challenge Project. I mean to present the whole activity ("Preparation Camp", "ITTF Camp-prior to WCC and Tournament itself) as one, demanding the participation of all involved from the very first moment. Having this as a basic we could probably arrive to Shanghai better prepared, avoiding some inconvenient issues and given more time to react properly when things are not always going in the perfect way.

I have to stress sincere thanks to Werner Schlager GmbH and its staff for providing us excellent conditions to practise in prepare for WCC in this short period.

3. Arriving to China, ITTF-Camp prior to tournament:

The traditional ITTF Training camp was being held prior to the tournament, this time under the guidance of Mr. Chen Bin (CHN), the coach of the Female World and Olympic Champion Ding Ning. For the players who have no previous WCC experience it is quite challenging mentally as it requires the understanding of the whole idea of it which is based among others on solidarity values and thus has not so much to do with a typical preparation before a big tournament. One practises each session together with different continental team, according to a certain content which is to be followed and on different times as days go by, so it takes an extra effort to stay focus and overcome jet lag to get the right rhythm. We struggled with this for a longer while, especially with our boys. Fortunately the Shanghai University Complex itself has provided very good conditions to adapt. Everything within walking distance, very good hotel room standard, reach choice of food and a small shopping centre have made it easier than expected. Just the rain seemed like never wanting to stop in the first couple of days and nights, but as time went by and umbrellas were provided we got used to this as well.

4. Tournament:

As all of the result are certainly well known I will only focus on some specific numbers and comments. European players have won all together nine medals (1x gold and 8x bronze) which is definitely a great achievement especially knowing that China as a host nation had its own team participating and even if it wasn't the strongest one they were definitely very competitive and demanding opponents. It has proved immediately in the team's event as we were unable to overcome the Asian opponents (both girls and boys) taking as a result 3rd place in both categories. At the same time throughout the whole tournament we were supreme to win almost all of the battles against other (than Asia) continents.

And it was Europe who clinched the only non-Asian gold medal and it should be definitely very positively underlined. Vladimir Sidorenko (RUS) and Maciej Kolodziejczyk (AUT) remained unbeaten in the doubles event overcoming on their way to gold both Asian double pairings. Actually all of our four doubles won medals what reflects also our good playing attitude as most of the times it required to overcome disappointment right after defeat in singles to take on for double medal.

2016 ITTF WORLD

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A propos singles; our best result was achieved yet again by Volodimir Sidorenko (RUS) who clinched a valuable 3rd place after beating Panagitgun Yanapong (THA). I allow myself here a small comment: WCC gives a rare opportunity to play for the 3rd position after losing semi-finals and the result has its reflection also on the medal (even if the 4th placed player gets one as well). Knowing that exactly the same is the business during Olympic Games I find it very valuable for the players to get confronted with such situation already early in the carrier.

Should anybody be specifically interested in a performance of single European athletes I am sure our coaches are ready to share more detailed information (csilla.batorfi@gmail.com , marcclosset@netcourrier.com).

5. General Comments:

Overall I'd like to congratulate all of our team members, both players and coaches, for objectively achieving very good and valuable sport results. As it is obviously in a major part a consequence of everyday work done by the players and their coaches in their home countries the congratulations have to be addressed to their national federations in a first place. However I believe all of us in Europe together, we should put an extra effort on proper education of the players as in some cases lack of understanding for such elements of a sportsmanship and successful playing carrier as: discipline, proper nutrition, distributing energy resources in the free time, regeneration, respect for opponents and own team members, controlling negative emotions during practise and competition, proved to be areas in which a fast and effective improvement seems to be a necessary condition on the path to become a very good and successful senior player. Hopefully WCC can be used as a very valuable experience in order to achieve this objective goal.

One thing is sure. Thanks to WCC we had also lots of fun as well and some friendships will last a long long time☺...



My special thanks go to my colleagues Csilla Batorfi and Marc Closset. I enjoyed a lot the time we have worked together and I am sure some of the memories remain with us forever☺

And last but not least I'd like to thank ETTU and Mr. Neven Cegnar for giving me the opportunity of being part of my favourite youth tournament yet again and constant cooperation. It remains Neven's secret and object of my innocent jealousy how he manages to coordinate so many agendas at the same time☺

2016 WCC Manager Team Europe

Jarek Kolodziejczyk