

Press Release:



MINISTRY OF TOURISM
Greek National Tourism Organisation



Formula Windsurfing European Championship 4 - 12 June 2005 Rhodes - Ialisos Greece

AT FORUM BEACH HOTEL – IALISOS BEACH

3 more races in Ialisos/Rhodes – Micah Buzianis takes the lead

Ialisos/Rhodes, June 8th 2005.

The second day of the Formula Windsurfing European Championships brought three more races for each group of the men and two for the women. The reigning Formula Windsurfing World Champion Micah Buzianis (USA-34, F2, North Sails) fulfilled his role as favourite and took the lead. On his heels followed the current Formula Windsurfing European Champion Wojtek Brzozowski (POL-10, Starboard, Neil Pryde) in front of last year's Rhodes winner Ross Williams (GBR-83, Starboard, Gaastra). In the women's fleet Allison Shreeve (AUS-911, F2, Neil Pryde) stumbled for the first time.

Today the wind was stronger than on the first day with gusts reaching up to over 20 knots. From 15:00 to 19:30 the 123 competitors from 26 different countries presented great races directly in front of the spectators at the beach of the Forum Hotel in Ialisos.

The reigning Formula Windsurfing World Champion Micah Buzianis started into the regatta with a frustrating 20th place. But from then onwards he fully complied with his role as a favourite and scored only first and second places. After the second day he is already in the first position with a total of 5,4 points. The reigning Formula Windsurfing European Champion is also on the right track to defend his title. He scored two victories and one fourth place today. With a total of 6,1 points he is 0,3 points in front of Ross Williams who was able to win the event on Rhodes last year. On the fourth position we find Antoine Albeau (FRA-192, AHD, Neil Pryde) from France with 6,7 points. The top five is completed by Gonzalo Costa Hoevel (ARG-3, F2, Neil Pryde, 9,7 points) who dropped from first to fifth place today.

Allison Shreeve scored another victory but in the last women's race Lucy Horwood (GBR-95, Fanatic, North Sails) from Great Britain was able to score a victory. The stronger wind was also an advantage for Verena Fauster (ITA-31, F2, Gaastra) from Austria and Sarah Hebert (FRA-61, Starboard, Naish). None the less Allison is still clear in the lead with the optimum of 2,1 points. On the second position is Lucy Horwood with 7,7 points in front of Marta Hlavati (POL-111, Starboard, Severne).

For tomorrow the forecasts predict even stronger wind. So the high wind experts hope to be able to show their skills in front of the Forum Beach Hotel at Ialisos Beach. It seems as if the favourites are moving to their expected positions. But nothing is decided yet as the FW European Championships are set up as a series of 15 races. But the race committee plans to run two more races tomorrow to achieve a second discard and will then split the men's fleet into the Gold Fleet and the Silver Fleet. The skippers meeting is set for 10:00 with the first start at 11:00. The Formula Windsurfing European Championships will continue until Saturday, June 11th.

The event is covered on www.euro-cup.org, www.rwa.gr and www.formulawindsurfing.org. Besides the reports and the results you will also find a live ticker on www.euro-cup.org and a live cam on www.rwa.gr. So check out the internet!

Hosted by: Municipality of Ialisos, Island of Rhodes

Organized by: Rhodes Windsurfing Academy (RWA)

Supported by: Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Aegean, Southern Aegean Region, Prefecture of Dodecanese (D.O.T.), T.E.D.K. – PRO.TOUR

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Comments:

Micah Buzianis (USA-34, F2, North Sails): *“Things are going quite well! I am perfectly prepared and my equipment is tuned in. But the competitors are strong!”*

Wojtek Brzozowski (POL-10, Starboard, Neil Pryde): *“The fight on the water is hard and there are about ten guys who have the potential to win a race. The real challenge will begin tomorrow when the Gold Fleet racing begins.”*

Ross Williams (GBR-83, Starboard, Gaastra): *“Whow! This is tight! This is one of the closest fights I experienced so far. But it is also exciting to have a competition like this one!”*

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We will provide daily press releases, results, news etc. for the media. We can also provide high quality pictures and video footage in TV quality from the event. If you are interested to receive anything of these please feel free to contact Matthias Regber at the contact address above.