

Press Release:



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

AT FORUM BEACH HOTEL – IALISOS BEACH

Antoine Albeau attacks but Wojtek Brzozowski still in front

Ialisos/Rhodes, June 10th 2005.

On the fourth day of the Formula Windsurfing European Championships in Ialisos/Rhodes (Greece) the competitors were brought to their physical limits. Race director Bruno de Wannemaeker from Belgium ran four races for each of the fleets. The French Antoine Albeau (FRA-192, AHD, Neil Pryde) took the chance to attack the leader Wojtek Brzozowski (POL-10, Starboard, Neil Pryde) but the reigning European Champion managed to defend the lead. In the women's fleet the opponents of Allison Shreeve (AUS-911, F2, Neil Pryde) moved closer in striking distance.

Today the qualification series ended after eight races and the men's fleet was divided into the Gold Fleet and the Silver Fleet. In the Gold Fleet the competitors are fighting for the positions 1 to 58, the prize money and the official Formula Windsurfing European title while the Silver Fleet was fighting for the positions 59 to 113. In the first race it seemed as if Wojtek Brzozowski would be able to move away from his biggest opponent Antoine Albeau: The reigning European Champion from Poland dominated while Albeau only scored a 11th place. But in the next two races the French windsurfing giant dominated and won in front of Brzozowski.

In the final race of the day it got even worse for the current leader of the event. Brzozowski thought to be over early and returned to the starting line to start another time round the ends. Therefore he was the last after the start and was forced to fight his way through the fleet. He ended up on the 9th place. But Antoine Albeau was not able to take a full advantage out of his opponents mistake. The Dutch youngster Dennis Little (NED-13, F2, Maui Sails) scored his first victory at an international regatta and won the race in front of Albeau.

In the women's fleet Lucy Horwood (GBR-95, North Sails) and Verena Fauster (ITA-31, F2, Gaastra) presented the best performance today. Verena scored two victories, a second and a third while Lucy achieved one victory and three second places. Before the final day Allison Shreeve is still in the lead with 13,8 points. But Lucy (15,4 points) and Verena (18,4 points) passed the French Sarah Hebert (FRA-61, Starboard, Naish) and moved closer to Allison. They are now in striking distance to fight for the European title on the final day.

In the men's fleet Wojtek Brzozowski is still in the lead with 8,9 points but his biggest opponent Antoine Albeau is only 1,3 points behind him with 10,2 point and he has the better discards than Wojtek. It seems as if the decision for the European title will take place between these two racing heroes. The fight for place three is full on: Last years Rhodes event winner Ross Williams (GBR-83, Starboard, Gaastra) and the reigning Formula Windsurfing World Champion Micah Buzianis (USA-34, F2, North Sails) are fighting head to head both with 21,4 points. And on position five the Formula Windsurfing World Champion 2003

Steve Allen (AUS-0, Fanatic, Neil Pryde) from Australia is waiting with 26 points for any mistakes of the racers in front of him.

Before the final day of the Formula Windsurfing European Championships the situation couldn't be more exciting as nothing is decided yet and the focus is put on fascinating duels for the positions on the podium in the men's fleet and the women's fleet. The meteorologists predict again good wind. So the race committee hopes to be able to achieve the full 15 race series in the men's fleet with three final races. The skippers meeting is set for 10:00 with the first start at 11:00. The prize giving of the Formula Windsurfing European Championships will take place in the Forum Beach hotel on the evening of 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:

Antoine Albeau (FRA-192, AHD, Neil Pryde): *"Tomorrow we will have the showdown between Wojtek and me. Mistakes are not allowed. But I am well prepared."*

Wojtek Brzozowski (POL-10, Starboard, Neil Pryde): *"I thought to be over early in the last race today. So I returned to the start to do a round-the-ends. This has cost me the race. Unfortunately I wasn't even over early. Now I am hungry for tomorrow!"*

Lucy Horwood (GBR-95, North Sails): *"We did four races today and I scored quite well. I hope to move up one position tomorrow with three more good races."*

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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.