



European Junior Championships special issue

Another busy summer on the Tennis Europe Junior Tour is drawing to a close, with the European Junior Championships for individuals and team competitions for players of all age groups taking place in recent weeks. This issue features all the news from our flagship tournaments, plus the latest on the race for places at the last major event of the season, the season-ending Tennis Europe Junior Masters in Reggio Calabria.

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Germany leads Race to European Tennis Trophy

Germany is in pole position to win the European Tennis Trophy for overall performance for the first time since 1996, having earned more than double the points of nearest challenger the Czech Republic as the season passes its half-way point. See Page 10 for the complete update.

Italian teams sweep European Beach Tennis Championship titles

Italian players once again dominated the European Beach Tennis Championships, which were held in Brighton last week. See Page 13 for a full report.



European 14 & Under Championships in Pilsen



Rudolf Molleker of Germany and Russia's Anastasia Potapova are the new European 14 & Under Champions after coming through contrasting matches on the final day of the Championships in Pilsen (CZE).

Molleker, the second seed in the boys' event, blasted his way best home hope Tomas Jirousek for the loss of just a single game to claim his second medal of the tournament. Still just 13 years of age, the prodigious German had been in imperious form throughout the week, winning the tournament without conceding a set.

The win was also a historic one; his victory enabled him to reclaim the top spot on the Tennis Europe Junior Tour rankings, and he became the first 14 & Under player in over 30 years to win the European Junior Championships and play on the winning Winter and Summer Cups teams in the same season. He also becomes the first German boy since Florian Loddenkemper in 1984 to win the 14 & Under Championship.

The victory over Jirousek would have been sweet for the eventual champion, after the third seed had caused double consternation for the Germans on Saturday, ending Nicola Kuhn's hopes of securing an all-German final and teaming with Ezven Holis to snatch gold from Molleker & Kuhn in the doubles final.

Overall the boys' event went largely with form, with the only unseeded players to reach the quarterfinals being Leonid Sheyngelikht (BUL) and Jake Hersey (GBR), both of whom scored upsets over Top 10 opposition.

Anastasia Potapova dominated the girls' event in equally impressive style, never dropping more than seven games in a match en route to her fourth final of the season on the Tennis Europe Junior Tour.

The third seed had looked particularly impressive in a 6-3 6-0 win over #2 Dayana Yastremska (UKR) in the semifinals and picked up where she left off in the final, blasting to a 6-1 first set win over her Winter Cups team-mate Olesya Pervushina.

Pervushina has spent most of this season as Europe's #1 in her age group and used her big match experience to fight back in the second, levelling the match with a 6-2 scoreline. However, forced to play a deciding set for the first time in the Championship, Potapova found an extra gear in the third set and



Above (from top left): Runner-up Olesya Pervushina and winner Anastasia Potapova (RUS), (bottom left) Runner-up Tomas Jirousek (CZE) and champion Rudolph Molleker (GER). Photos: Jet Tanaka, fotospo.net.

broke at will to emerge triumphant, 6-2.

The win means that Potapova leapfrogged her compatriot to take the top spot in Tennis Europe's 14 & Under rankings, but there will surely be no hard feelings between the two friends and team-mates. Their domination of the event was such that they also teamed up to take the doubles crown. The final match proved to be a seesaw battle against the same Ukrainian players that they beat in the singles semifinals, Kataryna Zavatska and Dayana Yastremska, eventually winning 6-7(5), 6-0, [10-7].

All four European Junior Championship finalists automatically qualify to compete at the Tennis Europe Junior Masters in Reggio Calabria in October.

Draws, results and photos from the event can be found [here](#).