

The European Champions Cup

The European Champions Cup was held from 19th until the 26th of October 2015 in San Marino. A total of 38 countries were present at this tournament.

Bowling Center:

Rose'n Bowl
Serravalle,
San Marino

Team Switzerland

The team members that were representing Switzerland in the tournament were:

- Bigi Manico
- Harn-Chieh Kwan



We left Zurich late Sunday afternoon and traveled by car to San Marino. The trip to the hotel there took us 8 hours and went without any problems. At 23:45 we arrived at our destination and we checked in and went to sleep.

Unofficial Practice

I practiced with Bigi the next morning at 10:00. Harn-Chieh did not make it because afterwards I found out his son did not get to sleep until 04:00 and this would be a problem all during the week. The lanes were cleaned and oiled. Because it was not yet the official pattern I just wanted her to get use to the lanes and approach. The practice went ok, it was clear she was missing accuracy in hitting the same target. After the practice we watch some other bowlers and after having lunch at the bowling we went back to the Hotel.

Official Practice

Our official practice started on Tuesday and after the balls were checked and registered it was time to hit the lanes. That day and all 18 lanes were in play to practice on. The lane pattern was officially announced at the team managers meeting that morning. It was Harn-Chieh's first time to test it and he had the same problem as Bigi in executing the same shot. The pattern played very well and the brake point of the lefties was extreme out but both had problems to get the ball at the same place twice. I changed some of the surface of Bigi's bowling balls and the rest of the practice went fine.

At 19:00 was the opening ceremony.

Women Group A, 8 games - Block 1

Wednesday at 10:00 it was time for Bigi to start with her first 8 games. During the practice I noticed there was not a lot of difference in ball reaction than in the practice the day before. The left side was wide open but hitting the brake point was crucial. Bigi with all her previous experience started a very shaky with dropping the ball all over the place and managed only to put a score of 173 on the board. Making consistent shots and releasing it the same played part all during her 8 games except in game 6 where she managed to get a clean game in of 236. The rest of the games were below par and she finished with a total of 1505 and finished in 11th place in her block.

Men Group A, 8 games - Block 1

Harn-Chieh played in the A-Squad as well and started at 18:00 that day. Harn-Chieh was very nervous and was struggling with his swing and ball speed. He was missing his target and was over shooting the break point. With too many splits and difficult spares to make he opened way too many frames and it did not matter where he stood or with what ball he was playing it was too much over under, and he finished on a very disappointed 18th place in his squad with 1509 only 4 pins more than Bigi.

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Women Group A, 8 games - Block 2

On Thursday the 22nd at 13:30 Bigi had to play her second set of 8 games. She was only 50 pins plus of the cut to make top 18 so still it was possible to make something good out of it. The lanes played exactly as the days before. She started with an open frame missing a single pin but managed to put a 215 game on the board. So the start was there but for the same reasons before she could not keep it going and changed ball several times during the games, to try to get something, but an inconsistent release and missing the target will not work on a sport pattern. She finished with a total score of 1437 good for a 18th place in the squad and a disappointed 29th overall placing and was out of the tournament.

Men Group A, 8 games - Block 2

Friday at 9:00 it was the men from the A-squad to bowl their second block of 8 games. The day before in the evening I had a talk with Harn-Chieh about his performance and told him that he could do better if he just trusted his ability and calm down. I told him that he was as good as the rest and that he needed to free up his swing and trust the ball! He was nervous and felt under big pressure to do well he told me. I told him as well to change the surface of one ball to a high polish to keep some energy for the back. He started as he did in the first block wild and inconsistent with his swing. It took him until game 5 to put in a decent score. In the last game after missing some spares and splits he gave up. His total score over the 8 games was 1523. His overall standing was 32nd out of 38 and was a big disappointment for him and for me.

Summary of the games

Personally this event was a very bad showing for the Swiss. I think Harn-Chieh good have done much better with all the free time he had to train. With Bigi I think the maximum was reached considering the short preparation she had due to the late announcement of Tanya and her back problem she had before this event.

Conclusion:

Their physical preparation at home again could have been better. Both players had the right equipment to tackle this sport pattern, but when you play at home on too easy patterns you will get your real scores when you play on more difficult patterns. The evening on our return Harn-Chieh bowled easy 230 plus to give you an example what I mean. We need to address these house shots in main and high divisions that it is at least sport compliance. One other point I would like to make is from the first of January 2016, I propose no spouses will join team members to championships. If in a case they will come they will need to stay in a different hotel. It is for me unacceptable that a player can sleep at 04:00 in the morning because his son will not sleep before that time, and cannot show up for breakfast because he needs catch up with sleep.

Both players learned a lot and I look forward to the next event and hope they implement the things they learned for the next time.

Rick Voegesang



Swiss National Coach