Żgħażagħ Maltin Jimpressjonaw fil-Kampjonati Ewropej taż-Żgħażagħ tal-Bowling

Tim Malta b'wirja impressjonanti fil-European Youth Championships (EYC 2023) ġo Vienna.

Wara ġimgħa ta' logħob ġo Vienna għal EYC 2023, Tim Malta spiċċa dawn il-kampjonati b'bosta wirjiet rispettabbli fost l-aqwa bowlers tal-U18 fl-Ewropa.

Tim Malta għal dawn il-kampjonati kkonsista minn erba' subien u erbat ibniet: Chris Fenech, Dwayne Zahra, Nicholas Muscat, Kayden Laganà, Kathryn Fenech, Ruslana Grima, Mia Bugeja, u Karlise Bartolo. Flimkien, dawn iż-żgħażagħ irnexxielhom iwettqu finituri multipli fit-Top 10 fost it-tliet kategoriji ewlenin.

L-aqwa ċans għal midalja ġie fil-kategorija tad-Doubles tas-subien, fejn Nicholas Muscat u Kayden Laganà spiċċaw fil-ħames post, u b'hekk, m'għaddewx għal ftit (għal differenza ta' 62 pins biss) għas-semifinali biex jassiguraw midalja f'dawn il-kampjonati.

Jumejn wara, fil-kategoriji tat-timijiet, it-timijiet tas-subien u tal-bniet it-tnejn spiċċaw fost l-aqwa għaxar timijiet f'dawn il-kampjonati; is-subien spiċċaw fit-tmien post waqt li t-tfajliet spiċċaw fl-għaxar post.

Fost in-nisa, Karlise Bartolo rnexxielha tispiċċa s-Singles tal-bniet fid-disa' post wara li kulħadd lagħab sitt logħbiet għal din il-kategorija. Bartolo kienet fl-ewwel post wara nofs il-logħob wara li ġabet rekord personali ġdid u l-aqwa logħba individwali tagħha ta' 261 fejn ġabet disa' strajks f'dik il-logħba.

Fl-aħħar avveniment f'dawn il-kampjonati, iż-żewġ subien - Dwayne Zahra u Kayden Laganà - kienu fost l-aqwa 24 bowlers f'dawn il-kampjonati, u b'hekk, ikkwalifikaw għal kategorija tal-Masters. Il-Masters għandu format ta' knockout, ibbażat fuq serje ta' żewġ jew tliet logħbiet fejn ir-rebbieħ ikun dak li jirbaħ żewġ logħbiet l-ewwel. Iż-żagħżugħ Malti, Nicholas Muscat - ir-rebbieħ ta' tliet midalji fil-kampjonati tas-sena l-oħra (fost midalja tal-fidda fil-Masters) - kien ikklassifikat bħala l-25 bowler fil-kampjonati, u b'hekk, kien sfortunat biex ma kkwalifikax għal din l-aħħar kategorija.

Waqt li Dwayne Zahra tilef l-ewwel logħba tiegħu kontra Jussi Laine mill-Finlandja, Kayden Laganà kkwalifika għal Step 2 wara li għeleb lil Aleks Szczepaniak mill-Polonja bil-punteġġi: 193-235, 277-259, 265-230. Laganà lagħab serje ta' 735 (medja ta' 245).

Fit-tieni partita, Laganà ġie kontra Kevin Melin mill-Isvezja - l-aqwa bowler f'dawn il-kampjonati u r-rebbieħ eventwali tal-midalja tal-fidda fil-Masters. Laganà tilef kontrih f'tliet logħbiet bil-punteġġi: 227-214, 179-239, 206-225.

Dawn il-kampjonati, wara l-wirja mis-sena l-oħra fejn Tim Malta rebħet tliet midalji, għal darb'oħra ura li Malta u l-Malta Bowling Association, minkejja n-nuqqas ta' daqs ħdejn federazzjonijiet oħrajn Ewropej, għandha wieħed mill-aqwa programmi għaż-żgħażagħ fil-bowling fl-Ewropa.

Il-kontingent kien immexxi min Mark Spiteri u mghejjun min Rick Vogelesang.

Maltese Youths Make Waves at the European Bowling Youth Championships

Multiple Top 10 finishes for Team Malta at the European Youth Championships (EYC 2023) in Vienna.

After a week of play in Vienna at the European Bowling Youth Championships, Team Malta capped off yet another successful showing amongst Europe's best U18 bowlers.

Team Malta's eight youths (four males and four females) made numerous finishes into the Top 10 of multiple categories across these championships.

First, Nicholas Muscat and Kayden Laganà paired up for the Boys' Doubles event and finished their 6-game block in 5th place – narrowly missing out on a place in the semi-finals and a medal by just 62 pins.

Two days later, both boys' and girls' teams scored a top 10 finish each during their respective team events. The boys' team - consisting of Chris Fenech, Dwayne Zahra, Nicholas Muscat, and Kayden Laganà – finished in 8th place. Meanwhile, the girls' team – consisting of Kathryn Fenech, Ruslana Grima, Mia Bugeja, and Karlise Bartolo – finished their 6-game block in 10th place. Karlise Bartolo then secured Team Malta's final Top 10 result through the Girls' Singles event where she finished in 9th place. Bartolo was leading the event halfway through after rolling a personal best single game of 261 (she managed to strike nine times during this game).

Most notably, two youths – Dwayne Zahra and Kayden Laganà – qualified for the Boys' Masters event featuring the top 24 youths across all three major events. The Masters is a knockout format based on championships seeding (based on performance across these championships) that saw players go one-on-one in best-of-three matches. Nicholas Muscat, last year's Masters' silver medal winner, was unfortunately seeded 25th to just miss out on this year's championships ending event.

While Zahra was eliminated in his first match by Finland's Jussi Laine, Kayden Laganà qualified for Step 2 after rolling a stellar 735 3-game series (245 average) to defeat Poland's Aleks Szczepaniak in a thrilling match. Laganà lost Game 1 (193-235) before bouncing back incredibly for a superb final two games; the 15-year-old then won a high-scoring Game 2 (277-259) before sealing the match in the deciding game through the score line 265-230.

Laganà then faced Sweden's Kevin Melin, the championships' top seed and eventual Masters' silver medal winner, in Step 2 where he lost in three games following the results: 227-214, 179-239, 206-225.

This performance, following last year's feat of winning three medals (plus the youths' improvement since last year's championships), once again shows how the Malta Bowling Association, despite its size in comparison to other European countries, has one of Europe's best youth bowling programs.

The contingent was under the responsibility of Mark Spiteri and assisted by Rick Vogelesang.