

SPORTS

Guido holds nerve to win maiden title

NAIROBI, March 17, (RTRS): Italy's Guido Migliozzi carded a final-round 69 to clinch his maiden European Tour title with a one-shot victory in the Kenya Open on Sunday.

The 22-year-old rookie, playing in his 14th European Tour event, took the lead with a birdie on the 12th hole and held his nerve under pressure to par the last six holes and go 16-under for the tournament at Nairobi's Karen Country Club.

Joint overnight leader Migliozzi finished above his playing partner Adri Arnaus of Spain and South Africans Louis de Jager and Justin Harding who were tied for second place.

"I like this moment. I like the pressure, it's like a drug," Migliozzi, who sank four birdies on the day but also had two bogeys on the front nine, said. "I love playing with a lot of people looking at me and a lot of cameras."

GOLF

"There was a lot of pressure on the course. After the birdie at the 12th I was leading but it was tough. I just kept patient towards the end, that was it."

"I enjoyed the last two days very much. The pressure was a lot and I'm happy about how I'm playing under pressure, also with my putting game that I worked a lot on."

India's Gaganjeet Bhullar, one of several leaders during a tight final day, finished fifth with a final round 69.

Triumphant 2018 Ryder Cup Captain Thomas Bjorn, returning to the Kenyan capital for the first time in 24 years, was further back tied in 12th with four others.

Scotland's Robert MacIntyre signed off with a brilliant 63 to set a new course record after three disappointing rounds, finishing tied 17th.

Jon Rahm stormed out of the pack with an eight-under-par 64 at the Players Championship on Saturday, taking a one-shot lead over Rory McIlroy and Tommy Fleetwood to set up the prospect of a compelling final-round battle between European heavyweights.

The Spaniard used his prodigious power to plunder an eagle and seven birdies at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, matching the best score of the week on a day when the predicted northerly wind did not materialize.



Blue Army pose for a photograph with the trophy.

ICAI Kuwait organizes cricket tournament

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (Kuwait Chapter) organized the second edition of its annual cricket tournament exclusively for its members at Boulevard Park, Salmiya on March 9, 2019.

The event was exclusively sponsored by Al Mulla Exchange, Focus Softnet, NBK and Viva.

It was a pleasant Saturday morn-

ing. A perfect setting for the Indian Chartered Accountants to showcase their cricketing skills. Four teams registered for the tournament. They were aptly named 'Yellow Tigers', 'Blue Army', 'Orange warriors' and 'Team Strikers'.

The final was played between Team Strikers and the Blue Army and after an engrossing contest

blue Army emerged victorious with Hussain being declared the man of the match. The captain of the blue army team Ravi Nagar was declared the man of the series for his consistent all-round performance.

The senior members of the ICAI presented the medals trophies and individual prizes to the players.

The commentators for the tour-

namment were two young chartered accountants Umesh and Ajay which kept the crowd engrossed in the proceedings with their witty commentary. The event was organized under the leadership of Aditya Dhanuka. He was ably assisted by Umesh Soni and Shailesh Laddhad.

Noel Cherian, Chairman of ICAI

Kuwait, proposed the vote of thanks to all present, the sponsors and to the management of Tijaria Real Estate Company for the excellent facilities provided at Boulevard Park.

The Kuwait Chapter of ICAI has over 400 members and conducts continuing education and knowledge sharing programs for the benefit of its members.



Al-Kuwait Sports Club's handball team during their training in Qatar

'Al-Kuwait Sports Club' handball team returns

KUWAIT CITY, March 17: Al-Kuwait Sports Club's handball team is due to return today (Monday) after completing their training camp in Qatar in preparation for the 21st Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship, which is due to kick off in Kuwait on Wednesday, March 20 until April 2, 2019.

The matches will be played in Al-Kuwait Handball Hall with the participation of 13 teams, and winner of the event will have the opportunity to represent Asia in the 2019 IHF World Men's Handball Championship (Super Globe).

During its training camp, Kuwait Sports Club's handball team played a trial match, which was hosted by the Qatari team Gharafa, which ended with the latter winning by 23-19.

According to the Algerian coach of Al-Kuwait Sports Club's handball team Saeed Al-Hijazi, he engaged in a single match in order to look for more angles of focus in terms of technique and physique of the players.

Joining Kuwait club's team are four professionals: Egyptian national Ahmad Al-Ahmad, and Bahraini nationals Hussein Al-Sayyad, Muhammad Mirza and Muhammad Abdul-Muhsin.

In a related context, another Kuwaiti handball club, Kazma, continues on their preparation locally through their daily training sessions led by Algerian coach Rabeh Gharbi. The club managed to strengthen its line with three professionals from Serbia. Bahraini Barbar club is the first participating team to arrive in the country so far, and they will embark on a three-day training camp in preparation for the tournament.

Meanwhile, head of the championship's Media Committee Abdul-Rahman Al-Ansari affirmed the media center is ready to welcome media delegations accompanying the participating teams, and necessary facilities are in place for the event's coverage.

Al-Ansari indicated the committee has launched accounts on Twitter and Instagram with the name @asianchampion21, which will publish details of the matches, in addition to #asian_handball_clubs21.

The 21st edition of the Asian Men's Handball Club League is meant for the top league Clubs in Asian countries. Defending champions, Al-Najma will be absent from this year's edition after losing out to fellow rival, Barbar Handball Club of Bahrain, in the Bahraini league.

Shiffrin wins giant slalom to 'seal' World Cup crown

Robinson gets first career podium

SOLDEU, Andorra, March 17, (AP): Another race won, another crystal trophy earned, another World Cup record written by Mikaela Shiffrin.

Shiffrin won a giant slalom Sunday to seal the season-long standings title and, shedding a few tears while sitting in the finish area, lifted a record-tying fourth World Cup crystal globe in the same season.

"I wanted to come out here today and really earn it. Really earn it and deserve it," said Shiffrin, whose 17th World Cup win this season extended her own record.

SKIING

A fourth discipline title in one season matched the women's World Cup record jointly held by Lindsey Vonn (2010, 2012) and Tina Maze (2013).

Shiffrin needed only a top-15 finish on a sun-soaked day in Andorra to ensure closest challenger Petra Vlhova could not overhaul the American star's points total.

Instead, the Olympic giant slalom champion retained her first-run lead in style to finish 0.30 seconds ahead of 17-year-old Alice Robinson. Vlhova was third, 0.41 back.

While Shiffrin is the undisputed current star of women's Alpine skiing, a bright future was seen Sunday for Robinson. She earned her World Cup finals entry by winning the giant slalom at the junior world championships last month.

The New Zealand prospect got her first career podium when just six months older than Shiffrin was getting her first top-3 finish, in a December 2011 slalom.

"It's an amazing feeling," Robinson told Swiss broadcaster RTS. "It's crazy, so cool to share the first podium with Petra and Mikaela. They're such great skiers."

Shiffrin's four crystal globes tops the three earned by the men's stand-out Marcel Hirscher.

Hirscher already clinched the slalom title, and a record-extending eighth straight overall title, before the final race Sunday.

Seeming fatigued by a long season, Hirscher finished 14th, trailing 1.62 behind the winner Clement Noel in what could be his last World Cup race.

The 30-year-old Hirscher said Saturday after placing sixth in giant slalom that he could spend next season with his young family "cooking and

holding the baby."

"I'm thinking about this every day," Hirscher said of possibly retiring, acknowledging he has a "very hard decision" in the next two weeks.

Noel barely retained his first-run lead on fast-softening snow, posting the 20th-fastest second-leg time to be 0.18 ahead of Manuel Feller.

Daniel Yule was third, trailing Noel by 0.83, to earn \$5,000 for a non-profit agency campaigning against climate change.

Yule pledged half his prize money from the final two slalom races of the season as a riposte to comments last month questioning climate change by the International Ski Federation president, Gian Franco Kasper.

Yule was also fifth the previous Sunday, earning an initial \$2,500 for the Swiss branch of Colorado-based Protect Our Winters.

The final day of the World Cup season typically celebrates retiring veterans.

Olympic slalom champion Frida Hansdotter wore Swedish traditional dress for a ceremonial last run in the giant slalom, and Felix Neureuther raced more competitively to place seventh in slalom.

Neureuther, who has 13 career World Cup race wins, was doused with champagne and snow in the finish area by his Germany teammates.

Spence defends IBF title with victory over Garcia

ARLINGTON, Texas, March 17, (AP): Errol Spence Jr successfully defended his IBF world welterweight title for the third time, unanimously outpointing previously undefeated challenger Mikey Garcia on Saturday night.

Garcia moved up two weight classes to take on Spence and took a pounding though he never went down. Garcia, obviously worn out, spent the later rounds blocking punches instead of throwing them.

Spence improved to 25-0 after all three judges awarded him every round. One card was 120-107, and the other two were 120-108.

It was the first time Spence had to go the distance in his last 12 fights.

Garcia, who moved up from 135 to 147 pounds in his attempt to become a five-division champion, lost for the first time in 40 pro fights.

The hard-punching Spence landed 345 of the 1,082 punches (32 percent) he threw - both of those career highs. That included 237 of 464 (51 percent) of his power punches in his second title defense at home in North Texas in nine months.

During one portion of the ninth round, Spence walked Garcia in

a full circle around the ring while continually delivering blows.

Garcia threw 406 total punches, and landed only 75 of them (18.5 percent). After landing 43 percent of his power punches his previous five punches, he was only 25 percent (54 of 218) on those against Spence.

BOXING

Garcia was fighting for the first time since unifying the IBF and WBC world lightweight titles with a unanimous decision last July over Robert Easter in Los Angeles. He was trying to become a five-division champion.

Both fighters entered the arena to loud cheers and different kinds of music, with Spence following a local high school marching band. Garcia got plenty of support from the large number of Mexican fans at the fight.

Chants of "Mikey!, Mikey!" broke out in the second and third rounds, but those faded away as Spence kept punching and the crowd instead responded to hard shots - many more for the champion than the challenger.



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin competes during the first run of a women's World Cup giant slalom at the alpine ski finals in Soldeu, Andorra on March 17. (AP)