



## **The strongest starter field in the history of Beachvolleyball Baden! Baden Masters Wild-Cards go to Seidl/Winter and Strauss/Zass**

**The starter field of the Beach Volleyball-Dream in Baden is fixed and has never ever been stronger. Less than two weeks before the first pitch at the “CEV Beach Volleyball European Championship Baden Masters presented by SPORT.LAND.NÖ” the European Volleyball Association confirmed the entry list and distributed the Wild Cards. They go to Robin Seidl/Tobias Winter and Teresa Strauss, who is playing with Bianca Zess as her twin sister Nadine Strauss is injured. The other ÖVV-Teams represented at the Event are Clemens Doppler/Alexander Horst and Thomas Kunert/Christoph Dressler as well as Stefanie Schwaiger/Katharina Schützenhöfer and Cornelia Rimser/Lena Plesiutschnig.**

How strong the European teams really are has recently been demonstrated at the FIVB World Tour tournament in Moscow. Three of the four male finalists were from Europe. The Russians Krasilnikov/Liamin and Stoyanovskiy as well as the Latvians Smedins/Samoilovs will also play in Baden. Smedins/Samoilovs, who barely missed the podium in Moscow, will also lead the starter field by CEV points. Following up is the Polish duo Bartosz Losiak/Piotr Kantor with whom the Austrians Doppler/Horst have to settle an old score from Rio. Just before Austrias #1-Team are Pablo Herrera / Adrián Gavira (ESP) and the Moscow-finalists Krasilnikov/Liamin. With the Belgians Dries Koekelkoren/Tom van Walle and Wild Card-receiving Austrians Seidl/Winter the main draw is preliminarily completed. After the qualifying games there will be twelve teams in the competition. The strong Russians and bronze winners of Moscow Stoyanovskiy/Yarzutkin and Latvia’s #2 Haralds Regza/Martins Plavins must qualify for the main round where every game will be a highlight.

Austrias #1 team in the ladie’s competition Stefanie Schwaiger/Katharina Schützenhöfer will have it very difficult in this year’s tournament. The roles of the top teams are taken by Chantal Laboureur/Julia Sude from Germany, Liliana Fernández/Elsa Baquerizo from Spain and Nina Betschart/Tanja Hüberliaus of Switzerland. At the FIVB World Tour in Moscow the Germans Bieneck/Schneider have demonstrated that they are not to be underestimated. Still, they have to enter the Country Quota. Kristyna Kolocova/Michala Kvapilova (CZE), Valentyna Davidova/Levgeniia Shchypkova (UKR), as well as the two other ÖVV teams complete the preliminary Main Draw. With Austrias amazing crowd in the back everything is possible for the domestic teams. In 2014, Steffi Schwaiger celebrated a victory at home soil in Baden with her sister Doris at her farewell tournament.

Three ÖVV men’s teams as well as the Norwegians have to enter the Country Quota and subsequently the qualification. These are the “M&M’s” Martin Ermacora/Moritz Pristauz, Xandi Huber, who plays with Julian Hörl due to an injury of Lorenz Petutschnig and Florian Schnetzer/Daniel Müller. At the ladie’s competition there will be a Country Quota for the strong Germans. Valerie Teufl/Katharina Almer from Austria still have the chance to qualify for the main draw. The other ÖVV men and ladies’ teams on the entry list have too few points in their account to enter the Country Quota and are therefore not allowed to start.

Before the 32 European teams fight for the 50.000€ prize money the “CEV U22 Beach Volleyball European Championship presented by SPORT.LAND.NÖ“ takes place and is another chance to win a prestigious medal. In the junior’s competition Austria’s young hope team Moritz Pristauz/Paul





Buchegger fights for a medal. The U22 Championship (15-18 June) starts one day after the Celebrity Beach Volleyball Trophy (14.6., 18.00h) by Kurt Faist in the Badener Strandbad.

You can download the pictures from <http://flickr.com/photos/beachvolleyballbaden> in printable quality!

**Further questions to:**

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