09/29/2013 2013 PTT European Championships

Austria's Andreas Vevera, the defending champion, was the major casualty as proceedings came to a close on the second day of play, Sunday 29th September 2013, at the European Para Table Tennis Championships in Lignano Sabbiadoro.

The winner in Split in 2011, he was beaten at the quarter-final stage of the Men's Singles Class 1 event by the host nation's Andrea Borgato (11-8, 9-11, 11-8, 11-8).

A surprise defeat for Andreas Vevera, there was also a surprise defeat in the same class for Jean-François Ducay of France, silver medallist at the London 2012 Paralympic Games. He was beaten by Great Britain's Robert Davies in the round of the last eight (11-5, 12-10, 8-11, 3-11, 11-6).

Semi-Finals

At the semi-final stage Robert Davies meets Germany's Holger Nikelis, the top seed; whilst Andrea Borgato confronts Great Britain's Paul Davies.

In the round of the last eight, Holger Nikelis accounted for Switzerland's Silvio Keller (11-8, 9-11, 11-9, 14-16, 11-5); whilst Paul Davies received a walk-over against Hungary's Endre Major.

Stage One Not Completed

The Men's Singles Class 1 event is the one competition where the four medallists are known; in the other events the group stage matches have either been completed or are yet to be completed.

No Second Stage Passport

However, there are notable names who have not progressed to the second stage.

Notably, in Women's Singles Class 3, the Slovak Republic's Alena Kanova was forced to withdraw from the competition thus paving the way for Turkey's Negris Altintas to secure first place in the group and a passport to the main draw alongside Italy's Michela Brunelli.



Andreas Vevera beaten by Andrea Borgato *Photo By:*Courtesy of Slovenia TTA

Third Place in Group for Split Champion

Also, there was no place in the main draw for Stéphane Molliens of France, the top seed in Men's Singles Class 2 and the winner at the European Para Table Tennis Championships two years earlier in Split.

He finished in third place in his group, players finishing in first and second places in all competitions advance to the main draw.

Games Ratio

Stéphane Molliens beat Spain's Iker Sastre in five games (7-11, 10-12, 13-11, 11-8, 11-5) but was beaten Serbia's Goran Perlic in four games (11-8, 7-11, 11-9, 13-11). However, Iker Sastre accounted for Goran Perlic in five games (11-5, 5-11, 11-9, 5-11, 11-6), therefore each player had one win to their credit.

The end result was first place Goran Perlic (5:4), second spot for Iker Sastre (5:5) with Stéphane Molliens (4:5) in third place and out of the competition.

Close Call for Ingela Lundback

Not good news for Stéphane Molliens who had suffered an unexpected defeat but for two other players who had experienced losses in the group there was better news in their event when the first stage concluded.

Games ratio worked in favour of Sweden's Ingela Lundback, the second seed in Women's Singles Class 4-5.

The Decision

On the opening day of play she was beaten by Serbia's Zorica Popadic (11-6, 11-6, 7-11, 11-5) but recovered to overcome Slovenia's Andreja Dolinar in three straight games (11-6, 12-10, 11-5).

Meanwhile, Andreja Dolinar overcame Zorica Popadic in three straight games (11-9, 11-9, 11-4); thus on games ratio it was first place for Ingela Lundback (4:3), followed by Andreja Dolinar (3:3) and Zorica Popadic (3:4).

Play Continues

Play continues in the individual events on Monday 30th September 2013.

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