

dartsplanet



INTERVIEW SEIGO ASADA

Asada speaks to us about Asian darts, Q-School and soft-tip darts.

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INTERVIEW HARRY WARD

Ward speaks to us about his PC win in Barnsley as well as his career so far.

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MATCHPLAY CROSS CROWNED CHAMP

Rob Cross lifted the World Matchplay in style at Blackpool's Winter Gardens.

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WIN WIMNAU ASPRIA DARTS

Courtesy of the guys at Winmau, a set of Aspria darts will be up for grabs as part of Issue Six's competition. Details inside.....

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AROUND THE WORLD

Paul Lim and Yuki Yamada claimed PDC Asian Tour titles this month while Danny Baggish lifted the NADC crown.

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BDO INSIGHT

All the latest from the BDO scene as well as an interview with David Evans and a look ahead to the World Trophy.

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PLAYERS LOUNGE

DEVON PETERSEN AT THE CZECH DARTS OPEN - INTERVIEW

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irstly Devon, how is 2019 fairing for you at the moment?

"It's been a resurgence of my career after the last 16 run in the worlds. Getting back to competing against the best and realise that I can still do it. Getting into a rich vein of form which I will work my hardest to ensure it continues."

How did you get into darts?

"My dad George Petersen got me into the sport and still plays the game today at the age of 64."

The World Cup of Darts in Hamburg, saw a fantastic first round from yourself and Vernon against world number six seeds Northern Ireland when you saw the draw how did you fancy your chances going up against Daryl Gurney and Brendan Dolan and what advice did you give to Vernon?

"It's hard to compete in a pairs match as all we do is play singles, so it was a leveller for team South Africa. We always fancy our chances and our hard work paid off. Vernon is a champion, so he didn't need loads of advice, but I did make sure he understood how the crowd would make him feel."

As you know, the Czech Darts Open is happening for the first time, how does it make you feel knowing that you are a part of history in the making?

"It's always great to be part of a new tournament and continue to be part of the development of the sport globally. PDC and PDC Europe are doing an amazing job of taking the sport to corners of the world we could only dream of."

Since starting to play darts in 2002, what is your greatest singular achievement?

"It's hard to pin it down to one but if I must choose one point was retaining my tour card this year at the World Championships."

I saw an interview recently where it mentioned your moon boots and how you like to think that you rock them, how many pairs do you have?

"Firstly, my style is second to none. I have a variety of shoes and sneakers which I enjoy wearing with different ensembles when I'm out and about. My total is about 30+ pairs of different brands as well."

If you could give any piece of advice to the players reading this interview, what would it be?

"Always believe in yourself and your dreams. Don't fear success and remember failing forward is always is the only way to live. Many people can have more talent than you, but NO ONE should be able to outwork YOU. Put the time and effort into the change with the correct methods and training, and you could become the next world champion."

And finally, what are your aims for the next 12 months?

"Qualify for the World Championship and some more TV majors but mostly just keep on improving my ability and the rest will take care of itself."



Photo Credit: PDC Europe

KLEERMAKER CLAIMS JACKLIN IS 'NOT SUITABLE' FOR BDO CHAIRMAN ROLE

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ising BDO star, Martijn Kleermaker has hit out at BDO chairman, Des Jacklin, stating "that man is simply not suitable for his position".

The Dutchman stated that he was unhappy about the lack of clarity for the BDO World Trophy in particular. Kleermaker also suggested that Jacklin makes his financial gain from tournaments, commenting "he can promote that tournament in Cyprus very well. As long as his wallet is involved."

28-year-old Kleermaker has made good progress in the BDO this year and won the Welsh Open in May. How his comments will go down is unclear, but disciplinary action from the BDO is undoubtedly imminent.

The BDO World Trophy plans were finally announced on the same day of Kleermaker's outburst.

Following the World Trophy announcement, Jacklin was apologetic about the delay. "I'd like to say I'm sorry for how long things are taking," he said. "Nothing can alter that, but at least this is an event that I can put in a draw and leave for 18 months while I concentrate on the next event."

"The next announcement will hopefully be another three-year deal and so on. I assure you all every effort is going into making our organisation as great as it can be. Thanks to everyone that helps behind the scenes and thank you all for your understanding and continued support."

WORDS: PAUL MASON

Photo Credit: Evert Zomer



WORDS: LUKE TUCKER

CROSS SLAMS 'DISRESPECTFUL' CROWD AFTER GERMAN DARTS MASTERS EXIT TO CLEMENS

Rob Cross has branded the Cologne crowd the 'most disrespectful' he's ever played against after enduring defeat to Germany's Gabriel Clemens at the German Darts Masters.

Cross had defeated German number one Max Hopp in the first round against a hostile audience but fell short against Clemens - who went on to reach his first televised final, losing out to Peter Wright.

"Every time you play in Germany, and I will be honest, it's tough," the former world champion told LiveDarts. "I only come to darts to earn a living, and I only want to provide for my family.

"Every time you come and play in Germany, it's the most disrespectful crowd if you play a German.

"I understand they want a big star, but it maybe doesn't help their players because the World Championship is in England and there they don't get that kind of support.

"That's probably the most disrespectful crowd I've ever played against.

"Everyone has to put up with this, but in fairness, we play in England, and we don't get booed, we play in Germany, and we get booed. Holland isn't even that bad.

"Everyone else can be civil, but they're just disrespectful all the time.

"I can understand they want their people to do well and they have some great players, but if you're a player and you rely on that crowd behind you to perform, it won't help you elsewhere.

"The crowd backing pumps them up but puts other players off, and I wouldn't say it's a fair playing field in Germany, that's just that."

Cross also praised Germany's Clemens who has now reached four finals during his 18 months in the PDC.

He added: "I think Gabriel could be the German number one, he's that good.

"He runs consistently high averages - he's brilliant."

WORDS: BEN HUDD



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Photo Credit: Lawrence Lustig

VAN GERWEN ADMITS TO LACK OF HUNGER

Michael van Gerwen recently discussed his turn of form after struggling to find to the best of his ability in recent tournaments.

Van Gerwen hasn't posted a 100+ average in his last 11 matches, which was alarming form ahead of the World Matchplay, an event that the Dutchman remained favourite to win before the tournament commencing.

"I don't worry. Of course, I know it's not going well, I need to play better," van Gerwen told Dutch newspaper Algemeen Dagblad.

"There is no one reason. It's not possible to perform well at every event, that's the start. Maybe I became a bit less hungry. Just a little less focus that has crept in."

"But now I have my feet on the ground again especially when you lose 6-5 to Martin Schindler at the German Darts Masters after being 5-1 up.

I was really p**sed off after that match. But disappointments make you stronger. When I just joined the PDC, I also had a slip of form for a long time. I ended up very well with that, and that gives me confidence now."

'Mighty Mike' also pointed to a lack of hunger lately, with old rivals such as Phil Taylor, and prime versions of Raymond van Barneveld and Gary Anderson currently lacking.

"I do miss the people with who I can have a real battle. Phil [Taylor] has retired, Raymond [van Barneveld] moved down on the rankings and is going to retire, while Gary [Anderson] is not playing many tournaments anymore. Maybe I have to get used to that. I have to get even more motivation out of myself to find that additional gear again.

"Look, when I'm really good, then almost nobody is going to beat me. I know that, and they know that as well. I have to show it more often."

WORDS: PAUL MASON

AROUND THE WORLD



FINAL QUALIFIERS CONFIRMED FOR WORLD SERIES DOWN UNDER

The final places in August's World Series of Darts events in Brisbane, Melbourne and Hamilton are complete following the DartPlayers Australia qualifiers.

A trio of players qualified for each of the Brisbane Darts Masters and Melbourne Darts Masters in the DPA qualifying events held in Warilla.

New Zealand's Haupai Puha - a recent World Cup representative - and Koha Kokiri, the Perth-based former World Championship qualifier, secured spots in the Brisbane Darts Masters.

Also, Brendon McCausland will make his maiden TV appearance at the BCEC on August 9-10 after completing the 16-player field for the tournament.

Tim Pusey secured a place in his second successive Melbourne Darts Masters and was joined in qualifying by Robbie King and Mick Lacey. Both will make their TV debuts at the Melbourne Arena on August 16-17.

Also, experienced former Oceanic Masters winner David Platt completed the field for the NZ Darts Masters, to be held at the Claudelands Arena in Hamilton on August 23-24.

Platt has made eight previous World Series of Darts appearances since being part of the inaugural Sydney Darts Masters field in 2013 and has also qualified for three World Championships.

The DPA Qualifiers completed the fields for each of August's World Series of Darts events, where the eight Oceanic Representatives draw against eight top PDC stars for the first round.

2019 Brisbane Darts Masters

August 9-10, BCEC, Brisbane

PDC Representatives: Michael van Gerwen, Rob Cross, Gary Anderson, Daryl Gurney, Peter Wright, James Wade, Simon Whitlock, Raymond van Barneveld

Oceanic Representatives: Kyle Anderson, Corey Cadby, Damon Heta, James Bailey, Ben Robb, Haupai Puha, Koha Kokiri, Brendon McCausland

2019 Melbourne Darts Masters

August 16-17, Melbourne Arena

PDC Representatives: Michael van Gerwen, Rob Cross, Gary Anderson, Daryl Gurney, Peter Wright, James Wade, Simon Whitlock, Raymond van Barneveld

Oceanic Representatives: Kyle Anderson, Corey Cadby, Damon Heta, James Bailey, Haupai Puha, Robbie King, Tim Pusey, Mick Lacey

2019 NZ Darts Masters, presented by Burger King & TAB

August 23-24, Claudelands Arena, Hamilton

PDC Representatives: Michael van Gerwen, Rob Cross, Gary Anderson, Daryl Gurney, Peter Wright, James Wade, Simon Whitlock, Raymond van Barneveld

Oceanic Representatives: Kyle Anderson, Corey Cadby, Cody Harris, Haupai Puha, Craig Caldwell, Damon Heta, Ben Robb, David Platt

WORDS: BEN HUDD

YAMADA AND LEGEND LIM CLAIM PDC ASIAN TOUR TITLES IN HONG KONG

The PDC Asian Tour debuted at Hong Kong's Kowloon Bay Exhibition Centre. The legendary Paul Lim was a recognisable winner and a not so obvious candidate in Japan's Yuki Yamada who reigned victoriously.

Lim eased to the Asian Tour Nine title, dropping just eight legs in the process. He opened his bid with a 5-0 whitewashing of Chaiyan Pai-A-Ree, before thrashing Daisuke Akamatsu 5-1, averaging 86.4 in a dominant display.

display.

Back-to-back 5-2 victories over Alex Hon and Haruki Muramatsu followed as the 'Singapore Slinger' made his way into the semi-finals.

His best performance of the day followed. He averaged 90.8 and hit 50% of his darts at the double to defeat Noel Malicdem 5-2 and move into his third Asian Tour final of the year.

Lim enjoyed a rout at the final hurdle as he beat China's Zong Xiao Chen, 5-1. Zong became the first Chinaman to reach an Asian Tour final, just days after several Chinese prospects travelled to England to visit the JDC Headquarters and the World Matchplay.

The 65-year-old Singaporean suffered a narrow defeat in the Event 10 final at the hands of Japanese ace, Yuki Yamada, but managed to seal his 13th PDC World Darts Championship appearance thanks to his exploits in Hong Kong.

Yamada, a 36-year-old darter from Fukuoka in Japan, lifted his maiden PDC crown. His title-winning campaign got underway with a whitewashing of Ryan Ocampo, before impressive victories over 2019 World Darts Championship participants, Lourence Ilagan and India's Nitin Kumar, put him into the last eight.

'Yammer' denied his Japanese compatriot, Kunimasa Makuuchi, in the quarter-finals, before edging out Joe Fu Ki Ng and Lim in the final.

Elsewhere, it was disappointing home PDC Asian Tour debut for Royden Lam. He exited at the first hurdle on both days, while Seigo Asada performed similarly, winning just one match across the weekend.

Noel Malicdem continued his surge to make it back-to-back World Darts Championship appearances as he enjoyed runs to the semi-finals and quarter-finals, respectively.

The 2019 PDC Asian Tour will conclude in Singapore as the circuit debuts at the AUPE Club. Lourence Ilagan and Paul Lim have secured their places at the World Darts Championship, and another two will join them.

WORDS: BEN HUDD

Photo Credit: PDC Asia



FLORIDA'S BAGGISH BAGS NORTH AMERICAN TITLE

BAGGISH SEALED THE DEAL AFTER SURVIVING A MATCH DART ON THE BULLSEYE IN AN ENTHRALLING FINAL AGAINST DEFENDING CHAMPION, JEFF SMITH.

Just a week after he swept away the field at the Cherry Bomb International in Florida, Danny Baggish claimed the biggest title in North America. He lifted the North American Darts Championship at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.

Baggish sealed the deal after surviving a match dart on the bullseye in an enthralling final against defending champion, Jeff Smith. The Guam-born thrower pinned tops to pocket \$10,000 and a World Darts Championship debut in December.

The 35-year-old made his US Darts Masters debut earlier in the day, losing out to Daryl Gurney. He battled back from behind against two more debutants in Elliot Milk and Leonard Gates to book his place in the final.

Baggish came from 2-1 down against Milk, reeling off five legs in succession to win 6-2, before battling back from 5-3 down to edge out Gates in a deciding leg. He pinned a 48 checkout after Gates had squandered double 14 for a 121 outshot and the match.

Florida's Baggish raced into a 3-0 lead in the final with checkouts of 71, 97 and 82, before Smith got off the mark in the fourth leg, pinning a 120 checkout with his opponent sat on 76 for a 4-0 lead.

The next three legs went with the throw, as Baggish retained possession of his three legs advantage, only for Smith to reel off three in succession. He included an 88 outshot on the bull, to send the match to the decider.

"IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE, I WAS PLAYING WELL COMING INTO THIS EVENT, SO I KNEW I COULD COMPETE BUT TO GET THROUGH THAT FIELD IS OVERWHELMING."

Baggish started slowly in the deciding leg, but scores of 137, 98 and 100 ensured he was on a finish after 12 darts. Smith was sat on 90 but missed the bull to retain his North American crown, and the Canadian was punished.

Baggish had made the 2,000-mile journey across the United States of America to partake in the North American Darts Championship. It was more than worth it as he

pinned tops, before falling to his knees in happiness.

"It's a dream come true," Baggish told pdc.tv after the biggest win of his life. "I was playing well coming into this event, so I knew I could compete, but to get through that field is overwhelming."

"It's my first time on the stage, and you don't know what you have in you until you're in that situation."

"The 140 in the semi-final was the biggest shot of my life. I did tighten up in the final and Jeff came back strongly to make it five-all."

"I look up to Jeff - he's a class act and a great player, and it's an honour to be on the same stage as him. I was hanging in there and that moment came, and I had to take it."

Eleven years after featuring in a PDC ProTour double-header in Atlanta, Baggish will now make his World Championship debut at Alexandra Palace and has earned not only a CDC Tour Card for 2020 but also a sponsorship with Target Darts.

"Every player dreams of playing at Alexandra Palace, and I can't wait for that," he added. "It hasn't sunk in yet, but I know it will."

"I'm going to go there and have fun, and I'm excited for the opportunity."

Elsewhere, it was an agonising defeat for Jeff Smith, after he reigned victorious 12 months ago. While CDC number one, Darin Young, lost out in the semi-finals after seeing off Ontario's Jim Long.

It was also a Las Vegas experience to remember for Leonard Gates. 'Soldier Gates' saw off Shawn Brenneman, before excruciatingly missing a match dart to move into the final and defeat the eventual champion, Baggish.

Florida's Baggish will be back on our screens in December as he travels to north London for the World Darts Championship. Then onto making his mark on the CDC stage next year.

WORDS: BEN HUDD



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