



Pre-favourites claim top honours at Austrian Snow Volleyball championships

Zell am See, Austria, January 25, 2018. The very first Austrian Snow Volleyball National Championships took place in front of the top station Areit III/trassXpress this past Saturday, January 20. Teams from all over Austria joined the tournament, including an elite Beach Volleyball player with an Olympic appearance on his CV. The many spectators in attendance witnessed great actions in the men's as well as in the women's competition.

Top-seeded Alexander Huber/Martin Streitfellner and youngsters Mathias Seiser/Benedikt Kattner crossed swords in the final and fought for the much-wanted spot at stake to compete at the 2018 CEV European Championship in Wagrain-Kleinarl. In a final game with loads of spectacular rallies, Alexander "Xandi" Huber and Martin Streitfellner clearly beat Seiser/Kattner in two sets (11-8, 11-4) to add the title of national Snow Volleyball champions to the same honour previously claimed in Beach Volleyball. In the third place match, Lukas Pongratz/Lukas Wiesinger prevailed against Florian Nußmüller/Johannes Nistelberger 2-0 (11-9, 11-7).

In the women's competition, the two top-seeded teams Elisabeth Klopff/Viktoria Mair and Marilena Preiml/Maria Obernosterer did not lose a single set until they reached the final. In the outstanding and spectator-friendly gold medal match, Klopff/Mair were able to win the first set 18-16 after many set balls on both sides of the net and emerged victorious from a closely contested second set as well (11-9) to become the first ever Austrian national champions. Alina Einsle/Andrea Schwaighofer completed the podium after beating Michaela Reingruber/Sandra Mayr in the third place match 2-0 (12-10, 11-2).

Therefore, the first proud representatives of Austria at the 2018 CEV Snow Volleyball European Championship in Wagrain-Kleinarl from 23 to 25 March 2018 are Elisabeth Klopff & Viktoria Mair and Alexander Huber, a 2016 Olympian, and Martin Streitfellner.