

Pitchford stuns seeds at German Open

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Liam Pitchford celebrates in Berlin, photo courtesy of ITTF

Liam Pitchford was at his remarkable best when he shocked both Gao Ning (SIN, 16) and Oh Sangeun (KOR, 29) to remain unbeaten throughout day three of the German Open in Berlin.

Having already shocked Yang Zi (SIN, 81) in the pre-rounds on Thursday, the 20-year-old produced more of his devastating giant-killing prowess to fight past Korean Oh Sangeun in a remarkable seven ends. Not content with pulling off a second shock result of the tournament, the Chesterfield-born star turned on the style to demolish Singapore's Gao Ning in five ends.

Although he dropped the first set 11-9, the English No. 1 raced through the next four, conceding just 18 points in the process to set up a last 16 encounter with Kenta Matsudaira (JPN, 18) – a man who he lost to just a week earlier in Poland. Quick revenge could be just around the corner.

Pitchford was also in fine form to reach the quarter-finals of the Under-21s after wins over Frane Kojic and Benjamin Brossier. The Englishman raced past Kojic in three games before finishing the day with an adrenaline-fuelled 3-2 win over the Frenchman Brossier, finally resulting in a well-deserved rest after four matches in four hours.

Full results can be seen below from both Pitchford and his English compatriots although the results from the other Englishmen on duty could do nothing to take the sheen off the youngsters starring role.

ITTF World Tour German Open, November 13-17, 2013 Berlin, Selected results:

Men's Singles:

Qualification Groups:

Group 11:

Yuto Muramatsu (JPN, 78) bt Sam Walker 4-3 (15-13, 11-13, 8-11, 11-6, 10-12, 11-8, 11-7)

Chen Hongtao (CAN, 327) bt Sam Walker 4-3 (12-14, 9-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-6, 10-12, 14-12)

Group 17:

Darius Knight bt Eric Jouti (BRA, 480) 4-1 (11-4, 10-12, 11-6, 11-6, 12-10)

Bora Vang (TUR, 93) bt Darius Knight 4-0 (11-7, 11-6, 11-9, 11-1)

Group 41:

Liam Pitchford bt Carlos Franco (ESP, 711) 4-0 (11-3, 11-3, 11-7, 11-2)

Liam Pitchford bt Alexandre Robinot (FRA, 244) 4-0 (11-9, 11-5, 11-6, 11-6)

Group 50:

Daniel Reed bt Marcin Sankowski (POL, 1001) 4-1 (11-7, 5-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-5)

Steffen Mengel (GER, 149) bt Daniel Reed 4-3 (11-7, 11-9, 7-11, 14-16, 9-11, 11-6, 11-8)

Group 51:

Mattias Oversjo (SWE, 205) bt Lewis Gray 4-1 (11-8, 11-9, 8-11, 11-3, 11-5)

Tomislav Kolarek (CRO, 152) bt Lewis Gray 4-1 (11-5, 16-14, 11-5, 8-11, 11-6)

Group 56:

Andrew Baggaley bt Sebastian Borchardt (GER, u/r) 4-0 (11-7, 11-6, 11-7, 11-9)

Andrei Filimon (ROU, 207) bt Andrew Baggaley 4-2 (11-4, 9-11, 7-11, 12-10, 9-11, 9-11)

Pre round:

Liam Pitchford bt Yang Zi (SIN, 81) 4-3 (11-7, 5-11, 11-9, 11-4, 9-11, 7-11, 11-1)

Last 64:

Liam Pitchford bt Oh Sangeun (KOR, 29) 4-3 (11-9, 11-13, 5-11, 11-5, 11-13, 11-7, 11-3)

Last 32:

Liam Pitchford bt Gao Ning (SIN, 16) 4-1 (9-11, 11-3, 11-5, 11-3, 11-7)

Last 16:

Liam Pitchford vs Kenta Matsudaira (JPN, 18)

Boys' Under-21s:**Qualification Groups:****Group 14:**

Florent Lambiet (BEL, 501) bt Lewis Gray 3-0 (11-7, 11-2, 11-2)

Joao Geraldo (POR, 299) bt Lewis Gray 3-0 (11-7, 11-5, 11-2)

Group 21:

Sam Walker bt Ammar Hawwash (PLE, u/r) 3-0 (11-4, 11-7, 11-5)

Lin Hsuan-Ming (TPE, u/r) bt Sam Walker 3-0 (11-5, 11-7, 11-3)

Filip Zeljko (CRO, 436) bt Sam Walker 3-1 (5-11, 11-8, 11-4, 11-8)

Last 64:

Liam Pitchford bt Fu En-Ti (TPE, u/r) 3-0 (11-4, 11-8, 11-9)

Last 32:

Liam Pitchford bt Frane Kojic (CRO, 279) 3-0 (11-6, 11-4, 11-4)

Last 16:

Liam Pitchford bt Benjamin Brossier (FRA, 273) 3-2 (4-11, 13-11, 11-6, 8-11, 11-9)

Quarter-Final:

Liam Pitchford vs Tamas Lakatos (HUN, 266)

Written by Russell Moore (November 15, 2013)

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