



Countback agony for Liu in Liege invitation event

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Jaime Liu finished 11th at the Stiga Masters Minimes in Belgium.

The Reading youngster was unfortunate to finish fourth in his group at the 12-player competition in Liege, given his record of three victories from five matches.

He beat Romania's Eduard Ionescu and Nolan Lerat of Belgium 3-0 and shaded Miguel Angel Pantoja of Spain 12-10 in the decider. Defeats to Vladislav Makarov of Russia (3-0) and the Czech Republic's Simon Belik (3-1) meant Liu finished joint second, but ended up in fourth on countback.

In his first classification match he was beaten 3-1 (11-3, 8-11, 4-11, 8-11) by Andrei Tomica of Romania, and he then saw Lerat exact revenge for his group defeat in three sets in the next match (3-11, 4-11, 10-12).

But he ended on a high note by defeating Glib Yakovlyev of Ukraine 3-1 (9-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-8) to end in 11th. The event was won by Portugal's David Bessa, with Elena Zaharia of Romania taking the girls' title.

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