

## KUWAIT SPORTS

## Mercedes Trophy celebrates 13th successful tournament



Seen in this picture is the Sahara Golf and Country Club where the Final of the prestigious Mercedes Trophy Golf tournament was held on March 5, 2010.



Mercedes luxury cars parked at the Sahara Golf and Country Club before the Mercedes Trophy Golf tournament on March 5, 2010.

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait National Final of the prestigious Mercedes Trophy Golf tournament was held at the Sahara Golf and Country Club on Friday, March 05, 2010.

This year was a very special tournament as Albisher & Alkazemi celebrated 13 years of organizing this unique tournament in Kuwait. It was an exciting finish to the keenly contested championships with the top 3 winners getting a chance to play in the Mercedes Trophy World Final in the fall of 2010.

Mercedes-Benz's involvement in international golf is a key component of the brand's international sports sponsorship activities. The image dimensions of this sport are a perfect match for the values espoused by our premium automotive brand. Moreover, Mercedes-Benz has been active in amateur golf since 1989. The Mercedes Trophy is a dedicated tournament series for amateurs in which more than 57,000

players tee-off each year in more than 50 countries. The contestants aim to reach the World Final in which the best individual players and the best team are decided in Stuttgart.

112 golfers participated in this year's tournament in Kuwait, all of them vying for the exclusive prizes and the most coveted top three positions for the chance to compete in the World Finals in Stuttgart, Germany.

The day started off with the participants registering with the club and collecting their welcome gift packs provided by Albisher & Alkazemi, followed by a hearty breakfast to energize the golfers. The tournament was divided into three-handicap classes to give everyone a fair chance to win and there were more than ten prizes up for grabs.

The play started at 12:30 PM and already one could feel the energy and competitiveness in the air as the golfers commenced on the

challenging course.

Everybody had their eyes set on Hole # 4, for the Hole-In-One prize - a fabulous Mercedes-Benz GLK Sports Utility Vehicle provided by Albisher & Alkazemi Company.

**The fiercely contested tournament was won by**

First Place Handicap Division A - Lenny Petrucci

First Place Handicap Division B - Nadeem Shafi

First Place Handicap Division C - Soren Sorensen

All three golfers are now eagerly awaiting the World Finals of the Mercedes Trophy golf championships held in Stuttgart, Germany every year.

**A complete list of other winners follows**

**below:**

Winner Trip to Dubai + Golf Package - Mohan Singh

Winner Trip to Dubai + Golf Package - Choi Shin Hyuck

Winner Trip to Dubai + Golf Package - John Rhee

2nd Place Division A - K.C.Shin

2nd Place Division B - Pan Jun Kim

2nd Place Division C - Raj Sethi

3rd Place Division A - Min Ryu

3rd Place Division B - Sang Hack Lee

3rd Place Division C - Robert Drolet

Nearest To Pin (Ladies) - Y.S.Lee

Nearest To Pin (Men) - Peter Wilson

Longest Drive (Ladies) - E.K.Nam

Longest Drive (Men) - Farhan Al Sham-mari

Mr. Michael Ruehle, General Manager Albisher & Alkazemi Company (Mercedes-Benz)

said "We wish to thank all the sponsors who made this year's competition a success. A very special word of thanks to the major sponsors of the tournament; Qatar Airways, Sheraton Hotel, Jumbo Travels, Libano Suisse Insurance, Golf M.E. & Tiffany & Co. for helping make this year's event such a grand success.

As a token of appreciation, Albisher & Alkazemi Co. extended to the golfers playing in this tournament a very exclusive offer on new Mercedes-Benz SUVs as announced by Mr. Palli Musthafa, Senior Manager Sales & Operations.

Albisher & Alkazemi company has been organizing this tournament continuously for the past twelve years and this very special thirteenth edition of the Mercedes Trophy Final came to a close with a sumptuous dinner accompanied by a jazz band at the terrace of the Sahara Golf Club.



Participants and their families at the special dinner during the closing of the Mercedes Trophy Golf tournament.



Mercedes-Benz GLK Sports Utility Vehicle provided by Albisher & Alkazemi Company set on Hole # 4, for the Hole-In-One prize during the Mercedes Trophy Golf tournament.

## BASKETBALL

## Mo Williams lead Cavs to 97-95 win over Spurs

**CLEVELAND:** LeBron James was in street clothes. Shaquille O'Neal was nowhere to be found, and Antawn Jamison was in the locker room icing his sore knee.

Mo Williams made two free throws with 9 seconds left and Delonte West made the kind of plays down the stretch reserved for James as the Cavs won for the first time in three seasons without their superstar, beating the San Antonio Spurs 97-95 on Monday night.

"We had a great opportunity. Not many teams can come here and win," said Spurs guard Manu Ginobili, who scored a season-high 38. "LeBron wasn't playing, Jamison didn't play the second half and Shaq wasn't there. We blew a big one."

Williams finished with 17 points for the Cavs, who were playing their second straight game without the injured James. The NBA's reigning MVP is nursing a tender right ankle as well as other bumps and bruises and Cleveland coach Mike Brown is taking advantage of a lull in Cleveland's schedule to get him rest.

West had 16 points and made a key steal in the final minute as Cleveland became the first team to reach 50 wins this season.

The Spurs were also short-handed, playing for the first time this season without guard Tony Parker. He's out six weeks with a broken hand suffered on Saturday in Memphis. The Cavs may suddenly have more to worry about than just James or O'Neal, out until the playoffs after having thumb surgery.

Jamison left late in the third quarter with an apparent left knee injury and did not return. He will undergo an MRI on Tuesday.

"Everything was fine in the first half. In the second half, it stiffened up," Jamison said. "I couldn't get the range of motion I needed. I had a slight case of this the first month of the season. It's not anything to really be worried about."

A back-and-forth game came down to the final min-

ute. With Cleveland up one, West stole a pass intended for Ginobili with 55 seconds left and was fouled by San Antonio's guard. He made both free throws to put Cleveland ahead 93-90 with 52.8 seconds left.

After San Antonio missed two potential game-tying 3s, Ginobili hit a tough step-back jumper that was ruled a 2-pointer.

The officials checked the TV monitors to make sure it wasn't a 3, and as they reviewed the play, Ginobili watched it on the giant overhead scoreboard. When he saw it wasn't a 3, Ginobili clenched his fists in disgust and spun on his heels.

"The replay was pretty clear," Ginobili said. "One inch. I knew I was on the line, that's why I stepped back. I was pretty sure it was a 3, but then I saw (referee) Joey Crawford asking for a review and he looked pretty sure. It's sad. It was a tough shot and the whole game changed."

Williams' two free throws made it 95-92 and the Spurs called time to set up a play. They ran it to perfection with Ginobili passing the ball out top to Roger Mason, but he missed his eighth consecutive 3-pointer and Anderson Varejao was fouled.

George Hill started for Parker and scored 23. Tim Duncan had 13 points for the Spurs, who had their winning streak stopped at four. The Spurs were excited to learn Parker will not need surgery, increasing the odds the speedy guard will be back at some point in the playoffs.

"I guess it makes me feel better," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. Unhappy with his club's defense, an irate Popovich tore into his players during a timeout late in the first.

"We gave away 8-12 points just because they ran it right down our throat and our transition was god awful," Popovich said. "That was the worst part of the whole game." -AP

## MOTOR RACING

## Force India target podiums as well as points

**LONDON:** After securing their first points in Formula One last season, Force India have set their sights on more than one podium finish in 2010.

"We finished 2009 on a real high note -- our first-ever points, a podium and one place up in the constructors' championship," said team principal Vijay Mallya in a preview for Sunday's season-opener in Bahrain.

"That is enough in itself to set the bar much higher this season, but we're really determined to take it to the next level. Regular points and the odd podium have got to be the aim and we know it is possible. I have a lot of faith in the drivers and the technical staff, I think we've got into a very good rhythm together now."

Italian Giancarlo Fisichella, now Ferrari's reserve driver, finished second in Belgium last year after starting on pole position. Force India ended the season ninth of 10 teams, with that number increased to 12 this year.

Germany's Adrian Sutil, who now leads the lineup with Italian Vitantonio Liuzzi, backed that up with a fourth place in Italy in September.

Mallya said he had been encouraged by testing results but added that nobody would know the reality until the first qualifying session.

"Certainly however the initial reports from the drivers are encouraging and when that happens it's worth another three to four tenths. If they feel happy and confident in the car then they can really attack," said the beer and aviation tycoon.

Sutil said his immediate goal for Bahrain was just finishing in the top 10 while Liuzzi said the new car was the best he had driven in five years in F1.

"It's the most balanced, and knowing that has made me feel so much stronger and confident," he said. "Of course you can never know exactly where you are compared to the others but we can go to Bahrain feeling optimistic and positive." -Reuters

## Kuwait prepares to host Gulf sport ministers meetings

**KUWAIT:** Preparations were ongoing by the higher organizing committee of the meetings of Gulf sports officials and heads of Olympic committees for the meetings that will be held here from March 19 to 22.

Member of the higher committee and head of the public relations committee Abdulhameed Al-Shakhs said in a press statement on Tuesday that the meetings were organized by the Public Authority For Youth And Sport (PAYs) in cooperation with Kuwait Olympic Committee.

On his part, member of the higher committee and general coordinator of the meetings Mishaal Al-Hdeba said that all committees were doing their best to ensure the success of the meetings in which important issues will be discussed.

The meetings will include the fourth meeting of the sport marketing committee for the executive council of the council of the heads of Olympic committees, the 24th meeting of the heads of Olympic committees, and the 24th meeting of the youth and sport ministers, he said.

He pointed out that a ceremony will be held to honor the heads of Gulf Olympic committees.

Meanwhile, head of the security committee Colonel Fahad Al-Shuwai said that the committee was ready for the reception of guests and has taken all measures to ensure their safety and the success of the meetings. Nobody will be allowed to enter the meetings' headquarters without providing a license or identification card, he said. -KUNA