



WVBF Protour 2009 Presented by Cornèrcard in Vevey (Switzerland)

"A successful first edition"

(Lausanne 17 August 09) Since the first edition in Lugano in 2007, the Beach Volleyball World Championship Protour presented by Cornèrcard under the auspices of the World Volleyball and Beach Volleyball Federation (WVBF in the text) has once again put his bags in Switzerland for the WVBF Protour first leg in Vevey. The event took place on the mythical market place, the Europe largest open area. 7 women's teams and 8 men's teams from all over the world have been competing for four days with a glorious sunny weather and in front of thousands of spectators.

The female victory came in 2 sets to the American pair composed of Pagano (already winner of several stages in 2007 and 2008 Protour) and Frohman before the Brazilian Costa and Gonzalez after a superb final. The podium is completed by the Bolivian Pavisic and Balderrama who beat in the small final the Italian pair Pino and Pietrucci.

The male tournament has been won by the Slovenian team composed of Strele and Lah who defeated the Brazilian Brito and Santos Junior in a one-way street final. We welcome the outstanding performance of Gregor Lah who is also a WVBF Board of Directors member and the WVBF Beach volleyball players' representative. The match for the third place was much more competitive and was won in three sets by the pair composed of Vesti, Switzerland, and Ten, Spain. We have to note the presence for the first time of an entirely Swiss team composed of Shoeb and Dougoud who took the 5th place of the competition.

The event has shown the WVBF commitment to promote sport promotion especially among children and teenagers. The WVBF is the only world Volleyball and Beach Volleyball institution who respects and fully implements the International Olympic Committee (IOC) fundamentals: democratic elections by secret ballots, financial transparency and development. WVBF spokesman, Kelly Sprunger, states on the success of the clinics held daily from 10am to 12am: *"not less than thirty children played for free during 5 days to learn Beach volleyball. In accordance with WVBF values and development principles, each child received a balloon, a t-shirt and something to eat during and after exercise."*

The WVBF President, Jean-Pierre Seppy, thanks the organizing committee chaired by Charles Weber and all the volunteers who worked hard and well the week long: *"There is no word to describe the devotion displayed by the team led by Charles Weber. I would also like to thank the city of Vevey and Jean-Marc Bryois, Head of Sport. Thanks also go to Boissons Riviera's Chairman Mr. Bernard Bapst, who provided with an exceptional support and who believes in us since the beginning of the adventure. Finally on behalf of the World Federation, I thank all the partners and the sponsors who make this event possible."*

The festival ended with a touching message by the Mayor of Vevey, Mr. Laurent Ballif, who confirmed the city support for future editions.

Photos: www.photos-people.ch; www.sportinforiviera.ch