



## Omega Nations Golf Tour is back with a second series

**March 04, 2019 - Dubai, UAE**

After the success of the inaugural tournament in 2018, Rivoli Group has announced that it will host the second series of the OMEGA Nations Golf Tour 2019.

The 2 ball Tournament and Net Stableford aggregate score format will be open once again to all adult amateur Golfers in the City. The tour will consist of 3 qualifier rounds beginning with the first tournament in March and a final event in December 2019 to be held at Dubai's brand-new golf course, Dubai Hills.

Awards include 3 place prizes for each tournament. The winning team of each tournament will win a Pro-Am spot in the OMEGA Dubai Desert Classic 2020 or the OMEGA Dubai Moonlight Classic 2020. Prizes will also be awarded to winners of the second and third place. On course prizes include Closest to Pin, Longest Drive for Men and Ladies.

Participants can sign up as a team with a country of their choice. Special Golf package is available for members and non-members of the Dubai Hills Golf Club, which includes green fees, range balls, cart and dinner.

All qualifying rounds in Dubai including the finals in December, will be held at Dubai Hills Golf club.

The 2019 Omega Nation's Tour is held in association with UBS.

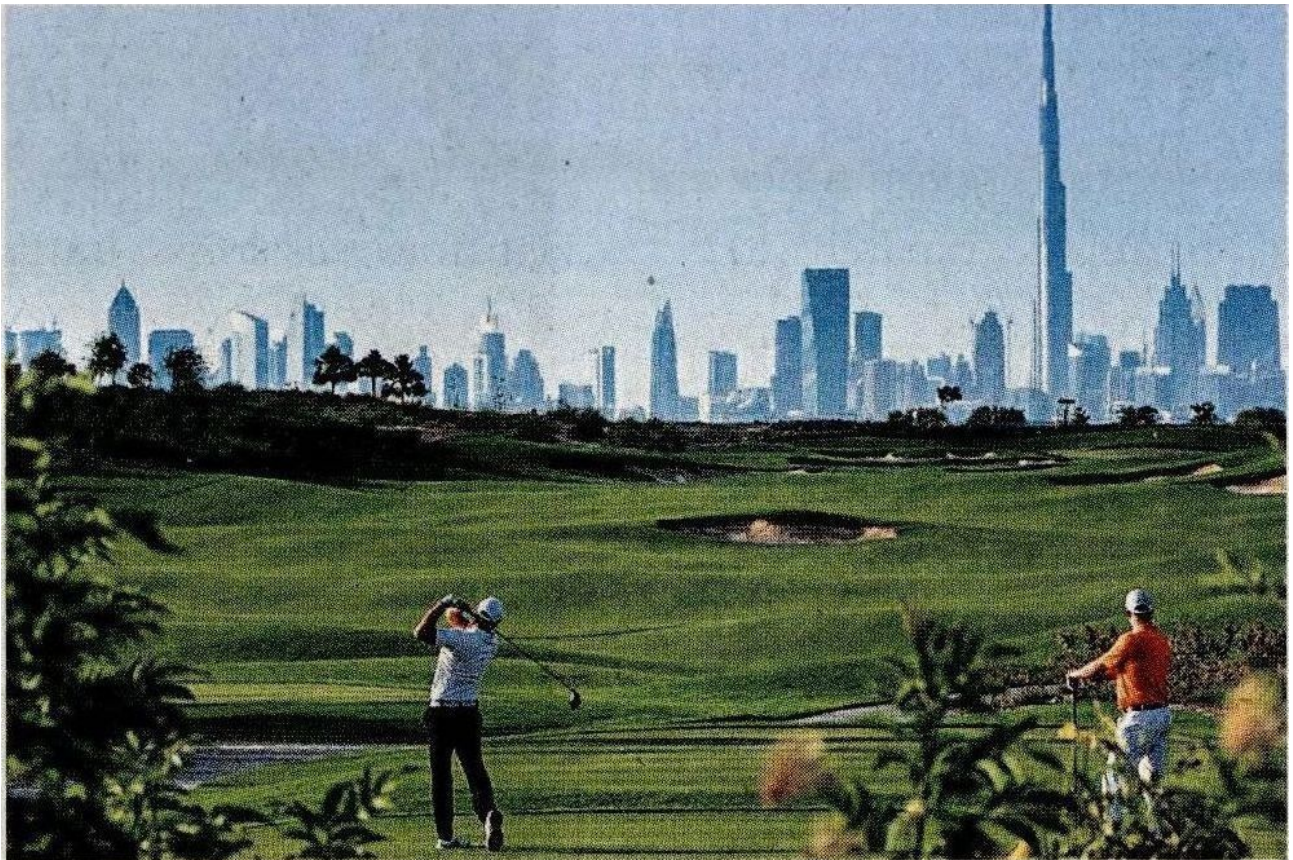
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## **Nations Golf returns for second campaign**

**DUBAI.** After the success of the inaugural tournament in 2018, Rivoli Group has announced that it will host the second series of the Omega Nations Golf Tour 2019. The two-ball tournament and net stableford aggregate score format will be open to all adult amateur golfers in Dubai. The tour will be to be held at the new Dubai Hills course and will consist of three qualifying rounds beginning with the first tournament in March and a final event in December 2019. *(Staff Report)*

AT HOME

inbrief

DUBAI

Pulse Secure, Rangers win

Pulse Secure, All Star Rangers and Ocean Fair advanced to the second round of the 11th AI Taher Spices Cup organised by Ocean Fair Sports Club. Ocean Fair beat Indoor International by 7 wickets. Indoor Int's scored 105 for all out in 18.4 overs while Ocean Fair scored 106 in 11 overs. In another match, All Star Rangers beat Renegades by 7 wickets. Renegades scored 177 for 7 in 20 while All Star Rangers reached the target in 19.4 overs. In the third match, Pulse Secure (180 for 5) beat Zurich by 69 runs.

DUBAI

AI Wasl secure playoff spot

AI Wasl in U14 team advanced in the Challenge Cup Playoff series of the Dubai Sports Council Football Academies Championship. In the U18 category, Du La Liga HPC defeated Invictus Academy to consolidate their No1 position. Additionally, Spanish Soccer Iniesta had a very close match with Barca Academy, but came out victorious with a 1-0 win.

DUBAI

Ross ready for a big finish

Craig Ross is determined to convert his good form on the Mena Tour by Arena into the one thing that matters most to any sports person—a title. "I have been hitting the ball well and putting well. I am just going to go into this week hoping for more of the same and win this event," said Ross, who recorded his first win as a professional at last year's Clipper Logistics Championship on the Euro-Pro Tour.

DUBAI

Kitayama moves into 5th spot

Kurt Kitayama surged into the top five on the European Tour's Race to Dubai Rankings after securing his second win of the season with a sensational comeback at the 2019 Oman Open at Al Mouj Golf. Zanotti, Kieffer, Clement Sorriet and Jorge Campillo all shared second place in the Sultanate, just one shot behind Kitayama. The quartet of players all pick up 182.5 Race to Dubai points which moves Zanotti from 50th to 24th while Kieffer, Sorriet and Campillo all climb into the prestigious Race to Dubai top 50.

DUBAI

Muanis, Munawer win badminton title

Mohamed Muanis & Mohamed Munawer won the MD A category title with a score of 21-16 19-21 21-13 in the 3rd edition of the Seven Seas Steel Industries UAE Badminton Silver Championship 2019. The other winners were, Rohan Jyothish & Myron Emile Verano (MD B) 21-17 19-21 21-15, Budi Hariyadi & Lathesh Kuttappan (MD C) 21-14 21-18, Dilshad Babu & Dishith Nc(MD C) 23-21 21-17, Jeffrey January & Rossamy Asipnor (XD B) 21-14 15-21 21-13.

# Watson steals show as Quetta make playoffs

Ashwani Kumar

ABU DHABI — Shane Watson's unbeaten 91 and 129-run second wicket partnership with Ahmed Shehzad powered Quetta Gladiators to eight-wicket victory and top of points table over Peshawar Zalmi.

It, however, felt that Zalmi with 165 for four had put enough on the board as the Pakistan Super League caravan made its maiden visit to Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium but the pitch held well, helped batsmen and complemented the tried-and-tested formula of chasers taking the final honours. It would have been, however, tricky had Zalmi players held onto their catches.

With 12 points, Quetta Gladiators became the first team to qualify for the PSL playoffs. Gladiators' skipper Sarfraz Ahmed, after winning the toss, had put Zalmi to bat and openers set the tone in the first few overs. Kamran Akmal and Andre Fletcher smashed Mohammad Nawaz, Sohail Tanvir and Mohammad Hasnain for boundaries and sixes to power Gladiators to 53 runs from six overs.

However introduction of Fawad Ahmed slowed down proceedings. The disruption of momentum led to a wicket as Nawaz found a way past Fletcher (26 from 28 balls).

Kamran, though, didn't allow the momentum to slip and smoked 14 runs from Fawad's third over to bring up his 35-ball 50. But in a tit-for-tat Fawad returned to snare new batsman Imam Ul Haq.

Gladiators kept leg on the accelerator as Kieron Pollard and Kamran raised 125 in 14 overs. But Hasnain halted the charge by ending Kamran's (72 from 50 balls) stay with a ripper. Zalmi saw an opportunity to return into the match but Pollard (44 from 23 balls) blasted fellow West Indian Dwayne Bravo and Tanvir to propel Gladiators to 165 runs. In reply, Zalmi skipper Darren



Ahmed Shehzad (right) and Shane Watson's 129-run partnership was instrumental in Gladiators win over Peshawar in the PSL match at the Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi. — Photo by Ryan Lim

Sammy started with Hasan Ali and Sameen Gul and the latter made good with his limited opportunities by trapping opener Anshu Ali leg before. But then Shehzad and Watson kept finding boundaries against likes of Wahab Riaz and Umaid Asif as the pitch offered decent bounce. Gladiators' batsmen were helped

by few dropped catches from Hasan. Watson celebrated the reprieves on offer by pummeling Riaz for monstrous sixes and Liam Dawson and Sameen for boundaries. And Shehzad celebrated the century stand with a scoop-shot four as match slipped out of Zalmi's hands. The partnership was finally broken

as Umaid bowled Shehzad but not before him scoring a 15-ball fifty. Then, Watson and Rilee Rossouw made light work of the remaining runs by coasting to victory with 14 balls to spare. Watson, in his element, fell nine short of a deserved century. [ashwani@khalajtimes.com](mailto:ashwani@khalajtimes.com)

**SHEHZAD STARS**

Peshawar Zalmi (165/4 from 20 overs): Kamran Akmal (72, 50k, 7k4c, 8k5k), Kieron Pollard (45, 21k, 7k4c, 1k6), Fawad Ahmed (1 for 25), Mohammad Nawaz (1 for 24).

Quetta Gladiators (166/2 from 17.4 overs): Shane Watson (91, 55k, 6k4c, 6k6k), Ahmed Shehzad (50, 45k, 5k4c)

## Quetta will not miss me in Pakistan: Shane

Ashwani Kumar

ABU DHABI — Shane Watson steered Quetta Gladiators to an eight-wicket win over Peshawar Zalmi in the Pakistan Super League match held at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium on Monday.

Watson with his man-of-the-match winning knock of 91 topped the leading run-scorers with 317 runs from eight matches. But despite the heroics and absolute domination over the Peshawar opponent, the Australian said his services will not be missed as the playoffs will be held in Karachi.

"Watson is still in 'talks' with his wife and parents about playing the Pakistan leg of the tournament. "I have always liked playing against them in international cricket. I always enjoyed the support people of Pakistan have given me. I will continue to talk to my family. We will see," he said after the match.

Watson doesn't feel his services will be missed during Karachi matches. "We have incredibly talented squad. With the depth in our squad I am not worried at all. We have a stronger squad this year. We have filled few holes in our squad that we had in a last year or so," he noted.

Reflecting on his knock, Watson likened Abu Dhabi wicket with Australian ones.

"This is a beautiful place to play. I have always enjoyed batting here. It's probably the closest to what you get to play like in Australia. The wicket here has some good pace and bounce. The wicket in Dubai and Sharjah are nice but don't offer much bounce which I am used to," the Queensland all-rounder said.

Watson praised Ahmed Shehzad with whom he shared 129-run partnership. "He took pressure of me at times. It was nice to bat with him."

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## Stage set for Omega Nations Golf Tour

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Dubai Hills golf course will play host to the Omega Nations Golf Tour final event. — Supplied photo



Ibtihaj, bronze medalist at the Rio Games, will attend the Special Olympics in Abu Dhabi. — AFP file

## Bernard, Ibtihaj among top stars to attend Special Olympics

ABU DHABI — Fans and athletes can look forward to seeing a whole host of famous faces at Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019.

Several more sports personalities and celebrities have been confirmed to attend the highly anticipated event from March 14-21.

Special Olympics' global ambassadors Nicole Scherzinger and Bob Beamon are among seven stars added to the growing roster of sports stars and celebrities heading to the Games to help raise awareness of the Special Olympics movement.

American singer and songwriter, Scherzinger, has a personal connection with Special Olympics due to growing up closely with her aunt, who has Down syndrome. Beamon, who still holds the Olympic world record for Long Jump, has been

heavily involved in promoting and supporting Special Olympics for several years.

Joining them for the World Games are sports stars Alain Bernard, Ibtihaj Muhammad and Hannah Teter. Former French swimmer and triple Olympic medalist, Bernard, will be engaging with Special Olympics athletes for the first time at a World Games after recently joining as an ambassador.

Muhammad has impressed in her sabre fencing career, which saw her win a bronze medal at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio for Team USA. She is also known for being the first Muslim American woman to wear a hijab while competing for the US in the Olympics.

Global ambassador, Teter, has won multiple medals during her snowboarding career. Panamanian singer Erika Ender, one of the top songwriters from Latin America who co-wrote worldwide hit Despacito, will also join the line-up of celebrities in town for the Games.

The latest announcement adds to the list of stars and widely-acclaimed personalities, including football legends Romario, Gafu, Didier Drogba, ex-NBA star Dikembe Mutombo, former Serbia volleyball player Vladimir Grbic, former figure skater

Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi will see more than 7,500 athletes from over 190 nations competing. Not only will it be the first time the World Games is being held in the Middle East, but it will be the largest sports and humanitarian event of the year.