

## Rot-Weiss Ahlen wins 7th ebm-papst Indoor Masters

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Rot-Weiss Ahlen has won the 7th ebm-papst Indoor Masters for A Junior teams in the Gerhard-Sturm-Halle in Mulfingen. Ahlen beat Borussia Mönchengladbach 5:4 on penalties in the final. Alemannia Aachen won the third-place play-off 3:2 against FSV Mainz 05.

The 7th ebm-papst Junior Indoor Masters was the most high-scoring ever, with 171 goals - to their delight, spectators saw up to twelve goals per game. The Sportfreunde Schwäbisch Hall, who play in the Württemberg regional league, gave an excellent performance. First they held three First Division teams to a draw: Eintracht Braunschweig, Alemannia Aachen and Karlsruher Sportclub. And then they even beat Hansa Rostock 5:1. Schwäbisch Hall also narrowly missed victory in their encounters with Aachen and KSC: both First Division clubs equalised in the last minute. So Schwäbisch Hall just failed to make the semi-finals. However, they finished in 8th place, in front of three First Division teams.

Not a single point was won by the A Juniors of FV Lauda, who are the undisputed leaders in the Odenwald District League. In their very first game against Rot-Weiss Ahlen, the team from the Taubertal suffered a convincing 5:0 defeat. But they then held their own in losing narrowly 1:0 to Borussia Mönchengladbach and 4:2 to SC Freiburg. "We could have got more out of it", Lauda's trainer Peter Fischer was convinced. All the participating teams commented very positively on the professional preparation and the familiar atmosphere at the tournament.

Karlsruher Sportclub were a great disappointment. KSC were thrashed twice - 6:0 by Eintracht Braunschweig and 7:0 by Alemannia Aachen. KSC, who just a few days ago won the international tournament in Sindelfingen, took part at the same time in an indoor tournament in Sauerland, and paid the penalty in Mulfingen. "The boys are a bit tired", was the response of co-trainer Ralf Hornig to his team's disappointing performance. "Besides, we left our strikers at home, they've got to save themselves for the A Juniors League."

The enthusiastic spectators experienced an exciting tournament from start to finish. The teams qualifying for the semi-finals were not decided until the last matches in the preliminary round. Breathtaking entertainment was provided in the framework programme by the roller-skating juggler TJ Wheels, the trampoline showjumpers from TV Nellingen, the rope skippers from TSV

Künzelsau and TSV Niedernhall, and the jazz danc group Balance from SV Mulfingen.

ebm-papst co-founder Gerhard Sturm, who initiated the first Indoor Masters in 2003, drew a positive summary of the tournament: "We have seen very attractive games of a high quality in a sold-out hall packed with 1200 spectators. With regard to technique and footballing talent, the players from our region were able keep up, just the required fitness was a little wanting. In particular the Schwäbisch Hall team put on a very good performance."

Caption: RW Ahlen - Winner of the 7th ebm-papst Indoor Masters

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