



Press Release

16th Annual ebm-papst Hallenmasters on 6th and 7th January 2018

Football teams from four nations play for the tournament championship

Hauke Hannig
Press spokesperson
ebm-papst Group

Phone: +49 7938 81-7105
Fax: +49 7938 81-97105
Cell: +49 171 36 24 067
Hauke.Hannig@de.ebmpapst.com

Wednesday, November 22, 2017
11:18:11 AM - Page 1 of 3

Author: Sandra Kuberski
Volunteer ebm-papst
ebm-papst Group

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The participant field for the ebm-papst Hallenmasters will be in the Gerhard-Sturm-Halle on January 6th and 7th, 2018. The 16th annual indoor tournament will also be held internationally – A-Juniors from the Netherlands, England and Switzerland will travel to Mulfingen, Germany. In addition sc Heerenveen, which also took part in 2017, the youth teams from FC Watford and FC St. Gallen will be taking part for the first time.

"We are very pleased to welcome three teams from abroad this year. The international participation demonstrates the outstanding quality of the tournament, fitting a global player like ebm-papst," explains Stefan Brandl, CEO of the ebm-papst Group. Advance booking for the ebm-papst Hallenmasters is on Monday, 4 December 2018. For the first time tickets can be purchased online at www.ebmpapst-hallenmasters.de. In addition, tickets are on sale at Sport Steinbach in Künzelsau.

The juniors of sc Heerenveen (U19 Eredivisie) took the court at the 15th annual tournament. Many had recognized the Dutch team as the favorite even after the first few games, but they suffered a bitter defeat in the quarterfinals against the eventual winner, FC Liverpool. All the more motivation for the young players this time around.

The team from Liverpool had to cancel because of other commitments, and will not be able to defend their title, but they proposed an English successor in FC Watford. The "Hornets", as the fans call the team from near London, promptly agreed. It will be interesting to see how the young talent from Watford handles the pressure in the hall. England rarely play in a hall, and FC Liverpool struggled initially at the last ebm-papst Hallenmasters, but then improved tactically from match to match.

The juniors from FC St. Gallen were the first team from Switzerland to participate. The oldest football club in Switzerland operates under the label "Future Champions of Eastern Switzerland" an extensive youth department, the U18 plays in the Swiss U18 league.

The international teams make the indoor tournament even more attractive for the teams from Germany. They appreciate the special family atmosphere of the ebm-papst Hallenmasters tournament and can thus compete with their peers, whom they do not normally meet up against during regular league play. "The tournament is in a class of its own when it comes to organization. Everything is just right. In advance and on the tournament day," commented Edmund Becker, Head of the Junior Performance Center of Karlsruher SC, after the most recent tournament.

The second and third place finishers of the 15th ebm-papst Hallenmasters, Fortuna Dusseldorf and Bayer 04 Leverkusen, will also be back in Mulfingen on 6 January 2018. The two meet regularly in the A Juniors Bundesliga West, Bayer currently has the edge. The youth team of TSV 1860 München are coming as well, who also play in the A Juniors Bayerliga, just like the Würzburger Kickers.

The youngsters from SC Freiburg and the Karlsruher SC know each other from the A Juniors Bundesliga South/Southwest and are both returning to the tournament in 2018.



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Karlsruhe is one of the most successful teams in the ebm-papst Hallenmasters, and the team has lifted the coveted tournament cup into the air three times in the past. In 2017, they took fourth place, besting the team from Freiburg, who did not get past the group stage at their tournament premiere.

Hannover 96 is joining the indoor tournament from the north of Germany. The competition should certainly keep an eye on Mark Große, one of the top goal scorers in the A Juniors Bundesliga North/Northeast, who moved from Austria to the capital of Lower Saxony at the start of the season. As usual, the field is supplemented by two regional qualifiers, who first have to prove themselves in December at the RBKJ-Cup of SV Mulfingen (17 December 2017) or at the JAKO-Cup of TV Niederstetten (27 December 2017).

"Our aim was to bring together top-class teams to the Gerhard-Sturm-Halle, just like every year, because the ebm-papst Hallenmasters is renowned far beyond our home region," explains Christoph Rohmer from JAKO, who, along with his colleagues from the sponsoring/promotion department, takes on the legacy of Karl-Heinz Beck and is responsible for team acquisitions: "In addition, we wanted to acquire new high-caliber talent to the familiar teams from 2017. I believe we have accomplished that goal with Hannover 96 and FC Watford."

Unlike the A juniors tournament, where no team has yet managed to win twice in a row, FSV Hollenbach's players can attempt a Hallmasters hat-trick after winning the Regional Tournament on Sunday in 2016 and 2017. On 7 January 2018, they will compete, along with the two national league teams TSV Crailsheim (2017 2nd place) and the FV Lauda (2017 3rd place). The organizing host is SV Mulfingen (district league). Sports enthusiasts from Schwäbisch Hall, VfR Gommersdorf, TSV Ilshofen and TSG Öhringen complement the field from the Verbandsliga, followed by the national league teams SpVgg Gröningen-Satteldorf, TSV Pfedelbach, SV Königshofen and the SV Osterburken, who is participating for the first time.

More information is available on the internet at <http://www.ebmpapst-hallenmasters.de>

Captions (photos: Thomas Wagner)

Picture 1+2: Exciting duels and goals galore – the ebm-papst Hallenmasters.

Picture 3: At the regional tournament as defending champion: FSV Hollenbach.

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About the ebm-papst Hallenmasters

The teams taking part:

A Juniors teams: 1860 München (Bayernliga), Bayer 04 Leverkusen (Bundesliga West), FC Würzburger Kickers (Bayernliga), FC St. Gallen (U18 Liga), FC Watford (U18 Professional Development League), Fortuna Düsseldorf (Bundesliga West), Hannover 96 (Bundesliga Nord/Nordost), Karlsruher SC (Bundesliga Süd/Südwest), SC Freiburg (Bundesliga South/Southwest), sc Heerenveen (U19 Eredivisie), qualifier from RBKJ-Cup, qualifier from Jako-Cup.

Active: FSV Hollenbach (Verbandsliga Württemberg), FV Lauda (Landesliga Odenwald), Spf. Schwäbisch Hall (Verbandsliga Württemberg), SpVgg Gröningen-Satteldorf (Landesliga Staffel 1 Württemberg), SV Königshofen (Landesliga Odenwald), SV Mulfingen (Bezirksliga Hohenlohe), SV Osterburken (Landesliga Odenwald), TSG Öhringen (Verbandsliga Württemberg), TSV Crailsheim (Landesliga Staffel 1 Württemberg), TSV Ilshofen (Verbandsliga Württemberg), TSV Pfedelbach (Landesliga Staffel 1 Württemberg), VfR Gommersdorf (Verbandsliga Nordbaden).

General information: The 16th annual ebm-papst Hallenmasters will take place on 6 and 7 January 2018 in the Mulfingener Gerhard-Sturm-Halle. There will be two groups of six teams each. Place one to four in each group will go through to the quarterfinals. Tickets for the A Juniors tournament can be purchased starting Monday 4 December 2018 on our online sales service at www.ebmpapst-hallenmasters.de and at Sport Steinbach in Künzelsau. Adults pay 12 euros, children (up to 16 years) 8 euros. The entry fee for the active teams tournament is 5 euros for adults and 3 euros for children (up to 16 years). Admission is free for children under 6 years.

About ebm-papst

The ebm-papst Group is the world's leading manufacturer of fans and motors. Since it was founded, the technology company has continuously set global industry standards: from interconnected, electronically controlled EC fans and aerodynamic improvements for fan blades to the use of materials that conserve resources.

In fiscal year 2016/17, the company achieved sales of almost €1.9 billion. ebm-papst employs over 14,000 people at 26 production sites (in Germany, China, the US and elsewhere) and in 49 sales offices worldwide. Fans and motors from the world market leader are used in many sectors, including ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration, household appliances, heating, automotive and drive engineering.