

# European Junior Championships 18 & under

Friday 27 July 2018

## A confirmation but no guarantee

Marco Keller

A successful tournament in Klosters can boost a player's career. But there are also cases when this doesn't happen.

People have gotten used to great Swiss results in Klosters. It is seldom, however, that three Swiss players are in the quarterfinals, as it is the case today with Leonie Kung, Fiona Ganz and Joanne Zuger. Back in 2013, a trio had achieved the same: Belinda Bencic, Karin Kennel and Nina Stadler.

To reach the quarters or to win a medal is a confirmation to be on the right track but no guarantee at all. Those three, who play today, know it just as well as the boys' combination of Yannik Steinegger/Damien Wenger, which has already ensured bronze and wants to



Daniel Michalski

advance to the gold medal match today.

This is how the Swiss medal winners between 2013 and 2017 have progressed:

**Karin Kennel** (silver 2013): At present the world number 533, but she was already number 409. The 23-year-old has often struggled with injuries.

**Belinda Bencic** (bronze 2013): By reaching the round of 16 at Wimbledon, she made it back to number 45. After a disastrous last year, she had begun the season being the world number 165. Bencic was already number 7 and recently seemed in great shape. A return to the Top 10 seems possible.

**Sara Ottomano** (bronze doubles 2014): The tall girl from Geneva is the number 1032, but three years ago, she ranked among the Top 600.

**Jil Teichmann** (bronze doubles 2014 and silver singles 2015): The lefty has fallen back slightly from number 132 to 168. She played her first two Fed Cup matches and won both doubles.

**Rebeka Masarova** (bronze 2016): Is almost 400 spots behind her best ranking and now number 657. Played her first tournament this week in Portugal in doubles after a nine month layoff, partnering Ylena In-Albon. Plays for Spain now.

**Jessica Crivelletto** (bronze doubles 2016): The 19-year-old was often injured and is risking to fall out of the Top 1000. Her best ranking was WTA 772.

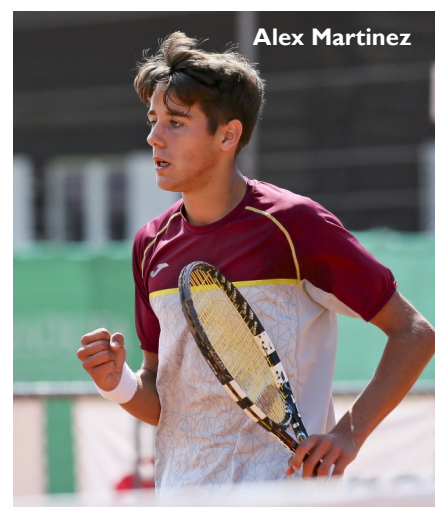
**Ylena In-Albon** (bronze doubles 2016): This year, she has progressed from number 683 to 305 and is at her best ranking. In 2018, she has won 36 of 44 professional matches.



Giulio Zeppieri

**Jakub Paul** (gold doubles 2017): The title gave the local hero wings for singles play as well. Right now, he is number 786 but his rise should continue.

**Damien Wenger** (gold doubles 2017): He has focused on junior tournaments and is now the number 34 in the ITF ranking. Will leave Klosters again with a medal in doubles.



Alex Martinez

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