



PORSCHE

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Golf star from France playing for a wildcard alongside the Ryder Cup captain

Alexander Levy's successful showcasing

Hamburg. The composition of the threesomes was definitely not a coincidence: Alexander Levy (France), winner of the 2016 Porsche European Open and last year's runner-up, played the first two rounds of the 2018 European Open on the Porsche North Course with Thomas Björn. The 48-year old Dane is the captain of this year's European Ryder Cup team that will play USA on the outskirts of Paris from 28 to 30 September 2018. For him, it is an important part of his job to once again personally take a look at one of the hottest wild card candidates. In posting a round of 68, Levy was four under par for today, Friday. Now seven under for the tournament, he put himself in a good position for the weekend in front of 7.500 spectators at Green Eagle Golf Courses. Bryson DeChambeau (-10, USA) continues to lead the leaderboard peppered with top stars, ahead of surprisingly strong Matthias Schwab (Austria) and Richard Mcevoy (both -9, England) and Masters Champion Patrick Reed (-8, USA). Philip Meijow (-6) from Berlin is the best German with Paul Casey (England) in 9th place.

A possible wild card for Alexander Levy has been a talking point for weeks. And naturally there is nothing French golf fans would love more as the – after the Olympic Games and football World Cup – third biggest sports event which will take place for the first time ever in France. However, Thomas Björn was not to be drawn on the subject at the Porsche European Open. He was visibly impressed “especially by the back nine holes and Alexander's finish with four birdies that show just what he is

capable of when he's on fire." But there is the other side of the very emotional Frenchman when things are not going his way.

"They can all play golf," knows Björn, "but I have to get an idea of how the players function in certain situations and in the end choose those that gel together to make up the best team." Whilst Alexander Levy's participation is therefore still open, as far as Martin Kaymer (Germany) is concerned, Björn excludes even theoretical chances of a wild card. Björn: "I know him very well and he is without doubt one of the world's best pros and would be an excellent addition to every team. At the moment however, things are not going well as he, as far as I can see, is caught up between the European Tour and the PGA Tour, and can't decide. But he's smart enough to sort it out in the future."

Thomas Björn, himself a three-time Ryder Cup winner, will by the way only be a spectator over the weekend at the Porsche European Open. He missed the cut by some way. No wonder as Björn has basically spent the past months travelling around the world watching possible team members. There wasn't much room for his own golf, "but I definitely have bigger themes to deal with at the moment".

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