**Joel Parkinson Wins Twin-Fin Division at Four Seasons Maldives Surfing Champions Trophy**

**August 10, 2019**,  *Maldives at Kuda Huraa, Republic of Maldives*

****

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Alternative text | Alternative text | Alternative text |

The twin-fin division of the [Four Seasons Maldives Surfing Champions Trophy](http://www.surfingchampionstrophy.com) was run and won in clean head-high tubes at Sultans this afternoon, with competitors revelling in the dreamy conditions on offer at the right hand point break. After meeting in the final of the single-fin division on Thursday, it was again Australians **Joel Parkinson** and **Josh Kerr** who squared off in the last heat today to decide the twin-fin champion for 2019.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Alternative text | Alternative text | Alternative text |

After an incredible afternoon of surfing blessed with the cleanest waves of the window so far, the final was the icing on the cake as Parkinson and Kerr went back and forth, exchanging long tubes, vicious turns and the lead a number of times. There could only be one winner, however, and as the final hooter sounded it was 2012 world champion Parkinson who gained his revenge for the earlier single-fin loss with an incredible 17.36 two-wave total to better Kerr’s 16.64, and claim the second of the three divisions. Parkinson did the damage with consecutive waves at the halfway mark, backing up an 8.33 with a 9.03 for a long, double-barrelled drainer. With Kerr already sitting on an 8.67 he spent the rest of the bout on the hunt for an almost identical 8.69, and although he had a number of opportunities he couldn’t quite overhaul his fellow Queenslander, a 7.97 the best of his attempts as the waves continued to cook.

“That was amazing,” said Parkinson, “Wave after wave after wave. They’re the finals you dream of. There were two waves in every set, which was even better. You could get back to the top and say, ‘you have the first one, I’ll have the second one!’ It was an amazing day of surfing. The whole Four Seasons experience has been incredible, the hospitality, the staff and just how luxurious it is, it’s really something I could get used to. I see myself and the family spending a lot more time here in future.”

Kerr rode the final on a surfboard he borrowed from Hawaiian **Kai Lenny**, after knocking a fin out in his semi-final showdown with **Matt Wilkinson**. “Obviously I would like to have been on my own board, especially as the waves got so good during the final. They’re easily the best conditions we’ve had so far; it was epic. Obviously Joel was in rhythm, whereas I probably was forcing it a bit hard on a board that wasn’t built for me. I’m really looking forward to tomorrow though, we could be finishing with a bang if conditions hold up.”

The first semi-final was the day’s slowest heat, Parkinson accounting for Lenny on the strength of an 8.27 and a 7.00. Lenny had a 7.07 on his opening wave but couldn’t find a backup, and was forced to settle for a third place. Things heated up in the second semi-final as Wilkinson, famed for his incredible backhand, unleashed a string of sizzling re-entries to lock in the highest scoring wave of the day, a 9.17. Kerr countered with a 7.60 and an 8.17 to narrowly edge in front. With Wilkinson chasing a 6.60 to make the final he came up agonisingly short, missing out by 0.1 in the closest heat of the event so far.

Due to Wiggolly Dantas (BRA) having to withdraw from the event, Kerr and Parkinson received first round walk-throughs today. In the second of the three-man round one heats, Wilkinson and Kai Lenny defeated local wildcard **Mohamed Fayaz**, who was thrilled to once again come up against some of surfing’s icons.

“It’s such a great opportunity to me to get to surf with some of the legends of the sport,” said the man who is nicknamed Pelé. “It’s a dream come true, I’m so happy! I wasn’t nervous at all; I was just excited. I had so much fun. The guys have all been so nice and so friendly; it’s been really special. Maldivian surfing is getting better and better, and hopefully through me getting a chance to compete in this event I can show some young kids of the level that it is possible to get to.”

Conditions are primed for an epic final day tomorrow as the surfers revert back to the modern weapon of choice, the thruster. At the end of that division a grand final will be contested by the two surfers with the highest points, and while Kerr and Parkinson each have one foot in the ultimate showdown, Wilkinson, Lenny and Fayaz are all still within striking distance.

The Four Seasons Maldives Surfing Champions Trophy is hosted aboard [Four Seasons Explorer](http://www.fourseasons.com/maldivesfse) – the Maldives’ ultimate surf vessel. Fans can get up close to the action with onboard VIP passes while the surf tour experience continues with nightly events back at [Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Kuda Huraa](http://www.fourseasons.com/maldiveskh), which plays host to the contest’s competitors, judges and [Tropicsurf](https://tropicsurf.com/) partners.

**Twin-Fin Division Results**

1. Joel Parkinson (AUS)  
2. Josh Kerr (AUS)  
3. Matt Wilkinson (AUS) equal with Kai Lenny (HAW)  
5. Mohamed Fayaz (MDV)

**2019 FS Maldives Surfing Champions Trophy Leaderboard**

Josh Kerr (AUS) 1900 points  
Joel Parkinson (AUS) 1900  points  
Matt Wilkinson (AUS) 1600  points  
Mohamed Fayaz (MDV) 1500 points  
Kai Lenny (HAW) 1500 points

# **RELATED**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Alternative text | **August 8, 2019**,  *Maldives at Kuda Huraa, Republic of Maldives*  Josh Kerr Claims Single-Fin Division on First Day of Four Seasons Maldives Surfing Champions Trophy  https://publish.url/maldiveskh/hotel-news/2019/surfing-champions-trophy-single-fin-results.html |
| Alternative text | **July 3, 2019**,  *Maldives at Kuda Huraa, Republic of Maldives*  Four Seasons Maldives Surfing Champions Trophy Announces Line Up of Surfing Legends for August 5-12 Event  https://publish.url/maldiveskh/hotel-news/2019/surfing-champions-trophy-line-up.html |

# **PRESS CONTACTS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Alternative text | **Juliana Ang**  **Director of Public Relations**  Tourism Court, #04-00, 1 Orchard Spring Lane  Singapore  247729  juliana.ang@fourseasons.com  **(65) 6514 82 81** |