



2009 Omega Mission Hills World Cup
Shenzhen, China November 26-29, 2009
Mission Hills Golf Club
Format: Four-ball

Purse: \$5,500,000
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,320

Final-Round Notes – Sunday, November 29, 2009

Italian brothers Edoardo and Francesco Molinari shot a final-round, 4-under-par 68 to win the country's first ever OMEGA Mission Hills World Cup in its 49th appearance at the team event.

Heading into the final round at Mission Hills Golf Club, the Italians were not the odds-on favorites as they were tied for second with defending champion Sweden (Henrik Stenson and Robert Karlsson) and one shot behind the lead set by Ireland's young phenom Rory McIlroy and four-time European Tour winner Graeme McDowell. But consecutive birdies on holes 11-13 put the Italians in the lead and neither the Swedes nor the Irish were able to catch them, as the Molinaris made a clutch up-and-down from a greenside bunker on the 72nd hole to secure the one-stroke victory.

With Edoardo and Francesco Molinari winning the 2009 OMEGA Mission Hills World Cup for Italy, they became the first brother duo to win this tournament. Prior to the Molinaris' victory, the previous-best finish by a brother tandem came in 1974 when Puerto Rico's Chi Chi and Jesus Rodriguez finished 11th in Caracas, Venezuela. Here is the complete list of top brother finishers:

Year	Team (Players)	Finish	Site
2009	Italy (Edoardo/Francesco Molinari)	Won	Dongguan, China
1974	Puerto Rico (Chi Chi/Jesus Rodriguez)	11	Caracas, Venezuela
1976	Puerto Rico (Chi Chi/Jesus Rodriguez)	T12	Palm Springs, California
2003	Trinidad & Tobago (Robert/Stephen Ames)	T15	Kiawah Island, South Carolina
2002	Trinidad & Tobago (Robert/Stephen Ames)	T17	Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
2007	Italy (Edoardo/Francesco Molinari)	T17	Dongguan, China
2008	Italy (Edoardo/Francesco Molinari)	T19	Dongguan, China
2000	Trinidad & Tobago (Robert/Stephen Ames)	T19	Buenos Aires, Argentina

Italy's final-round 68 in alternate-shot play Sunday was the highest final-round score by a winning team since the tournament moved to Mission Hills' Olazabal Course in 2007. Sweden shot a 9-under 63 last year, and Scotland fired a 66 on the final day in 2007.

Italy's previous best finish at the World Cup came in 1998 when Massimo Florioli and Costantino Rocca finished runner-up.

Francesco Molinari enjoyed the most consistent season of his career in 2009, establishing himself as one of Europe's top performers, with seven top-10 finishes, including second places in Hong Kong and Portugal. He made the cut in the three majors he played—the U.S. Open, the Open Championship and the U.S. PGA Championship, where he finished 10th. That steadfast consistency allowed him to break into the top 50 on the Official World Golf Ranking for the first time in his career.

Following a bogey on the third hole, Ireland (Rory McIlroy and Graeme McDowell) birdied holes 4 through 7 and appeared on its way to the country's third OMEGA Mission Hills World Cup victory. But following that stretch of birdies, the duo played the next 11 holes in 1-over par.

Defending champions Henrik Stenson and Robert Karlsson of Sweden tied for second with a final-round 69. The runner-up finish means that Sweden has finished in the top three at this event in four of the last five years and was its third runner-up in the tournament's history. Stenson also finished second in 2005 when he paired with Niclas Fasth.

Sunday's play was Foursomes (alternate shot). The tournament also used that format in the second round. In the first and third rounds, Four-ball was the format.

Americans Nick Watney and John Merrick rocketed up the leaderboard, thanks to seven consecutive birdies on the back nine to shoot a final-round, 10-under-par 62 to finish at -20-under and tie for seventh. Team USA began the day at 10-under-par and tied for 22nd. The 62 is the lowest fourth-round score since the tournament switched formats in 2000.

The American's streak of seven birdies in a row (holes 10-16) was the best birdie streak of this year's event even though it came in Sunday's traditionally more difficult alternate-shot format.

Host country China shot a 1-over-par 72 Sunday to finish at 12-under overall. Liang Wen-chong and Zhang Lian-wei tied for 17th. China's all-time best World Cup performance came in 2007 when the Chinese tied for 11th.