



## PRESS RELEASE

### The WINAMAX French Darts Festival returns to Normandy after a hugely successful first edition

From December 3 to 5, 2026, the Caen Exhibition Centre will once again host the biggest darts event ever organized in France.

Following a first edition that welcomed 10,500 visitors, 1,550 amateur players and nearly 4,000 spectators during the Gala Night, the festival is reaching a new level and confirms the spectacular rise of darts in France.

For three days, the Caen Exhibition Centre will once again be transformed into a true darts arena across more than 12,500 sqm, featuring over 1,700 matches, 132 dartboards and a spectacular show inspired by PDC events, the global benchmark for professional darts.

### An international phenomenon taking hold in France

A true institution in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Germany, darts is now experiencing rapid growth in France, driven in particular by Thibault Tricole, the French number one and the first French player to make his mark on the international professional scene.

French player Thibault Tricole, co-founder of the event, will once again be at the heart of the festival alongside several world-class darts stars during an exceptional Gala Night in front of more than 5,000 spectators.

The 2026 line-up will notably feature:

- **Peter Wright** — “Snakebite”

Scottish player born in 1970 — two-time PDC World Champion (2020 and 2022) and former world number one. Known for his extravagant style and showmanship, he has won 8 major PDC titles, including the 2021 World Matchplay and several European Championships. He is one of the most popular players on the circuit. Recently, he caused a major upset by eliminating reigning champion Luke Humphries at the 2025 World Championship, averaging 100.93 with exceptional double-finishing accuracy.

- **Michael Smith** — “Bully Boy”

English player born in 1990 — 2023 PDC World Champion. His final victory against Michael van Gerwen became legendary after he completed a nine-dart finish — only the second ever achieved in a World Championship final. He also won the 2022 Grand Slam of Darts and the 2024 PDC World Cup alongside Luke Humphries.

- **Kim Huybrechts** — “The Hurricane”

Belgian player born in 1985 — quarter-finalist at the 2012 PDC World Championship and semi-finalist at the 2014 Grand Slam of Darts. Multiple-time Belgian champion, “The Hurricane” is one of the most experienced players on the professional circuit.

- **Thibault Tricole** — “The French Touch”

Born in 1989 and based in Malguénac, Thibault Tricole became the first French player to win a match at the PDC World Championship in 2023 against Belgium’s Mario Vandenberghe. Runner-up at the 2022 WDF World Championship, he is widely regarded as the greatest French darts player in history. Since then, he has continued to deliver high-profile performances, defeating former world champions such as Gerwyn Price and Michael Smith on the European circuit.

## **Three days of competition and entertainment**

The WINAMAX French Darts Festival will combine competition, celebration and entertainment through a packed program:

### **Thursday, December 3**

- Work’N’Play Challenge (corporate tournament)
- Ultimate Pairs Challenge (amateur doubles)

### **Friday, December 4**

- All Stars Challenge (singles)
- Ladies Cup
- Legends Cup
- ParaDarts Cup

### **Saturday, December 5**

- Battle Royal team tournament
- Professional Gala Night

More than 1,600 amateur players from across France and Europe are expected to take part in the 2026 edition.