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024

**A travel guide through German
football culture**

PUBLISHER

The DFB Culture Foundation supports local and national projects in the areas of culture, education, science and international understanding within and relating to football. Every two years, the football culture of the World Cup or European Championship host nation is a particular focus.

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EDITORIAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

11FREUNDE stands for a different kind of football journalism. It goes beyond mere match reports and standings, instead bringing its readers features and exclusive background reports of far-reaching value. Whether you are a supporter of Arminia Bielefeld, Fortuna Düsseldorf or Bayern München — the club is unimportant. It's about the passion. 11FREUNDE looks down on the pitch from the stands and takes sides — for the fans and for the game.



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U EFA EURO 2024 is bringing Europe's 24 best teams together in Germany. The eyes of millions of European fans will be squarely on the host country. No matter whether you are a fan in the stadium, a supporter at a public viewing event or a couch potato watching from home, the European Championship tournament is an exciting speed-dating event bringing together cultures and clichés, people and unforgettable moments. It is a crash course on the country and people of Germany. Our „travel guide through German football culture“ presents places, people and stories that shine a spotlight on how football is lived in this country. Journalists from the football magazine 11FREUNDE have taken a closer look at amateur clubs, football museums

and almost forgotten stadiums. They have met with artists, fan project workers, authors, journalists, musicians, foundation organisers and film directors in addition to discovering remote sites in this colourful football republic along with long-lost artifacts from EURO history. City maps and regional football tours lead you through a lively and exciting football cultural landscape away from the 10 EURO stadiums.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY IT!
DFB Culture Foundation

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**For all
and for
none**

RONALD RENG on Germany's wonderfully difficult relationship with football



he countryside surrounding Kirchweidach is flat and full of fields, but majestic alpine peaks rise on the horizon. In the last municipal elections, the centre-right Christian Social Union (CSU) won 78.7

percent of the vote. A brass band began playing when Harry Kane emerged from his car at the hotel Gasthof zur Post. Inside were 400 lucky souls who had received tickets for the meet-and-greet with Kane, almost all of whom were wearing the red nylon shirts of FC Bayern. The hefeweizen was flowing – after all, it was already 11 a.m. on a Sunday morning. „Had you ever heard of Kirchweidach before?“ the moderator asked Kane, the world-famous striker from northeast London. „Um, I hadn't, no,“ Kane responded with disarming honesty. The audience roared with laughter. Once a year, FC Bayern München sends its professional players to fan clubs

across the country, and The Reds from the Upper Bavarian village of Kirchweidach won the grand prize in 2024: They were sent the Bundesliga's biggest attraction, the 100-million-euro man from FC Bayern. They invited Kane for a game of Bierkrugschieben, a lot like curling, but played by pushing a beer mug down a wooden track. Then, he was peppered with a bunch of questions, such as about his favourite animal. „Lion,“ said Kane, likely thinking of the Three Lions, the nickname of the English national team, only to cringe when the boos began raining down. His interpreter quickly whispered into his ear, telling him that the lion is also the mascot of FC Bayern's crosstown rivals, TSV 1860 München. Kane quickly corrected himself. „Just a dog! Just a dog!“

The visit lasted two hours. When English football reporter Rob Draper from The Guardian turned up in the hotel immediately after the event for an interview with Kane, the journalist thought

he could see the relief in the football star's body language: Finally, another Englishman! Safe ground! They warmed up by talking about cricket and England's test match against India.

„That was a bit crazy,“ Kane said later during his interview with Draper about the fan club event, and there was no doubt that he meant it in the best way possible. Wonderfully nuts. „It's the first sort of thing I've done like this,“ he told Draper, despite having played professional football in England for 13 years. There, the fans are just a backdrop in the stadiums. But in Germany, as he learned in Kirchweidach, they are part of the club. This is „a club owned by fans rather than a nation state or private equity,“ Draper wrote in his article. „Here you see the difference and the contrast could not be starker.“

Sometimes, an outsider has to come to remind us of who we are. The significance of football in German society, how well it continues to reconcile business and community interests – these are things we ourselves don't often see as clearly as a visitor from England.

Just recently, the bickering over a possible investor in German football and the rather middling



In this country of cultivated football fanaticism, the national team has become a kind of seismograph for the national mood.

results produced of late by the German national team have given the impression that the sport in Germany is facing almost insurmountable difficulties. But a calm look behind the current commotion reveals that football in Germany has almost astonishingly become a phenomenon far beyond the actual game itself.

Economically, the Bundesliga is (even without an investor) the second-strongest national football league in the world behind the Premier League, and it is also the emotional focus of hundreds of thousands of fans who are standing up to the dictates of turbo-capitalism. It is often the case that people of all ages and all levels of society play and watch football together, no matter what their differences might be.

The 10 shows with the largest audiences in the history of German television have all been football



matches. The German Football Association is by far – ahead of choir groups, allotment gardener clubs or political parties – the largest collective movement in the country, with 7.3 million members. Football in Germany is a lever for cultural understanding and social work. The cliché of football passion is fans throwing tomatoes at players after important defeats, but I really wonder: Aren't the things that happen in Germany even crazier? Following Eintracht Frankfurt's UEFA Cup victory in 2022, an orchestra called „The Lyric Storm“ staged the final match victory as an opera called „Una notte in Siviglia.“ Those who sang an Eintracht fan song at the door got in for half price.

In this country of cultivated football fanaticism, the national team has become a kind of seismograph for the national mood. Most will instinctively first think of the 2006 World Cup in Germany, when a „good-humoured football nationalism“ spread across the land, as historian Kay Schiller has written. A feeling developed during that World Cup, strengthened by the enthusiastic playing style of the German team – but also, of course, politically promoted and instrumentalised by marketing campaigns.

It was a feeling that said: We are cheerful and cool. Looking back from today's perspective, it is clear that the decade that began in 2006 was a special one, both in terms of football and society at large. Optimism had the upper hand in Germany. Today, many have succumbed to the conviction that optimism – in football as in politics – can also lead to carelessness.

Since 2019, peak viewership of Germany's World Cup and European Championship matches has only been half as large as in the previous decade. In some years, more people even tuned in to the country's never-ending crime series „Tatort“ than to watch the national team battle it out in the Qatar World Cup. That's not just the product of the

emotional pain Team Germany has inflicted on its fans in recent years.

In times of pandemic and a war in the heart of Europe, in an age when an aggressively destructive political power like the AfD is flexing its muscles, football suddenly looks rather banal to many. But beneath the surface, football in Germany has lost very little of its power to bring people together. All the way down to the regional leagues, clubs are consistently announcing new audience records. In Aachen, 27,000 fans turned up for a fourth-league match, while a clash in Meppen hosted 9,600. The feeling of belonging is perhaps no longer being acted out on the national stage, but locally, it is alive and well. I am convinced that just one or two stirring national team performances in this year's European Championships would be enough to activate the national team seismograph. If only it were so easy to order up such matches.

„Football belongs to the fans,“ is one of the slogans used by fan clubs in Germany. I am actually of the opinion that football belongs to nobody. That is why it is so attractive. No matter what you might be looking for in football – a game to play yourself or to make money, a place to find a community, to get involved, to escape reality or simply to pass the time – no matter what you might be looking for, you will find it in German football.

The turbo-commercialisation of the professional game, which fans frequently decry, has actually enabled a number of unique social projects surrounding football. It is money from the professional operation that directly or indirectly finances everything that we refer to today as „football culture.“ Thirty years ago, the even the term itself would have been seen as an impossible paradox. Culture was the exact opposite of football! Ahead of the World Cup in 1974, Karl-Heinz Vogel, the sports desk editor at the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, apologized to his readers in advance for the outrage of focusing an unusual amount

No matter what you might be looking for in football, you will find it in German football. That is why it is so attractive.

of attention on football during the tournament. It was, he wrote, „not an easy decision.“

Today, to take one example, Eintracht Frankfurt finances a museum in which the directors Matthias Thoma and Frauke König teach the history of football in addition to sensitising visitors to afflictions like depression. And when VfL Bochum headed for their summer 2023 training camp in South Tyrol, a group of youth from needy families in Bochum joined the professionals in the mountains. The Fan Project Bochum arranged the trip for the teenagers. Fully 71 such projects were made possible through funding from the German Football Association and the Bundesliga. The Bochum project leader Florian Kovatsch set it up such that the teenagers would have to find their own way through the moun-

tains as a way of strengthening their sense of responsibility. Their goal was to make it to VfL's morning training session on the pitch in the town of Gais. And they made it – but only to the afternoon session.

There are thousands of such examples, tales of how football in Germany is both a capitalist endeavour and a charitable benefactor. And sometimes, those two worlds still collide. Such as Harry Kane's visit to Kirchweidach. Kane, the Golden Boot winner in the 2018 World Cup awarded to the most prolific goal scorer, also had to endure a game involving the hammering of nails into a tree stump. The way he held the hammer didn't make it look as though he was super familiar with such tools. And the nail he was supposed to pound into the stump quickly bent.

As he left, Harry Kane seemed to the Guardian reporter Draper as a man who will retain fond memories of Kirchweidach as a rather unique peculiarity of football in Germany. His next stop in the German outback will be quite a bit more ordinary. Together with the English national team, Harry Kane will be staying in Blankenhain, Thuringia during the 2024 European Championships. The biggest attraction there? A golf course. ●



RONALD RENG

The award-winning journalist and author is currently writing a new book taking a detailed look at the 1974 World Cup, which took place in West Germany.

**“Artists
don’t have
the herd
mentality”**

**“Team
spirit in a
band is
super
important”**

The artists
SUSI BUMMS,
THOMAS
DEMAND
 and **GERRIT**
STARCZEWSKI
 discussing inter-
 views, staging
 and solitude in
 football

An important question right from the start: Are you automatically a fan of the team from the city where you were born?

THOMAS DEMAND: I think so, yes.

As a native of Munich, Bayern or 1860?

DEMAND: Bayern München, of course. Originally, it was 1860, but not for long. They were so idiotic for a time that it simply wasn't fun.

Gerrit Starczewski, nowhere is football supported with as much passion as in the Ruhr Valley. You are a fan of VfL Bochum, right?

GERRIT STARCZEWSKI: Exactly. But not by birth. I was born in Oberhausen and a fan of Bochum because my father is from Wattenscheid. The first photos I ever took as a child were in the Ostkurve fan block. That's where I was socialized.

Susi Bumms, to what team have you declared your loyalty?

SUSI BUMMS: None at all. I first took the field when I was six and have been playing football ever since. I was never led into fandom like these two. I found my great love of the game through playing. And that love has remained, though I do now also enjoy watching football.

The loyalty with which fans support their football club has parallels with social conservatism. Is that not the exact opposite of the constant change seen in the worlds of art and culture, where it is vital to constantly reinvent yourself and question everything?

DEMAND: That's true, but it doesn't really transfer to football. After I had been living in Berlin for a time, I

went to a Hertha match, but it didn't really work. You feel like an opportunist when you turn your back on your own club to sign on with someone else. It's a bit awkward.

The late film director Klaus Lemke once said that football is „galaxies away from cinema.” But don't the best football matches also make for great theatre, an artistic production?



THOMAS DEMAND

Demand is one of the most important contemporary artists in the world. He is mostly famous for his works in which he fashions paper models of famous crime scenes or press photos. He then takes photos of the models, which are what go into the exhibition. The detailed models themselves are destroyed.

stuff surrounding football almost even more fascinating. In Bochum, there is a wonderful football bar at the train station, the Hopfendolde, where the music is the worst possible schlager. I hate it, really don't like it, but I love going to the place and just people watching, because they come together for football from all layers of society. You see guys in suits at the bar talking about football with welfare recipients.

At the moment, there seems to be a widespread thirst for the European Championships this year to produce a similar effect to the so-called „summer fairy tale” in 2006, when the World Cup was in Germany. Is the idea of football as social glue just

BUMMS: Of course it's a production. It depends on where you stand, how you stand, if you are standing, how you take part, definitely. For me, it's linked to the previous question: The difficulty of becoming a new fan at a more advanced age is ultimately a question of fitting in to this production in the stadium. It's tricky. I had the feeling that I would never be adequate for this advanced cult.

STARCZEWSKI: I don't agree with Klaus Lemke. I am more of the opinion that football is the best possible, real cinema. And that doesn't just apply to the game itself. Even as a child, I found all the

a myth, or does it really have the power to unite people across societal rifts and social classes?

DEMAND: I understand the point, but I don't really think that football really has such great unifying power. At the end of the day, people take their attitudes with them into the stadium and know how to take advantage of the public gathering. You can't ignore the fact that the gigantic plaza in front of the stadium in Berlin is also used by neo-Nazis to distribute their pamphlets.

BUMMS: It depends on what the benchmark is for social glue. I would never, for example, visit every stadium without an escort. I would be scared. For me, that's clearly not glue. Such a wide-eyed simplification doesn't work. But the European Championships is of course an event that brings neighbours together. A few garden gates are indeed opened.

Football is frequently expected to take a position on political or social issues. You, as artists, are also faced with such demands on a regular basis.

STARCZEWSKI: I have always been in favour of keeping politics out of the stadium. But if you take a closer look, of course the stands are political. You see it, for example, in which ultra-groups are friends with each other, such as those from Bayern München and FC St. Pauli. I wish it weren't so, but ultimately, football has become extremely political.

DEMAND: Politics is the allocation of responsibilities, and thus of power. I find that rather uninteresting in the context of football. For me, this question centres

around the old football ethos of decency. The definition of decency changes over the decades, and it is of course different today than it was during Sepp Herberger's time. But without decency, I believe, it doesn't work. That is true for how we treat each other and how we treat the opposing team, it is true for the fans, for insulting gestures in the stands, for fouls and lies, for everything. And that is something that can easily be applied to politics and to all social contexts: Treat each other decently.

„I am of the opinion that football is the best possible, real cinema. And that doesn't just apply to the game itself.“

BUMMS: I couldn't have said it better myself.

Football must be extensively trained and meticulously prepared, but the most dazzling moments are often the products of intuition and improvisation. That is something the game has in common with art: A brief moment of inspiration is often decisive, with lots of work coming both before and after.

DEMAND: But there are differences. Artists, for example, don't really have the herd mentality. Everyone

wants to do something different than what the other guy did. The moment someone says: „That's what art looks like these days,“ you know that there's someone just around the corner who is doing the opposite – and then, the art of tomorrow looks completely different.

Yeah, football is a team sport.

DEMAND: In football, there are obligatory traditions, a herd instinct, that many follow. Every few years, an iconoclast like Guardiola shows up, whose ideas everyone then tries to copy. Art is more individual. But you know what I really find artistic about football?

Let's hear it.

DEMAND: How it is possible for 11 people to run around and act in coordination with each other in accordance with a set plan. We sit in front of the television and see the entire picture, but they are down there on the pitch. They can hardly see their teammates and have to run the entire time, it is super loud and their trainer is standing on the sideline yelling something that is impossible to understand. It must be an incredibly stressful situation. Against that background, it's amazing that the game unfolds differently each time.

In this situation, how important are brilliant individualists – football artists, if you will?

DEMAND: There are set pieces, of course, and there is a lot that can be trained, but for individual players, each in-game situation is new. And that's where art-

„It is fascinating to watch how much stress is involved, on the one hand, but then where the creative spark suddenly comes from, out of nowhere.“

SUSI BUMMS

Bumms is the bassist for the punk-rock band The Screenshots, which was founded in 2018. The band's debut album, „2 Millionen Umsatz mit einer einfachen Idee“, ended up in 45th on the German charts. For the 2021 European Championships, Bumms teamed up with the band's singer and author Thees Uhlmann for a football podcast called "Diffussball Show".



Nicolas Epe

ists like Zidane come in, who suddenly have an idea that is simultaneously so absurd and so wonderful that it changes everything. Are you familiar with that wonderful film from Douglas Gordon and Philippe Parreno, „Zidane: A 21st Century Portrait“? (*everyone nods*) Seventeen cameras all pointed at Zidane. During brief breaks in the action, you can watch as he ties his shoes, how he then suddenly takes off running before then stopping, even though the ball isn't coming to him. The film gives the very best impression of what it is actually like down there on the pitch, something most of us are only familiar with as hobby footballers. It's fascinating to watch how much stress is

involved, on the one hand, but then where the creative spark suddenly comes from, out of nowhere.

Players like Zidane can only shine as part of a well-balanced team. A group of 11 Zidanes or Cristiano Ronaldos wouldn't work. Is that comparable to the make-up of a band, Ms. Bumms? Four Beyoncé's wouldn't likely be much of a band.

BUMMS: We at The Screenshots definitely find football metaphors to be helpful. Who runs out ahead, who provides cover, who slows things down. We think about such questions. Team spirit in a band is super important. You have to have a sense for whether



**GERRIT
STARCZEWSKI**

Starczewski is primarily known as a film director and producer and made a name for himself with the film „Pottoriginale“, based on life in the Ruhr Valley. Starczewski is also a photographer and the organiser of the Nacktionalmannschaft, a match in which the players play in the nude.

the others are having a good or bad day – and the willingness to compensate for it. Still, I would immediately want to watch a band of four Beyoncé's or a team of 11 Ronaldos. It sounds exciting!

STARCZEWSKI: I think there are a lot of strong parallels between a band and a football team. The frontman is the star player, the captain, the one who gives the interviews, while the bassist is a bit more stable, the equivalent to a reliable defence.

BUMMS: Stop! I love these images, yes, but I think they're only ever half true. Our frontperson, for example, certainly doesn't want to wear number 10.

I think he would most like to be sitting in the commentator's booth.

The professions of Mr. Demand and Mr. Starczewski seem rather lonely to me. Do you sometimes miss the feeling of team spirit?

DEMAND: It is certainly something for people who enjoy being alone. But there is seclusion in football as well. I have always been fascinated by the seclusion of the dressing room; I once created a work of art on it called „Kabine“. Players aren't completely alone inside, but after 45 minutes, they go into halftime and are kind of alone as a group of 11. It's a magic place, and in the best case, they are transformed when they come back out.

Essentially, though, dressing rooms are unglamorous non-places, aren't they?

DEMAND: They are unreal. Even when the team celebrates after a victory. Merkel might show up, but it's not an accessible space. But I'm primarily interested in halftime, during which I imagine the dressing room to be extremely lonely. Maybe the trainer has lost the last four matches and knows that he is soon to be fired. He doesn't like it, of course, but he wants to go out with his head held high. These are all things that we don't know, things that the people in the dressing room must confront by themselves. Do you stay calm or do you flip out? Tuchel just broke his toe in such a situation.

You are referring to Thomas Tuchel, the FC Bayern trainer, who kicked a door during his motivational speech ahead of a Champions League match against Lazio Rom. The team had lost the first of the two matches.

DEMAND: Exactly.

Another solitary moment in football: The few seconds before the whistle ahead of a penalty. You really don't want to be in a player's shoes.

DEMAND: It's pretty brutal, to be sure. In such moments, the game is extremely private. Back to Zidane: The entire world is watching. Materazzi says something to his opponent, Zidane, about what he wants to do with his mother. Zidane loses it. Forty million people see what happens next, but they

don't understand. That, too, is a kind of solitude. *Which brings me to another issue. There are incredible amounts of money involved in modern-day professional football. Public interest is high, so there are more and more competitions with more and more matches. Professional footballers, and really everyone who work in the system, are under an incredible amount of pressure. What about you? How do you deal with the pressure to perform?*

„I think there are a lot of strong parallels between a band and a football team. The front-man is the star player, the captain, the one who gives the interviews.“

DEMAND: When I have an exhibition, it's basically too late anyway, I can no longer change much. It's probably a bit different for Susi during live shows.

What's it like, Ms. Bumms? How does applause affect you when you are standing on the stage with your band? Is it like a drug?

BUMMS: Not for me. When I'm on stage, I am mostly paying attention to the person who isn't clapping. The idea that you walk off the stage with a huge ego after a concert is not one that makes much sense to me. I'm sure it exists, but I've never experienced it. (laughs) It's comparable to professional football: You know that you only have 10 or 15 years for your career, everything is compressed – the money, the rhythm. Everything.

You are active on social media and an expert when it comes to pithy statements. It's an artform. What do you think of the one-liners from the great football philosophers like Franz Beckenbauer or Gary Lineker? Wouldn't their aphorisms make for wonderful modern-day tweets, or whatever they're called these days?

BUMMS: It's wonderful! That's probably why, in the music scene as well, there are constantly attempts to interview people right after their concerts – to recreate the brilliance of the on-field interview. But they're usually never as great as they are in football, because musicians are apparently not quite as exhausted after concerts as players are after a match.

We love to make fun of soundbites like Andreas Möller's legendary: „Milan or Madrid, as long as it's Italy!" On the other hand, Toni Polster once said: „I don't want to be a monument. Pigeons shit on them." That's philosophy.

BUMMS: It is. Or the famous „what was the problem" interview, which has long since become standard usage.

STARCZEWSKI: That, though, really was staged. Torsten Knippertz dreamt it up. He is the public address announcer for Borussia Mönchengladbach

„I'm very much looking forward to Nagelsmann and his team. It seems that he has recently been conveying a kind of a vision.“

and also an actor. I also thought it was real at first. But isn't it more interesting to stage such things nowadays anyway? At some point, I started interviewing normal people right after matches when their emotions were still raw. Pure gold! I find them far more interesting than interviews with players, who receive years of interview training and have press spokespersons.

Now, the European Championships are coming to Germany. Are you looking forward to it?

STARCZEWSKI: I am really looking forward to the English team, they're coming to us in the Ruhr Valley and are playing in Gelsenkirchen. But I don't think a euphoria will arise in Germany of the kind many are hoping for. The atmosphere in the stadiums has been dead for years. A number of mistakes were made, in my opinion, and fan culture deliberately quelled.

DEMAND: I don't take such a political view of it, but maybe I'm too naïve. I'm very much looking forward to Nagelsmann and his team. It seems that he has recently been conveying a kind of vision that is different from what we were hearing from the national team in the past. I'm impressed by that. Maybe it won't ultimately work, but at least he will have tried.

BUMMS: I enjoy watching football together with my friends, but because I spend a lot of time on the internet, I am also looking forward to the media discussion on all the platforms. The explanations, the lines that are drawn, the analyses – it'll be great!

We cannot avoid the question of all questions: Who is going to win the European Championship?

STARCZEWSKI: Scotland.

Seriously?

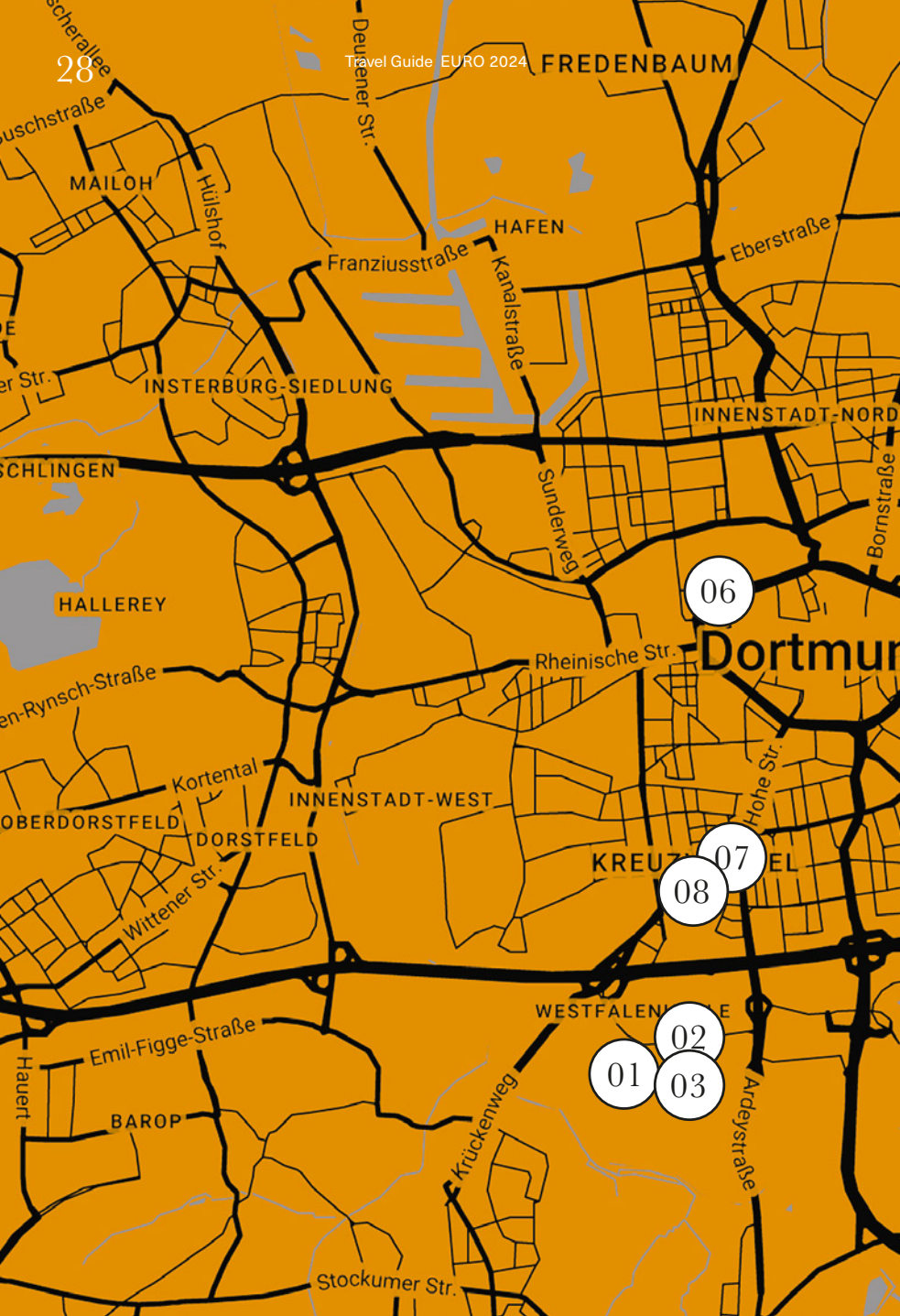
STARCZEWSKI: Of course.

DEMAND: I have an idea, but it won't happen: Belgium. That would be great.

The perennial dark horse. That would be great. We could finally get it behind us.

BUMMS: I was just thinking about what it would sound like if I said Germany. So I'll say: Denmark. ●

FREDENBAUM



06

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08

01
02
03

Dortmund

- 
- 01** WESTFALEN STADIUM
Home of Borussia Dortmund
Strobelallee 50
44139 Dortmund
 - 02** ROTE ERDE STADIUM
Former home of BVB
Strobelallee 50,
44139 Dortmund
 - 03** ROTE ERDE BEER GARDEN
A favourite among BVB fans
Strobelallee 50
44139 Dortmund
 - 04** BORSIGPLATZ SQUARE
Where BVB celebrates its
championships
Borsigplatz
44145 Dortmund
 - 05** POMMES ROT-WEISS RESTAURANT
The place where BVB was founded
Oesterholzstraße 60
44145 Dortmund
 - 06** GERMAN FOOTBALL MUSEUM
Everything you need to know about
German football history
Platz der Deutschen Einheit 01
44137 Dortmund
 - 07** GOURMET STÄBCHEN RESTAURANT
A favourite fan meetup
Mittelstraße 01, 44139 Dortmund
 - 08** BVB WALK OF FAME
A stroll through Dortmund and history
Vinckeplatz 08, 44139 Dortmund

Eleven key football moments

BEYOND the World Cup and treble champions



01

FANS FOR
RENT

The club was broke, the team no longer licensed to play – so the fans of former second-league team Göttingen 05 offered their services in the 2003-04 season in exchange for a weekend train ticket and free beer. Queries came from countless small-town teams and from Fortuna Düsseldorf.

02

D10S
IN MEPPEN

God once bestowed his presence on the rural no man's land of Emsland – in the form of one Diego Armando Maradona. El Dios, as it happens, played his very first match on the European continent in this tranquil corner of northwest Germany. In 1982, FC Barcelona

was holding a training camp in the Netherlands and wanted to test itself against an amateur side, but the Catalans were afraid that a Dutch team might play too rough. So Meppen, located just across the border in Germany, jumped in to host the world-class team from Barcelona instead – including the newly transferred Maradona – for an August 2 friendly that ended 5:0 for the visitors. Afterwards, the two teams enjoyed some local sausage.



03

A CLEAN
BREAK

It was April 3, 1971. Mönchengladbach against Werder Bremen. Striker Herbert Laumen got tangled in the Werder net and had a front-row view of the left post snapping in two. The game was declared over, a 2:0 victory for Bremen. Afterwards, the Bundesliga switched from wood to aluminium posts.

04

SELECTIVE
HEARING

The clash on March 14, 1948, between 1960 München and Nürnberg had actually been called off by the police president due to security concerns. But the Munich team's leadership acted as though the edict had reached them too late – to the elation of the 58,200 fans present. Capacity was 45,000.

05

HAVE A
SHOT

Digestif producer Günther Mast fought hard for the privilege. But in 1973, Eintracht Braunschweig became the first team ever with a sponsor logo on their kits, the Jägermeister stag. Later, a condom ad on FC Homburg's kits caused an even bigger ruckus, with a regional court ultimately granting approval.

06

AND ...
ACTION

An audience of 8,000 showed up on May 1, 1910, to the KfV Platz stadium in Karlsruhe to watch the semifinal of the German championships. And no wonder: The match between Karlsruher FC Phönix and Karlsruher FV was the purest of derbies. That, however, was secondary to the fact that this day saw the first film footage of a football match ever produced. Just under two minutes of film have survived. Goal-line judges in suits can be seen in the images, along with 21 clips of action (none of the goals) and the KfV strikers Julius Hirsch and Gottfried Fuchs, the only two Jewish players ever to play for Germany's national team. Hirsch was murdered in the Nazi concentration camp in Auschwitz in 1943 while Fuchs was able to flee to Canada.



07

FREE
LOVE

When Franco Foda was subbed in for the first of his two caps for Germany in the 83rd minute of a match in Brazil on December 12, 1987, a murmur went through the stadium. The reason: In Portuguese, Foda's name means something along the lines of "gratuitous intercourse."

08

LOTHAR FOR
LEIPZIG

Why would 6,251 people show up for a city cup match? If world champion Lothar Matthäus is playing, of course. In May 2005, Matthäus took the pitch for Lokomotiv Leipzig, the hapless successor to VfB Leipzig. Lok won 1:0, and later also took home the city trophy.

09

HELP FROM THE STANDS

On Pentecost weekend in 1910, the first-ever national team clash between Germany and Belgium was set to take place in Duisburg. But there was a problem: Only eight German players made the trip. The German championship final had taken place the day before, and several national-team players decided to skip the Belgium match. The solution: Local club Preussen Duisburg recruited four of its players, who were in the stands, to make their unexpected national team debuts. One of them, Peco Bauwens, would later become president of the German Football Association. The German side lost 0:3 – and it remained the last time the German national team lost a home game to Belgium – until March 2023.



10

RED FOR POUTING

After being scored on in Munich in 1988, Frankfurt's keeper Uli Stein stomped off the field in a huff. The other players waited for the ref to restart play, but the ref was waiting for Stein to return.

He never did. So he was red-carded. quenz: Platzverweis.

11

LET THERE BE LIGHT

You never forget the first time, it is said. And certainly not the first time under the lights. It was likely September 1, 1926, that Germany saw the inaugural football match played under artificial lighting. The cycling track in Hans Böckler Alley served as the pitch for Hannover 96 at the time and had already been outfitted with a lighting system. But on that evening, they were switched on for a bit of footie as well. The local paper wrote: "For the first time in Germany (and likely on the continent), an outdoor football match will take place in Hannover under artificial lighting." The match pitted the Turkish national team against a selection from northern German clubs. The game, watched by 10,000 people, ended 2:2.



BINGO

HEARD in Germany

Draußen nur Kännchen

(Only pots outside)
Still an inexplicable rule in some German cafés. Generally seen as an example for the abominable service the country is known for.

Früher hätt's das nicht gegeben!

(That never used to be a thing!)
Usually a lie. Or an improvement. Generally reserved for those with garden gnomes in their

Zurückbleiben, bitte

(Stand clear, please)
Heard on train and subway platforms. Don't be confused by the "bitte". They don't mean it.

Typisch deutsch

(Typically German)
Germans have a strange love-hate relationship with Germanness. This phrase belongs to the hate category.



Prost!

(Cheers!)
Comes from Latin, apparently, but in moments when it is said, nobody really cares. At that point, it's all about the beer.

Und was hat das gekostet?

(And how much did it cost?)
Either an expression of blatant envy or a product of old-fashioned, German anti-consumerism – never mind the BMW in the garage.

Servicewüste Deutschland

(Germany, a service wasteland)
As previously mentioned, service ain't great in Germany. Politeness can be fleeting. icy glares standard. This phrase is often uttered by apologetic locals to visitors

Das sind 40 D-Mark!!!

(That's 40 marks!!!)
The number 40 is unimportant. The nostalgia for the old German currency is the issue here. Some Germans haven't fully embraced the euro.

BINGO

SEEN in Germany

Socks with sandals

Seen far too often. Researched far too little. Often involves white socks. A concerning phenomenon that even Germans roll their eyes at.

Someone lays out a towel

Usually, a technique used by Germans marking their territory on vacation, but may also be used in the sauna, park or stadium – perhaps with a jacket or sweatshirt as an ersatz towel.

„Only cash accepted” sign

Allegedly to avoid bank fees associated with card payments. But actually just another way for merchants in Germany to make it difficult for customers to buy their wares.

A sausage stand

Different shapes, with ketchup or mustard – or, for currywurst, “with intestine or without” – but sausages are the one thing all Germans can agree on.



A garden gnome

Invented 120 years ago in Thuringia. Now, with a population of around 25 million, they rival the number of cats and dogs in the country – added together.

Someone washing their car

To be sure, only around 34 percent of Germans wash their car once a month anymore – against 45 percent in England. But: They're thorough!

A sign reading Verboten!

It's a stereotype that every other word out of a German's mouth is verboten! As with most stereotypes, though, there is some truth to it. This square will be easy to fill.

DIN label

Pretty much everything in Germany comes in normed sizes and shapes. It's called DIN, and there's even one for office chairs (DIN EN 1335). Open your eyes. They're everywhere.



„The boat is never full“



The district league club SC ALEVITEN PADERBORN is unique in Germany. Over 2,000 refugees have already passed through its doors. The AfD is trying to put a stop to it, but that has only made the club stronger.

E

ven goalkeeping giant Oliver Kahn once tried to hit the high-tension powerlines that cross over the pitch. But he wasn't able to. Like the many others, both before and since, who have failed, Kahn fell victim to an optical

illusion: From below, it only looks like the sagging wires are within reach – here in Hermann Löns Stadium in the north of Paderborn, the only (former) professional pitch in Germany that lies beneath powerlines. But the club that has called the place home for the last eight years is also rather unique. Currently, players from 41 different countries play for SC Aleviten Paderborn. And that number has been even higher in the past.

„It gives people prospects who would otherwise have none in this country,“ says Verani Kartum, founder and chair of the club. The wiry 54-year-old is standing in front of the clubhouse holding a cigarette in his hand and wearing a green training jacket that is at least one size too big. He has a lot to say and speaks quickly, sometimes jumbling his words. At times, though, Kartum is perfectly clear, such as when he says: „The boat is never too full.“

Kartum founded SC Aleviten Paderborn eleven years ago. It is a club that welcomes everyone – and a place where this claim isn't just a platitude, but a life philosophy. A place where Blacks, whites, homosexuals, heterosexuals, people with disabilities, Kurds, Turks, Syrians, Ukrainians, Russians and Germans come together. The kind of club that Verani Kartum

would have wanted to see back in the late 1970s when he arrived in Germany from Turkey at age seven. Back when the Germans were so foreign to him – just as foreign as his parents, who were guestworkers. He had to share a bed with his three siblings, and his parents sent him to his uncle for much of his childhood. The locals in this corner of West Germany weren't particularly pleased about the newcomers, nor were the children in his school. Kartum's classmates called him „Cumin Turk“.

Text
MAX NÖLKE

Fotos
SOFIA BRANDES

Little Verani spent many evenings in tears. But then he joined SJC Hövelriege. The other players would show up to training with gym bags, training jackets and slick football cleats. Kartum would arrive carrying a plastic bag and wearing worn-out kicks he had found in a landfill. Thus began Kartum's life straddling two worlds. At home, Turkish was spoken, but with his teammates, he learned German. At parties, he was usually the only foreigner. „I know how these boys here feel,“ says Kartum, after 47 years in Germany. Ismail from Somalia. Thariq from Iraq. Surik from Armenia. „I know the rejection, the lack of orientation, but also how to overcome it.“ And that is why he wants to give them a place to belong. And where else but football? Where „people can't avoid each other,“ as Kartum says. „In football, poor meets rich, people with different attitudes and skin colours – and they can't avoid coming into contact and speaking with each other.“

As Kartum talks, a small boy squirms impatiently next to him. Ahmet doesn't want to interrupt, but his question simply can't wait. „Where is Mecca?“ the boy asks, looking shyly up at Verani Kartum. He considers briefly and then points up at the sky. „That's where the sun goes down. That's where Mecca is,“ he says. Ahmet thanks him and di-

Verani Kartum came to Germany from Turkey at age seven. He felt foreign in his new country – until he found a football club.





sappears into the locker room. „Do you have any football cleats for me,“ another player asks. Sekou arrived just a few weeks earlier from Ghana and he doesn't yet have all he needs. Kartum eyeballs his feet: „Size? 44?“ And before he receives an answer, he says: „You can have mine.“ „Where are the onions?“ someone calls out from the food truck behind him. Mohammad is preparing for iftar. Later, when it is time to break the Ramadan fast, everyone will get a döner. „Open your eyes. Under the sink,“ Kartum responds affably. Sometimes the questions are mundane, sometimes they are weightier. But Verani Kartum always has an answer. „Now, where were we?“



Evasive cuts, firmly struck through balls, timing for the perfect run: Players are taught none of that here. But they do learn the intricacies of German asylum proceedings, how to prepare for immigration office appointments and where to get a birth certificate. Kartum can't do all that on his own, of course. He is surrounded by a team, most of them volunteers, who spend seven days a week on the pitch, just as he does. Among them are lawyers who provide insight into German law and translators who can help decode bureaucrats. His wife Angela recently held a presentation in the clubhouse about the German health system.

There is also an emphasis on eliminating prejudices. Homosexuality is discussed openly, and three years ago, the entire club visited a synagogue, with all players required to wear a kippa, even the Muslim boys. Afterwards, the team wanted to travel to Israel together. There have been youth exchanges with Ukraine and Poland. As part of the NesT Programme, SC Aleviten has also taken in a family from Somalia in cooperation with the Egidius Braun Foundation and the local Paderborn refugee aid agency. The family received an apartment with the rent paid in advance for the next two years. In cooperation with the Paderborn job centre, the club also creates positions for the unemployed.

Currently, the club has six employees. One of them is Tobias Meier. „For the first time in my life,“ he says, „I was accepted the way I am.“ The 38-year-old is autistic, and he has been a member of SC Aleviten Paderborn – „my family“, as he says – since 2018. He is an administrator, taking care of new registrations and departures. „When a new player arrives, he only has to bring along identification. That gets scanned and then I report the name to the DFB,“ Meier says, referring to the German Football Association. „Usually, the player's

The blueprint: Mohammad Mohammad fled Syria in 2015. In March, he applied for a German passport. „Everything is thanks to Verani,“ he says.

Adidas? Nike? Who cares? At SV Aleviten Paderborn, stubborn allegiances don't exist.



Hermann Löns Stadium is the club's home – the only pitch of a (former) professional club in Germany located beneath high-tension power lines.

license arrives within 10 days.“ To reduce the bureaucratic burden, he sometimes heads over to the new member's home with the application and a printer.

There are, of course, other clubs in Germany that focus on integration. In the eastern German state of Saxony-Anhalt, for example, SV Blau-Weiß Grana has been promoting the integration of refugees for years. Welcome United 03 in Babelsberg, just outside of Berlin, fielded the first all-refugee team in 2015. „What makes us unique is that we don't look after the people. They are part of the club from the very first day,“ says Verani Kartum. But the size of SC Aleviten also makes it unique. Since its founding in 2013, more than 2,000

people have been part of the club. Currently, it has over 150 members, down from its peak of up to 700. It fields teams from the youngest children all the way up to U19.

2015 was the year of the refugee wave, during which almost 900,000 asylum seekers arrived in Germany. One of them was Mohammad Mohammad, who fled the war in Syria as a 12-year-old – they guy who was just looking for the onions in the food truck. He arrived in Paderborn in November or December of that year, he's no longer quite sure. „Boat, train, bus, on foot, it took more than 30 days. Across the Balkan Route,“ he says. Today, Mohammad is 21 years old



**„One time,
the police
stopped us
because
they thought
we were
migrant
smugglers.“**

and speaks perfect German. You can only hear the tiniest bit of accent if you listen extremely closely. His temples are freshly shaved and his beard carefully trimmed; he is wearing a light-coloured hoodie and a broad smile. Mohammad has grown into the club's most honourable position: „I am Verani's right-hand man,“ he says. „When you're not trying to steal my cigarettes,“ grumbles Kartum.

It was January 2016 when the notorious VW campervan, the SC Aleviten trademark, parked in front of Mohammad's door for the first time. Back then, Kartum's team would use the van to pick up newcomers who didn't yet know their way to the pitch. Sometimes, there were up to 80 of them. „We would drive back and forth. By the time all the kids were there, it was getting dark and training would be over,“ says Kartum. „One time, the police stopped us because they thought we were migrant smugglers.“ Mohammad laughs.

His bright smile would seem to support Friedrich Merz's rather unique theories about dental care in Germany. Last year, Merz, the chair of the centre-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU), claimed that asylum applicants are taking all the dentist appointments away from Germans. Mohammad, though, isn't interested in taking anything away from anybody – and he isn't an asylum seeker anymore either. Rather, he is the blueprint for successful integration. Last year, he passed his journeyman's examination for painting and varnishing, and in March, he applied for German citizenship. „Even if the war in Syria comes to an

end at some point, I wouldn't go back. I am at home here in Germany,“ he says.

But even success stories like Mohammad's aren't enough to silence all the doubts. Far from everyone is happy about what SC Aleviten Paderborn is doing. The right-wing extremist political party Alternative for Germany (AfD) has filed several petitions with the city to prevent the club from being allowed to play in Hermann Löns Stadium. Each of them has thus far been rejected. Verani Kartum has stopped trying to understand

A huge collection of flags: SC Aleviten Paderborn currently has 150 members from 41 different countries.

Players here don't learn how to execute perfectly times through balls, but they do learn how to become established in Germany.

what the AfD's problem is. He points out to the fore-court and says: „The AfD is afraid of boys like this? That's ridiculous.“ For him, the equation is simple: If you give people who come to Germany an opportunity, they will become part of society. If you don't, if you ignore them and see them only as intruders, they'll defend themselves. „But the boys here are much too tired after playing football to cause any trouble.“

It's almost as every new attempt made by the AfD to chase them off, every xenophobic slogan, every backhanded whisper in the sports committee, merely strengthens the convictions within SC Aleviten that they are doing the right thing. The racist blather is, of course, frightening. But even that provides food for their idealism. „Social egotism,“ is what Kartum calls it. „You have maybe a few weeks of fun with a new car before you get used to it. With a new house, it might be a few months. But societal wealth is inexhaustible.“ Over and over again, voices have claimed that the team is hoarding cash, that it is earning money with subsidies and donations. Such accusations only elicit a tired laugh from Kartum. „Financially, I'm quite a poor man. I live off my 2,100-euro pension. That's it,“ he says. That's how he finances his life – SC Aleviten Paderborn.

Verani Kartum has learned two things during the 11 years of the club's existence. „Don't expect any gratitude. If you do, you'll be disappointed.“ And: „Let go.“ Several times, boys have just stop showing up from one day to the next. In some cases, it is because they've been transferred to a different refugee camp, in others they have been deported. Sometimes, though, it is what Kartum describes as „the best thing that can happen“ – sometimes, he says, „it's because the boy wants to free himself of the refugee image. Because he is now playing for a





different team and has left the refugee club behind.“ It’s a bit like when your own children grow up and move out. Just that nobody suffers from empty nest syndrome – since new players walk through the door every day.

The team, it should be mentioned, also plays football. But the results on the pitch tend to be rather modest, at least for the club’s top team. Currently, they are almost at the very bottom of the district league C2. They lost one recent match 0:14. That same day, Gibraltar’s national team lost 0:14 to France.

Verani Kartum thought it was great – to be united in failure. And anyway, even Oliver Kahn was unsuccessful in Hermann Löns Stadium. ●

46

SCHNELSEN
Travel Guide EURO 2024

NIENDORF

FUHLSBÜTT

04

STEDT

HAM

RUP

LOKSTEDT

EPPENDORF

02

03

STELLINGEN

05

TONA

BAHRENFELD

EIMSBÜTTEL

ROTHERBAUM

SS-FLOTTBEK

STERNSCHANZE

BEK

OTTENSEN

01

OTHMARSCHEN

ALTONAER
FISCHMARKT

Hambur

HAF

Hamburg

- 01 MILLERNTOR**
FC St. Pauli's stadium
Harald-Stender-Platz 01
20359 Hamburg
- 02 VOLKSPARKSTADION**
Hamburger SV's stadium
Sylvesterallee 07
22525 Hamburg
- 03 SEELER'S FOOT**
Memorial honouring Uwe Seeler
Sylvesterallee
22525 Hamburg
- 04 RÜSSL RECORDING STUDIO**
Where Kevin Keegan recorded his hit
single "Head over heels in love"
Lentföhrdener Weg 21
22523 Hamburg
- 05 VICTORIA KLAUSE PUB**
A pub beneath the oldest wooden
stands in Germany
Lokstedter Steindamm 87
22529 Hamburg



„They can really play!“

Text
PHILIPP KÖSTER

For a long time, women's football was banned. And is now experiencing a boom that many didn't think possible.

It was a football revolution packed into an unspectacular administrative decree. With just two dissenting votes in autumn 1970, the German Football Association (DFB) finally allowed its member clubs to establish sections for women's football and organise regular matches. Just 15 years earlier, the association had thoroughly rejected the idea that women could participate in structured sport under the DFB umbrella. The association found that „this combative sport is essentially foreign to a woman's nature“. And further: „Body and soul are inevitably damaged, and the display of the body violates propriety and decency.“

It was an antiquated mindset that sounded even more incongruous in 1970 than it did 15 years earlier. By then, unsanctioned girls' teams had already been established across Germany, and women's football was in the process of becoming established in numerous other countries. If the DFB didn't want to lose the women completely, it had to do something. The consequence of the forced about-face, however, was a – from today's perspective – bizarre catalogue of regulations. The association required that women play with a smaller ball and lighter shoes, and that the matches be shorter. Furthermore, cleats were banned, as were attacks on the keeper, and the women were allowed to use their hands to ward off balls flying toward their upper bodies. The next year, the DFB even allowed women referees and trainers. With striking consequences: Within just 12 months, fully 73,000 wo-

men became members of the DFB. Local and regional women's leagues were organised in record time, with the first association champion being crowned in 1971, a team from West Berlin called Tennis Borussia. Other associations produced their own champions, and the first German championship tournament was held in 1973, an event that took place thanks to the tenacity of TuS Wörrstadt, a club located near the city of Worms. The first, unofficial championship was known as the „Gold Cup“ and saw TuS Wörrstadt defeat FC Bayern 3:1. That year, though, not all associations sent a representative to the tournament, and it was only one year later that the field was complete and the final was officially recognised by the DFB.

But as quickly as women's football was blossoming, patriarchal structures were inhibiting its sovereign growth just as strongly, including in places where the sport was receiving support. The vanguard was Horst Nußbaum, better known as Jack White. A producer of German schlock-rock, he coached the women's team from TeBe in the early 1970s but felt compelled to characterise training sessions with belittling comments like: „You have to get used to the fact that tears come quickly, but we have a splendid group.“ It was the kind of babble the women frequently had to put up with. When Wim Thielke welcomed the players of the unofficial women's national team in 1970 to the sports show of public broadcaster ZDF, producers and moderators did all they could to portray them as some kind of bizarre circus act. Thielke

compared defence on the pitch to setting the dinner table and said: „You must really cover your man, free of all concerns for your household, husband and children.“

None of that could stop the boom of women's football – which was primarily because of the sport's courageous pioneers. Among the most impressive personalities from these early years was Anne Trabant, who won a first title with Wörrstadt as a player before transferring to Bonner SC as a player/trainer and winning another championship in 1975. Two years later, she won the next title, this time wearing the shirt of SSG 09 Bergisch Gladbach. As player/trainer, she turned the club into a perennial champion, collecting title after title until 1992 and winning the DFB Cup twice. For years, the now-married Anne Trabant-Haarbach pushed for a German national team and ultimately – without authorisation – boarded a plane to Taiwan with her SSG Bergisch Gladbach team to take part in the unofficial women's World Cup. An application for travel expenses of 55,000 marks was rejected by DFB functionary Horst Schmidt with the obtuse observation: „We don't pay for friendlies.“ The women refused to be put off, won the unofficial world championship and received an enthusiastic welcome when they

returned home. The association belatedly provided 5,000 marks. The club did, however, receive plenty of compliments, such as one from Horst Schmidt himself: „Trabant is the Günter Netzer of women football.“

It's no wonder, then, that Trabant was ultimately tapped when an official women's national team was finally established in 1982. Together with trainer Gero Bisanz, the most successful women's player of the decade was to assemble a team for the European Championships, set to take place the next year. Trabant had a clear vision of what she wanted to achieve, so she categorically rejected a cooperation with Berti Vogts as national team trainer. She also quickly clashed with DFB trainer Karlheinz Stockhausen (not the composer), despite the fact that he had been charged with evaluating her so she could receive her trainer's license. „It's clear that I don't have the best chances with him,“ she said at the time. But Anne Trabant-Haarbach refused to temper her disposition. When

national team player Paul Breitner made disparaging comments about women's football, she responded: „I like Paul. But he shouldn't think that everything he says is law.“ For the first women's national team match against Switzerland on November 10, 1982,

Football pioneer Anne Trabant (left), wearing the shirt of Bonner SC.



she took the pitch as a player and as assistant trainer. The DFB hadn't ultimately found the fortitude to name her trainer, as logic would have dictated, instead placing Bisanz by her side. The real boss, though, was Anne Trabant. „Go ahead and yell at us,“ the players told the rather soft-spoken Bisanz, but Trabant was more than happy to take on this task as well. „Even the Bundesliga doesn't have anyone more abrasive,“ one player said anonymously. Trabant, for her part, gave up her role as player/trainer after a year because of the heavy strain – and was succeeded as co-trainer by a woman who would go on to leave her own mark on the national team and close the gap to the dominating teams from the Nordic countries and Italy. In 1985, Tina Theune-Meyer became the first woman to earn a Trainer A license, though during her training sessions, she said, she was blatantly ignored by colleagues like Hannes Bongartz and Peter Geyer. She also had to stand by and watch when partner calisthenic exercises were on the schedule. „It was just too idiotic for me, I couldn't do these exercises with a man.“ But, she added: „After the first hour of



Here it is: The cup for the first, official German championship for women.

actual football, the biases of the other participants vanished.“ At the national team, Theune-Meyer was the supportive counterbalance to Bisanz, who was never able to completely rid himself of the chauvinism typical of the times. When Irmgard Stoffels once indignantly asked him if he „preferred playing the more beautiful player, or the better player,“ Bisanz disconcertingly replied: „The more beautiful.“

By the middle of the 1980s, however, the initial women's football boom was approaching its end. „We made some mistakes 15 years ago,“ a deflated Trabant admitted. „We built the roof first, and now we are lacking a foundation.“ At the regional and local levels, there were no strong leagues in which the more accomplished players out of the 60,000 women and girls who were registered at the time might feel challenged. DFB functionary Neuberger seemed almost to welcome the difficulties, gloating: „I warned about this early on.“ Tina Theune-Meyer, meanwhile, did not let that get in her way. She and Gero Bisanz, with whom she ultimately managed to form a productive partnership, improved talent scouting, brought in younger players to

the national team and even accepted the team's failure to qualify for the European Championships in 1987, a necessary sacrifice for the ultimate goal of preparing for the 1989 European tournament in Germany, a contest that would finally bring the women's team the attention it deserved, at least from the media. Following the team's successful qualification for the final round of the tournament, a World Cup winner from the men's team could no longer hold back his enthusiasm for the women's team. „I am surprised by the technically accomplished brand of football these girls play,“ said no less than Fritz Walter.

The final tournament of the best four teams boosted the club – in which Heidi Mohr, Doris Fitschen and Silvia Neid formed the central axis – to unexpected popularity. Even the semifinal against Italy was broadcast live by ARD, with the public station laying out 400,000 marks for the coverage. In part, as German newsmagazine *Der Spiegel* maliciously wrote, „because opportunities to present German victors has become rare.“ The next day, the program planners were surprised to learn that the broadcast had even attracted more viewers than a Steffi Graf tennis match televised during the same time slot. The country had suddenly been gripped by women's football fever – and during the final in Osnabrück, the stadium was overrun. Fully 23,000 fans watched the German

team earn a clear 4:1 victory. A celebrating Heidi Mohr became the iconic image of the victory. And trainer Gero Bisanz, who had issued rather odd directives ahead of time („cute from head to toe“), felt vindicated in his painful decision not to allow his players to travel to Mainz to participate in the country's most popular sports show. „It's out of the question,“ he responded to the invitation. With good reason: The broadcast took place on Saturday evening, one day before the final, which began at 11:00 a.m.

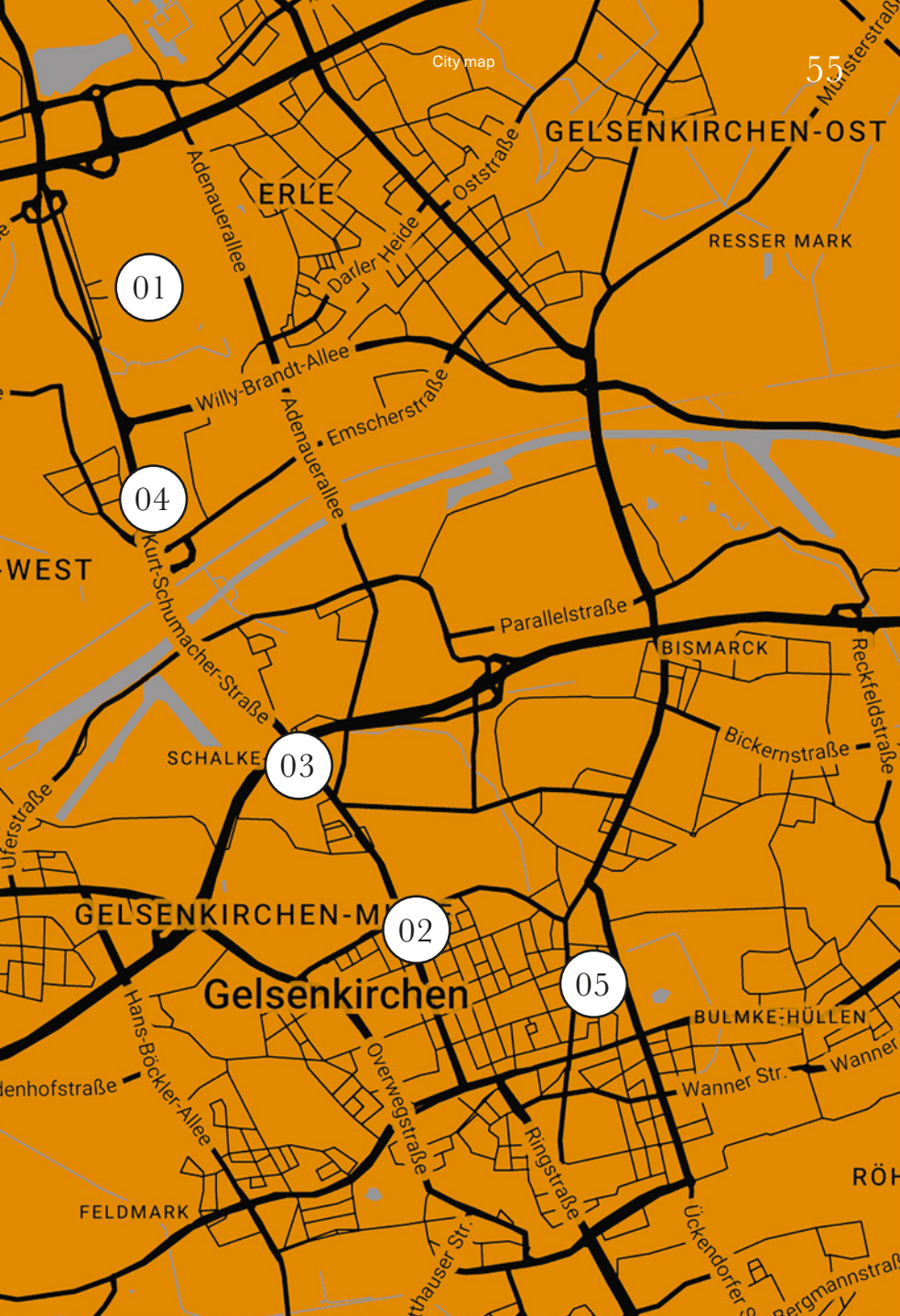
The triumph of Osnabrück was the beginning of a long period of dominance for the German women. And it also helped convince DFB functionaries to give women's football its due. Each player on the women's national team received a legendary gift for their victory: a brand-new coffee service. The rest is history. Or, to be more precise, a history of success. Because the German team has won the World Cup twice since then, to go along with eight European championships. Because women's football is exciting and the Bundesliga tops in Europe. Because clubs across the country are full of young girls eager to play. More than anything,

though, because German football fans have understood what two boys standing on the sidelines of the pitch at the Kaiserau Sport Centre realised way back in 1989. In a comment captured by a reporter from *Der Spiegel*, they said in astonishment: “They can really play!” ●

**Women's
football is a
success.
It is exciting,
and the
Bundesliga
is a top
league.**

Victory lap: German national team players after the 1989 finals victory over Norway.





City map

55

GELSENKIRCHEN-OST

ERLE

RESSER MARK

01

04

WEST

Parallelstraße

BISMARCK

SCHALKE

03

Bickernstraße

GELSENKIRCHEN-M

02

Gelsenkirchen

05

BULMKE-HÜLLEN

denhofstraße

Hans-Böckler-Allee

Overwegstraße

Wanner Str.

FELDMARK

thäuser Str.

Ringstraße

Ückendorfer S.

RÖH

Bergmannstraße



Illustration
PHILIPP SCHULTZ

View from abroad

What NON-GERMANS have to say about
German football

TONIO SCHACHINGER, Austria

I have frequently rewatched the red card received by Leroy Sané in the last national team match against us. I like the entire situation: How Sané is provoked by Phillipp Mwene. How David Alaba pulls him away. How substitute Marko Arnautović in his down jacket comes over and tries to calm him down. During the last Austrian victory before that, in 2018, there is a scene that clearly illustrates the German-Austrian relationship in football. After the match, Arnautović and Alaba film the press areas of the two teams. The Austrian area: a foldup banner, simple and plain, a single lightbulb hanging from the ceiling. The German area: two large banners and spotlights. It is a reality that Austrians face in other areas as well, even in literature. Despite the rivalry though, I watch the Bundesliga more than any other league. I especially follow the teams with a lot of Austrian players. A few years ago, for example, I quite enjoyed Hoffenheim. Not because Hoffenheim was particularly glamorous, but because of Christoph Baumgartner and Florian Grillitsch. I feel like a lot is being done right in German football at the moment. It is particularly clear in comparison to England, where the stadiums are full, but the atmosphere inside is dreary. Which makes sense, because only the wealthy and tourists are sit-

ting in the English stadiums. They are going after international marketing at any price. But the local roots of the clubs are suffering. It's great that in the Bundesliga, club members still have some say and that the clubs aren't companies that can be bought and sold at the whim of some billionaire. What I do kind of miss in German football at the moment is players like Mesut Özil: the magic, the intuitive style of play, the instinctive cleverness. The biggest talents in German football – Jamal Musiala and Florian Wirtz – are super, but they have completely irreproachable characters. Today, we expect 17-year-olds to do everything right in every area of their lives. I would like to see a bit more tolerance. We have to allow people to make mistakes. Even the Germans.



TONIO SCHACHINGER

With his debut novel "Nicht wie ihr", a story about a professional footballer named Ivo, the 32-year-old landed on the shortlist for the German Book Prize. In 2023, he then won the award for the novel "Echtzeitalter".

YOURI MULDER, Netherlands

My father was a huge fan of Karl Allgöwer. I still have clear memories of him winning the championship with Stuttgart. Back then, we never missed the highlights on Sportschau – even if Germany and the Bundesliga didn't stand in particularly good stead in the Netherlands after our defeat in the 1974 World Cup final. We still say: If my father, Jan Mulder, had been on the team, we would have won. Despite everything, we never really felt too much of a rivalry towards the Germans. My family is from Groningen. We frequently travelled to Germany and the Germans came to us as well. When I played for Twente Enschede in 1993, I received a call from an agent who was a friend of my father's. He said: „A German club wants you.“ But he wasn't willing to tell me which one it was. So I said: „If it's Wattenscheid, then I'm not going.“ Revenge came quickly: My first Bundesliga match with Schalke was against Wattenscheid. We lost 0:3. It was an away match, but the stadium was full of Schalke fans. Some of them cried after the final whistle. It was a disaster. Despite the defeat, my parents were full of enthusiasm after the match. „You've ended up in a special place,“ they said, largely because of the fans who cheered for us throughout the entire match. That only happens for very few clubs in the Netherlands. The play itself felt like I had ended up on a

completely different planet. The tempo was much faster than in the Eredivisie. You were attacked as soon as you had the ball. Counter-pressing basically already existed back then. In Holland, I frequently relied on combination play, but in Germany, I didn't have the opportunity. You had to run a lot more. Against Wattenscheid, I thought, this isn't football! Like my teammate Jiří Němec always said: „Football in Germany is like a marathon.“ But that's the only way to play when you have such passionate fans. There is a completely different emotional bond to the club than there is in the Netherlands. Perhaps even a bit more at Schalke than elsewhere. But still today, you see the love that German fans have for their clubs, even in the lower leagues. Whether in Magdeburg or Kiel, the stadiums are always full.



YOURI MULDER

The towering striker played 176 matches for Schalke 04, winning the 1997 UEFA Cup with the club. Mulder collected nine caps with the Netherlands national team. Today, he works as a television analyst.



SARA MEINI, Italien

Jürgen Klinsmann, Lothar Matthäus and, especially, Andreas Brehme. It was because of the German trio at Inter Milan that I became interested in football in the first place. I was 12 years old and completely crazy about Germany. I even bought the legendary home kit for the 1990 World Cup in Italy, and I wore it proudly. And when Germany defeated Argentina in the final, I had my father drive me to Piazzale Michelangelo in Florence, where I celebrated the World Cup title with German tourists and waved the German flag. My father could only look on in bewilderment. For him, it was a disaster to have a fan of Germany in the family. The news of the death of Adreas Brehme, who scored the winning goal in the World Cup final in Rome, took my breath away. He was my hero and will always remain an unforgettable player – both in Germany and in Italy. Since 1990, since this World Cup in my

hometown, I have never let go of football. I played myself for over 10 years in women's teams in the Florence area. My love for Germany ebbed over time and I increasingly became a Brazil fan. In addition to Italy, of course. Still, I continued to follow Germany and German football. Later, I became a journalist in Florence. When Giovanni Trapattoni became trainer of Bayern Munich, I again started watching German football more often. And I followed the transfer of Mario Gomez to AC Florenz, both professionally and as a fan. My heart, of course, continued to beat for the German national team in the big tournaments, whether as a journalist or as a football fan. Germany is one of those teams that you always pay close attention to in European Championships and World Cups. Admittedly, not everyone in Italy is as fond of the German national team or German clubs in European Cup matches as I am. But I think that also has to do with a certain amount of fear that people in Italy have of the German teams. Who enjoys playing against Bayern or Dortmund in the Champions League? At the same time, I think there is a huge amount of respect and appreciation for German football in Italy.

SARA MEINI

The Italian sports journalist works in Florence for the public broadcaster RAI. Meini commentates Serie A matches live on the radio, reports on professional clubs in Toscana and also covers the Italian women's national team.



ITALIA 90, Great Britain

BOBBY PORTRAIT, BASSIST: The rivalry between England and Germany is sort of invented. I don't think many people in Germany actually care about it. English people like to think that Germans hate them as much as they hate the Germans. But from my experience, they don't at all. For me, there was always an element of: „If you can't beat 'em, join 'em“. I've always liked the German team and, always sort of knowing that England were never actually going to win anything, I always picked Germany as the team to support in a tournament. I've always had a soft spot for the Mannschaft. Particularly when we were a bit younger, I used to go to Germany a lot, and studied a bit of German. We love visiting Berlin and I have friends there. It's quite hard to dislike Union Berlin. I remember hearing about how the fans had basically built the stadium themselves because the club couldn't afford

contractors. It's not a thing that would ever happen in English football, at least not at that level. In Germany, the club is a proper lifestyle for the people involved and I think for people in England that's something to look at as a model.

LES MISERABLE, SINGER: I'm not an England fan. I'm half Irish and I support Ireland, so I was always rooting against England. When I was a kid, I really liked the German team, and Oliver Kahn was my hero since I was a goalkeeper as well. Currently, I like St. Pauli. The only shirt of a German club I own is a St. Pauli shirt. Unfortunately, I've never made it to the stadium, but the atmosphere at German grounds is truly special. I wish there was more of that passion at our concerts in Germany as well. Performing without an instrument is not something I'm really at ease with, so I have to really feed off the crowd. And if the crowd is a bit bad, then I kind of feel every second of the gig ticking by, and I've had that experience in Germany once or twice. It would be fun to have a stadium-like atmosphere at our German gigs. Maybe some pyrotechnics would be good as well. (laughs)

ITALIA 90

The post-punk band from London is named after the World Cup tournament where England finally managed to once again put together a strong performance. Both on and off the pitch. Just like the band, with its celebrated debut album "Living Human Treasure".

FATOU DIOME, France

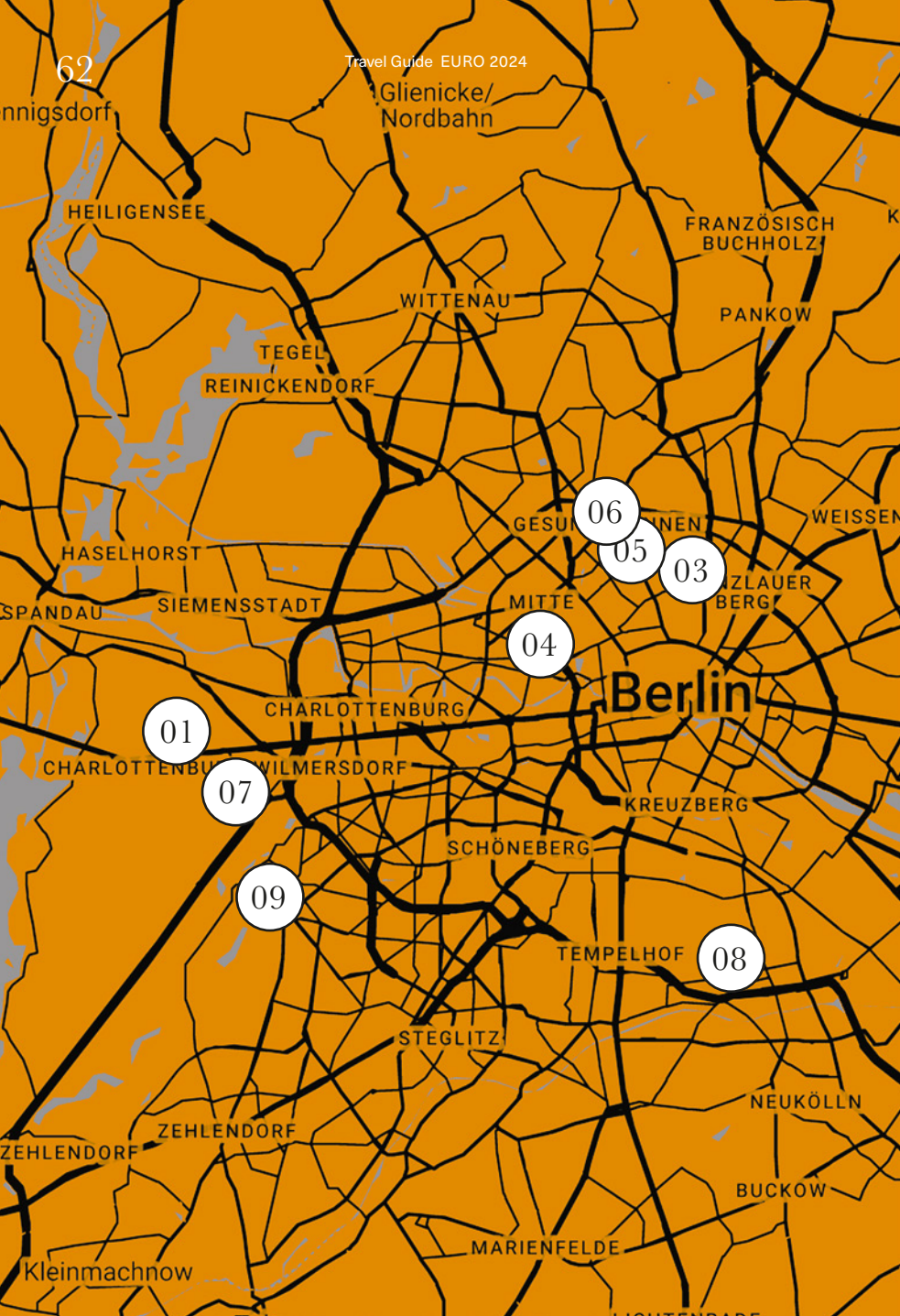
My little brother loved football so much that at some point, I decided I had to figure out why. So I started playing. My brother at the time was a complete fanatic for Paolo Maldini and only supported Senegal, Italy or AC Milan. A number of years ago, I received a pack of FC Bayern football cards at a conference in Germany. I immediately brought them to my brother. He was extremely excited, but a picture of Maldini was more important to him than the photos of an entire team. For my part, I supported France or Senegal, but I also always had a soft spot for the German national team. I live in Strasbourg, and I also have a number of friends in Cologne. I noted down the friendly between France and Germany at the end of March in my calendar several weeks before the match. Unfortunately, Germany beat us, but they earned the victory. I also frequently watch the Bundesliga. The style of play has become very technical and elegant. My favourite player is Manuel Neuer. Many people in my birth country of Senegal also watch a lot of German football, thought through a very capitalist lens, especially the youth. They see the players as potential billionaires. It starts with admiration for their skills on the pitch, but football is quickly seen as a means toward en-

richment. The youth don't yet know that only a tiny fraction actually make it. That also happens, of course, in Europe, but those who don't make it are able to find another job. In Senegal, many young people see professional football as an absolute necessity and as the only way out of the country. That is the sad part of the truth. I believe that football has a very important social function. It can bring entire peoples and cultures together and people can unite through the sport. That's why I like the idea in German football that fans still have a say in the clubs. They are thus able to spread the values of the clubs to their entire communities. I would love to see that in France, Senegal and elsewhere.



FATOU DIOME

The Senegalese-born writer lives in France. Her debut novel, "The Belly of the Atlantic", looks at the relationship between France and Africa. Diome teaches at the universities in Strasbourg and Karlsruhe.



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nnigsdorf

Glienicke/
Nordbahn

HEILIGENSEE

FRANZÖSISCH
BUCHHOLZ

WITTENAU

PANKOW

TEGEL
REINICKENDORF

HASELHORST

GESUNDE
HEIDEN

WEISSEN

SPANDAU

SIEMENSSTADT

MITTE

HEINZ
LAWAUER
BERG

CHARLOTTENBURG

Berlin

01

06

05

03

04

CHARLOTTENBURG
WILMERSDORF

07

KREUZBERG

09

SCHÖNEBERG

TEMPELHOF

08

STEGLITZ

NEUKÖLLN

ZEHLENDORF

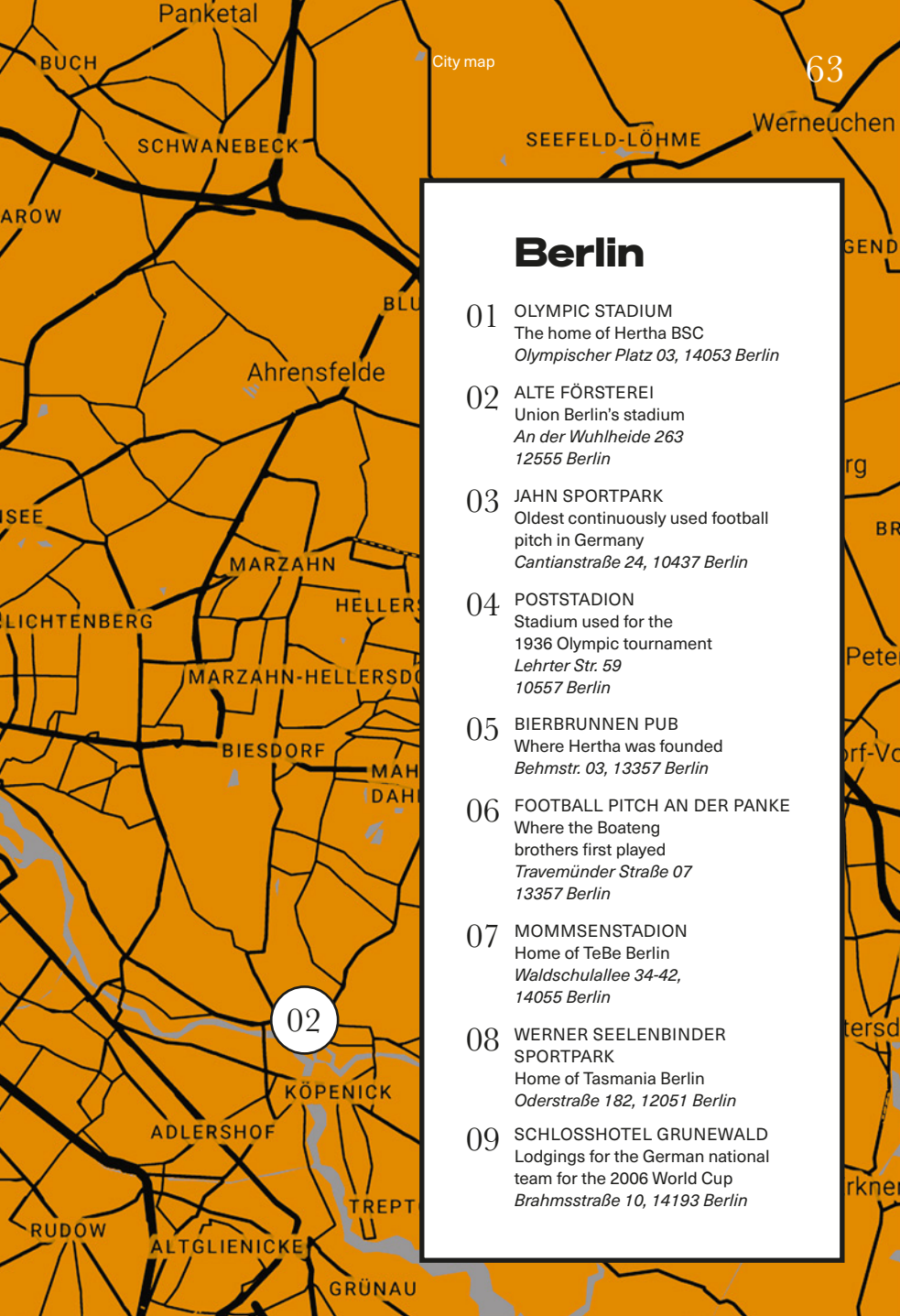
ZEHLENDORF

BUCKOW

Kleinmachnow

MARIENFELDE

LICHTENBERG



Berlin

- 01 OLYMPIC STADIUM
The home of Hertha BSC
Olympischer Platz 03, 14053 Berlin
- 02 ALTE FÖRSTEREI
Union Berlin's stadium
*An der Wuhlheide 263
12555 Berlin*
- 03 JAHN SPORTPARK
Oldest continuously used football
pitch in Germany
Cantianstraße 24, 10437 Berlin
- 04 POSTSTADION
Stadium used for the
1936 Olympic tournament
*Lehrter Str. 59
10557 Berlin*
- 05 BIERBRUNNEN PUB
Where Hertha was founded
Behmstr. 03, 13357 Berlin
- 06 FOOTBALL PITCH AN DER PANKE
Where the Boateng
brothers first played
*Travemünder Straße 07
13357 Berlin*
- 07 MOMMSENSTADION
Home of TeBe Berlin
*Waldschulallee 34-42,
14055 Berlin*
- 08 WERNER SEELENBINDER
SPORTPARK
Home of Tasmania Berlin
Oderstraße 182, 12051 Berlin
- 09 SCHLOSSHOTEL GRÜNEWALD
Lodgings for the German national
team for the 2006 World Cup
Brahmsstraße 10, 14193 Berlin



Olympic Stadium
subway stop, Berlin





The Fortuna kiosk
in Düsseldorf, North
Rhine-Westphalia



The grounds of
Viktoria Rott 89, North
Rhine-Westphalia

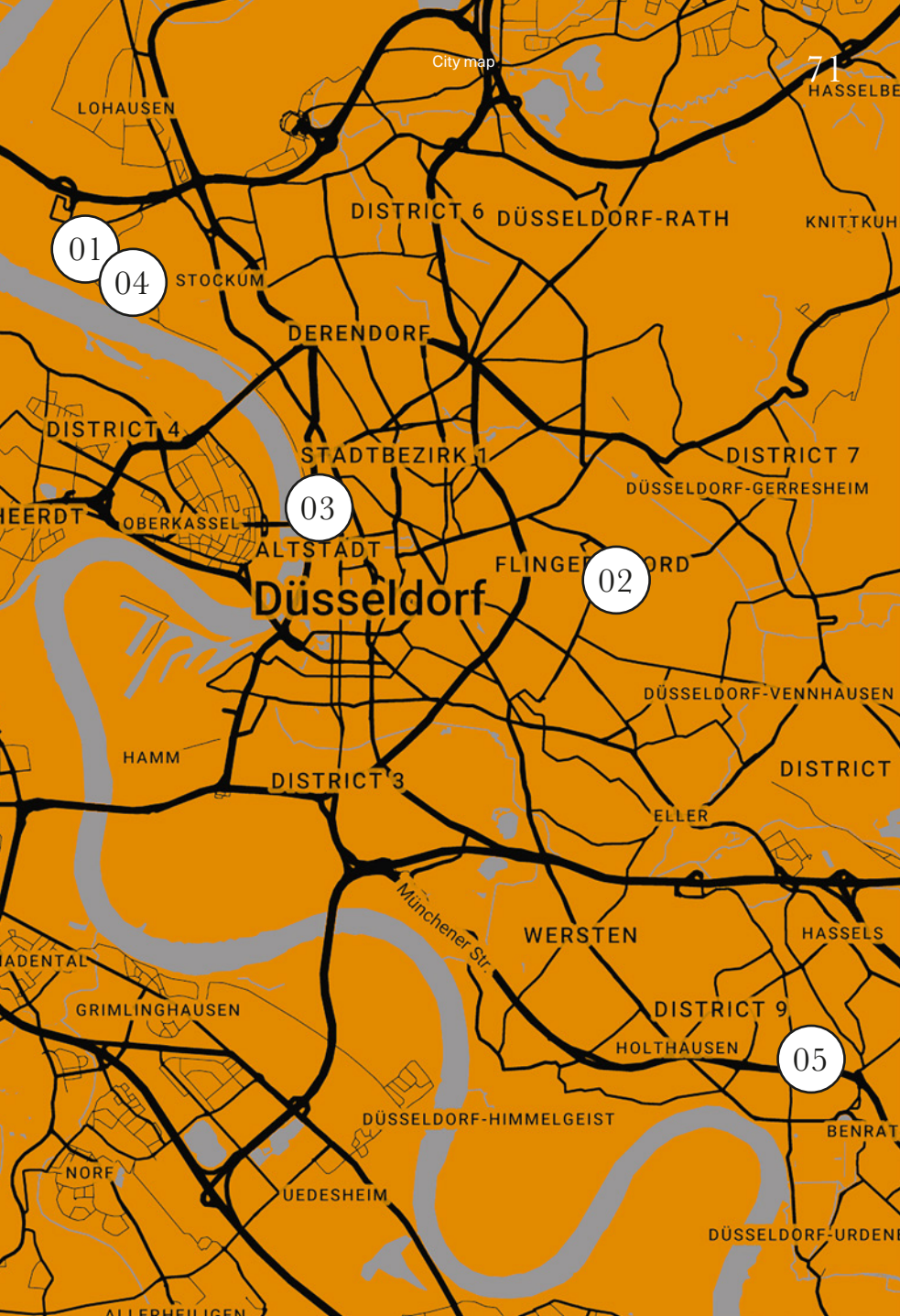
Auf Schalke Arena, North Rhine-Westphalia





Düsseldorf

- 01** RHINE STADIUM
Home of Fortuna Düsseldorf
Arena-Straße 01
40474 Düsseldorf
- 02** PAUL JANES STADIUM
Former home of Fortuna
Flinger Broich 87
40235 Düsseldorf
- 03** FORTUNA KIOSK
A favourite fan meetup
Joseph-Beuys-Ufer 27
40479 Düsseldorf
- 04** TONI TUREK STATUE
Memorial for the 1954 world
champion
Arena-Straße 03
40474 Düsseldorf
- 05** BENRATH GROUNDS
Home of the 1957 German
amateur champions
Karl-Hohmann-Straße 70
40597 Düsseldorf



City map

71

HASSELBE

LOHAUSEN

DISTRICT 6 DÜSSELDORF-RATH

KNITTKUH

01

04

STOCKUM

DERENDORF

DISTRICT 4

STADTBEZIRK 1

DISTRICT 7

DÜSSELDORF-GERRESHEIM

03

NEERDT

OBERKASSEL

ALTSTADT

FLINGEN

02

Düsseldorf

DÜSSELDORF-VENNHAUSEN

HAMM

DISTRICT 3

DISTRICT

ELLER

ADENTAL

WERSTEN

HASSELS

GRIMLINGHAUSEN

DISTRICT 9

HOLTHAUSEN

05

Münchener Str.

DÜSSELDORF-HIMMELGEIST

BENRAT

NORF

UEDESHEIM

DÜSSELDORF-URDEN

ALLERHEILIGEN



1988

A look at the last time GERMANY hosted the
European Championships



Trainer Franz Beckenbauer offers proof that, while it may have been difficult to resist the charms of EURO mascot Bernie, it was possible.



Above: Danish fans during the match against host Germany (0:2) in Gelsenkirchen. And a fence puppet. Below: English fans watching a 0:1 loss to Ireland in Stuttgart.





Italy's legendary goalkeeper Walter Zenga clears the ball in front of Rudi Völler. The football classic in Düsseldorf's Rhine Stadium ended 1:1, with goals by Roberto Mancini and Andreas Brehme.



The well-earned victor of an excellent tournament: Frank Rijkaard of the Netherlands with the Henri Delaunay Trophy.







**lcke
&
Ducke**

Notes on
German unity
from the
perspective of
football. By
**CHRISTOPH
DIECKMANN**



n June 10, 2023, the influential German daily *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, home to the best sports writing in the country, celebrated Germany's Cold War division. An anniversary was approaching. „The

German national team's clash against Ukraine will be its 1,000th international. To honour the occasion, the SZ will be taking a stroll through German football history." The journey through yesteryear began on April 5, 1908, in Basel, with a 3:5 loss to Switzerland. It was followed by the highest peaks and deepest valleys traversed by the German team: The Miracle of Bern in 1954, the 1966 heartbreak in Wembley, the 1978 humiliation in Cordoba, the triumph in Rome in 1990. All the giants from the West German pantheon made an appearance: Fritz Walter, Helmut Rahn, Uwe Seeler, Gerd Müller, Franz Beckenbauer, Rudi Völler, Litti and Icke. All well and good. But the list keeps going, and by the time it extends to Briegel, Kaltz and Dietz, the eastern German

reader begins yearning for a bit of praise for Dixie Dörner (100 caps), Peter Ducke (68), Jürgen Croy (94) or Joachim Streich (102).

Accomplished German national team players from the German cities of Dresden, Jena, Zwickau and Magdeburg. But they go unmentioned. The Munich-based paper ignored them — along with the fact that the 3:3 against Ukraine was not actually the German team's 1,000th international match. It was the 1,292nd. In a refreshingly forthright outburst many years ago, Dynamo Dresden keeper Hans-Jürgen Kreische thundered: „The assholes over there don't want to acknowledge our national team matches. I played in 50 of them, and they can go ahead and nullify 49 of them, but I want to keep THAT ONE. Or did they lose that match in Hamburg against the air?" The reference was to June 22, 1974: Still today, that mythical World Cup match with the Sparwasser goal is listed as „Germany against GDR." But back then, there was no Germany — there were two of them, or two halves. The entire

The German understanding of normality is the western German normal.

history belongs to neither, but in the football ideology of the West, „Germany” means the German Football Association, the DFB. The East German association was called DFV. It dissolved itself on November 20, 1990, because the German Democratic Republic (GDR) had become part of the Federal Republic of Germany on October 3, 1990. Some 390,000 DFV members along with 4,412 clubs was absorbed into the DFB, becoming part of the association’s new section called the Northeast German Football Federation (NOFV). Since then, the football nation has been unified. But what kind of unity is it? The last top-league season in the GDR ended on May 25, 1991, eight months after the country ceased to exist. FC Hansa Rostock, a team with a long history of near misses, finally broke through that year, winning both the championship and the cup. The club’s reward was a spot in

the Bundesliga along with second-place finisher Dynamo Dresden. Six GDR top-league teams were also integrated into the second division, which was expanded to 24 teams. NOFV president Hans-Georg Moldenhauer, a former keeper for Magdeburg, developed a pyramid for the future of eastern German football, which envisioned eight eastern teams in the third division, four clubs in the second division and two in the Bundesliga. Distressingly, reality refused to conform to Moldenhauer’s vision. In spring 2024, only three of the 30 third division clubs are from the east to go with two clubs in the second division. Among the elite, only 1. FC Union Berlin is holding down the eastern fort.

Football is a sport, a chamber of memories and a mirror of history all at the same time. In the first free elections in the GDR on March 18, 1990, the vast majority of East Germans voted in favour of a rapid alignment with the Federal Republic – and thus against their own history. A small, bankrupt state joined a large, prosperous nation. A bankrupt, demoralised polity became part of an intact society. The East needed the West, not the other way around. The West was a coherent construct. It hooked up the „New Länder“, as the



eastern states came to be called, like a powerful locomotive adding cars 12 to 16 to an existing train. From that point on, what used to be East Germany was a third of the country and a fifth of the population – and was expected to comply with the majority and its regulations.

National media are western German media. National debates are western German debates, occasionally garnished with a voice from the east. The German understanding of normality is the western German normal. Approaches to history are made through the western German lens. The West doesn't see itself as West, just as German – in contrast to the East. The *Süddeutsche Zeitung's* jaunt through 1,000 national team matches conforms to the standard Western ignorance. And when Franz Beckenbauer passed away in January of this year, memories of the „Kaiser“ filled the paper for an entire week, up to four pages per day. When Hans-Jürgen Dörner died, the „Beckenbauer of the East“ only got a small box. Javier Cáceres penned a short yet informed blurb about „Dynamo's shining light“. Dörner had also amassed a few distinctions in the West after all, as trainer of Werder Bremen and as Berti Vogts' assistant in unified Germany's European Championship victory in 1996.

The „DFB data centre“ lists GDR national team players separate from its German statistics. In 1995, I visited Georg Buschner, who led Jena to a trio of championships as trainer before taking over leadership of the GDR national team from 1970 to 1981. I asked him: „Does it bother you that the GDR national team matches aren't included for Germany?“ He smiled knowingly: „I stick to the facts. Those matches took place.“ I've been a Jena fan since 1965. It is a cross I've had to bear since I was nine. My shrine of memories includes championships, cup triumphs, European Cup victories over Ajax Amsterdam, Olympique Marseille, AS Rom and Benfica Lissabon. In 1981, I was at the European Cup final against Dinamo Tbilisi in Düsseldorf. Or, to be more precise, I was sitting in front of my television in East Berlin because my all-knowing state



refused to allow its citizens to travel across the anti-fascist protection wall. My team will always be at the top of the eternal GDR standings. As the state was disintegrating, we qualified for the Bundesliga's second division with the 24,200th and last (Heiko Weber in Cottbus!) goal in the history of East Germany's top league. After three years, we were relegated, but the team stayed together and we moved back up — only to fall again in 1998. Bernd Schneider, our best player, transferred to Eintracht Frankfurt and then to Bayer Leverkusen. I watched „Schnix” in the 2002 Champions League final against Real Madrid and in the World Cup final against Brazil. That year, as a star of unified Germany, he was called „the white Brazilian”.

The top GDR league was the most conservative in the world. Player transfers were rare and team favourites usually stayed with the same club until retirement. Peter Dücke was in Jena, and he stayed there. Jürgen Croy was Zwickau's star and Dixie Dörner was synonymous with Dynamo Dresden — in contrast to Matthias Sammer and Ulf Kirsten after the fall of the Wall. Indeed, German reunification unleashed a slew of westward transfers, with even perennial champion BFC Dynamo quickly losing Rainer Ernst, Thomas Doll and Andreas Thom. Hundreds went west and continue to do so today. The grief of the exsanguinated eastern clubs and their fans stood in contrast to the joy of the players, released from their cages. Sammer and Thom, now in Stuttgart and Leverkusen, debuted as the first easterners to play for reunified Germany's national team — after 23 and 51 GDR caps, respectively.

In Jena, Dresden and Magdeburg, fans were faced with a decision: Do I desert my club for the big stage of football's modern era? Or do I remain faithful? Crowds of legionnaires paraded through the Saale River valley in Jena. But many refused to jump ship. The fans realised that the club — FC Carl Zeiss Jena — was nothing without them. The following generation was better able to digest the changing times than the surly old guard. If Meppen, Burghausen and Trier were now coming

The European Championships will be played in eight western stadiums. Such is German unity. It is the only one we have.

through town instead of Europe's football elite, it was merely evidence of Germany's unity, though it still required a bit of adjustment. Missing out on advancing to the third division because of losses to Plauen and Neugersdorf is a bitter pill to swallow. But the enthusiastic singing of the next fan generation provides succour. „You will be my club forever FC Carl Zeiss Jena / No matter where the road may lead / We will be with YOU, with YOU, with YOU!“ My son also fell into the clutches of this unmatched football club at the tender age of four. It happened after a 6:0 away victory at VfL Halle 96. A Zeiss fan, drunk on pilsner and pride, lifted the bewildered child into the Halle heavens and roared: You old fighter! You were here today! You will be a

Zeiss fan FOREVER! And that's how it has turned out. Cornelius played for a smaller club in Berlin, VfB Einheit zu Pankow, and while his teammates all showed up in shirts from Barca, ManU and even Werder Bremen, Conny insisted on the blue-yellow-white of Zeiss, despite the teasing. And then, a miracle happened. Coca Cola put out a football collection, and since eastern Germany had no team in the Bundesliga, cans for the east were printed with the emblems of longstanding eastern German clubs. And thanks to a delivery error, the multinational stocked our local supermarket in Berlin exclusively with Jena cans – the stacks of FC Carl Zeiss glory reaching right up to the ceiling. A market-economy Marian apparition!

Now, the European Championships „in your own country“ are approaching. At the dreadful World Cup in Qatar, the national team was exclusively western. But that has now fundamentally changed with the return of Toni Kroos. He is a native of Greifswald, the city that produced Germany's favourite painter Caspar David Friedrich. Kroos lived and ripened for nine months in the GDR before graduating to Germany. The European Championships will be played in eight western stadiums in addition to Leipzig and Berlin. Such is German unity. It is the only one we have. We are looking forward to what is to come. But can we bear it?



CHRISTOPH
DIECKMANN

A winner of the Theodor Wolff Prize and the Kirsch Prize, Christoph Dieckmann spend 30 years as an editor and author for Die Zeit – as was the only eastern German in the newsroom for much of that time. His most recent book, „Woher sind wir geboren“, is an exploration of German identity.

Schkeuditz

PAPITZ

HÄNICHEN

MODELWITZ

NORDWEST

WAHREN

Leipzig

- 01** ZENTRALSTADION
Home of Rasenball Leipzig
Am Sportforum 03
04105 Leipzig
- 02** ALFRED KUNZE SPORTPARK
Home of Chemie Leipzig
Am Sportpark 02
04179 Leipzig
- 03** „REST VON LEIPZIG“ MONUMENT
A memorial to the
1964 championship team
Am Sportpark 02
04179 Leipzig
- 04** HOFMEISTER HAUS
Where the German Football
Association was founded
Büttnerstraße 10
04103 Leipzig
- 05** BRUNO PLACHE STADIUM
Home of Lok Leipzig
Connewitzer Straße 21
04289 Leipzig
- 06** STADIUM OF PEACE
Historic grounds for clubs in Leipzig
Max-Liebermann-Straße 83
04157 Leipzig

02

03

BÖHLITZ-EHRENB

SEN

ALT-WEST

N-RÜCKMARSDDORF

SCHÖNAU

GRÜNAU-MITTE

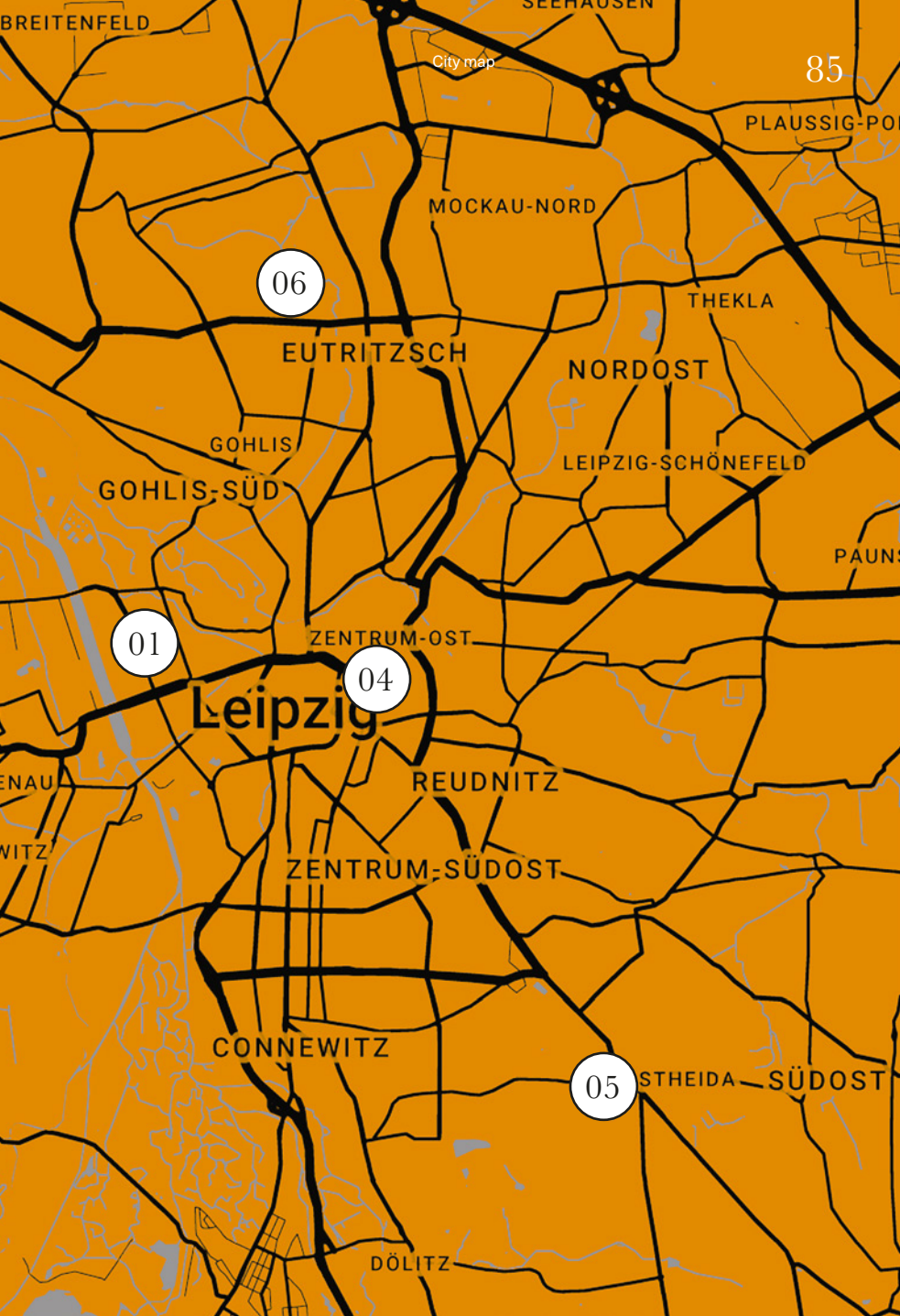
NAU

FLICKERT

KÖLKWITZ

LIND

PLAG



BREITENFELD

SEEHAUSEN

City map

85

PLAUSSIG-PO

MOCKAU-NORD

06

THEKLA

EUTRITZSCH

NORDOST

GOHLIS

GOHLIS-SÜD

LEIPZIG-SCHÖNEFELD

PAUN

01

ZENTRUM-OST

04

Leipzig

ENAU

REUDNITZ

WITZ

ZENTRUM-SÜDOST

CONNEWITZ

05

STHEIDA-SÜDOST

DÖLITZ



**Indivisibly
united**

The Kurt Landauer Stiftung recalls one of the most formative personalities of FC Bayern München. Its members also provide insight into the intricacies of football memory.

Text & Fotos
TOBIAS AHRENS

What do statues care about the problems of today? As Georg Mooshofer walks down Säbener Strasse, there is a bit of a commotion at FC Bayern – even more than normal. The state of the world-famous club can still be reliably gauged by a quick visit to the training grounds. Fans are waiting at the entrance to the underground garage for the stars to arrive, hoping to catch a glimpse of Leon Goretzka or Manuel Neuer. Children with their parents in tow, or the other way around, are excitedly holding slips of paper and pens in their hands, collecting autographs. Fans carrying bags full of new kits pour out of the shop next door, unconcerned about the fact that for the first time since 2012, the season might not end in a championship (spoiler alert: it didn't). Georg Mooshofer, 40, walks past the fans and through a gate on the club compound. He has other problems. Cobwebs have developed.

This is the story of the Kurt Landauer Stiftung. And an answer to the question as to how memories of the past can be cultivated at one of Germany's largest football clubs. Though that would be a bit too overwrought for the FC Bayern fans who have found here a place to get involved. „Memory, yeah, but we are also doing historical work,“ says Mooshofer. „And history never ends.“ He then carefully wipes down the bronze statue standing on Säbener Straße, removing fine cobwebs. The statue is a likeness of Kurt Landauer, the honorary president of FC Bayern and so much more. The son of a Jewish merchant, he played keeper for the club around 1901 and went on to become president not long later, returning to the position after earning an Iron Cross in World War I. He was forced to resign when the Nazis rose to power and was imprisoned in Dachau concentration camp for four weeks before fleeing the country. After World War II ended, he returned to FC Bayern and again devoted himself to the



Members of the Kurt Landauer Stiftung in front of a miniature replica of the stands at the first FC Bayern football grounds.

Under President Landauer's leadership, the club won its first championship in 1932.

club, negotiating with the Allies for adequate training grounds for the club. And then his name was almost completely forgotten – even if Landauer himself said: „FC Bayern and I simply belong together; we are inseparable from each other.“ The names most people think of in connection with FC Bayern tend to be those of others: Uli Hoeneß, Franz Beckenbauer, Paul Breitner and Oliver Kahn, perhaps. But none of them have their gaze constantly trained on the training pitch like Kurt Landauer. He is the one immortalised with a statue, thanks to the

foundation that bears his name. Though that name, it turns out, „was a huge problem“, Mooshofer recalls. „Some club registration office approaches us, saying that since we weren't managing his estate, we couldn't use his name.“ As if any other name could have had carried the same weight. Everything began with Kurt Landauer, after all. Or, rather, with a careful choreography intended to remember him. On the occasion of his 125th birthday in 2009, the ultras had unfurled a banner reading: „FC Bayern was his life – nothing and nobody could

change that!“ It was the moment that many fans began to take a new look at the club’s past. Though even before that, a few individual club loyalists had sought to honour the former president. When Allianz Arena was opened in 2005, an emergency exit route was named for him. Since then, the FC Bayern ultra group „Schickeria München“ has been holding an anti-racism football tournament where the victor receives the Kurt Landauer Cup. In 2014, the initiative received the Julius Hirsch Prize awarded by the German Football Association (DFB). The prize of 10,000 euros became the seed money for the foundation. Simon Müller, 42, was among those who accepted the award from the DFB. He is now standing next to Mooshofer in front of the Kurt Landauer monument and talking about how the artist made sure that the honorary president is looking at visitors as though he were welcoming each of them personally. A small slit is cut into the bench on which Landauer is sitting, right between his hand and his leg, symbolising the years when the Nazis separated Landauer from his club. „We are continuing his legacy,“ says Müller. „We want to stand for openness. And against racism.“

Indeed, anti-racism is the primary focus of the foundation’s work. When Müller, Mooshofer and others from the foundation organise trips to Dachau or Auschwitz, that aim is immediately evident. In other instances, it only develops over time. As a rule, every youth player at FC Bayern is led through Munich at least once by friends of the foundation.

The Landauer memorial is only a small part of the tour. At Clemensstraße 50, in the neighbourhood of Schwabing, sandwiched between residential buildings and parked cars, there is a plaque commemorating the club’s first pitch. This is likely where Landauer himself would play. „The fact that we rediscovered this place was one of the most gratifying moments for me,“ says Mooshofer, standing in the courtyard of a building complex where Friedrich Wamsler, a stove and oven manufacturer, once had the first pitch established. He then points to a spot between two terraces where the dressing rooms are thought to have once stood. Mooshofer and friends dug through archives before finally piecing together the puzzle. „We were sure we would be successful. The grounds hadn’t disappeared thousands of years ago. One hundred at the most.“ Uli Hoeneß even came by when the plaque was installed.

Hoeneß himself is also now an honorary president of the club in addition to being a supporter of the foundation – despite the fact that most of the foundation’s members come from the active fan scene. Or perhaps for that very reason? „Through the foundation, we have established contacts with FC Bayern staff on a completely different level,“ says Christian Kröll, 39. Like Mooshofer and Müller, Kröll also has a long history as an FC Bayern fan. When he began regularly attending FC Bayern matches at Olympic Stadium in the 1990s, the fan curve was permeated with right-wing sympathies, a situation that only began shifting as the 20th century gave way to

the 21st. In some cases, the battle for the political soul of Bayern Munich fandom was waged with fists. But the foundation helped disprove widespread stereotypes of hard-corps fans as violent thugs. „People at FC Bayern quickly realised that they could depend on us and that we were sorting things out. And that the work of the Kurt Landauer Stiftung was working.“ How, though, is well-meaning foundation work, how are anti-racism initiatives compatible with a club that signs marketing deals with Qatar Airways and is a key player in the mechanisms of international football? Are they not concerned about being used as a fig leaf? Mooshofer thinks for a moment and looks down at his sweatshirt, emblazoned with the FC Bayern emblem. „You have to be able to persevere,“ he says. Indeed, that is one reason why the foundation maintains financial independence from the club – an explanation for the incomprehension they sometimes encounter on the search for donations. Some of their projects, after all, could easily be paid for out of Bayern Munich’s petty cash drawer. But the foundation values its independence.

And anyway, the work of the Kurt Landauer Stiftung often focuses on the trees rather than the forest. On Leopoldstraße, in the shadow of the hotel complex where out-of-town teams like to stay ahead of their matches against FC Bayern, there is a miniature replica of the stands from the first stadium. Using a toothbrush, Mooshofer scrubs the alder pollen from the tiny steps and talks about what the foundation works on – and

what it doesn’t. Because even though the story of Kurt Landauer cannot be told often enough, it is ultimately finite – and the foundation needs new projects to work on. „FC Bayern is multifaceted. Even if it is just the woman who cleans the trophies.“ He means that literally: Maria Meissner was involved in the founding of FC Bayern’s first women’s team, later becoming the first female referee and, still later, took care of polishing the club’s collection of silver trophies. „And because Ms. Meissner has no descendants, we take care of maintaining her grave.“ Indeed, it is difficult not to get the impression that every corner of the city of Munich has some sort of connection to FC Bayern – which also makes it difficult to gain a clear understanding of what, exactly, the Kurt Landauer Stiftung does. Are birthday wishes for a Bayern legend on social media something that the foundation should take care of? What about new paint for the walls in the youth team dressing room where the club’s historic logos are proudly presented? Indeed, it seems that the members of the Kurt Landauer Stiftung really only agree on one thing: That they would never do anything to help their crosstown rivals from 1860 München. As is often the case when foundation volunteers take young players on a tour of Munich, this outing also ends up at Allianz Arena. Here, where even after 20 years of existence, the stadium still looks a bit like a forgotten spaceship plopped down in the middle of a field, is where one of the club’s all-time greats is to be found. The monument to

Gerd Müller directly in front of the arena is huge, an impressive sight for everyone who walks past. For many in the foundation, the presentation of the figurehead in front of the stadium was an incomparable experience. „It was the greatest moment,“ says Mooshofer, „because the media interest was so great. Not even Bayerische Runkfunk reported when we unveiled Kurt Landauer,“ he says, referring to the public broadcaster. They have to focus on popular issues in order to impart the core values of the foundation. „We

are always facing the question: How do we escape our bubble?“ The Kurt Landauer Stiftung should not become an end in itself. As Mooshofer, Müller and Kröll look up to the head of the statue and beyond to the gathering dusk, other Alliance Arena visitors join them around the monument. Often, they say, older fans stop and say: „Yeah, that’s what he was like, Gerd Müller. That’s how I remember him.“ The children stand next to them and look up in wonder. After all, history never ends. ●

The Gerd Müller statue presents the legend in a celebratory pose – which wasn’t uncommon for him.

The FC Bayern insignia between 1965 and 1970. Today, it embellishes a youth team dressing room.



Ground of VfL Fosite Helgoland, Schleswig-Holstein







Grav-Insel
Campground,
North Rhine-
Westphalia

A fan in
Würzburg,
Bavaria





The DFB campus
in Frankfurt
am Main, Hesse



How to speak Fußball

Illustration
PHILIPP SCHULTZ

German for REAL FANS

Ab•stau•ben

[ˈapˌʃtaʊbən]

English: To clean up, though in this case, cleanliness is in the eye of the attack. Often, it involves a player being in the right place at the right time.

Ab•tas•ten

[ˈapˌtastən]

English: Feeling your way forward. Describes aimless midfield passing with no obvious desire to score. Frequently the product of outsized fear of failure.



Den Ball aus dem Netz fis•chen

[dɛm bal aʊs dɛm

netz ˈfiːʃən]

English: Fish the ball out of the net. What keepers have to do if their dives come up empty.

Den Kas•ten sauber hal•ten

[dɛm ˈkastn ˈzaʊbɐ ˈhaltən]

English: Keeping the box clean. The „box“ here refers to the goal. And the only impurity in question is the ball.

Den län•ge•ren A•tem ha•ben

[dɛm ˈlɛŋgərən ˈʔatəm ˈhabən]

English: Having the longer breath. Makes no sense, right? It means to have patience. Leading to a win.

Den Raum eng ma•chen

[dɛ:n raʊm 'ɛŋ 'maxən]
English: Ve make ze room narrow, ja? A defensive concept that involves crowding opposing attackers and cutting off all escape.

Diri•gie•ren

[dɪrɪ'gi:rɛ:ʒən],
English: conduct, as in an orchestra

1. (on attack) Controlling the match with lots of gesturing and passing. As the saying goes, the better you dirigieren, the less you have to run.,
2. (on defence) Telling the other defenders what to do and where to go, particularly when building a wall for set pieces. Screaming is the preferred technique.

Ei•nen aus•stei•gen las•sen

[ˈaɪnən 'aʊs,ʃtaɪgən 'lasən]
English: No idea. Basically means faking the boots off the opposing defender and making them look like a complete idiot. Often referred to as an ankle breaker.

**Geld schießt kei•ne To•re**

[gɛlt 'ʃɪst 'kaɪnə 'to:rə]
English: Money doesn't score goals. A saying from simpler times. No longer makes much sense.

Gut ge•staf•felt ste•hen

[gʊt gə'ʃtafəlt 'ʃte:ən]
English: Standing solid. A reference to a well-structured defence. Only used when said defence is, well, on the defensive.

Ins Tor na•geln

[ɪns to:r 'na:gln]
English: Nail it to the goal. The term generally applies to those unexpectedly wondrous strikes that make TV commentators lose their s*** in excitement.

Pil•le [pɪlə]

English: Pill. Slang for ball. The thing that always goes in the goal when a German takes a penalty kick.

Ru•del•bil•dung

[ˈʁu:dəl,bɪldʊŋ]
English: Forming a crowd. That moment when players gather to express their displeasure through intimidation and aggressive ego projection. Usually an expression of fragile masculinity.

Ziel•was•ser

[ˈtʃi:lvasɐ]
English: Target water. Those who miss shots, especially penalties, should be drinking more of it. Not usually available at the corner store.





The heart of football

German fan culture is frequently the envy of football supporters the world over. Because here, they are much, much more than just paying customers.

Text
ANDREAS BOCK

The end is nigh. That, at least, is the claim made by football pessimists. They say the commercial pressures on football have become too great. They argue that there are too many competitions, matches around the clock on countless pay-TV stations. And they point out that tournaments are now being hosted by autocratic countries. Not to mention the astronomical prices for tickets and merchandise. But when it comes to football in Germany, such doom and gloom is misplaced – because in Germany, the game is more popular than it has ever been. The numbers: With an average of 40,000 fans per match, the Bundesliga has the highest average in the world. In Europe, Borussia Dortmund (81,287) and FC Bayern (75,000) are in first and second place respectively, with stadium occupancies of close to 100 percent. Germany's second league is also leading the way, drawing an average of 28,000 fans to the stadium, more than the top league in France (27,000). Second-league club Schalke draws an average of over 61,000 fans, the 11th most in Europe, followed in 16th by Hamburger SV.

There are a handful of logical explanations for this boom: the moderate ticket prices in Germany, the atmosphere in the stadiums, the fact that fans have a say in the clubs, standing room areas. They are developments and achievements that are not necessarily self-evident. Rather, they are partly a product of tireless social workers who developed a vision 35 years ago. They called it: „Culture instead of cudgels“.

One of these fan pioneers was Thomas Schneider, who worked for a fan project in Hamburg in the 1980s and later helped develop the Fan Project Coordination Centre (KOS) at the Deutsche Sportjugend, an association that promotes youth sports within the German Olympic Sports Confederation. Today, Schneider is in charge of fan affairs for Deutsche Fußball Liga (DFL). „The European Championships in 2008 was the first attempt to approach football fans differently, to take them seriously,“ he says. „The tournament initiated a paradigm shift, and at some point, we had our foot in the door. Over the years, we ended up taking part in the important conferences. And the functionaries realised that we had experience when it

comes to fans.“ In the years leading up to that tournament, many places were gripped by a mixture of helplessness and fear. In 1982, Werder fan Adrian Maleika was killed by HSV hooligans. In 1985, 39 people lost their lives during rioting in Heysel Stadium in Brussels. Then there was the rampant racism in the stadiums, the monkey noises, the banned Reichskriegsflagge waved by right-wing extremists, the organised neo-Nazi sections in the stands. Not only was little known about football fans, but for most functionaries, politicians and media outlets, they were the enemy. „When the hooligans show up, it’s time to pull out the cudgel,“ said Hermann Neuberger, who was president of the German Football Association at the time.

Even by then, the first fan projects had been started – in places like Bremen, Hamburg, Frankfurt and Hannover. Those who worked for the projects, whether they were sociologists, educators or social workers, referred to the stadiums as „the largest youth centres in the republic“. They saw football as a socio-cultural phenomenon with societal impact. But they didn’t have a lobby. „We were seen as crazy leftists,“ says Schneider. In 1984, when they came together for a large meeting with executives from Bundesliga clubs, Uli Hoeneß from Bayern München pronounced: „You’re just unemployed social workers who are trying to set up a job at the expense of the clubs!“

But Schneider and the others were asking the right questions. For example, ahead of the European Championships

in Germany, they wanted to know from tournament organisers: „What are you actually offering the fans? What can they do away from the stadium?“ Neither the organising committee nor the host cities had any good answers. So the fan workers took on the task themselves. Much of it was rather makeshift and rudimentary. They set out informational brochures on folding tables with information about good bars, affordable lodging and free-time activities in the city. At Maschsee, a lake in Hannover, they set up a campsite where 500 people from Ireland camped peacefully together with 2,000 Danes.

The fact that standing areas still exist in German stadiums is largely thanks to the active fan scene.



There was no money for anything more than that. Sociologist Dieter Bott, who was supervisor to the first fan workers at the time, also wrote a flippant invitation to the English: „Bring your trash bands with you and we'll hold a festival.“ Today, he says: „We intervened against Neuberger's police spirit with a culture of welcoming.“ Essentially, it was the kind of overt hospitality that would characterise the World Cup in Germany 18 years later.

Still today, the fan workers accompany German fans to the World Cup and European Championship tournaments. They set up a mobile fan missions at the sites of Germany's matches and produce their own fanzine for matchdays, called Helmut. The motto then as now: „Fans who don't have any problems don't cause any problems.“

Back in 1988, all of that was just being developed. And violence was still omnipresent. In Hamburg and Düsseldorf, hooligans battled it out with the police on the streets. In its story about the riot in Hamburg, the left-leaning Berlin daily taz wrote: „Some of the blame can be pinned on the city-state government. Under public pressure and just before the European Championships got started, the fan project was funded with a scant 25,000 marks.“ Pressure on German football continued to grow, because the situation grew even worse in the ensuing years, particularly in league football. In 1990, Mike Polley, a fan of BFC Dynamo, was killed by shots fired by a police officer. In December 1990, Bundesliga professionals An-

thony Yeboah, Anthony Baffoe and Souleyman Sané wrote an open letter in which they attracted attention to the racism in the stadiums. „We don't want to be fair game!“ In March 1991, the UEFA Cup match between Dynamo Dresden and Roter Stern Belgrade was suspended due to rioting.

International associations sought to address the problem with a firm hand. They considered banning German clubs from the competitions for five years and demanded that standing areas be eliminated from the stadiums, as they were in England. Horst R. Schmidt, the general secretary of the German Football Association (DFB) was a fan of the law-and-order approach. „Over time, we'll have to get the audience used to sitting down,“ he said. The fans, though, had other ideas. They had become better networked over time and they had become involved in nationwide fan initiatives, fan projects, fan alliances and fan shops that were not linked directly to a single club. They published fanzines and opened up an entirely new sector of work in the football industry. And in late November 1994, they began fighting for the survival of the standing sections.

The stadiums in Germany would perhaps look a lot different today if one of those new alliances, the Association of Antifascist Fan Clubs and Fan Initiatives (BAFF), hadn't organised a demonstration in front of DFB headquarters. Hundreds of fans from every corner of Germany travelled to Frankfurt for the occasion. Even hostile groups, such as fans of FC St. Pauli and HSV supporters, stood side-by-

side and chanted: „Sitting is for asses!“ It was a tough fight, as can be deduced from the rather head-scratching comparisons that came from association functionaries. UEFA General Secretary Gerhard Aigner, for example, said: „Nobody would come up with the idea of demanding the survival of standing areas for cinemas or theatres.“ An additional important actor in the fight to preserve standing areas was the Fan Project Coordination Centre (KOS), which was likewise founded in the early 1990s and continues today to provide support for ongoing fan projects at various locations and to assist in the founding of new ones. Some refer to KOS as „football’s social conscience“. It receives funding in equal parts from the national associations DFB and DFL and from the German Ministry for Family Affairs and Youth. At the demonstration held at DFB headquarters, they also moderated the discussion between fans and functionaries. Michael Gabriel, who is now the head of KOS, was there. „We argued that stadiums that only had seating would damage the societal roots of the sport over the long term. That a lot of people would no longer be able to afford tickets and that the atmosphere would suffer as a result,“ he says. „I still find it hard to believe that the DFB ultimately agreed to this line of argumentation.“

It was the first milestone for those working on German fan culture – the „crazy leftists“. And it demonstrated to fans across the country that it was worth it to take up the fight – both in one’s own club and together with other clubs. In the coming decades, they began protes-

ting for things like cheaper ticket prices and the retention of the „50+1 rule“, which requires that club members retain majority ownership and acts as a hurdle to investor takeovers or unpopular sponsors on team kits (Qatar Airways). The protests frequently found success, though in some instances, conflict persisted. The discussions over racism in football, for example, were interminable. Even into the 1990s, the DFB was of the opinion that neo-Nazis were a societal problem and not a football issue. Today, says KOS leader Gabriel, the DFB is extremely active and credible in the fight against racism, sexism and homophobia, particularly by comparison with other associations in Europe.

Indeed, nowhere else in Europe are football fans as organised as they are in Germany. Not in Italy, not in England, not in France. „Fans from across Europe are fascinated by fan culture in Germany. The fact that it has developed in such a multifaceted and colourful manner is also thanks to fan projects together with KOS and the fan commissioners at the clubs,“ says Andreas Rettig, a senior functionary at DFB. Gabriel says the admiration from abroad is especially apparent ahead of application phases for large tournaments. That is when the national associations realise that they have to offer something to the fans. „They come to us and ask: How did you get it to work in Germany? What is social fan work?“ In most cases, interest in the issue quickly evaporates once the application has been submitted. Only Switzerland and Poland are home to isolated fan projects. In

many European leagues, fans are almost exclusively seen as paying customers. In the Premier League, the stadiums are also full, but tickets even for mid-level clubs often cost more than 100 pounds. The end isn't just nigh, it has long since arrived, at least for the many fans who can no longer afford such prices.

In late March 2024, numerous people from football, politics and culture met at the „House of German Sports“ in Frankfurt. It was the beginning of the fan support programme „Fans Welcome“ for the European Championships in Germany, which will be implemented by KOS. Along with DFB media director Steffen Simon and Frankfurt Mayor

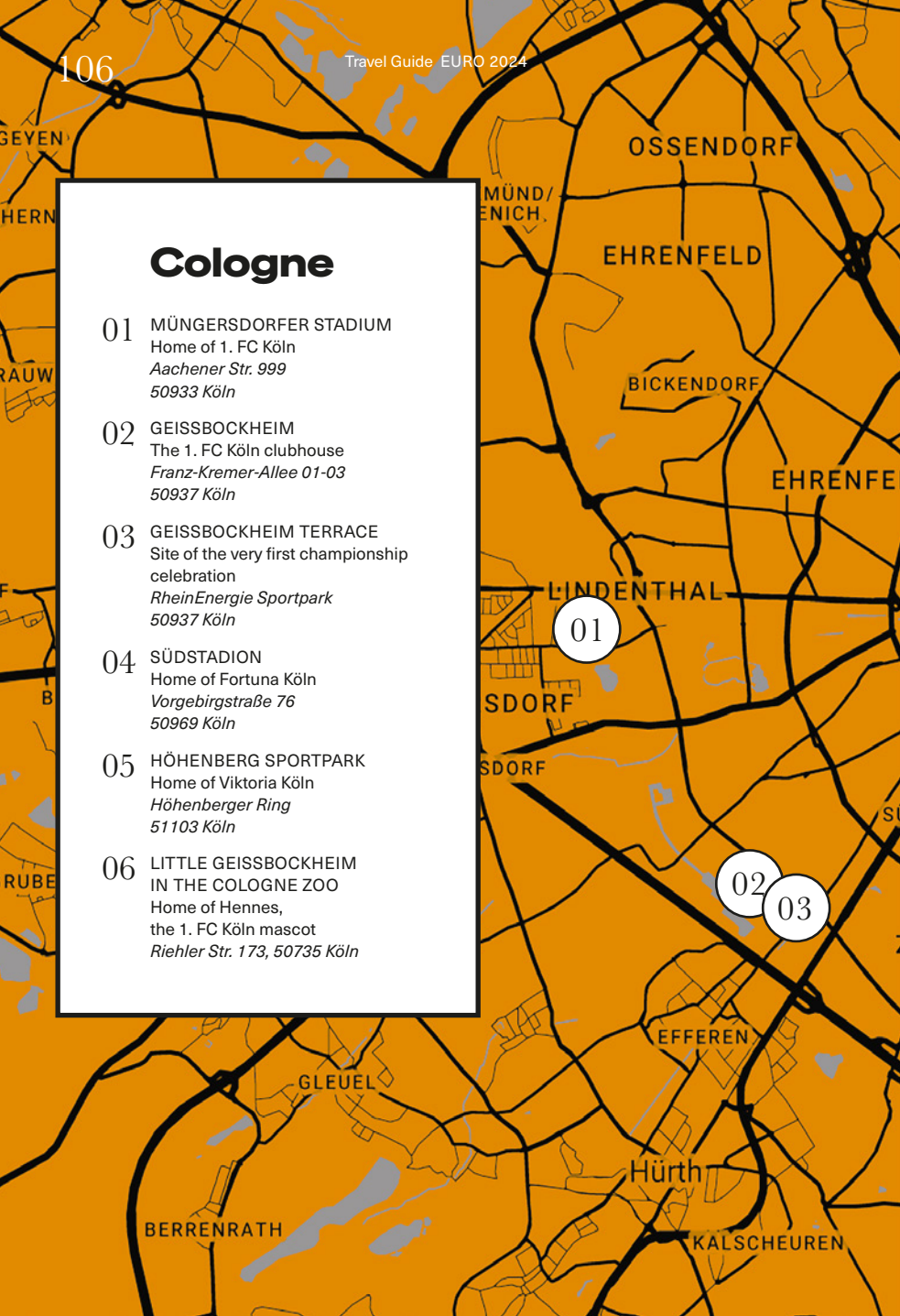
Mike Josef, German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser, whose portfolio also includes sports, was on hand. During the event, Faeser said something that from today's perspective seems completely self-evident: „I am very pleased that KOS, with its years of experience, is taking over the organisation of the fan programme. The tournament will be a festival of fan culture, and KOS makes an important contribution to our culture of welcoming.“ It is a sentiment that says a lot about the acceptance and appreciation of fan workers today – and one that back then, when they started working with fans, no politician would ever have uttered. ●

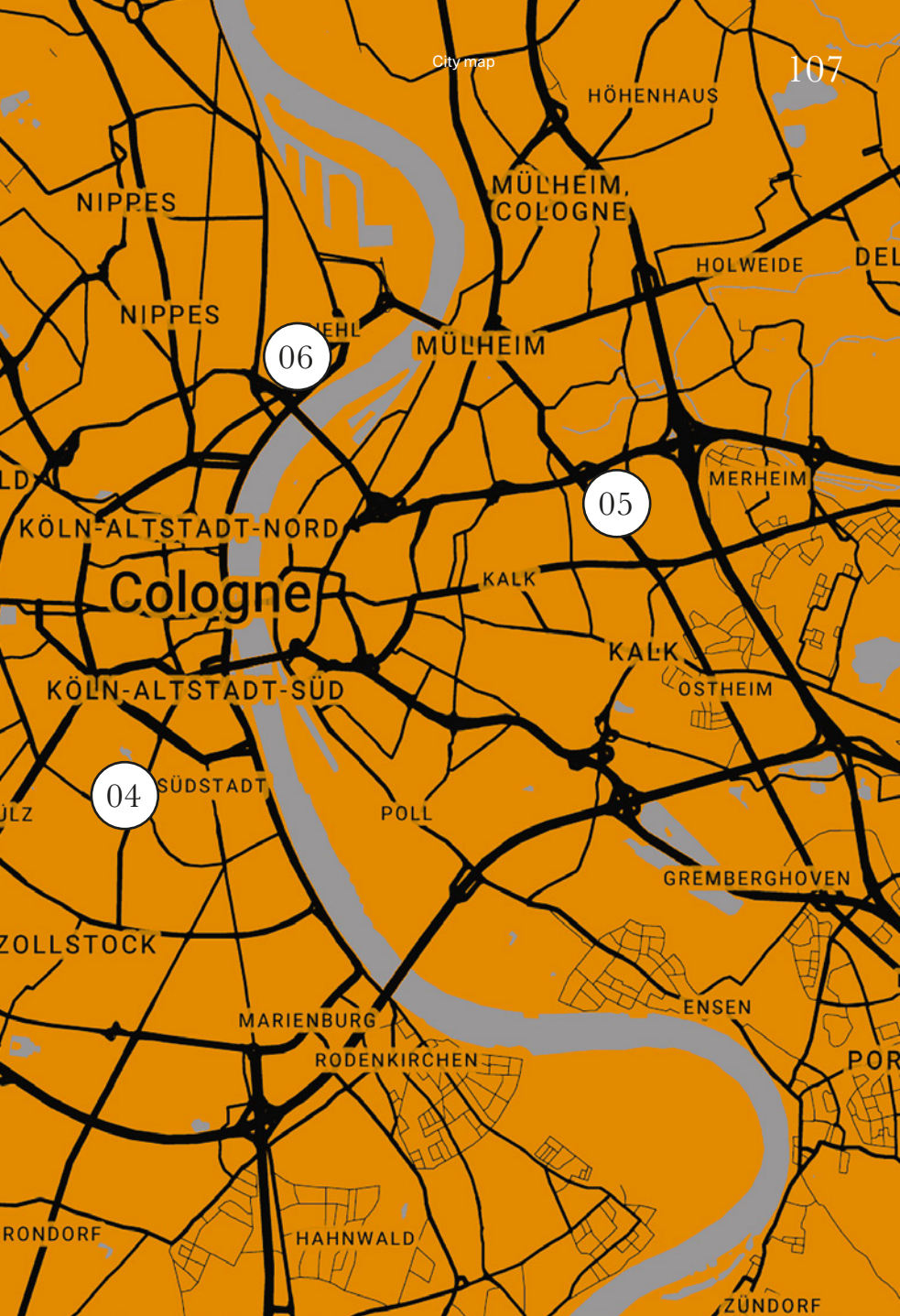
Halfway affordable tickets and an excellent atmosphere: German football has proven successful off the pitch as well.



Cologne

- 01 MÜNGERSDORFER STADIUM**
Home of 1. FC Köln
Aachener Str. 999
50933 Köln
- 02 GEISSBOCKHEIM**
The 1. FC Köln clubhouse
Franz-Kremer-Allee 01-03
50937 Köln
- 03 GEISSBOCKHEIM TERRACE**
Site of the very first championship celebration
RheinEnergie Sportpark
50937 Köln
- 04 SÜDSTADION**
Home of Fortuna Köln
Vorgebirgstraße 76
50969 Köln
- 05 HÖHENBERG SPORTPARK**
Home of Viktoria Köln
Höhenberger Ring
51103 Köln
- 06 LITTLE GEISSBOCKHEIM IN THE COLOGNE ZOO**
Home of Hennes, the 1. FC Köln mascot
Riehler Str. 173, 50735 Köln





HÖHENHAUS

NIPPES

MÜLHEIM,
COLOGNE

HOLWEIDE

NIPPES

NEHL

MÜLHEIM

06

05

MERHEIM

KÖLN-ALTSTADT-NORD

Cologne

KALK

KALK

OSTHEIM

KÖLN-ALTSTADT-SÜD

04

SÜDSTADT

POLL

GREMBERGHOVEN

ZOLLSTOCK

MARIENBURG

RODENKIRCHEN

ENSEN

RONDORF

HAHNWALD

POR

ZÜNDORF

Stranger than Fiction

Fotos
TOBIAS SCHULT



A museum of POSSIBILITIES



THE HOENEß BALL

The ball that Uli Hoeneß fired into the legendary nighttime sky of Belgrade during the penalty shootout in the 1976 European Championship final against Czechoslovakia ultimately landed in the arms of café owner Vlado Drobnič, 69. Maybe. What is certain, though, is that after the defeat for which he was responsible, Hoeneß received a consolation letter from on high: sent by CDU Chairman Helmut Kohl.



OLAF THON'S KIT

Following his team's 2:1 victory over host Germany in the 1988 European Championship semi-final, Holland's Ronald Koeman wiped his backside with Thon's shirt. What a scandal! He then went to the East Curve of the Hamburg stadium and handed it to Marco de Vlugt, 47. It has been hanging in his mobile home since then – for 36 years. Unwashed, of course.

GAZZA'S BOTTLE

Sarah Clarke, 32, a mechanic from Newcastle, was a player escort at the 1996 European Championship clash between England and Scotland.

Paul Gascoigne scored an amazing goal in the match, lifting the ball over the defender before volleying it into the back of the net. His teammates then squirted him with a water bottle. Teddy Sheringham gave Clarke the bottle after the match. And now she knows: It wasn't water.





LAUDRUP'S BURGER

„I was working at McDonald's at the time", says chef Jonte Johansen in describing the day before the EURO 1992 semi-final between Denmark and the Netherlands. "Suddenly, around 25 people in tracksuits came in. Schmeichel, Povlsen, Vilfort. 'One of everything', they said, and we started frying like crazy." He saved the leftovers of Laudrup's burger. Because, of course he did.



PARISIEN MOTHS

There was a bit of a commotion ahead of the 2016 EURO final in Stade de France in Paris. Somebody had left the lights on overnight. The result? Moths everywhere!

For Céline de Boisduval, 56, a lepidopterist in the nearby Museum of Natural History in the French capital, it was like Christmas. Her view of the Silver Y moth:

„An absolutely beautiful creature!“



HOCHMUTTING

DIRNISMANI

NEUHERBERG

01

ELDMOCHING-HASENBERGL

MILBERTSHOFEN-AM-HART

FRÖTTMANNING

FASANERIE

SCHWABING-FREIMANN

Unterfö...

ING

MOOSACH

AM RIESENFELD

PARKSTADT SCHWABING

SCHWABINGER TOR

SCHWABING-WEST

BOGENH...

NEUHAUSEN-NYMPHENBURG

08

X-VORSTADT

ARABELLAPARK

07

06

ALTSTADT

LEHEL

LAIM

04

05

ERN

AU-HAIDHAUSEN

BERG AM LAIM

SENDLING

02

03

RAMERSDORF-PERLA

UNTERGIESING-HARLACHING

OBERSENDLING

NEUP...

Munich

Munich

- 01** ALLIANZ ARENA
Home of FC Bayern
*Werner-Heisenberg-Allee 25,
80939 München*
- 02** STADIUM ON
GRÜNVALDER STRASSE
Home of TSV 1860
*Grünwalder Str. 02-04,
81547 München*
- 03** THE GIESING QUARTER
The neighbourhood
of the Lions
Giesing, 81539 München
- 04** THERESIENWIESE
Birthplace of football in Munich
*St. Paul-Strasse
80336 München*
- 05** CITY HALL BALCONY
Where FC Bayern celebrates
its championships
Marienplatz 8, 80331 München
- 06** ENGLISH GARDEN
A favourite place for hobby
footballers
*Englischer Garten,
80538 München*
- 07** HIRSCHGARTEN
The biggest beer garden
in Bavaria
*Hirschgarten 01,
80639 München*
- 08** STADION AN DER
SCHLEISSHEIMERSTRASSE
The city's best football pub
*Schleißheimer Str. 82,
80797 München*



Another summer fairytale

In 2006, football showed what it can do, bringing together an insecure country full of self-doubt. Can history repeat itself? An Essay by PHILIPP KÖSTER

E

ven the weather played along. On June 6, 2006, the forecast called for thick clouds and sleet, but just three days later, it was radically different: “light clouds, clear!” With the result that on the afternoon of June 9, a bright sun shined down on the stadium in Munich for the opening match of the World Cup, pitting Germany against Costa Rica.

It was the beginning of four weeks that would change Germany. In the light and warmth of an exceptional summer, guests from around the world experienced a Germany that didn’t at all reflect the stubborn clichés so often repeated about this country in Central Europe. Sullen, cool, joyless: such were the expectations many had of the World Cup hosts. Instead, they found enthusiastic, accommodating and attentive hosts. At public viewing sites and city squares across the country, locals and foreign guests celebrated one football fete after the next – and at the end, the hosts were so friendly that they allowed the Italians and the French to decide the final between them. The pinnacle of hospitality.

All those who consciously experienced that World Cup watched in amazement as the country rapidly changed. On the morning the World Cup got started, I was still in the newsroom of the Berlin daily *Der Tagesspiegel* putting the finishing touches on a football supplement the paper published jointly with the magazine *11 FREUNDE*. That evening, I had plans to attend the

second match in Germany’s group between Poland and Ecuador, to be played in Gelsenkirchen – and I started growing increasingly nervous as time wore on, fearing that the notorious traffic jam on the way to the station might cause me to miss my train. A *Tagesspiegel* reporter sitting next to me, who was also heading to Gelsenkirchen for the match, merely laughed, called a taxi and brought me along. On the trip through a new Germany.

It was a journey that began with the taxi foregoing the arduous detour around Berlin’s Tiergarten in favour of the recently completed and completely empty tunnel

People have grown mistrustful – of each other, of their bank accounts, of the media.

July 6 in Zurich, the country invested more energy in outrage over the phony bribery attempts staged by the satire magazine *Titanic* than in joy at having been selected to host the tournament. Germany was a country that didn't think it could do anything – including on the football pitch. Until that first day of the World Cup, the day I saw Berlin's new central station. I could already hear the songs of the Polish fans from the tracks way overhead, waiting for their onward train to western Germany after having journeyed in on special fan trains from Warsaw, Krakow and Poznań. The singing only quieted down once we arrived in Gelsenkirchen a few hours later. Indeed, we were left speechless. All the doubts seemed to have vanished; on the streets to the stadium, there was hardly a single window that didn't have a flag of some sort hanging from it, with the black-red-gold of Germany joined by the Polish, Italian and French banners. Germany was suddenly in football fever and during these four weeks, the country embraced any and everyone who wanted to be a part of it. There were so many images that burned themselves into the country's collective memory: crowds of people gathered for outdoor watch parties; hundreds of thousands

beneath the park, arriving just a few minutes later at Berlin's sparkling new central station, likewise recently inaugurated with no shortage of pomp. I regarded this colossus of steel and concrete in amazement, with its maze of escalators, tracks and elevators rising up through glass tubes. The largest crossing station in Europe had suddenly become the symbol of a country that had – after years of stasis and fear of change – finally taken its first steps into modernity.

As the 21st century got started, Germany was having trouble coming to terms with the great disruptions of globalisation and digitisation even as it was losing its faith in the promises of eternal prosperity, social stability and secure pensions. On top of that came the bursting of the dotcom bubble and the smoking ruins of the World Trade Centre. Germany had lost its confidence. And when the World Cup was awarded to Germany on



of Swedes in Berlin, even though only 40,000 of them actually had tickets for the group-stage match against Paraguay; partying fans from the Netherlands, England, Italy. And so much more. Even as the country had long been accustomed to viewing itself with a certain sardonic – or nauseated – distance, the “Summer’s Fairytale”, as Sönke Wortmann would later dub it, was the opposite of self-disparaging satire. Sociologists may have later shown that daily attacks on migrants actually ticked upward during the summer of football euphoria, and cabaret artist Fritz Eckenga may have poked fun at Germany’s newly found patriotism. But in the popular consciousness, Germany had finally shown itself – 16 years after reunification – to be a unified, cheerful and friendly country, joined in celebration over goals by Klöse and Neuville.

When these wonderful summer days are now recalled today, with the European Championships fast approaching, it is not merely for the joy of sharing a pleasant anecdote, but because of widespread hopes that history might repeat itself. That a major football tournament might once again unite this country. Because Germany has once again begun doubting itself and its strengths. There has been far too much strife in recent years – over migration, over vaccinations, over eastern and western viewpoints, over the war in Ukraine. People have grown mistrustful – of each other, of their bank accounts, of the media. And they are wondering if the playing field is still level. So much of what has held people together and created a sense of community has weakened. The village associations and clubs. The church congregations. Town pub culture. The only social glue remaining for a diverging society is football. We may all be fighting over religion, global warming and corona masks, but we come together to support Borussia, Bayern or Eintracht. For many years, the national team also brought the people of Germany together. When Mario Götze blasted home the World Cup-winning goal in Maracanã Stadium in 2014 and Jogi Löw in his blue short-sleeved shirt embraced cap-



tain Philipp Lahm, all of Germany – east and west, north and south – celebrated together. Nobody could know at the time that the world champions would quickly lose both composure and competence. That the recently crowned national hero Löw would spend the next several years shaking his head in disappointment. That the tournament in Qatar would mark a new low point for German international football – both on the pitch and because it seemed that the team wasn't even speaking the same language.

But wasn't that also true on the eve of the 2006 World Cup? Didn't it look like the team wasn't prepared for the big tournament? Weren't the German fans sceptical of a group that looked to be a team in name only? In 2006, it was the last-minute goal by Oliver Neuville in the second group-stage match against Poland that won over the audience's hearts. All those who were lucky enough to secure a ticket for that match in Dortmund's Westfalenstadion describe the cathartic roar of the 75,000 fans in attendance as the loudest they have ever heard in a German football stadium.

This year's manifestation of the national team has already managed to cement that bond with Germany's football folk. When Die Mannschaft beat the Netherlands in Frankfurt at the end of March, fans weren't just treated to the new goal anthem ("Major Tom") they had petitioned for, they also saw a team that looked to have shed all of its apprehensiveness as it tiki-takaed its way through the Dutch defence. But even in 2006, a dazzling display of football from the German team would not have been enough to produce the electrifying atmosphere that found its appropriate climax on a warm summer's evening in the sold-out Olympic Stadium in Berlin. It was four weeks during which football showed its immense power. And couldn't it do the same again this year? Couldn't it be the case that the Portuguese in their team quarters in Harsewinkel, the Italians in Iserlohn and the Serbians in Augsburg discover a Germany that manifests cohesion and joie de vivre as it welcomes the players and their supporters with open arms in yet

What takes place down on the grass is not the most important aspect of this tournament. Rather it is the peaceful, enthusiastic encounters between people and peoples.

another demonstration that football can unite people across borders? That, after all, is the grand promise of football, despite the ever more sophisticated commercial exploitation, the bloated ticket prices and the multi-million-euro salaries. I still remember how wonderfully it worked back in 2006. How Argentinians and Mexicans embraced in Leipzig, how Poles and Ecuadorians fraternised in Gelsenkirchen – and how the French and the Italians joined together to hold up a golden cup made of paper mâché for the photographers.

That was before the final in Berlin, which was branded into football's collective memory because the French football legend Zinédine Zidane first blasted in a penalty before then earning himself a red card by head-butting his Italian adversary Marco Materazzi. I have even clearer memories, though, of being jammed into

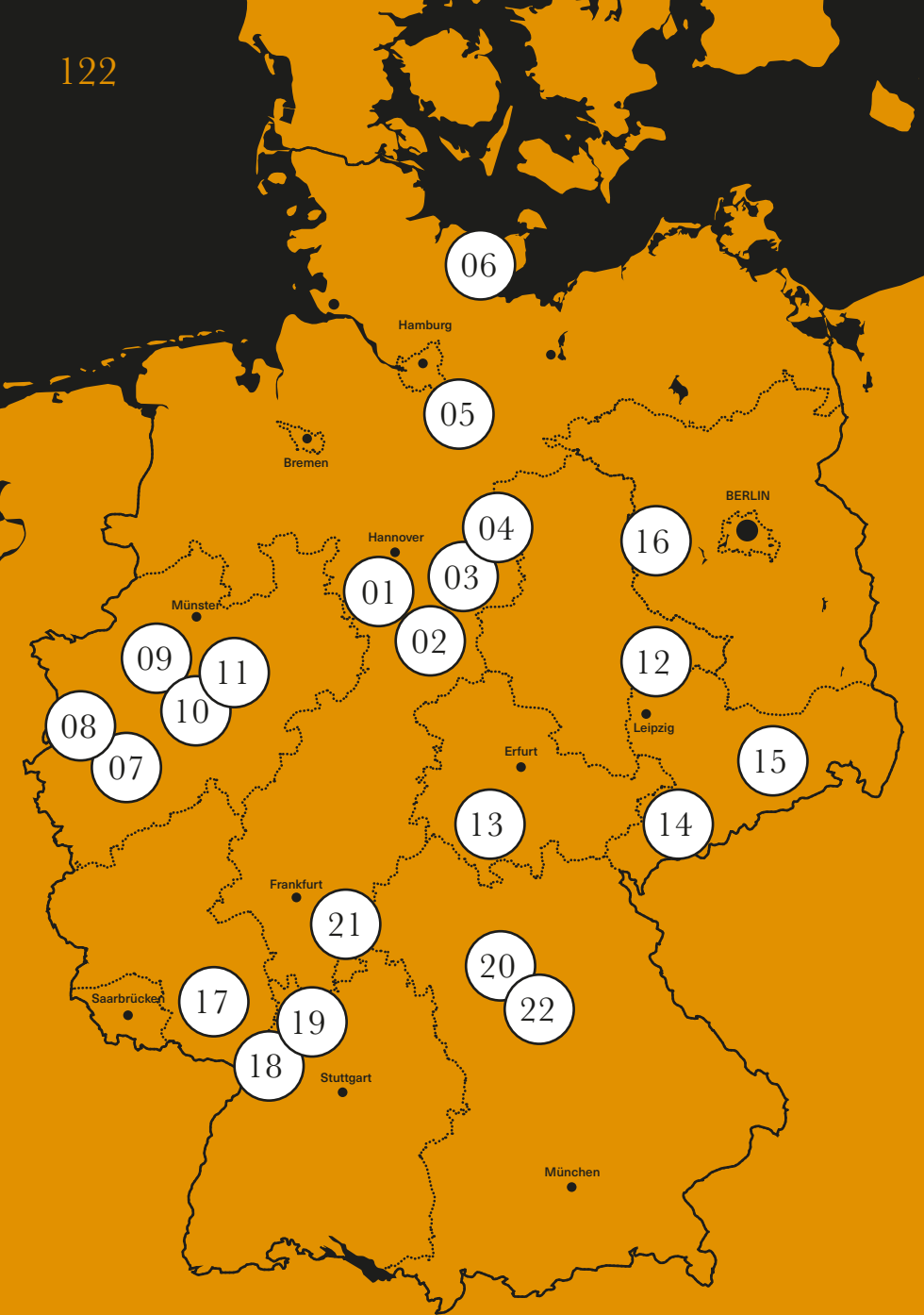
the press section, laptop balanced on my knees, as an Italian reporter to my right screamed into the microphone of a Roman news broadcaster for 130 minutes without once stopping to breathe. While a French reporter to my right, for his part, conveyed the action to the audience of a French radio station. And yet no matter how antagonistic and agitated the two sounded, no matter how desperately they yearned for all kinds of calamities to befall their opponents, it all vanished once the final whistle sounded. Almost as though I wasn't sitting between them, the two reporters stretched out their hands to one another above my laptop. Both of them understood what a great gift it had been to watch football in all its drama, enmity and beauty.

Such moments, in which the sport demonstrates its greatness, will be produced by the European Championships in Germany as well. But these moments will only really be experienced and remembered by those who understand that what takes place down on the grass is not the most important aspect of this tournament. Rather it is the peaceful, enthusiastic encounters between people and peoples. Just as in 2006, as I made my way with Polish fans through Gelsenkirchen and through a sea of flags. ●



PHILIPP KÖSTER

The co-founder, managing director and editor-in-chief of the football magazine 11 FREUNDE knows that there is more to the game than match results. The southern German is a fan of the third-division club Arminia Bielefeld.



Pass- port

Legendary Italian trainer Giovanni Trapattoni once said that football isn't just "ding," but also "dang and dong." A trip to these 20 places provide an idea of what he might have meant.

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| WEST | _____ | P.126 |
| EAST | _____ | P.128 |
| SOUTH | _____ | P.130 |

North

From the MUSEUM to the CRADLE

01 SPRINGE FOOTBALL MUSEUM

For decades, football fan Peter Saloga collected anything and everything he stumbled across: pennants, shirts, scarves, books, magazines, this and that. Since 2004, the collection has been stored in the attic of the „Red School” in the tranquil town of Springe, lower saxony. Legend has it that the opening of the museum was the first and only time in his life that Saloga deigned to put on a suit. Still, he was a bit ambivalent about the form his creation had taken: It seemed too orderly. That, though, is an extremely subjective take. All those who find their way to the town



just south of Hannover can expect a colourful assortment with a slight pro-Hannover 96 bent and, something of a surprise, the history of East German football. And the place still clearly carries Saloga’s signature after all: The collector’s original basement door is also to be found in the present-day football museum.

*Hinter der Burg 1,
31832 Springe*

02 CAHN VON SEELEN STADIUM

It may at first seem rather strange that the town of Bad Gandersheim, with its population of just 9,800 people, has a stadium — never even halfway full — with a capacity of 4,000 fans. But the overgrown and sometimes difficult-to-discern natural seating tiers are nevertheless quite beautiful. And during the stadium’s opening on May 1, 1950, it was hopelessly overcrowded. For the clash between german giants 1. FC Nürnberg and Borussia Dortmund, 20,000 fans apparently crammed into the amphitheatre.

*Baderstr. 8a,
37581 Bad Gandersheim*

03 WORKPLACE OF KONRAD KOCH

Konrad Koch, a teacher at the Martino Katharineum Gymnasium, recognised the positive effects of athletic activity on his students. So in 1874, he arranged for them to play the first football match ever on German soil. Whether it was actually more like rugby is an issue primarily discussed in Lüneburg (see Johannem). One year later, Koch wrote the first German football rulebook and fought long and hard for the sport's acceptance. In recognition of his pioneering work, the stadium of BSC Acosta bears his name.

*Herzogin-Elisabeth-Str. 81,
38104 Braunschweig*

04 LUPO MARTINI

In 1962, Italian workers at the VW factory in Wolfsburg, with the help of the Volkswagen social affairs department, founded the first German guestworker team, the Italian Sports



Club (ISC) Lupo. The name, which means „wolf“ in Italian, is a reference to the symbol of Rome. In 1981, the club merged with a second Italian team, forming the pleasant-sounding *Unione Sportiva Italiana Lupo Martini*. Only in recent years, however, has the club found success on the pitch. In the 2016-17 and 2018-19 seasons, the club played in the Regional League North, the fourth-highest level in Germany. But no matter what happens on the pitch, the catering in and around Lupo Stadium is sufficient to guarantee a wonderful football experience. A piece of Italy in the north.

*Hubertusstr. 10,
38448 Wolfsburg*

05 JOHANNEUM LÜNEBURG

In 2017, football historian Hans-Peter Hock stumbled across evidence demonstrating that football was played according to Association Rules as early as 1875 at Lüneburg College. He made the find even though he had actually gone searching for documentation proving that the cradle of German football was in Dresden. He hit paydirt in the English weekly magazine „The Field,“ which contained a match report on the duel – which makes the former convent school home to the first official football match in Germany.

*Theodor-Heuss-Str. 1,
21337 Lüneburg*

06 THE GHOST OF MALENTE

Paul Breitner felt like „in a barracks“. But in 1974 and 1990 Germany became World Champions after staying at the sports school of Malente.

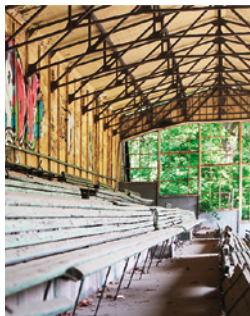
*Am Stadion 4,
23714 Malente*

West

From the MIRACLE to HORST

07 THE STANDS OF WEIDENPESCH

The wooden bleachers in Weidenpesch Park have been withstanding the elements since 1920. And the stadium itself is even older. Built in 1903, it hosted two German championship finals: In 1905, Union 92 Berlin won, followed five years later by Karlsruher FV. Until the founding of 1. FC Köln and the construction of Müngersdorf Stadium, VfL Köln 99 ruled the Cologne football scene from here. The team even played in the German championship semifinal in 1941. National team players Leo Wilden and Jupp Röhrig started their careers here, as did the



well-travelled trainer Otto Pfister. The stadium had its last moment in the sun when Sönke Wortmann used it as a film location for „The Miracle of Bern“ about the world cup of 1954. After that, Weidenpesch Park began a slow yet steady decline — even if the stands have been listed as a historical site since 1989.

*Rennbahnstr. 52,
50737 Köln*

08 BÖKELBERG MEMORIAL SITE

It is here where a provincial club from the Lower Rhine became a great European club. Championships were celebrated here along with a UEFA Cup victory. At some point, though, Bökelberg pulled Borussia down into the second league. This wonderful stadium was simply too small and too old. Today, tiered steps recall the standing area of yore. There are also smaller replicas of the floodlight poles that guided the way to Gladbach home matches until 2004, along with a stainless-steel likeness of the legendary scoreboard.

*Bökelstraße / In de Kull,
41063 Mönchengladbach*



09 HOME OF THE CELESTIAL STRIKERS

On the first matchday of Upper League West in 1974, SpVgg Erkenschwick celebrated a 5:0 victory in Aachen. Nine members of the starting 11 worked in the Ewald Fortsetzung coalmine. On the way back home, a policeman told them: „Boys, you belong in heaven!“ For six years, the team demonstrated what a hard-working team could achieve. And then, the great age of the celestial strikers came to an end. The mine was shut down in 1992, but parts of the facility can still be visited. Right next door is Stimberg Stadium.

Ewaldstr. 64,
45739 Oer-Erkenschwick

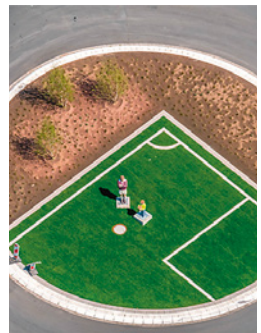
10 KAISERAU SPORTS SCHOOL

The North has the spirit of Malente, the West has Kaiserau. It is here where the German national team had its training camp ahead of the 1974 World Cup and it is here where the team returned after its group stage struggles. The Kaiser Franz Beckenbauer and his mates also came by ahead of the 1990 World Cup. For the 2006 tournament in Germany, it was the Spanish team that moved into the 48 „up-scale“ rooms of the sports hotel to train on the five football pitches and one indoor football hall offered by the facility – though with rather modest success. The Spaniards fell in the round of 16 to France. Now, for the 2024 European Championships, the Albanians have booked the hotel. For the Kuq e zinjtë (red-and-white), a round-of-16 result would likely count as a success.

Jakob-Koenen-Str. 2,
59174 Kamen

11 HANKE AND HRUBESCH

A traffic circle isn't exactly a classic meet-up spot for football freaks. It's a different story in Hamm. So-called „Alltagmenschen“, or „normal people“ — life-sized cement figures by the artist Christel Lechner — are scattered about the city. In the neighbourhood of Pelkum, though, are two footballers who, in May 2017, were ceremonially christened Horst and Mike by two famous sons from the city, Horst Hrubesch and Mike Hanke. When it comes to resemblance, though, there is room for improvement. At least the grass is green.



Kamener Str./Kleine Werlstr.,
59077 Hamm

East

From STURMI to STEFFEN

12 GDR FOOTBALL MUSEUM

Between Gröbern and Gossa, you will find the smallest GDR football museum in the world. That, at least, is the claim made by museum operator Uwe Sturm. But it's not open to those who just happen by, you have to book a visit by email: sturmi242@t-online.de. Then, the tour can start. Rare shirts from Lok Leipzig and FC Karl-Marx-Stadt are on display, as are Dynamo Dresden crackers. There is an ashtray bearing the insignia of Hallescher FC, allegedly worth over 200 euros. A kit from Stahl Riesa that looks like a mesh shirt but is actually intended



to be a kind of breathable shirt for hot summer days. If you want to make Sturmi really happy, bring him a BSG Stahl Riesa kit with the club's name on the chest – he doesn't have one yet. Sometimes, former players even drop by, like Dixie Dörner. But the Dynamo crackers won't be served no matter what.

06774 Muldestausee,
Address on request

13 SUHL ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH

For western German football fans, Tasmania Berlin is the synonym for absolute football inadequacy. In the 1965-66 season, the side played the worst Bundesliga team of all time. But eastern Germany has its own Tasmania. In 1984, BSG Motor Suhl found its way into the top GDR league. The club from the hometown of Simson mopeds earned just six total points and won only one of its 26 matches. In Aue Stadium, the rather unique announcer's booth still recalls all the bad news that was disseminated that year to the disappointed fans.

Auenstr. 1,
98529 Suhl

14

**HOLGER ERLER
STATUE**

Residents of the tiny town of Aue love their plucky football club, which seems to be infused with magical powers from the Ore Mountains. How else could professional football survive here for so long? The team is exemplified by Holger Erler, who played more matches for Erzgebirge Aue (and predecessor Wismut) than any other. Later, the former midfielder joined the municipal council. And since 2013, a wooden sculpture of him has been standing in front of the train station — where he greets all those who come by to witness this miracle firsthand.

*Am Bahnhof,
08280 Aue*

15

**RUDOLF HARBIG
STADIUM**

The place Dynamo Dresden now plays is the site of a football stadium that was built 100 years ago. But even when the Dresdner Kampfbahn was opened in 1923, the pitch already had an



extensive football history. As early as 1874, it was home to the Dresden Football Club — no less than the first football club in continental Europe. It was founded by English and — perhaps surprisingly — American businesspeople, and the team played right where Dynamo still does. The stadium's current name is a tribute to Rudolf Harbig, a track-and-field athlete who specialised in the middle distances. He was particularly strong in the 800 meters, and he set fully four world records within just a few months in 1939. Of interest for lovers interested in tying the knot: Since 2013, the stadium has been bookable for weddings.

*Lennéstr. 12,
01069 Dresden*

16

**STADION AM
QUENZ**

In the stadium known as Stadion am Quenz, where the former GDR top-league club Stahl Brandenburg used to play its home matches, there was once a digital scoreboard, erected in 1986. At some point, though, it became so dilapidated that now, scores must be posted by hand. Which is nice, since it provides a hint of the stadium's past charms, back when BSG Stahl was a powerhouse and played before 18,000 fans in a UEFA Cup match against IFK Göteborg. And when Steffen Freund was at the height of his powers.



*Magdeburger Landstr. 228,
14770 Brandenburg*

South

From BETZE to ALZENAU

17 BETZENBERG TRAIL

The pilgrimage route to the Betzenberg, the beloved stadium in Kaiserslautern, is an intangible cultural treasure. From the train station, the first stop — just 60 paces away — is the favourite fan pub Zum 12. Mann (Richard-Wagner-Straße 103). Continue across Bahnhofstraße to the historical Betzebud food kiosk (Eisenbahnstraße 74), the perfect place to fill up on stuffed pig's stomach before trudging up the hill. Carry on through the pedestrian underpass to the Elf Freunde Kreisel, where members of the 1950s-era team, the famous „Walter Elf“, are memo-



rialised in concrete. Then comes the stadium's West Curve (known as „nuff“). Having finally arrived above the city, take a brief break at the memorial for the five Kaiserslautern players who were part of the Miracle of Bern in 1954 before enjoying a well-earned wine spritzer behind the so-called Horst Eckel Goal.

*Start: Bahnhofstr. 1.,
67655 Kaiserslautern*

18 ENGLISH GROUNDS

The first football pitch in Karlsruhe and one of the first in all of southern Germany is to be found here. Even the origins of the German national team can be traced back to the former little exercise grounds here, also called the English Grounds. This is where, on November 29, 1899, before the founding of the German Football Association, the third of the so-called original national games took place. In front of 5,000 fans, many of whom skipped school for the event, the German team fell 0:7 to England.

*Moltkestr. 24,
76133 Karlsruhe*

19

**THE FOUNDING
FLAG OF 1899**

Bundesliga side TSG Hoffenheim is often mocked for the „1899“ in its name. The number, after all, suggests a long tradition, despite the team having been boosted into the Bundesliga in the 2000s by the vast financial wherewithal of SAP co-founder Dietmar Hopp. Yet hanging in the local history museum of Hoffenheim is proof: the founding flag of TSG from 1899. No joke. And that's not the only reason for a visit to the region of Kraichgau. Come for its beautiful rolling hills and gastronomical delights (Maultaschen!).

*Waibstadter Str. 12,
74889 Sinsheim-Hoffenheim*

20

**HERZOGEN-
AURACH**

Sports history across five square kilometres: In the northern part of this small Bavarian town (population: 26,000) is the Adidas „World of Sports,“ which includes the lodgings of the Ger-



man national team for the last and the upcoming European Championships. Training takes place in Adi Dassler Stadium, on the former grounds of a U.S. Army base. The stadium takes its name from the company founder and inventor of screw-in football cleats, of whom there is a statue on the grounds. The route to town passes by Puma headquarters, the company Rudolf Dassler founded after the two brothers had a falling-out in 1948. To the south is 1. FC Herzogenaurach, where the dazzling career of World Cup champion and Ballon d'Or winner Lothar Matthäus got its start.

*Adidas: Horst-Dassler-Str.,
Puma: Puma Way 1*

21

**ALZENAU AN-
NOUNCER'S BOOTH**

Like an airport tower, the workplace of Toni Ritter skies high above the Priscoß sports centre. As such, the nickname for the stadium announcer for FC Bayern Alzenau — „Toni from the Tower“ — makes perfect sense. And keeping a clear overview is important for Alzenau. The club from Lower Franconia, whose insignia is extremely similar to that of FC Bayern München, has been playing in the football association of the neighbouring state of Hesse since 1992 because of the town's geographic proximity.

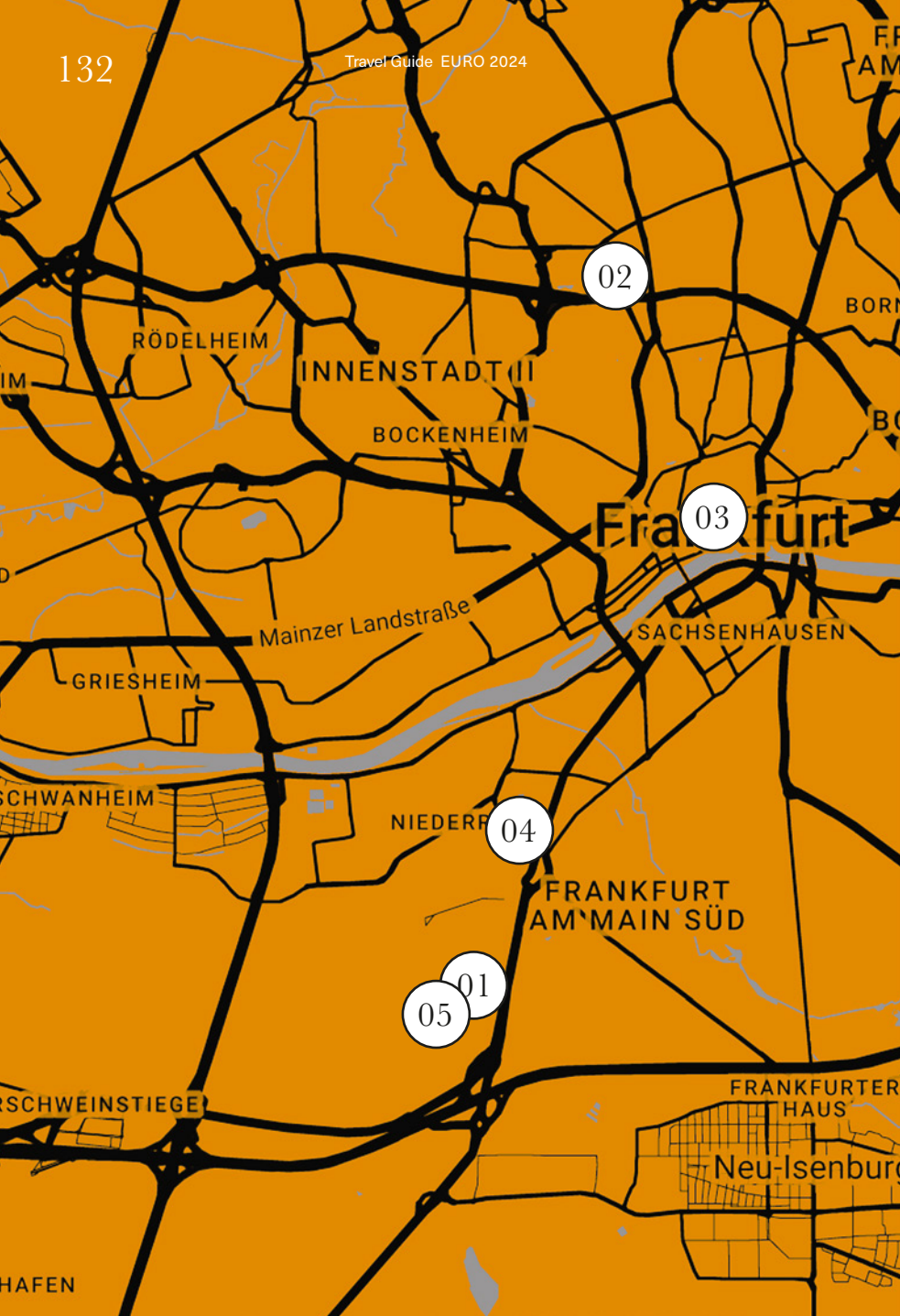
*Priscoßstr. 57,
63755 Alzenau*

22

**RENTAMT
FÜRTH**

It was in the middle-class Inn — that goes back to 1724 — where a bunch of football loving boys founded the SpVgg Fürth in 1903.

*Gustavstraße 61,
90762 Fürth*



02

03

04

05

01

RÖDELHEIM

INNENSTADT II

BOCKENHEIM

Frankfurt

SACHSENHAUSEN

Mainzer Landstraße

GRIESHEIM

NIEDER

FRANKFURT AM MAIN SÜD

SCHWANHEIM

FRANKFURTER HAUS

Neu-Isenburg

SCHWEINSTIEGE

HAFFEN



FRANKFURT
MAIN OST

BERGEN-ENKHEIM

City map

MAINTAL-H

BISCHOFSCHEIM

Maintal

MAINTAL

NHEIM

06

RUMPENHEIM

FECHENHEIM

BORNHEIM/
OSTEND

Müh
am

NORDEND

MARKV

OFFENBACH-LAU

GRAVENBRUCH

Frankfurt

- 01 WALDSTADION**
Home of Eintracht Frankfurt
Mörfelder Landstraße 362
60528 Frankfurt am Main
- 02 FORMER HUNDSWIESE GROUNDS**
Where Eintracht's predecessor used to play
Eschersheimer Landstraße 181
60320 Frankfurt am Main
- 03 RÖMERSBERG**
Where the DFB and Eintracht throw their parties
60311 Innenstadt I
Frankfurt am Main
- 04 DFB CAMPUS**
Headquarters of the German Football Association
Schwarzwaldstraße 121
60528 Frankfurt am Main
- 05 FORMER DFB HEADQUARTERS**
Otto-Fleck-Schneise 06
Frankfurt am Main
- 06 STADIUM AM BORNHEIMER HANG**
Home of FSV Frankfurt
Richard-Herrmann-Platz 01
60386 Frankfurt am Main

Football on Sun Mountain





Text
LARS GRAUE

Fotos
FELIX ADLER

The club **ATHLETIC SONNENBERG** in Chemnitz is just four years old, but has already begun receiving honours. And it doesn't even have a real home.

Tommi Grindemann squats down on his haunches. Even as the 10 members of the Proletik fan club burst into a cheerful song („Football for all, lalalalala“), he seems intently concentrated. No wonder. He's the trainer after all. And it's matchday, a Saturday in mid-March with VfL Chemnitz on the schedule for a top district-league fixture. But Grindemann, 30, isn't alone on the sidelines of the artificial turf pitch. Surrounding him are substitutes, team managers and a social media maestro. All of them are part of Athletic Sonnenberg. And there are many more.

More even than the number standing at the edge of the pitch, but who are still heavily involved in the club, which has grown to include six teams. They include three youth teams, a women-and-LGBTQ team, a volleyball team, a running and cricket section and a martial arts division that is currently under development. Some take care of the club's merch, and there is also a fan commissioner, a designer, two leaders of the volleyball division, someone who takes care of events and a youth coordinator. All of them sacrifice their free time to volunteer at an amateur club that was only founded just four years ago. But why?

In 2019, when the last representative survey on volunteering was conducted in Germany, some 28.8 million people in Germany said they were engaged in some form of volunteer work. That was the equivalent of around 40 percent of the population and represented a 9 percentage-point increase over 1999. Volunteers dis-

tribute food to the needy, offer first-aid courses and organise concerts. Most of them, though, offer up their time for sports clubs: More than 2 million people in Germany are involved as trainers, team managers or referees. Which actually makes Athletic Sonnenberg a totally normal football club in Germany. And yet it is special, nonetheless. Because the two men's teams alone include players from 15 different countries and because, despite only playing in the top district league, it boasts





two organised fan clubs. Not to mention the fact that the German Football Association (DFB) last year awarded the club the Julius Hirsch Prize last – the most important prize for integration in German football – for its significant involvement in the #Heimspiel project, which combats ostracism of all kinds in German football. And they are doing it right in the middle of Chemnitz, a city that has long lacked a counterweight against a worryingly active right-wing extremist scene. And

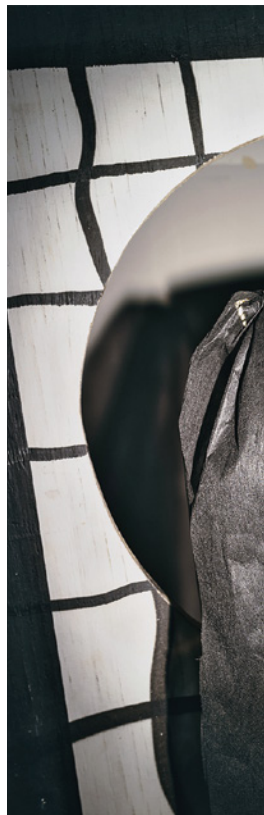
Home match on an away pitch: Because the club doesn't have its own facilities, it plays across town.

Athletic Sonnenberg („sun mountain“) has found success. So many people have volunteered their services that club leaders find themselves facing the question: Is it possible to create even more positions? That wasn't the case when Grindemann first encountered the club in late 2021. Athletic was searching for a trainer at the time, and Grindemann had heard from a colleague of his about the Sonnenberg club. So he came by to watch the team train a few times. „I stood at the fence outside, like a scout,“ he says. Most of the training sessions, says

Grindemann, consisted of 30 minutes of passing exercises and then a game. Grindemann came to the conclusion that the team could use someone like him. Since then, he has been trying to give Athletic Sonnenberg his best for 16 to 20 hours a week.

He is, as he says, „tactically ambitious.“ He watches football matches with an analytic eye. Until just a few months ago, he would prepare his players for upcoming fixtures with half-hour presentations. Who should run where and when, various corner routines, things like that. „Because it was fun,“ he says. And because he found it easier to show his players what he expected of them. For him, it translated to about an hour extra preparation time – extending to five hours ahead of longer tactical meetings during the summer and winter breaks. These days, though, PowerPoint belongs to the past. It takes too much time – for the players. Nevertheless, Grindemann's results speak for themselves: Two seasons, two promotions. And Athletic is at the top of the table this year as well.

But the match against VfL Chemnitz isn't going well. The players trudge into the dressing room at half-time down 0:1 – where Bao, the club's social media guru, has already taken a seat to edit photos on a laptop. Grindemann, for his part, has once again sunk into a crouch to study his notes until all the players have arrived. The opponent's pressing isn't working at all, says Grindemann as he pulls out a large, magnetic tactics board from the corner. The players hang on his every word. And then, they're off for the second half – on the



Since the club has only been around for four years, the trophy case is still rather empty. But the team has already earned two promotions.



grass pitch of the Chemnitz Sports Forum in the southern part of the city.

Sonnenberg, the hill in Chemnitz the club calls home, is a 15-minute drive from here. Even though Athletic is the home team on this day, it isn't taking place in their own part of the city. The club, after all, doesn't have its own pitch and trains at facilities belonging to other clubs like Handwerk Rabenstein and Fortuna Chemnitz. Which is why the trainer, managers and players have to bring along all of their equipment each time. Training after training. Match after match. All the way across the city, as Grindemann says. When they take the pitch, the team captain wears a rainbow armband while fans wave a Pride flag. Athletic may not have its own pitch, but it does have a special place in the city.

When the city of Chemnitz has landed in the headlines of Germany's newspapers in recent years, it has generally been because of the city's Nazis. Like in 2018, when a gang of right-wing extremists chased migrants through the city. On videos, xenophobic chants like „foreigners out!“ can be heard. One year later, Chemnitz FC, the largest club in the city, held a requiem for Thomas Haller, a neo-Nazi who had died. Haller was the founder of a fan group called HooNaRa, which stands for „hooligans, Nazis, racists.“

Sonnenberg, a neighbourhood that the right-wingers sought 10 years ago to declare a „Nazi quarter,“ is multicultural and, with 17,000 residents, the second largest of Chemnitz's 39 districts. Twenty-six percent of those living there have migration backgrounds, a share only exceeded in the city by the centre (40 percent) and Furth (33 percent). With an average age of 52, the region of Chemnitz is the oldest in all of Europe, despite being a large city that is also home to a university, and it is also shrinking, dropping from 294,000 in 1990 to around 252,000 at the end of 2023. Those who have remained are often still there by choice. Such as the musician Kummer, whose band Kraftklub once wrote a hymn to their home called „Ich will nicht nach Berlin,“ or „I don't want to go to Berlin“.

For trainer and tactic-guru Tommi Grindemann, the tactics board is of vital importance.

Or like Jonas „Ferenc“ Georgi, 28. He was the one who, in 2020, joined Cornelius „Corni“ Huster and Mustafa „Musti“ Mahamadi to found Athletic Sonnenberg. But why? „There was something missing in Chemnitz,“ says Ferenc. „Everywhere we played, you didn't have a voice as a young person. Here, you start the club, and you are immediately part of the board.“ Gaining a voice through volunteering. He seems not to be the only one. In the ageing city of Chemnitz, Athletic isn't just



young because of when it was founded, but its members are also young. The average age of the club's almost 240 members is just 26. Did he and the others also start the club because of the city's poor reputation? „That's always just under the surface,“ says Georgi. „Even if that impression is a bit stronger from outside.“

But it an impression also shared by Athletics fans. „We are friends and people who want to watch football, but cool football,“ says a member of the fan club

Proletik Sonnenberg, who, like all of the group's members, prefers not to be named. With around 40 members, Proletik sees itself as decisively anti-fascist and on the left side of the political spectrum. They no longer wanted to accept the fact that football in Chemnitz had largely been overrun by the right wing. So they decided to do something about it.

Like a year ago when, ahead of a home match against Rapid Chemnitz III, Proletik wrote „Football for all means Nazis out!“ beneath an Instagram post. „The match against Rapid is particularly important to us because right-wingers are on the pitch and in the stands,“ the post continued. It was a reference to family members of Thomas Heller, the late neo-Nazi and HooNaRa founder, who Proletik says are still active on behalf of Rapid Chemnitz. Which is why Proletik closed with the words: „Come colourful! Come loud!“ Antifa Leipzig announced that they intended to accept the invitation. The match, which had been scheduled for Ascension Day, was postponed by the district league association due to security concerns, and ultimately cancelled, with the score set at 0:0.

The clash against VfL Chemnitz, meanwhile, final score 1:1, also ends with a point for Athletic. „Quick circle!“, Grindemann yells and gathers his team for a brief meeting. He is pleased, particularly given the numerous absences, because of which the trainer only had 13 players at his disposal. The team is still undefeated in the second half of the season, and Athletic is also still attracting attention off the pitch as well. Because the club and its fans continue to stand up to the



right. Making a statement. Not all the clubs in Chemnitz are pleased about it. In late February, the Chemnitz Football Association hosted a „club dialogue“, a meeting of all clubs in the city. Andreas Georgi, the father of founder Ferenc and also a co-trainer in the ongoing season, represented Athletic at the meeting. On the agenda: Athletic Sonnenberg itself. „The chair of the district association started the session with all the rumours about us that have been swirling,“ says

Georgi. That Athletic fans can't control themselves. That Athletic players have stolen things like Bluetooth speakers. And then the clubs were surveyed. Handwerk Rabenstein, the club that hosts Athletic teams for training, was the first to speak up, says Georgi. „Their representative said: 'I've got to defend them. They've been training at our club for months and I have nothing negative to report.'“ Other clubs also had nothing bad to say about Athletic, says Georgi.

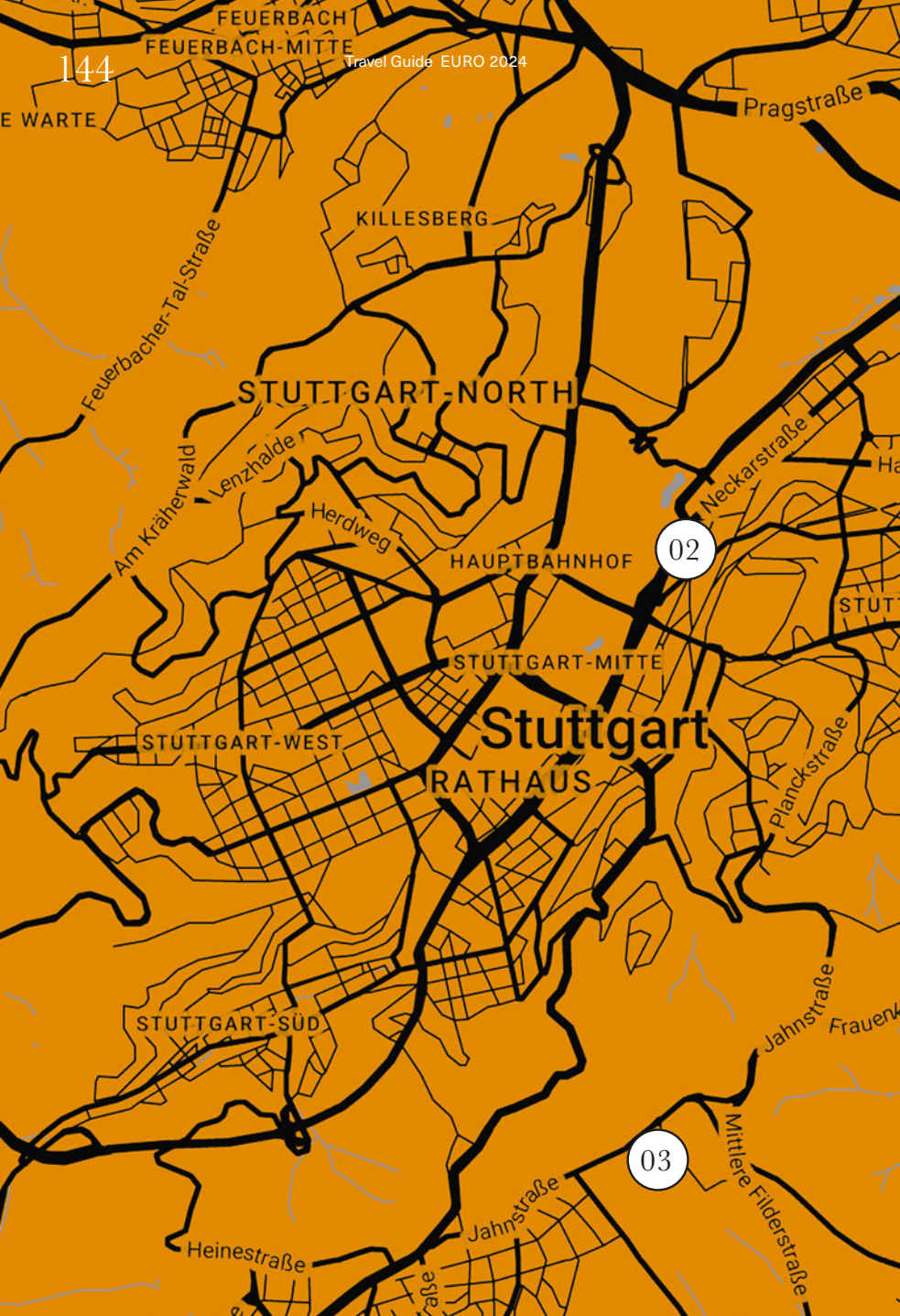
He suspects that all the attention for Athletic Sonnenberg have made other clubs feel underappreciated. Even though they, too, are run by volunteers. Even though members of other clubs also pick up children and teenagers and drive them to practice because they come from families who cannot afford it. „Nowhere have we said that other clubs are doing bad work,“ says Georgi.

Either way, they are going to keep going – for a number of reasons. Because a victory won together on the weekend invigorates them for the entire week, as Grindemann says. Because he wants to be part of decisions about what the club stands for, as co-founder Ferenc says. Because all of them here at Athletic want to show that Chemnitz can be different and is often much better than its reputation. A welcoming place for all people, no matter where they come from.

Which is also why Ferenc has a quick answer for those looking for a single-sentence description of Athletic Sonnenberg. „The best one is what our fans sing: Football for all.“ He could also have said: Volunteer post for all. ●

People go to football matches because they don't know how it will finish. And they go to Athletic Sonnenberg to change something.





FEUERBACH-MITTE

E WARTEN

Pragstraße

KILLESBERG

STUTTGART-NORTH

Feuerbacher-Tal-Straße

Lenzhalde

Herdweg

HAUPTBAHNHOF

02

Neckarstraße

STUTTGART-WEST

STUTTGART-MITTE

Stuttgart

RATHAUS

Planckstraße

STUTTGART-SÜD

Jahnstraße

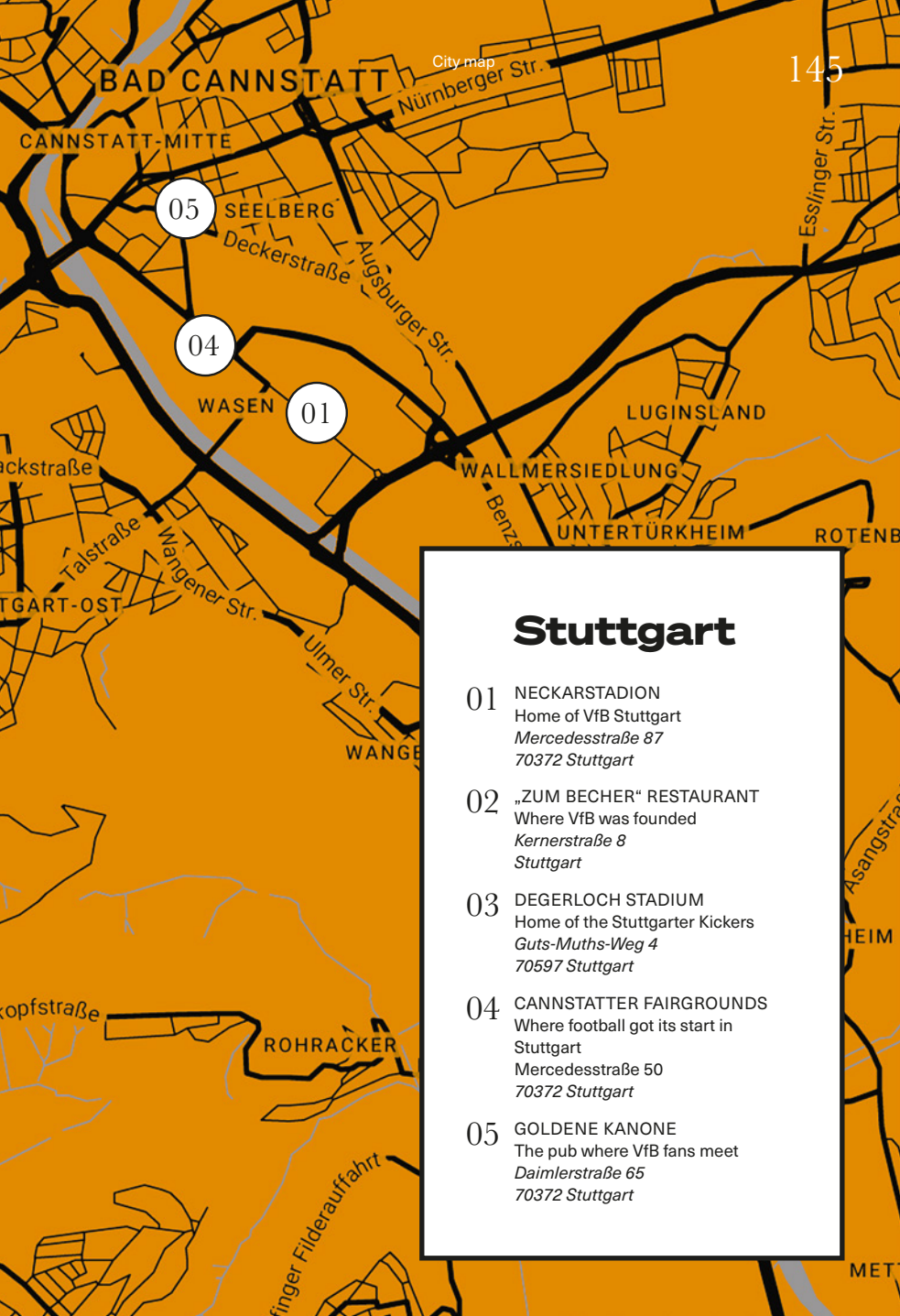
Frauenk

03

Mittlere Filderstraße

Heinestraße

Jahnstraße



Stuttgart

- 01 NECKARSTADION
Home of VfB Stuttgart
Mercedesstraße 87
70372 Stuttgart
- 02 „ZUM BECHER“ RESTAURANT
Where VfB was founded
Kernerstraße 8
Stuttgart
- 03 DEGERLOCH STADIUM
Home of the Stuttgarter Kickers
Guts-Muths-Weg 4
70597 Stuttgart
- 04 CANNSTATTER FAIRGROUNDS
Where football got its start in
Stuttgart
Mercedesstraße 50
70372 Stuttgart
- 05 GOLDENE KANONE
The pub where VfB fans meet
Daimlerstraße 65
70372 Stuttgart

Of Kings and Miracles

Germany's best books, songs and film
about FOOTBALL



01

THE NEXT MATCH
IS ALWAYS
THE HARDEST

The late author Ror Wolf, who passed away in 2020, was one of Germany's greatest football intellectuals. He achieved fame through his sound art: He created phonic collages, turning quotes from players, reporters and fans into audio dramas. And he came up with some wonderful bon mots of his own.

Such as: „The world may not be a football, but it's no secret that in football, there is a whole lot of world.“

Ror Wolf, 2010



02

TAMING FOOTBALL

Even in the early 1990s, back when media coverage of football often ended with the final whistle, Dietrich Schulze-Marmeling saw the game as a socio-cultural phenomenon.

*Dietrich Schulze-Marmeling,
1992*

The Top 5 books



03

MATCH DAYS

In his books, Reng frequently focuses on the marginal figures of football. His debut took a close look at keeper Lars Leese, who climbed from a regional league all the way to the Premier League. In this volume, Reng tells the story of Heinz Höher a „largely unknown player and trainer today“, as Heng himself writes. But the tome reads like an everyday history covering 50 years of the Bundesliga.

*Ronald Reng,
2013*



04

WE WILL LIVE
FOREVER

1. FC Union Berlin never played much of a role in GDR football. The club's only triumph, a FDGB Cup victory, came in 1968. Even after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the team spent most of its time in the lower leagues. But in 2019, Union made the sensational leap to the Bundesliga – and the prize-winning reporter Christoph Biermann embedded himself with the team for a year. This is an intimate look at an amazing club

Christoph Biermann, 2021



05

TESTS OF COURAGE

Ten years ago, shortly after his career ended, Thomas Hitzlsperger had his coming out. His autobiography is a story of great courage and the extreme pressures of professional football.

*Thomas Hitzlsperger,
2024*



01

NO PAIN, NO
GAIN

It used to be a tradition in Germany for top musical acts to head to the recording studio with the German national team. In 1974, Udo Jürgens dragged them into the studio for „Football is our life“, and in 1986, they joined Peter Alexander for „Mexico mi amour“. The last such collaboration came in 1994 when the German team rocked out with the Scorpions: Andi Möller on air guitar and Thomas Berthold on the mic. Poetry.

The Scorpions, 1994



02

LOBBY

The band's biggest hit, „54, '74, '90, 2010“, was played in beer tents across the land. But in their best football anthem, they sing almost shyly by comparison: „There's no lobby in my football club.“

Sportfreunde Stiller, 1997

The Top 5 songs



03

MAURICE, DAS GEHT
HIER DOCH ALLES DEN
BANACH RUNTER

If the previous band was melodic, this one is anything but, preferring a well curated cacophony full of football references (Their second album is called „Dahlin Orge!“), both obvious and obscure. The band even met Horst Hrubesch, the man behind their name, for an interview once: „We handed him our record and he asked: 'What's that?' We said: 'noise'. He responded: 'That's what my daughters listen to.“

Hrubesch Youth, 1999



04

BIN I RADI, BIN
I KÖNIG

Football players haven't always just served as backup singers for German pop-schlock, some have gone solo. Gerd Müller crooned „Dann macht es bumm“, and Franz Beckenbauer warbled about „real friends“. In 1965, Peter Radenkovic, the keeper for TSV 1860, even reached fifth place on the charts with his song „Bin I Radi, Bin I König“, an effort that immediately became a punchline in the clubhouse of crosstown rival FC Bayern.

Petar Radenkovic, 1965



05

JA, DER FUSSBALL IST
RUND WIE DIE WELT

„The best German football song of all time, the 'Three Lions' from Hohenschönhausen!“ That's what Briton Trevor Wilson says, and he should know. He owns the biggest football music collection in the world.

Frank Schöbel, 1974



01

THE MIRACLE
OF BERN

The „football film“ genre used to be problematic. The scenes felt wooden, the dialogue inauthentic. But then along came Sönke Worthmann, whose „Miracle of Bern“ was, despite the „rising from the ashes“ pathos, the first German film to take football seriously. When Rahn shoots, it actually looks like Rahn is shooting. Worthmann followed up with „Germany: A Summer's Fairytale“ about the 2006 World Cup, which is also worth a look.

Sönke Wortmann, 2003



02

LESSONS OF A DREAM

A biopic about the teacher Konrad Koch, who is responsible for one of the first football matches ever to be played on German soil in 1874 – hoping that sport would encourage his students to spend less time in the bar.

Sebastian Grobler, 2011

The Top 5 films



03

POTATO FRITZ

„Potato Fritz“ isn't a football film. Nor is it especially good. Still, it is emblematic for the short-lived trend of top footballers taking to the silver screen. In this movie, Paul Breitner, world champion in 1974, plays a sergeant. But because the national team player's Bavarian accent is so strong, his role later had to be voiced over. That job was taken on by Hartmut Reck, the German voice of Anthony Hopkins and Terrence Hill. In short, it's a ton of fun.

Peter Schamoni, 1976



04

TOM MEETS
ZIZOU

Director Aljoscha Pause spent eight years following footballer Thomas Broich with a camera – from his first years as a professional in Burg-hausen and the ensuing stressful years in the Bundesliga to his transfer to Australia, a move that initially seemed like a capitulation, but ultimately proved good for Broich. A close-up portrait of an interesting player and a critical look at the football business.

Aljoscha Pause, 2011



05

SCHWARZE ADLER

An impressive documentary focusing on racism in German football. Erwin Kostedde, a protagonist in the film, says: „In Germany, you have to be like Berti Vogts. Then, you'll be just fine.“

Torsten Körner, 2011

The EURO 2024 match schedule

Groups

A

GERMANY

SCOTLAND

HUNGARY

SWITZERLAND

D

POLAND

NETHERLANDS

AUSTRIA

FRANCE

B

SPAIN

CROATIA

ITALY

ALBANIA

E

BELGIUM

SLOVAKIA

ROMANIA

UKRAINE

C

SLOVENIA

DENMARK

SERBIA

ENGLAND

F

TURKEY

GEORGIA

PORTUGAL

CZECHIA

AJune 14, 9 p.m.
Munich**Germany** ___ : ___ **Scotland**June 15, 3 p.m.
Cologne**Hungary** ___ : ___ **Switzerland**June 19, 6 p.m.
Stuttgart**Germany** ___ : ___ **Hungary**June 19, 9 p.m.
Cologne**Scotland** ___ : ___ **Switzerland**June 23, 9 p.m.
Frankfurt/M.**Switzerland** ___ : ___ **Germany**June 23, 9 p.m.
Stuttgart**Scotland** ___ : ___ **Hungary****B**June 15, 6 p.m.
Berlin**Spain** ___ : ___ **Croatia**June 15, 9 p.m.
Dortmund**Italy** ___ : ___ **Albania**June 19, 3 p.m.
Hamburg**Croatia** ___ : ___ **Albania**June 20, 9 p.m.
Gelsenkirchen**Spain** ___ : ___ **Italy**June 24, 9 p.m.
Düsseldorf**Albania** ___ : ___ **Spain**June 24, 9 p.m.
Leipzig**Croatia** ___ : ___ **Italy****C**June 16, 6 p.m.
Stuttgart**Slovenia** ___ : ___ **Denmark**June 16, 9 p.m.
Gelsenkirchen**Serbia** ___ : ___ **England**June 20, 3 p.m.
Munich**Slovenia** ___ : ___ **Serbia**June 20, 6 p.m.
Frankfurt/M.**Denmark** ___ : ___ **England**June 25, 9 p.m.
Cologne**England** ___ : ___ **Slovenia**June 25, 9 p.m.
Munich**Denmark** ___ : ___ **Serbia**

D

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| June 16, 3 p.m. Hamburg | Poland ___ : ___ Netherlands |
| June 17, 9 p.m. Düsseldorf | Austria ___ : ___ France |
| June 21, 6 p.m. Berlin | Poland ___ : ___ Austria |
| June 21, 9 p.m. Leipzig | Netherlands ___ : ___ France |
| June 25, 6 p.m. Berlin | Netherlands ___ : ___ Austria |
| June 25, 6 p.m. Dortmund | France ___ : ___ Poland |

E

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| June 17, 3 p.m. München | Romania ___ : ___ Ukraine |
| June 17, 6 p.m. Frankfurt/M. | Belgium ___ : ___ Slovakia |
| June 21, 3 p.m. Düsseldorf | Slovakia ___ : ___ Ukraine |
| June 22, 9 p.m. Köln | Belgium ___ : ___ Romania |
| June 26, 6 p.m. Frankfurt/M. | Slovakia ___ : ___ Romania |
| June 26, 6 p.m. Stuttgart | Ukraine ___ : ___ Belgium |

F

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| June 18, 6 p.m. Dortmund | Turkey ___ : ___ Georgia |
| June 18, 9 p.m. Leipzig | Portugal ___ : ___ Czechia |
| June 22, 3 p.m. Hamburg | Georgia ___ : ___ Czechia |
| June 22, 6 p.m. Dortmund | Turkey ___ : ___ Portugal |
| June 26, 9 p.m. Hamburg | Czechia ___ : ___ Turkey |
| June 26, 9 p.m. Gelsenkirchen | Georgia ___ : ___ Portugal |

Groups

A

01. _____
 02. _____
 03. _____
 04. _____

B

01. _____
 02. _____
 03. _____
 04. _____

C

01. _____
 02. _____
 03. _____
 04. _____

D

01. _____
 02. _____
 03. _____
 04. _____

E

01. _____
 02. _____
 03. _____
 04. _____

F

01. _____
 02. _____
 03. _____
 04. _____

Round of 16

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| R1 | June 29, 6 p.m. Berlin | 2.A | _____ : _____ | 2.B |
| R2 | June 29, 9 p.m. Dortmund | 1.A | _____ : _____ | 2.C |
| R3 | June 30, 6 p.m. Gelsenkirchen | 1.C | _____ : _____ | 3.DEF |
| R4 | June 30, 9 p.m. Cologne | 1.B | _____ : _____ | 3.ADEF |
| R5 | July 01, 6 p.m. Düsseldorf | 2.D | _____ : _____ | 2.E |
| R6 | July 01, 9 p.m. Frankfurt/M. | 1.F | _____ : _____ | 3.ABC |
| R7 | July 02, 6 p.m. Munich | 1.E | _____ : _____ | 3.ABCD |
| R8 | July 02, 9 p.m. Leipzig | 1.D | _____ : _____ | 2.F |

Quarter-finals

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| QF1 | July 05, 6 p.m. Stuttgart | R3 | _____ : _____ | R1 |
| QF2 | July 05, 9 p.m. Hamburg | R5 | _____ : _____ | R6 |
| QF3 | July 06, 6 p.m. Düsseldorf | R4 | _____ : _____ | R2 |
| QF4 | July 06, 9 p.m. Berlin | R7 | _____ : _____ | R8 |

Semi-finals

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| SF1 | July 09, 9 p.m. Munich | QF1 | _____ : _____ | QF2 |
| SF2 | July 10, 9 p.m. Dortmund | QF3 | _____ : _____ | QF4 |

FINAL

SF1 _____ : _____ **SF2**

July 14, 9 p.m., Berlin

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From June 14 to July 14, 2024, European football fans will be turning their eyes to Germany. More than a million foreign supporters will be cheering on their national teams in stadiums from Hamburg to Munich, Cologne to Berlin. With the EURO 2024, the host's football culture is also sliding into the spotlight.

This travel guide through German football culture searches for people and stories away from the ten EURO stadiums that demonstrate how football is lived in this country. European artists and others in the culture sector provide insight into their personal views of football in Germany. City maps and regional travel itineraries lead visitors to football museums, to almost forgotten football grounds and to lost EURO treasures. We present amateur clubs as drivers of integration and fans who dig deep into the histories of their clubs. We explain why the last European Championships in Germany, back in 1988, laid the foundation for a present-day fan culture that is envied around the world. And how Harry Kane discovered that dogs are his favourite animal.



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