



NEWSLETTER

2002 Women's World
Championship in Germany
30. August - 15. September

Berlin - Bremen - Dresden - Leipzig
Muenster - Riesa - Schwerin - Stuttgart

The countdown is running! Just a few more than 80 days before the first World Volleyball Championship in Germany will start. Currently the Soccer World Cup in South Korea and Japan is at the centre of attraction in the world and everybody, be it media representatives or spectators, is interested and enthusiastic - particularly about the hospitality and helpfulness of the people in both host countries. Wherever you look there are happy and smiling people. This should also be an example and an incentive for our event. I therefore appeal to all volleyball fans but most of all to the German spectators: Receive our guests with open arms, show them how cosmopolitan, peaceful and merry sports events in Germany can be. Particularly with regard to Germany's bid for the 2012 Olympic Summer Games the 2002 Women's World Volleyball Championship will be a real chance and opportunity. We can set standards.

The standard for the eight World Championship venues begins with Franz Schmied. The former treasurer of the International Volleyball Federation FIVB has been named as the competition director for the World Championship in Germany and will visit all venues together with the Russian delegate Yuri Chesnokov and FIVB press officer Marcia Hill on June 13-22. At this last inspection prior to the World Championship, the competition and training halls as well as

the hotels for officials, teams and journalists will be closely examined.

The sporting aspect is getting into the focus of the media: all teams are preparing extensively for this year's highlight and play various preparation tournaments. The traditional event at Montreux is certainly one of the most important being won by World Championship favourites, Russia ahead of Italy, and the Grand Prix taking place on July 12th - August 4th.

The organisational preparations are becoming more and more concrete; for instance the opening ceremony at Muenster on August 30 and the closing ceremony in Berlin on September 15. In order to deal with these and other topics and discuss and solve arising problems the National Organising Committee, VONOG, meet with the Local Organising Committees, LOC, every four weeks. Of course there are further meetings of the various departments as well as the co-ordination meetings with the FIVB in Lausanne. In the end the individual parts of the puzzle (and there are many!) must all fit.

All people working for this major event spend much of their time, strength and work on it. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all. I am sure that all efforts will pay off and that the World Championship will be a real volleyball festival



Executive Director Jürgen Lamberty

without precedence in this country.

Imprint

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Russia won the Montreux Volley Masters - the ultimate preparation for the WCH!

The eight best national women's teams met for the 18th edition of the Montreux Volley Masters on Lac Lemman in Switzerland. The entries were all World Championship participants and eight of the top teams in the world: World and Olympic champions Cuba, European champions Russia, Olympic bronze medallists Brazil, Grand Champions Cup winners China, Grand Prix champions USA, European runners-up Italy, the Netherlands and Japan. Russia were the winners of this "mini World Championship" defeating Italy 3:2 in the final.

All teams considered the matches at Montreux as vital preparation for the World Championship in Germany. "This event is very important for us", said Felipe Calderon, coach of reigning Olympic and World cham-

pions Cuba. China's head coach Chen explained: "It is great to play here. All teams belong to the top teams in the world making the event the ideal preparation for the World Championship, the most important event this year."

The final result had to surprise everybody. Not only that Russia was on top and won the title of Montreux for the first time since 1991. The other European teams like Italy and the Netherlands were all convincing and caused Nikolai Karpol to give the following statement: "I have to congratulate Italy on the great final they played. It is good to see, that European women's volleyball is getting better and better. Italy has the potential to be the European Champions soon, while also the Netherlands surprised me."



Italienischer Höhenflug - hier Elisa Togut
Foto: FIVB



The results from Montreux

Preliminary Round

4th June

- Italy - Japan 3:0
- China - Netherlands 3:2
- Russia - Brazil 3:2

5th June

- Cuba - Netherlands 0:3
- Italy - Russia 2:3
- China - USA 3:0

6th June

- Russia - Japan 3:0
- USA - Cuba 1:3
- Italy - Brazil 3:0

7th Juni

- Netherlands - USA 2:3

- Brazil - Japan 3:2
- China - Cuba 3:1

Coincide games

8th June

- Russia - Netherlands 3:1
- China - Italy 1:3
- Brazil - USA 3:0
- Cuba - Japan 0:3

Placing games

9th June

- Final: Russia - Italy 3:2
- Place 3/4: China - Netherlands 3:1
- Place 5/6: Brazil - Japan 3:1

Final ranking

1. Russia
2. Italy
3. China
4. Netherlands
5. Brazil
6. Japan
7. USA + Cuba

Individual awards:

MVP: Ekaterina Gamova (RUS)
Fair Play Award: Elisa Togut (ITA)
Best Setter: Helia Souza (BRA)
Best Attacker: Nancy Carrilo (CUB).

Media accreditation for 2002 Women's World Championship

Media representatives who want to cover the first World Volleyball Championship on German soil, can request the accreditation forms as from now. The three-page accreditation applica-

tion form can be obtained from:
cosmos-pps
Haus der Medien
Hammfelddamm 10
41460 Neuss
Germany
Telephone: +49-2131-131 203
Fax: +49-2131-131 114

e-mail:

redaktion@cosmos-pps.de

Please fill in the accreditation forms correctly and return to cosmos-pps.

Deadline for accreditation is June 15, 2002!!!

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Partner & News

Saeco & DVV women's team - a team for the World Volleyball Championship

On the occasion of the first World Volleyball Championship in Germany, World Championship partners Saeco will have a PR activity for their retailers - with the pictured coffee machine "Royal Digital Plus (silver) and Germany's libero Ulrike Jurk.

Saeco will produce a poster to support this activity and for the exhibition rooms of the retailers on which "Ulli" Jurk is sitting besides the high-quality machine enjoying a cup of Cappuccino.

A photo shoot was arranged with the national German champion - Ulrike Jurk won the 2002 title with Schweriner SC - at the end of May.

Saeco are planning further PR activities.



The "Royal Digital Plus" from Saeco and libero Ulrike Jurk from the German national team - a strong duo.

Photo: Saeco

VONOG Vice President for Marketing, Heinrich Niehaves, awarded the Distinguished Services Cross of the Federal Republic



Heinrich Niehaves (left) is given Order of Merit on a tie by district administrator Mr. Moers

Foto: VONOG

The Vice President for Marketing of the German Volleyball Federation, DVV, Heinrich Niehaves, was awarded the Distinguished Services Cross of the Federal Republic Of Germany on June 4th for his outstanding services and merits in the field of culture and social services as well as for his numerous honorary functions.

He received the document signed by Federal President Dr. Johannes Rau from the Councillor of Bergisch-Gladbach, Mr. Moers.

Niehaves, Member of the Board and Executive Director of Bau- und Heimwerkermärkte GmbH & Co, was elected to the DVV Executive Council at the assembly in December 2001. For the World Championship Niehaves is also responsible for marketing within the Council of the National Organising Committee, VONOG.

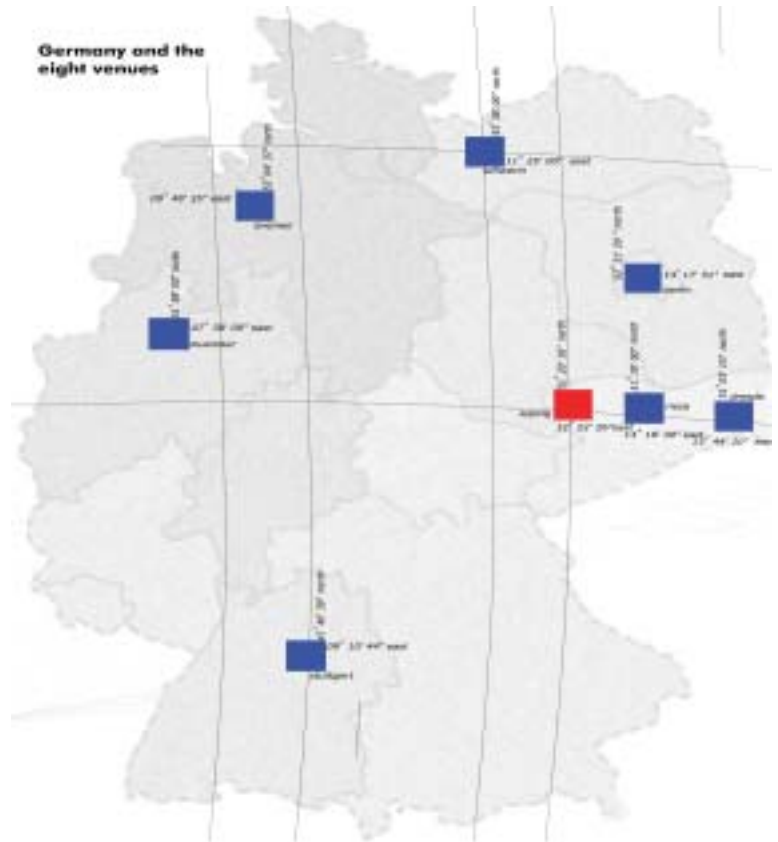


Population & Structure

"I am coming to Leipzig, a place where you can see the whole world in miniature", were the words of the German poet and philosopher Gotthold Ephraim Lessing. And he was right! Leipzig, situated in the north-west of Saxony, is considered the trading centre of Germany's east. The inter-continental airport Leipzig-Halle, the airway cross of central Germany, is located just 18 kilometres from the city centre, directly at the motorway cross Schkeuditz and near to the ultra-modern New Fair. Tens of thousands of people daily pass a special object of interest in the city centre: Europe's largest terminus with its lively market place, the shopping centre "Promenaden Hauptbahnhof". The more than 28,000 students at Leipzig University and the various colleges mark the image of the city. A total of about 500,000 people live in Saxony's metropolis that unites various synonyms - city of fairs, city of culture, city of books, city of Bach, city of sports, city of media and, last but not least, also city of cars since BMW and Porsche have built new factories here.



Leipzig's Townhall is an attraction for tourists
Photos: Leipzig



History

The City of Leipzig was first mentioned in a document in the year 1015. But it became well known when the city was given the title "Reichsmessestadt" by Emperor Maximilian in 1457. Since 1996 the city can boast one of the most up-to-date fair centres in Europe with a total space of 173,800 square metres for exhibitions. In the more recent history the city is inseparably linked with 1989 when the Leipzig Monday Demonstrations triggered the peaceful revolution and resulted in the German unification the following year.

Sports & Culture

Leipzig is proud of its long tradition as a city of sports. In the 19th Century it was considered "Germany's City of Gymnastics" because the father of gymnastics, Friedrich Ludwig Jahn,

started his movement here. Then as today, cycling and water sports have always played a major role. And soccer, of course: The German Soccer Association, DFB, was founded in Leipzig on January 28, 1900. The Leipzig Volleyball Club, VVL, has become a sporting magnet attracting more than 1,000 spectators per match. The city's sporting advertisement is the women's handball team of HC Leipzig that grabbed the national title for the third time this year since the unification. The club is known for its exemplary youth programme and can boast numerous international players. The sport in Leipzig now has the best opportunities with the new multi-functional sports complex "Arena Leipzig". This 42 million Euro project can seat more than 7,000 people at sports events and more than 12,000 at cultural events. The main hall will stage the matches of the 2002 Women's World Volleyball Championship. The



Venues – Leipzig

31st German Gymnastics Festival was recently hosted by Leipzig with about 100,000 participants and nation-wide attractiveness. At the gala event, attended by Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Otto Schily, Minister of the Interior, among tens of thousands of visitors, the construction grounds of the Zentralstadion was officially inaugurated. The new stadium will host matches of the 2006 Football World Cup in Germany. Zentralstadion also plays an important role in the concept for the bid of the Leipzig Region for the 2012 Olympic Summer Games

(www.olympia-leipzig-2012.de)

together with the Olympic Stadium, Arena Leipzig, Festwiese, Olympic Bridge, Olympic Park and other competition facilities.

Objects of interest

Many of the historical buildings and objects of interest of the Fair, Congress and cultural city of Leipzig are concentrated in the historical city centre. The great German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, who studied here, once called Leipzig "Little Paris". In the past few years Leipzig has grown into a city of European importance. It has an innovative influence on the development of trade, technology, sciences and culture. Not just the historical

buildings, the excellent artists or the great orchestras with centuries of tradition are famous far beyond Germany's borders.

Leipzig's stages and theatres are growing in numbers and make the city an Eldorado for the interpretative arts conveying an urban lifestyle. The vivacity of the city is also reflected in its many varied restaurants and pubs at Barfußgaesschen, Gottschedstrasse, Karl-Liebnecht-Strasse and Muenzgasse.

Hotels & Tourism

Visitors can choose among more than 100 hotels and guesthouses in various categories with altogether more than 15,000 beds in Leipzig. The traditionally large number of restaurants, bars and cafés is still increasing. Night owls are spoiled for choice - there is no closing time! Leipzig also has a Welcome Card, a must for everybody who wants to discover the city. LEIPZIG CARD is valid for public transport on trams and buses but also offers special reductions for concerts and theatres, museums and the zoo. Leipzig's countryside is marked by an harmonious relationship of nature, historical and cultural sites.



The Railway Promenade in Leipzig well-known in Germany.

Leipzig Marriott Hotel



Lindner Hotel Leipzig



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Press

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Concerning hotel reservations and further tourist information, volleyball fans please visit the website www.leipzig.de or contact the Leipzig Tourist Service
Tel: +49-341-7104254 and
Fax: +49-341-7104253.



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Top-Teams – China

China sounds warning for 2002 World Championship title

China has long been one of the best women's volleyball countries in the world, but not since it, lead by the great Lang Ping, won two World Championship titles (1982 and 1986), the Olympic gold medal in Los Angeles 1984, and two World Cup titles (1981 and 1985) has the Asian champion enjoyed the top position on the podium at one of volleyball's top tournaments.

But that all changed at the World Grand Champions Cup held in Japan last November, where an outstanding Chinese women's team won its first major world volleyball title in 15 years. Along the way to the title and the US\$300,000 winners cheque, China defeated Olympic silver medallists, Russia (3:1), and Olympic bronze medallists Brazil (3:1) as well as reigning World Grand Prix Champion, USA (3:1).

They came close at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games, leading eventual gold medallists Cuba 2-1 in the final, only to have the indomitable Mireya Luis spoil the party in the final two sets.

Luis and Regla Torres were again responsible for making China settle for the second-run at the 1998 World Championship.

Sydney 2000 was a major disappointment for the Chinese. The team had lost many of its stars like the powerful outside hitter Sun Yue, and finished fifth. But the finish forced changes back home. Firstly, Chen

Zhonghe was appointed head coach in April 2001.

And if patience is a quality the Chinese team needed to learn, they could not find a better example than Chen, who, before his appointment to the top job, was trainer and assistant coach for 22 years, joining the team at a 22-year-old in 1979.

What he has done to this team in just six months in nothing short of miraculous. He started by cleaning out the old squad and starting afresh. Comparatively, the Russian squad at the World Grand Champions Cup featured no fewer than 186 World Championship and Olympic Games match appearances under its belt. Chen's young team had zero. And yet they demolished the Olympic silver medallists on Day 1.

At the World Grand Prix in August 2001, fielding a team which was formed only four months prior, and averaged only 22-years of age, they convincingly defeated Olympic champion Cuba twice, Olympic bronze medallist Brazil twice, as well as Olympic silver medallist Russia, before going down to the USA in the final. "China was the strongest contender of

China in brief:

Olympic Games:

Bronze - Sydney 2000

Bronze - Atlanta 1996

World Championship:

Silver - Brazil 1994

World Grand Prix

Gold - 1998, 1996, 1994

this tournament. Their strength is consistent individually as well as a team," said Brazilian coach Marco Motta of the young Chinese.

But enigmatic Russian coach Nikolai Karpol, even though complimentary of the Chinese team, still believes the 2002 World Championship final will be between Russia and Cuba. "I believe Cuba and Russia, based on world rankings, are still the best two teams in the world. China do not have much experience, but they are going to be a very strong team," he said. Russia finished second in the women's World Grand Champions Cup 2001, Japan third with Brazil, USA and Korea finishing fourth, fifth and sixth respectively.

Actually the Chinese team are undergoing intensive training ahead of the 2002 Women's World Championship in Germany (Aug 30-Sept 15). According to the Chinese Volleyball Association, a total of 14 players are attending a special camp at a volleyball training center in the Southern province of Hunan.

The selection includes 11 players from last year's Grand Prix finalists and the 2001 edition of the World Grand Champions Cup (GCC), including GCC tournament MVP



China's young team is considered one of the top favourites at the World Championship in Germany
Photos: FIVB



Stadt Leipzig

Top-Teams – China

China - World Grand Champions Cup 2001

CHN-RUS	3-1
USA-CHN	1-3
CHN-JPN	3-0
KOR-CHN	0-3
CHN-BRA	3-1

Hao Yang and talented young players Zhao Ruirui, Feng Kun, Zhang Jing and Zhou Suhong. The selection includes only three new faces - attackers Dong Lingou, Li Juan and Zhang Ping.

Last season, China charged through the Grand Champions Cup competition undefeated and conceding only three sets, but eventually went down to the U.S.A. in the final of the Grand Prix.

Chen Zhonghe, head coach of the Chinese women's team, said players would stay at the training camp for

almost three months of intensive preparation, after which he will be ready to announce the new Chinese national team for the World Championship.

Chen said the Chinese National team were aiming at a top three finish at the Women's World Championship, where they compete in Pool D with Brazil, Australia, Poland, Thailand and Greece in the German city of Leipzig. He said China's main rivals are Russia, Brazil, U.S.A. and Cuba. They must defeat some of the world's best teams for a top three finish.

The national team also have their sights set on the gold medal at the Asian Games Volleyball Tournament in Pusan, Korea in September, where their toughest rivals will be Japan and Korea. China is considered a favorite for the gold medal.



Their fast game is one of the strong points of the Chinese

Stars - Hao Yang

The international volleyball fans seem to agree on one thing according to the current standings in the poll "Who will be the super star of the World Cham-

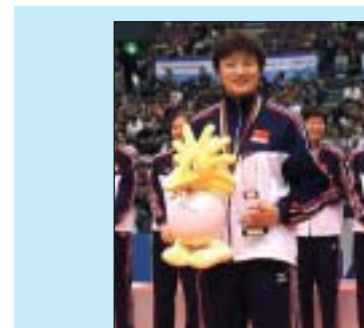


She could become of the top stars of the Worlds: Hao Yang

pionship" on the Internet web site www.volleyball2002.de: the title will go to China's Yang Hao. The 22-year-old is leading with 35 per-cent of the votes from Brazil's Virna Dias (25%) and Cuba's star Regla Torres (13%). Yang Hao impressed the fans at last year's Grand Prix and was rightly named MVP. She was the third-best scorer, the sixth-best attacker and the fifth-best server.

The German fans, however, she still has to impress. Almost unknown in the host country of the World Championship, she is only ranked fourth behind Regla Torres, Germany's Angelina Gruen and Virna Dias.

Yang's only weakness: she has not much international experience and will have to prove that she can take the pressure of a World Championship. But her equally young and inex-



Name:	Hao Yang
Age:	21.3.1980
Place of birth:	Liaoning
Height:	183 cm
Nickname:	"Haozi"
Position on court:	wing spiker
Club:	Liaoning

perienced team mates will certainly support her and then Yang Hao could gain the World gold medal and the MVP title.



Dominican Republic:

After the finals of the national professional league (May 12) and the return of some players from Italy and Spain, the women's national volleyball team of the Dominican Republic is now practising full time and is looking forward to the 2002 Women's World Volleyball Championship to be played in Germany on August 30-September 15. The "Merengue Girls" from the Caribbean are training six to eight hours every day at the national Olympic Volleyball Training Centre in Santo Domingo.

Milagros Cabral, 1.86m tall outside attacker, and Cosiri Rodriguez, 1.90m tall diagonal player, returned from Spain two weeks ago. Nuris Arias, the 1.92m tall super star of the Dominican Republic and centre blocker, and Yndys Nove, 1.83m tall outside attacker, also joined the team coming from Italy. Evelyn Carreras, the most experienced libero of Latin America, had a very successful season with the Chicas of San Juan in Puerto Rico.

On June 12, the volleyball players from sunny Santo Domingo will travel south to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil to train there and play a few official international matches against Brazil also qualified for the World Championship in Germany. On June 24, the Dominicans will travel back north to Tijuana in Mexico where they will compete in the inauguration event of the Pan American Women's Cup together with the other World Championship participants, Canada, USA, Cuba, Argentina, Puerto Rico and Mexico. Tickets for this event are already sold out as it is a unique opportunity for the fans to watch the seven best nations in competition.

The Dominican Republic will play in the preliminary round Pool C at the World Championship together with Russia, the USA, Argentina, Kenya

and Puerto Rico. The national team carry high expectations when they meet the Caribbean regional rivals, Puerto Rico, on the second day of the competition on Saturday, August 31.

Greece: Two defeats and one victory – that's the result of the Greek team after three international games against Turkey. The first game was won with 3:0, after that the Turkish defeated the WCH participants and Olympic hosts two times (3:0 and 3:1).

Canada: In a series of four international games the Canadian national team played against Japan's second team (as their first team was in Montreux). The Canadians won the first game, but then had to give in three times in a row. The Canadians used the games as a preparation for the Canada Cup, which will take place in Winnipeg on June 13th – June 16th. The participants are the hosts, Japan, Australia and Puerto Rico.

Canada's coach Lorne Sawula said about the series: "We blocked very well, maybe better than ever before. The series prepared us for the Canada Cup very well. We are now waiting for the experienced players Rauh, Mithcell and Pribylova to come back, who will help the team to improve."

Germany: The German team had a good start in the season of the WCH: After two games against France (3:2 victory and 1:3 defeat) they sensationally won two games against the Olympic bronze medalists Brazil in Karlsruhe.

These four games were used as preparation for the ECH-qualification games against Croatia (3:0), Slovakia (3:0) and Poland (June 15th in Dessau).

-  Ägypten
-  Argentinien
-  Australien
-  Brasilien
-  Bulgarien
-  China
-  Deutschland
-  Dominikanische Republik
-  Griechenland
-  Italien
-  Japan
-  Kanada
-  Kenia
-  Korea
-  Kuba
-  Mexiko
-  Niederlande
-  Polen
-  Puerto Rico
-  Rumänien
-  Russland
-  Thailand
-  Tschechische Republik
-  USA

