



# NEWSLETTER

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

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

The first World Volleyball Championship on German soil is approaching quickly. Just six months are left before the first ball will be played.

The importance of this World Championship for volleyball in Germany but also for German sports in general is emphasised by the attendance of Federal President and World Championship patron Johannes Rau at the opening ceremony at Muenster on August 30. The opening ceremony shown live on TV will thus experience a special atmosphere and lent the World Championship even greater importance. In addition to the Federal President further prominent persons from politics, trade and industry and culture are expected to attend.

National ticket sale for the Women's 2002 World Championship will be launched at a press conference in Berlin 5 March. Tickets can be purchased for all Women's World Championship venues, either on the World Championship home page

[www.volleyball2002.de](http://www.volleyball2002.de)

or via the specially installed World Championship hotline

Tel: +49 1805 - 57 00 57



Cheers to the first World Volleyball Championship in Germany - Otto Schily, Federal Minister of the Interior, and FIVB President Dr. Rubén Acosta. *Photo Wende*

On Tuesday March 5, a press conference will take place at the Berlin headquarters of Women's World Championship partner Mercedes-Benz, with a report on the current preparations for the Women's World Championship. DVV President Werner von Moltke, national women's head coach Hee Wan Lee and two of the potential World Championship players, setter Beatrice Doemeland and libero Ulrike Jurk will be present.

VONOG staff are working at full speed to create the conditions for a memorable tournament by August 30, the start of the World Championship.

Until next month  
Yours sincerely  
Werner von Moltke

### Imprint

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Editor: VONOG, cosmos-pps, FIVB  
Photos: FIVB, VONOG, FIVB  
**Edition: February 2002/No. 2**

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[www.intersport.com](http://www.intersport.com)

**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 application 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](mailto:redaktion@cosmos-pps.de)**

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

Deadline for accreditation is June 15, 2002!!!



The preparations for this major international sports event, the 2002 Women's World Volleyball Championship, are in full swing. The activity "Gesicht zeigen!" (Show Courage!) is happy and proud to be partner of the World Championship.

The German Volleyball Federation, DVV, has been one of the first and most faithful supporters of "Gesicht zeigen!" since the foundation in August 2000. They are the more pleased as the German women volleyball players want to show courage at this major international event – "Volleyballers do it!"

Events such as the World Championship bringing together so many different nationalities and cultures, show the importance, beauty and desirability of variety and cosmopolitanism.

Gesicht zeigen! Aktion weltoffenes Deutschland e.V. (Show Courage! Activity cosmopolitan Germany) was

founded in August 2000 by government spokesman Uwe-Carsten Heye; Paul Spiegel, Chairman of the Central Committee of Jews in Germany; and Michel Friedman, Vice President of the Central Committee of Jews. Patron of the activity is Johannes Rau, President of the Federal Republic of Germany. The nation-wide operating activity wants to encourage people to act against racism, hostility against foreigners and any form of right-wing violence.

Gesicht zeigen! started many activities towards these goals, published a brochure for courage of convictions and initiated public campaigns, for instance advertising in movies, on TV and radio, posters and advertisements. In addition, Gesicht zeigen! works as mediator for people who want to engage themselves against hostility against foreigners and racism and need help, collects money for activities working at the focus of right-wing violence. Further information about the activity can be obtained from

[www.gesichtzeigen.de](http://www.gesichtzeigen.de)

Gesicht zeigen! is a charity financed solely by donations and member fees and therefore depends on financial support in order to continue its work against hostility against foreigners and for showing courage of convictions. Gesicht zeigen! brings people together – for a cosmopolitan Germany!

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## Partners and News



### "Casper", the Women's World Championship mascot

Name: "Casper"

Place of birth: Kaethe Kruse Puppen-Manufaktur (doll manufacturers)

Date of birth: March 5, 2002

Height: ca. 30 cm

Special features: large, red nose - large hands - a t-shirt sporting the World Championship logo - always smiling - cuddly

Availability: still to be had

Task: conveying fun and atmosphere

Place of action: 2002 Women's Volleyball World Championship

Hobby: Volleyball

Price: 15 Euro

These are the facts about the official 2002 Women's World Championship mascot "Casper" which can be obtained directly from the World Championship merchandisers "Der Wolliballa Grevinga" & "GI&DI direkt" or via the World Championship home page. The famous doll manufacturers, Kaethe Kruse, is its real home but now "Casper" has become a volleyball enthusiast, particularly of women's volleyball. More photos of and with "Casper" plus a competition in which some mascots can be won, can be found on the World Championship home page as of March 5.

Mascot "Casper" on a volleyball Photo Eckhard Herfet



### World Championship home page has a new layout as of March 5

The Internet home page has become the sign and advertisement for many events and organisations. This holds also true for the 2002 Women's Volleyball World Championship in Germany. Everything has been done to present the event in style to the public. On March 5, the World Championship home page will present itself in a new layout under

[www.volleyball2002.de](http://www.volleyball2002.de)

Giving informative and up-to-date news in two languages, German and English, the new layout was developed by the company Tricept Internationalsysteme AG, an EDV consulting company with branches in Stuttgart, Det-

mold and Brunswick.

Two passionate volleyball enthusiasts, Marc Hagener and Markus Bechert,

are responsible for the World Championship home page. Mr Hagener is a member of the Board with Tricept and referee of the Masters Beach Series of DVV. Mr Bechert has been the official for beach volleyball for years in the Wuerttemberg Volleyball Association. Together with VONOG,

Tricept will promote a successful and memorable 2002 World Championship on the Internet.



The creators of [www.volleyball2002.de](http://www.volleyball2002.de), Markus Bechert and Marc Hagener of Tricept Informationssysteme AG, framed by Juergen Lamberty and Werner von Moltke Photo VONOG

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### Population & Structure

Schwerin with a population of approximately 100 000, is the state capital of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. It has acquired an excellent reputation as a centre for sport and arts well beyond the state borders.

Schwerin's good location enables the development of a modern economical base as a home for service businesses and high-tech companies.

### Location & History

Schwerin can proudly look back on a history of almost 850 years. Over the centuries the old residential town was able to keep its function as a capital. The "Sport Forum Lambrechtsgrund", with 5 indoor arenas and a stadium is the largest and most versatile sports complex in the region.

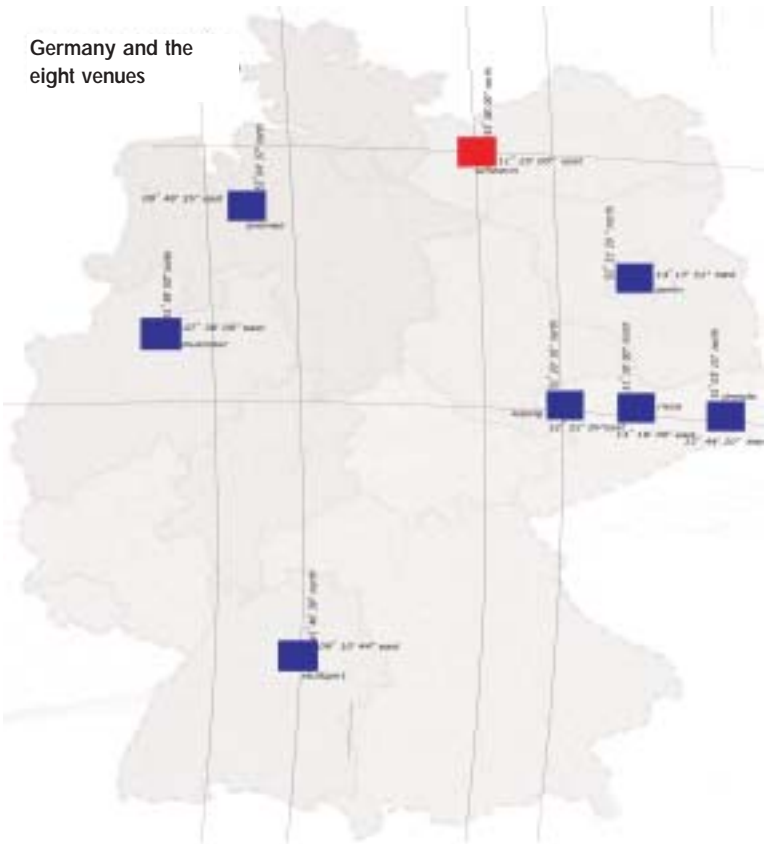
### Sports & Arts

Traditionally, Schwerin has been a centre of sports in Northern Germany, especially for volleyball, boxing, handball and track and field.

Schwerin's sports highlight is its women's volleyball team of the Sports Club Schwerin (SSC), hard to surpass as several times German champion, cup winner and participant in the Champion's League.



Germany and the eight venues



### Sightseeing

An abundance of water and forests makes Schwerin one of the most attractive tourist destinations in Northern Germany. Landmark of the state capital is the Schwerin Castle. But also its museums with reknown exhibits,

especially an expansive collection of 17th century Dutch paintings as well as a variety of theatre and concert events contribute to the attractiveness of this city.

### Hotels

Schwerin has a number of hotels and hostels for every taste.

Further information is available at Stadtmarketing / Schwerin Information Am Marktplatz 10

19063 Schwerin

Tel.: +49-385 5 92 52 12

### Local Organization

Schweriner Sportclub (SSC)  
WM-Organization Committee Schwerin

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The capital of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schwerin is famous for its wealth of water and forests.

Photo LOK Schwerin



## Venues – Schwerin

### World champion Cuba in Schwerin - Recognition of top performances in German women's volleyball for decades

When the matches of Group B begin on August 30 in Schwerin, capital of the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the expert local crowds will be thrilled to see defending World Champions Cuba start its title defence at the Sport and Congress Hall (capacity of 5,200).

Cuba and the rest of Group B which includes Korea, The Netherlands, Egypt, Canada and Romania have been seeded deliberately in the "City of lakes and woods" for Schwerin enjoys a high reputation in volleyball in Germany and should be honoured by this decision.

In addition to Berlin and Leipzig, Schwerin was a centre for forming international volleyball players even in the times of the GDR. Until 1989, when the Berlin Wall came down, Schwerin gained a total of eight national titles and seven Cup titles. After the reunification they continued their successes by winning the German national title in 1995, 1998, 2000 and 2001 plus the national Cup in 1990 and 2001. Winning the European Champions Cup in 1978 and the European Cup Winners Cup in 1975 were highlights for the then named club SC Traktor Schwerin.

A considerable number of volleyball internationals represented Schwerin in European and World Championships as well as Olympic Games. Karla Roffeis, Martina Schwarz and Andrea Heim from Schwerin had their share in winning Olympic silver in Moscow 1980. Players such as Helga Offen, Anke Westendorf, Cornelia Rickert, Doerte Stuedemann, Ute Oldenburg, Christina Schultz, Hanka Pachale and Sylvia Roll are well-known in international volleyball. Hopefully, the three

last mentioned will represent the German colours at the 2002 Women's World Championship.

### Local preparations in full swing in Schwerin

The preparations for the sporting highlight later this year are currently in full swing. The local organising team headed by Michael Evers and Burkhard Wiebe are greatly supported in their efforts by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Minister Martina Bunge and the Schwerin City Administration headed by Lord Mayor Johannes Kwaschik, also the patron of the World Championship Group B.

Planned promotional activities include a special World Championship tram, a special Internet page for the World Championship first round in Schwerin, volleyball tournaments among Schwerin schools, presentation of the World Championship by city marketing in the old town of Schwerin and in large shopping centres plus posters that should make the people aware of Schwerin and the guests of the event. During the first round a varied social programme will be offered in and around the Sport and Congress Hall: Internet café in the foyer, city sight-seeing tours between matches, games and fun for everybody, and more. Local newspapers, radio and TV stations are fully integrated in the preparations.

The matches between Cuba and the Netherlands on Sunday, September 1, and between Korea and the Netherlands on Monday, September 2, 2002, will be shown live on local TV N3.

"We want to achieve that all matches on all days are well attended", local Schwerin organisers said. Schwerin's volleyball fans are ready and hope for great games on all competition days.

Astron Hotel Schwerin



Crowne Plaza Hotel Schwerin



### Officials

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### Teams

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Concerning hotel reservations and further tourist information, volleyball fans can contact City Marketing Schwerin:

Stadtmarketing  
Am Marktplatz 10  
19063 Schwerin  
Tel. +49-385 5 92 52 12



**Cuba - A World Champion breed**

With a winning legacy that is the envy of all other entrants, Cuba will arrive at Germany 2002 as the defending World Champion ready to protect its status as the world's 'most magical' volleyball force.

Cuba's trademark combination of power, athletic ability and irresistible playing rhythm has helped the team maintain one of the great elite winning streaks.

Lead by coach Eugenio George through the 1990s, he was responsible for creating several generations of superb athletes, such as Player of the 20th Century, Regla Torres, Mireya Luis, Regla Bell and Magaly Carvajal, and gave birth to one of the most successful volleyball teams of the 20th Century.

Three consecutive Olympic gold medals (Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000), two consecutive World Championship titles (1994 and 1998), three consecutive World Cup titles (1989, 1991 and 1995), World Grand Champions Cup (1993), two World Grand Prix titles (1993 and 2000) - Cuba was unquestionably the team of the nineties.

But will they be able to defend the title they consider their own?

At last year's World Grand Prix, cracks were beginning to show in Cuba's apparent invincible armour.

Leading into the Grand Prix, Cuba was the focus of much of the media's attention when George stated he was not confident of success. He said that following Cuba's historic third consecutive Olympic gold

medal in Sydney, some of the Cuban players have retired, got married abroad, or taken college education.

Of the Cuban players for the 2001 Grand Prix, only Yumilka Ruiz, Ana Fernandez and Regla Torres competed at the Sydney Olympic Games, with only Sanchez and Barros having World Championship experience. Torres left the national team after the Olympics to complete a ten months college course, and had only just returned to training prior to the Grand Prix, said George.

"I can ensure you that the Cuban team and every player, will, as always, do their best," said George, defending his team to the media at the press conference.

But George's first prediction was the correct one. After the first round, Cuba was on the bottom-of-the-table with three straight loses to Brazil, Japan and a 0-3 drubbing by China.

They finished the preliminary round ranked 7th with a 4/5 win/loss record. They then won their pool in the final round, defeating eventual Grand Prix champions USA 3-0, only to collapse in the playoffs, losing to China 3-1, then to Olympic silver medallists Russia 3-0 in the bronze medal playoff.

If they had hopes of defending their

**Cuba in brief:**Olympic Games

Gold - Sydney 2000

Gold - Atlanta 1996

Gold - Barcelona 1992

World Championships

Gold - 1998, 1994

World Cup

Gold - 1995, 1991, 1989

Grand Champions Cup

Gold - 1993

World Grand Prix

Gold - 2000, 1993

honour at the 2001 World Grand Champions Cup in Japan, it was quickly and unexpectedly dashed when Cuba failed to qualify, being defeated by USA for the NORCECA title in October.

But you can never write-off a champion team. As Taimaris Aguero, Cuba's Most Valuable Player from the 1999 World Cup said: "As champions, we'll go on fighting with pride."

And Russian coach Nikolai Karpol certainly has not written them off, saying at the World Grand Champions Cup in November: "China and the USA team are very good and they did a very good job at this tournament and Grand Prix, but I believe Cuba and Russia, based on world rankings, are still the best two teams in the world."

Win or lose, the sheer emotion, excitement and dynamism of this outfit of Caribbean superstars makes the team one of the great attractions of Germany 2002. Watch them play and you can truly say you have seen the best the sport has to offer.



A usual picture: celebrating Cubans – at the 2002 Worlds in Germany again?

Photo FIVB

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## Stars – Regla Torres

### Regla Torres - the Cuban star

Regla Torres became the youngest woman to win an Olympic volleyball gold medal at Barcelona in 1992. She was only 17 years-of-age when the Cubans defeated Russia in the championship to start its, and her, incredible run.

Torres and her Cuban team went on to win every major international competition between the 1992 and the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, building an amazing 35-3 record in World Championships and Olympics - and Regla Torres was at the forefront of all these victories.

At the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, Torres brought her team back from two sets to zero down in the gold medal match by getting her 190 cm frame into the path of the Russian attackers,

193cm Elena Godina and 191cm Liobov Chachkova. She was called "fearless in the middle" by the international media. She was also the best spiker at Sydney 2000, and awarded the best blocker and World's Best Player at the 1998 World Championship.

To add to her list of honours, Regla Torres was bestowed the distinguished honour of Best Volleyball Player of the 20th Century by the FIVB last year.

A supreme athlete who could have excelled at any sport of her choosing, in Volleyball, Regla Torres was, and is, the No. 1 player on the world's No. 1 team.



Name:	Regla Torres
Age:	26
Place of birth:	Ciudad Havana
Height:	190 cm
Civil status:	single
Hobbys:	Action books, Criolla food, Horror movies, rap/hip hop music
Position on court:	middle blocker
Club Debut:	Ciudad Havana in 1989



Regla Torres cuts a good figure not only in a sporting outfit Photo Wende



The domain of Regla Torres: The Block

Photos FIVB



**Kenya:** Kenya's volleyball chiefs are confident that the experience gained by three Kenyan volleyballers in the African team at the recent Intercontinental Sestao tournament in Spain will boost the team's morale at the World Championship in Germany. Jacob Owiti, Kenya Volleyball Federation (KVF) Secretary General, said Dorcas Ndasaba, Roselidah Obunaga and Violet Barasa just got the right dosage at the right time to infuse into the Kenyan team ahead of the gaugartuan task in August. "We're happy the trio were included in the African team at the intercontinental event. Their experience is invaluable to the team at the worlds in August," Owiti said.

Owiti added that with the assistance of the FIVB through a coaching seconderment of a highly-rated coach to Kenya to help prepare the team for the world event, they will be more than ready to take on the best of the world.

Kenya is in the group of death (Group C), which includes Russia, USA, Argentina, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.



**Russia:** In contrast to the Men's team, the Women's team performance in 2001 season has been admitted as good. In spite of it there were some replacements in the National team after European Championships 2001. The main pair Elena Vassilevskaia and one of the best attacker Liubov Chachkova did not participate in the World Grand Champion Cup in Japan. Most likely they won't play for the National team in 2002. In other respects the team won't be changed. At present the candidates to the National team are playing for the best Russian club "Uralochka" as well as in Turkey and Italy. Nikolai Karpol's team is going to begin preparation for the new season in late April.

**Dominican Republic:** The Dominican Republic Women's National Volleyball Team participated in the Women's Pro-

League (United States Professional Volleyball League, USPV) with matches held in the cities of Chicago, St. Louis, Minnesota and Grand Rapid. A total of 11 matches were played with the Pro-Teams of the New Women's League of the United States, in preparation for the 2002 Women's World Championship. The Tour started on January 5 in the city of Rochester, Minnesota, where the Dominican National Team dominated the first 3 matches. Continuing to St. Louis, Missouri, the girls from Santo Domingo, continued their winning straight with 2 wins in line, 3-1 and 3-0.

On the 3rd phase of the Dominican Tour in the city of Grand Rapid, Michigan, the girls from the Caribbean lost their first match 3-2 to the local team Grand Rapid Force, coming back next day with a different attitude to win 3-0.

To round up this important event in the city of Chicago, the girls from sunny Santo Domingo registered 4 straights wins against local team Chicago Thunder 3-1, 3-1, 3-2 and 3-0.

**Argentina:** The technical staff of the Mayor Female Team is studying and observing players at the beginning of the national championship, in order to define the team for the World Championship.

It is important to remark that Julieta Borghi, Andrea Conti, Viviana Dominko, Celina Crusoe and Micaela Vogel, are playing in professional leagues. The international level reached by Argentina's players shows the quality of the national championship. Those players will acquire a great experience, and also, many national young players will have the opportunity to show themselves in the Argentine league.

-  Egypt
-  Argentina
-  Australia
-  Brazil
-  Bulgaria
-  China
-  Germany
-  Dominican Republic
-  Greece
-  Italy
-  Japan
-  Canada
-  Kenya
-  Korea
-  Cuba
-  Mexico
-  Netherlands
-  Poland
-  Puerto Rico
-  Romania
-  Russia
-  Thailand
-  Czech Republic
-  USA

