

ECH participants complete:

The participants of the final round of the ECH in Germany are finally completed: **Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, Slovakia, France** and **the Netherlands** secured their tickets for Karlsruhe, Leipzig and Berlin in the final ECH qualification tournaments on May 9th – May 11th 2003. Before Germany as host, Serbia & Montenegro (former Yugoslavia), Italy, Russia, the Czech Republic and Poland as the five best of the 2001 ECH had already been qualified.

The preliminary pools 2 and 4 were extremely exciting. In pool 2 three teams had the same score in advance of the second tournament. Finally host Finland had to give in, because Greece proved to be the stronger

team and won all three matches and the WCH 3rd France prevailed in the deciding match against the Finish with 3:1.

In group 4 the Ukraine was the team of the tournament and still didn't succeed in the end. Despite three victories they could neither celebrate the victory in the group nor one of the best second places because of the set relation. Slovakia's set relation was just a little better with 14:10 sets (relation 1,4) as the one of the Ukraine (16:12 sets = 1,3). And the Netherlands had a better set relation with 12:8 sets (1,5) in the distance-duel, too. Our neighbours as well as WCH third France secured their tickets as the best second of the groups.

Bulgaria and Spain didn't face any problems as winners of group 1 and 3.

The final standing in the four ECH qualification pools**Pool I**

	Points	Sets	Matches
1. Bulgaria	10	12:08	6
2. Hungary	09	13:11	6
3. Belgium	09	10:11	6
4. Croatia	08	08:13	6

Pool II

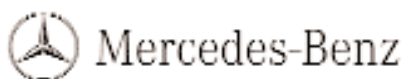
	Points	Sets	Matches
1. Greece	11	15:07	6
2. France	10	15:07	6
3. Finland	09	12:13	6
4. Romania	06	03:18	6

Pool III

	Points	Sets	Matches
1. Spain	11	17:04	6
2. Netherlands	10	12:08	6
3. Slovenia	09	11:12	6
4. Macedonia	06	02:15	6

Pool IV

	Points	Sets	Matches
1. Slovakia	10	14:10	6
2. Ukraine	10	16:12	6
3. Portugal	09	13:13	6
4. Turkey	07	07:15	6





ECH-NEWS

2003 Men's European Championship in Germany

05. - 14. September

Karlsruhe - Leipzig - Berlin

The organisational preparations of the 2003 Men's Volleyball ECH have already made large advances. And the teams from Germany, Serbia & Montenegro, Italy, Russia, the Czech Republic and Poland have known for some time that they will take part in this year's European Volleyball Highlight. Six other teams had to wait until May 11th. On that day the ECH qualification was closed and the teams from Bulgaria, France, Greece, Spain, the Netherlands and Slovakia celebrated. Now the 12 participating teams are fixed and the drawing of the ECH groups can take place.

The drawing will already take place on May 16th in Leipzig, Germany's candidate for the 2012 Olympic Games and one of the main venues for all of us volleyball players. Next to the drawing and the preliminary round of the ECH the World League against Portugal (June 21st/22nd) and in January 2004 the European Olympic Qualification will take place in the metropolis of Saxony.

Phrases like "Planning of the venues", "Internet", "accreditation" and "advanced sale" make clear how advanced the preparations of VONOG really are. All four elementary aspects of this ECH as well as all other organisational aspects are according to plan. And the national sponsors and partners are already aboard the "ECH ship".

The patron of the third Men's European Championship in Germany, **Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder**, gives his wishes:

The German Volleyball Federation has been consigned to organize a big international championship within a short time: In September 2003 the best men's national teams of Europe will be guests in Karlsruhe, Leipzig and Berlin. And I am convinced that the DVV will meet the challenge as successfully as the DVV did at the Women's Volleyball World Championship last year.

The teams that take part in the final round will find excellent competition conditions. Also enthusiastic and competent spectators are waiting for them.

All responsible persons of the federation and the venues will solve their tasks carefully. This will not work out without the support of numerous honorary helpers. I want to thank all of them for their commitment. I would be happy about the support of the media and sponsors. With their commitment both of them are helping to guarantee the success of the ECH and to help volleyball make friends with a lot of people.



Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder is the patron of the Men's ECH

Imprint

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Mercedes-Benz



Advanced ticket sale has begun – new: „Libero- and „Schlachtenbummler ticket“!

The advanced ticket sale has begun! For Berlin, for example, more than 1,000 tickets have been sold after only a month's time. Since April 1st 2003 the tickets for the 2003 Men's ECH in Germany can be purchased. At more than 1,200 advanced ticket offices, via the hotline +49-1805-570057 (0,12 Euro / minute) and via the ECH homepage www.volleyball2003.de the tickets for the venues of the preliminary

round in Karlsruhe and Leipzig (September 5th till 7th and 11th and 11th) as well as for the final round in Berlin (September 13th and 14th) are available. Because of the – for the first time ever – change of venue for all the 12 teams there will be two days off during the preliminary round (September 8th and 9th). In the venues of the preliminary round three matches will take place per competition day, during the final round in Berlin the spectators will be able to watch 4 top matches per day.

Next to the normal daily tickets

VONOG and the two preliminary venues offer two special ticket categories.

The "Schlachtenbummler ticket", which includes all matches of the German team during the preliminary round (three matches from September 5th to 7th in Karlsruhe and two on September 10th and 11th in Leipzig) and will cost between 45 and 90 Euros, depending on reduction and category. Furthermore there is the so called "libero ticket", which guarantees one free ticket if you buy 6 tickets.

Below find the overview of the tickets for Karlsruhe, Leipzig and Berlin

Karlsruhe			Leipzig		
<u>Daily ticket</u>			<u>Daily ticket</u>		
Category 1	25 Euro	19 Euro (reduced)	Category 1	25 Euro	15 Euro (reduced)
Category 2	18 Euro	12 Euro (reduced)	Category 2	15 Euro	10 Euro (reduced)
<u>Season ticket</u>			<u>Season ticket</u>		
Category 1	100 Euro	76 Euro (reduced)	Category 1	100 Euro	60 Euro (reduced)
Category 2	72 Euro	48 Euro (reduced)	Category 2	60 Euro	40 Euro (reduced)
<u>Weekend ticket</u>			<u>Weekend ticket</u>		
Category 1	63 Euro	48 Euro (reduced)	Category 1	60 Euro	30 Euro (reduced)
Category 2	45 Euro	30 Euro (reduced)	Category 2	35 Euro	20 Euro (reduced)
<u>Schlachtenbummler ticket</u>			<u>Schlachtenbummler ticket</u>		
Category 1	95 Euro	65 Euro (reduced)	Category 1	95 Euro	65 Euro (reduced)
Kategorie 2	65 Euro	45 Euro (reduced)	Category 2	65 Euro	45 Euro (reduced)

Berlin

Saturday 13.09.03

Category 1	35 Euro	27 Euro (reduced)
Category 2	30 Euro	23 Euro (reduced)
Category 3	25 Euro	19 Euro (reduced)

Sunday 14.09.03

Category 1	40 Euro	30 Euro (reduced)
Category 2	35 Euro	27 Euro (reduced)
Category 3	30 Euro	23 Euro (reduced)

Double ticket 13. and 14.09.03

Category 1	65 Euro	50 Euro (reduced)
Category 2	55 Euro	42 Euro (reduced)
Kategorie 3	45 Euro	34 Euro (reduced)

The "libero ticket" for the preliminary round can be ordered at the following advanced ticket offices in Leipzig and Karlsruhe. Of course you can purchase the ticket during the competition.

Leipzig: Arena Leipzig, Am Sportforum 2, 04105 Leipzig, Tel: +49-341-2341103, E-Mail: ticket@arena-leipzig.com

Karlsruhe: Stadtinformation Karlsruhe, Karl-Friedrich-Str. 9, 76131 Karlsruhe, Tel: +49-721-25000

These two categories are also available via the hotline 01805-570057 (0,12 Euro / minute).



Mercedes-Benz





Tricept Informationssysteme AG

www.volleyball2003.de
powered by Tricept

The Tricept Informationssysteme AG, an offerer of IT-services and IT-products, has created the current web appearance for the 2003 Men's Volleyball European Championship in a co-operation with the agency "pars pro toto". Already at the 2002 Women's Volleyball World Championship the Tricept Informationssysteme AG was the official partner of the German Volleyball Federation.

The bilingual webpage of the 2003 ECH (German & English) includes all important and latest information about the European Championship and more people visited this page than people visited the WCH page last year at the same time. With the Content Management System TACOMA of the Tricept Informationssysteme AG all reports and match results are put online within minutes by editorial employees. Furthermore there are a live ticker, prize draws, eCards, overviews about the teams and a download area. There, for example, the ECH logo, the ECH schedule but also the ultimate ECH screensaver for all volleyball fans can be downloaded.

The Tricept AG – with its offices in

Stuttgart, Braunschweig and Detmold – works for numerous large companies like the Landesbank Baden-Württemberg or HUGO BOSS in the German-speaking area. But also smaller companies like the engineering company Lauer & Weiss or the TSB Ravensburg e.V. are regular customers.

An important business area is the development of configurable Content Management Systems with the TACOMA product for the easy provision of complex websites. The development of asset-related applications in heterogeneous system environments is another important area of business. For this, the latest technologies like J2EE, CORBA and XML are used.

Drawing of the preliminary groups on May 16th in Leipzig

Only five days after the end of the ECH qualification (May 11th) the drawing of the two ECH groups will take place in Leipzig. The place of the drawing will be the "Ratsplenaarsaal" of the new city hall of the city of Leipzig.

A greeting with cocktails at 10:30 will be the beginning, followed by the drawing at 11:00. The teams will be raffled into the two preliminary groups in Karlsruhe and Leipzig as follows: Firstly, the two best ranked of the 2001 ECH, Serbia & Montenegro and Italy.

After that the third and fourth of the 2001 ECH, Russia and the Czech Republic. Then the fifth of the 2001 ECH Poland and host Germany. The "German group" will automatically be the group of Karlsruhe.

After that, Spain and Greece as the two group winners of the ECH qualification will be raffled, where also the two best second of the groups come from. These seconds, the Netherlands and France, will be fixed to the ECH groups, to avoid, that they have to play against the opponent of the qualification again. Finally the two other winners of the ECH qualification,

Bulgaria and Slovakia, will be raffled. Finally the responsible will retrench to design a schedule. Host Germany has the possibility, to fix three matches per group.

After the drawing a press conference will take place, participants will be CEV vice president Philip Berben and the president of the German Volleyball Federation Werner von Moltke.



Press accreditation of the 2003 ECH!

Representatives of the press, who want to report about the third Men's ECH in Germany, can receive their accreditation from now on.

The deadline of accreditation is June 30th 2003!

The three pages long accreditation form can be ordered at:

**Cosmos-pps
Haus der Medien
Hammeldamm 10
41460 Neuss / Germany
Phone: +49-2131-131203
Fax: +49-2131-131114
E-Mail: redaktion@cosmos-pps.de**

Please send the accreditation form back to cosmos pps after you have filled in all the information.

Other partner

Tricept Informationssysteme AG

ECH-NEWS

ECH 2003





Stadt Leipzig

Structures and visions

„I came to Leipzig, to a place, where you can see a small world“, were the words of Gotthold Ephraim Lessing. And they are true! Leipzig is said to be the commercial centre of Eastern Germany. Only 18 kilometres away from the city centre there is the international airport Leipzig-Halle, the air-turnstile of Middle Germany. In the middle of the city centre you find Europe’s biggest stub terminal. The city cannot be imagined without the 30,000 students of the university of Leipzig and the other schools. Altogether about 500,000 inhabitants live in the metropolis of Saxony, which different synonyms apply to: fairy city, metropolis of Saxony, city of books, city of Bach, city of sports, city of the media and lastly because of the new settlement of BWM and Porsche city of cars, too.

Since April 12th 2003 the city caused national and international headlines: Together with the sailing area Rostock the city competes for the holding of the 2012 Olympic Games and the Paralympics



Olympic enthusiasm of Leipzig’s population!

Photos Leipzig

(www.olympia-leipzig-2012.de). That’s the result of the NOK decision in Munich, where the application concept of the Olympic region Leipzig won all elections with the most votes. “I can feel something special here“, said star conductor professor Kurt Masur at the Leipzig Olympic presentation in Munich not without reason. Masur, cosmopolitan (Leipzig, New York, Paris, London) from Leipzig par excellence, presented “Games with us – Leipzig 2012“ at the NOK decision as convincing as former president of the Federal Republic Richard von Weizsäcker, Leipzig’s mayor Wolfgang Tiefensee, Saxony’s prime minister professor Georg Milbrandt or the “Olympic spirit“ Janet Pilz.

1996 the Saxony metropolis has one of the latest fairy centres. In the recent history its name is closely linked with the year 1989, when the Leipzig Monday Demonstrations caused the peaceful revolution and therefore allowed for the later German reunification. “We trust in our strengths, in our cultural and economic inventions and pulses over the past centuries, in our peaceful way of thinking and acting, that has broken down walls and levelled the way for a peaceful Europe and therefore a free world, in our open-mindedness and cosmopolitanism, in our hospitality and strengths“, says Leipzig’s mayor Wolfgang Tiefensee.

History, tradition and future

The first documented mentioning of Leipzig goes back to the year 1015. The city became famous mainly because of its appointment to become “empire and fair city“ under emperor Maximilian in the year 1457. Since

Home of sports

Leipzig as a city of sports looks back on a proud tradition and already in the 19th century was regarded as the “gymnastics city of Germany“: Here was the origin of Friedrich Ludwig Jahn and the gymnastics movement. Alongside the bicycle and water sports



Germany and the three venues Karlsruhe, Leipzig and Berlin.

played an important role, at that time and still today. The origins of two important sport federations are in Leipzig, in 1984 the German Confederation of Cyclists e.V. was founded, on January 28th 1900 the foundation of the German Football Federation followed. The Volleyball Club Leipzig has become a sportive magnet for the spectators, with a new record of more than 6,000 fans in the new arena of Leipzig only a few weeks ago. The most popular club of the city might be the women's handball team of the HC Leipzig, which was German champion in the year 2002 for the third time after the reunification and is famous for its exemplary way of looking after the upcoming players and has numerous national players. Leipzig's sport has the best conditions with the modern multi sports complex "Arena of Leipzig". In the multi purpose hall sport events with more than 7,000 spectators take place, at cultural events there is even room for 12,000 spectators. Like at the 2002 Women's Volleyball World Championship the main hall of the arena will be the venue at the Men's ECH. More sportive highlights in Leipzig: The first women's and men's indoor hockey world championship, the international handball masters Leipzig, the international women's tennis

Grand Prix or athletic events like the European Indoor Cup. People are still remembering:

The 31st German gym event with about 100,000 participants and national attraction. AT the gala with Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, minister of the interior Otto Schily and ten thousands of visitors the "building site" of the central stadium was inaugurated at the same time. The new trinket-stadium with 45,000 places will be a venue for the 2006 fottball WCH in Germany. By the end of 2003 the new stadium is supposed to be opened officially.

"Little Paris and way of living"

A lot architectural monuments concentrate in the historical city centre. Therefore the big German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, who studied there, called Leipzig respectfully "little Paris". As a cultural city Leipzig is still closely linked to one name: Johann Sebastian Bach. In 1723 Bach was appointed as cantor, were he applied himself to church music and composed several of his famous opuses. During the last years Leipzig has become a city with international meaning. It radiates an innovative influence on the development of commerce, technique, science and culture.



People are completely enthusiastic especially in the volleyball hall.

Hotel Westin



Marriott Hotel



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ECH-NEWS

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Former dominance with new coach?

By far the best team of the 90ties was Italy. Wherever there was a big title to win they only had to compete and win. That is what happened at the World and European Championships and the World League (see blue box on the next page). Only one thing was denied to the Azzurri: The Olympic Gold Medal. Two times the Dutch proved to be the team with nerves of steel and inflicted a painful defeat upon the Italian. In 1992 Italy was superior in the quarter finals in the fifth set with 16:17, the team was only fifth in the end. In 1996 they lost the final in five sets, too.

At the moment the Italian national team has departed a little from finals and gold medals. After the successful team with Andrea Giani, Andrea Zorzi, Andrea Lucchetta and co after the WCH of 1998 a change took place the "gold fever" came to an end. From now on it was Yugoslavia (now Serbia & Montenegro), Russia and Brazil who triumphed – Italy had to be satisfied with the (leading) ranks. Examples are the 2000 Olympic Games (3rd place), the 2001 ECH (2nd place) and the 2002 WCH (5th place).

Then, again at the 2002 WCH in Argentina, it was a tiebreak that decided against the Italians. Bravely they caught up, after being behind Brazil with 0:2 sets, but in the end they had to defer to the South Americans in the fifth set. And they became World Champion in the end...

The failure had consequences: National

coach Andrea Anastasi had to leave and was replaced by Gian Paolo Montali. Montali, former coach of Milan (his team failed in the semi finals of the last Italian Championship), is said to be a "though one" and a successful coach (Champion's title with Parma, Treviso, Athens and Roma). The success shall come back to the national team with him, because leading ranks do not count in the volleyball paradise – only gold medals.

But with the hard European concurrence – at the 2002 WCH in Argentina eight teams from the old continent were among the top 10 – this will not be a fast sell item. And with the current World League title holder and Vice World Champion Russia as well as the third of the WCH France three teams were better than the Italians. And the balance of the top teams does not stop the other nations: teams like Poland, Bulgaria, Spain or Germany – if they have a good day – may put them in a hot spot and beat them. Therefore the Italians won't travel to Germany as the top favourite, Germany's national coach Stelian Moculescu thinks the same (see blue box on the next page).

But of course you have to pay atten-



He is the hope of all Italians: coach Gian Paolo Montali.

tion to the Italians. With Alessandro Fei, Pasquale Gravina and Luigi Mistrangelo they have an outstanding good middle block and for the outside coach Montali is spoilt for choice. So, at the WCH in Argentina Andrea Giani, Samuele Papi, Christian Casoli and Luca Tencati and at the 2001 ECH even Lorenezo Bernardi, the volleyball player of the 20th century, hit on one ball.

The first legal act of Montali was the nomination of the 18 players squad for the 2003 World League and only the name Bernardi is no longer on the list.

It is fact that the Italian are under a lot of pressure to succeed – thanks to the leagues and the media and maybe even because of the sensational WCH title of the Italian women's national team.

The movement to the ECH semi finals is the



That's the way the Italian team looked at the 2002 WCH, when they only won a disappointing 5th place. Photos FIVB



Italy in brief:

Olympic Games: Silver 1996, Bronze 1984 + 2000

World Championship: Gold 1992, 1990 + 1994 + 1998, Silver 1978

European Championship: Gold 1989 + 1993 + 1995 + 1999, Silver 1991 + 1997 + 2001, Bronze 1948

World League: Gold 1990 + 1991 + 1992 + 1994 + 1995 + 1997 + 1999 + 2000

program, but the freestyle shall be the title after three years of dry spell. Any maybe Germany is a good pavement for the Italian men?

Estimation of Italy by coach of the German Volleyball Federation Stelian Moculescu!

Strengths/Weaknesses: The Italians have always had a strong team, but the current team does no longer have the brilliance of former years. Their best players have grown older and the gap has to be closed.

The current players do not yet have the class of Bernardi, Cantagalli, Zorzi. But I'd be happy to have some of the players in my team.

ECH prediction: It's hard to say, but I hold the opinion that Italy is a team that will always be able to be among the best four.



In Receiving and on the outside a "bench" – Samuele Papi.

ECH-NEWS

Top-Stars - Andrea Giani



Still a "jumping wonder" and one level higher than the opponent, Andrea Giani.

One, who has experienced all the successes (3x World Champion, 3x European Champion, 7x winner of the World League) but also the "Olympic failures" in 1988, 1992, 1996 and 2000, is Andrea Giani. The already 33 years old will – as it seems – take part in the ECH in Germany, too. Italy's new national coach Montali counts, like his predecessor, on the formidable jumper Giani and appointed the universal player for the 18 players squad for the World League, which is likely to be the same for the ECH.

Montali might not only count on Giani's experience, which the Parma born acquired after playing 15 years in the national team. Giani is still a "high achiever" at the net – and you have to take that literally. With his 1,96 meters he is not one of the really tall players in the world of volleyball (in a physical way), but his enormous springiness compensates for that. Also Giani's technique has become more and

more mature over the years. In the meantime he could play as a middle blocker, on the opposite position or in receiving-outside for the Italian top club Kerakoll Modena or even the national team without problems. In Modena he is playing on the middle position at the moment, in the national team at the 2002 WCH in Argentina he acted on the outside.

One thing does never change, no matter on which position or in which country the dark-haired Italian plays: He is always surrounded by mainly female fans and he loves to give autographs.

Andrea Giani:

Birthday:	13.09.1979
Place of birth:	Nis
Height:	206 cm
Hobbies:	Reading, Drawing
Position:	Universal
Club:	Macerata/Italy



ECH 2003

