

The 5th of August was the deadline for the twelve teams to nominate the 18 player squads for the ECH. They will be reduced to twelve players until the ECH begins. If any of the players of the 18 player squads gets injured his coach is not allowed to nominate another player. Below find the squads of the six teams of pool II, the pool of the German team. The six squads of pool I will be published in the fifth issue of the ECH NEWS.

GER: Björn Andrae (Cuneo/ITA), Christian Pampel (Loreto/ITA), Norbert Walter (Parma/ITA), Ilja Wiederschein, Bogdan Jalowietzki, Jochen Schöps (all VfB Friedrichshafen), Frank Dehne (Rennes/FRA), Marco Liefke, Eugen Bakumovski, Sebastian Prüsener (all SCC Berlin), Till Lieber (evivo Düren), Ralph Bergmann (Roeselare/BEL), Wolfgang Kuck (Sete/FRA), Mark Siebeck (Olsztyn/POL), Georg Wiebel, Michael Mayer (both Maaseik/BEL), Stefan Hübner (Trento/ITA), Simon Tischer (VC Eintracht Mendig).

FRA: Yohan Cohen, Vincent Montmeat, Luc Marquet (all Poitiers), Hubert Henno, Loic de Kergret, Frédéric Gibert (all Tour VB), Dominique Daquin (Latina/ITA), Andy Ces (Toac- Tuc), Junot Mistoco (Arago Sète), Jean Charles Monneraye, Laurent Capet (both Tourcoing LM), Stéphane Antiga, Frantz Granvorka (both Cuneo/ ITA), Loic Lamarrec (AS Cannes), Philippe Barca-Cysique (Nizza VB), Mathias Patin, Oliver Kieffer, Sebastian Frangolacci (all Paris Volley)

ESP: Rafael Pascual, Luis Pedro Suela (both Gioia del Colle/ITA), Gustavo Saucedo, Jordi Gens (both Nizza/FRA), Rubén Antequera (Parky-Menem/BEL), Alfonso Flores, Manuel Sevillano (both Numancia Soria), José Javier Subiela (Escaner Cartagena), David Sánchez (PTV Málaga), Israel Rodríguez (Elche), Cosme Prenafeta,

Carlos Carreno, Juan José Salvador, Manuel Berenguel (all Unicaja Almería), Guillermo Falasca (Espel Casa Volley/ITA), Alejandro Hernández (Universidad Granada), José Luis Moltó (Sonamar Palma), Enrique de la Fuente (Perugia/ITA)

SVK: Pavel Bartik, Andrej Barbierik (both Matador Puchov), Robert Hupka, Peter Divis (both Sosnowiec/POL), Marian Vavrek (Innsbruck/AUT), Martin Pipa, Martin Bencic (both Paris Volley/FRA), Marek Kardos (Kedzierzyn/POL), Martin Jancovic, Stanislav Vertovnik, Michal Masny (both Odolena Voda/CZE), Branko Pistovic (Thessaloniki/GRE), Richard Nemeč (Treviso/ITA), Gabriel Cholach (Volley Forli/ITA), Tomas Kmet (Wroclaw/POL), Jakub Joscak, Marcel Sivak (both VKP Bratislava), Pavel Chudik (Jestrzebie/POL)

ITA: Luigi Mastrangelo, Marco Meoni (both Maccerata), Pietro Rinaldi, Paolo Torre, Francesco Biribanti (all Latina), Valerio Vermiglio, Samuele Papi, Alberto Cisolla, Luca Tencati, Alessandro Fei (all Treviso), Andrea Sartoretti (Trento), Christian Savani (Montichiari), Hristo Zlatanov (Piacenza), Damiano Pippi, Andrea Giani, Paolo Cozzi, Matej Cernic (all Modena), Michal Lasko (Verona)

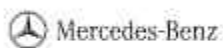
CZE: Martin Lebl (Perugia/ITA), Jiri Popelka (Tours/FRA), Marek Novotny (Ajaccio/FRA), Jakub Novotny, Premysl Kubala (both Poitiers/FRA), Jiri Kral, Michal Rak, Jan Stokr, Tomas Malcik (all Odolena Voda), Martin Krystof (Vavex Pribram), Lubomir Stanek (Sete/FRA), Ivo Dubs (Cannes/FRA), Dalibor Polak (Orestiada/ GRE), Petr Zapletal (Genf/SUI), Premysl Obdrzalek, Michal Sukuba, Lukas Tichcek (all Dukla Liberec), Peter Platenik (Maaseik/BEL)



Main Sponsor



National Sponsors





ECH-NEWS

2003 Men's European Championship in Germany

05. - 14. September

Karlsruhe - Leipzig - Berlin

In less than four weeks the volleyballs will be flying in Germany's competition halls. They will be hit and dug by the best twelve men's national teams of the old continent. Since the 5th of August it is known, which players will present themselves in Karlsruhe, Leipzig and Berlin beginning from September 5th. Because the 5th of August was the deadline for the nomination of the 18 player squads. Out of this squads the twelve ECH players of each team will be recruited.

This also applies for the German team, which will rely on the reliable players of the World League. To make the aimed goal "to the final round to Berlin" possible, the team of national coach Stelian Moculescu prepares intensively. The well deserved holidays are over, now the team does weight training and practises athletics, to be on top form at the highlight of the year.

If the German men, as well as the other teams, are on top form will be judged by almost every part of Europe. Because ISA, agency for the rights and promotion of the ECH, has announced, that there will be more than 170 hours of TV broadcasting. Especially in Italy the spectators will be able enjoy it, therefore the match schedule was changed slightly. But the German spectators don't have to be disappointed like at last year's Women's WCH. Eurosport and the MDR will



Michael Antwerpes, Wolfgang Kuck, Eduard Thometzek, Götz Moser and Stelian Moculescu at the press talking in the office of the Zürich Group **Foto Schneider**

cover the event in detail and will broadcast most of the German matches live.

The interest in the German players is still growing, the closer the event comes. The STERN as well as Sport BILD will have an article short before the ECH begins, and the SWR Tigerentenclub will be pleased about the visit of Stefan Hübner in the studios on August 7th. And the water-partner "IQ 4 you" will print the picture of the captain of the men's national team on the bottles. Volleyball becomes more and more of an interesting media and PR partner.

Yours sincerely
Werner von Moltke

Imprint

National Organizing Committee (VONOG).

Otto-Fleck-Schneise 8

60528 Frankfurt/Germany

Tel: +49-69-698 001-35

Fax: +49-69-698 001-37

e-Mail: em@volleyball2003.de

Internet: www.volleyball2003.de

Editor: VONOG

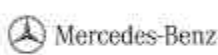
Edition: No. 4/2003



Main Sponsor



National Sponsors



The two preliminary pools and the complete schedule

Pool I	Pool II
Serbia & Montenegro	Italy
Russia	Czech Republic
Poland	Germany
Greece	Spain
Netherlands	France
Bulgaria	Slovakia

Change of match schedule for Italian TV!

In Italy volleyball is very popular in the public. Therefore the Italian TV reacted on the Men's European Championship in German (September 5th – 14th). According to the request of the

Italian TV the European Volleyball Federation CEV has changed the match schedule again: The Italian pool matches in Karlsruhe will now take place on Saturday, September 6th at 15:00 cet against Spain and on Sunday, September 7th at 17:30 cet against France. For the ECH begin-

ning on Friday September 5th, the Italian will play according to the former schedule at 20:30 cet against the Czech Republic.

Here once again the current and valid match schedule:

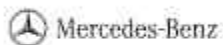
1st round	Leipzig	Karlsruhe
5/Sep/2003	15.00 GRE - POL 17.30 BUL - RUS 20.00 YUG - NED	14.00 ESP - FRA 18.00 GER - SVK 20.30 CZE - ITA
6/Sep/2003	15.00 RUS - POL 17.30 NED - GRE 20.00 BUL - YUG	15.00 ITA - ESP 17.30 GER - CZE 20.00 SVK - FRA
7/Sep/2003	15.00 POL - NED 17.30 YUG - RUS 20.00 GRE - BUL	15.00 CZE - SVK 17.30 FRA - ITA 20.00 ESP - GER
8/Sep/2003	travel day	
9/Sep/2003	rest day	
10/Sep/2003	15.00 CZE - ESP 17.30 GER - FRA 20.00 SVK - ITA	15.00 RUS - NED 17.30 BUL - POL 20.00 YUG - GRE
11/Sep/2003	15.00 FRA - CZE 17.30 ESP - SVK 20.00 ITA - GER	15.00 NED - BUL 17.30 GRE - RUS 20.00 POL - YUG
12/Sep/2003	travel day	
Semifinal (5 - 8 & 1 - 4)	Berlin	
13/Sep/2003	12.30 Semifinal 15.00 Semifinal 17.30 Semifinal 20.00 Semifinal	
Final (1 - 8)	Berlin	
14/Sep/2003	11.00 Final 13.30 Final 16.00 Final 18.30 Final	



Main Sponsor



National Sponsors





Saeco – partner of the German Volleyball Federation

Saeco Germany with its main office in Eigeltingen on the northern part of the Lake Konstanz was founded in 1987 by the brothers Bernhard and Markus Bihler in cooperation with Saeco Italy. The enlargement and the determined support of the enjoyment of coffee are the aims of the company and are also in important aspect of the philosophy of the company.

The company is specialising in the distribution of coffee machines, vending machines and espresso machines for industry and the home use and which guarantee the easy preparation and great coffee. The Saeco GmbH, market leader in the area of coffee machines, relies on quality and service. A lot is demanded, which can also be seen in other activities of Saeco. Next to different attractive accessories for the enjoyment of coffee ironing station, air conditioning and dehumidifiers complete the large assort-

ment of household appliances.

Saeco presents itself competently and variably in the professional sector, too. Next to coffee machines especially vending machines for hot and cold drinks as well as for snacks are offered. With the Saeco professional bike team and selective sponsoring of other sports Saeco approximates the philosophy of the products – no matter if coffee machine or vending machine – to the consumers.

Like the continuing success of Saeco is based on the commitment of all employees, the sportive top efficiency is always based on the interaction of a lot of people. Today sportive top efficiency is impossible without the sup-



The SAECO coffee bar will be very popular at the Men's ECH. **Foto SAECO**

port of the sponsors. It is based on the continued mutual commitment of all participants. Therefore Saeco supports this year's Men's Volleyball European Championship after the 2002 Women's WCH. "A great completion to the professional biking", chairman Roland Breithaupt says.



Big interest in Volleyball ECH of TV from abroad – more than 170 hours of coverage

The Men's Volleyball ECH in Germany on September 5th – 14th causes a lot of interest of TV stations from abroad. About three weeks before the first service already 170 hours of coverage have been fixed. So that the TV presence of the 2001 Volleyball ECH in the Czech Republic has already been beaten.

Next to the Pan European station Eurosport, which will report about the ECH extensively in its German program, RAI in Italy, NTV in Russia, Telewizja Polska in Poland, BNT in Bulgaria, NOS in the Netherlands, CT

in the Czech Republic as well as RTS in Serbia & Montenegro and Bosnia will broadcast several matches live or matches which were recorded earlier. In Germany coverage in on the third programs has already been fixed. The German program of Eurosport will broadcast the following German matches live:

- 05.09.: GER - SVK from 17.30
- 07.09.: GER - ESP from 20.00
- 10.09.: GER - FRA from 17.30
- 11.09.: GER - ITA from 20.00

Furthermore the live coverage of the second semi final as well as of the big final in Berlin is planned on Eurosport. The MDR will cover the two German

matches in Leipzig – against France and Italy – too.

All TV times will be available at www.volleyball2003.de

Other partner:

ECH-NEWS

ECH-NEWS

Main Sponsor: National Sponsors:



Zürich Group: You recognize a winner by the partner!

When the German Volleyball National Team lines up for the matches of the European Championship they can be sure about the support of a strong partner: The Zürich Group supports the team as the official insurance supplier and main sponsor.

The company with its headquarters in Switzerland is one of the biggest insurances in Germany and worldwide with innovative products and services. Noted brands like the DA Direkt –

market leader in insurances for cars – Deutscher Herold and Zürich Insurances belong to the group.

The activity as official sponsor of the German Volleyball Federation (DVV), begun by the Deutschen Herold in 1999, is continued by the Zürich Group. The company supports young talents and education with its sponsoring activities. "This combination symbolizes the idee, that a healthy mind is in a fit body", Evelyn Bednarz, responsible for sponsoring of the Zürich, explained. "Furthermore Volleyball is a technical and tactical demanding sport and the international upcoming German Men's National Team is a great figurehead for it." The support of volleyball by the Zürich begins with mass sports and goes to the federations. "We want to help to

make volleyball nationally and internationally more successful", Eduard Thometzek, chairman, said in the interview with "ECHNews" (see interview).

Jürgen Lamberty, executive director of the Volleyball ECH in Germany, is happy about the activities of the partner: "With the support of our sponsors we are able to hold the World League and the European Championship in Germany this year. Finally the players are able to compare themselves to the best teams of the world in front of the German spectators." The Zürich as official supplier of insurances and partner of the Olympic Teams hopes, that the German volleyball men will succeed in qualifying for Athens in 2004.



Götz Moser hands over "his" shirt to Eduard Thometzek, eyed up by the men of the German Volleyball Federation.

"Operation Olympia"

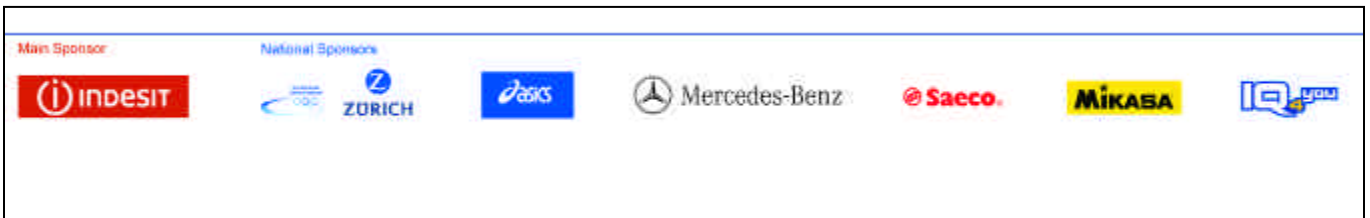
The 2004 Olympic Games in Athens are approaching; the first qualifications for the return to the country of birth of the games of the modern time are in full progress for some disciplines.

The German men will get in "touch" with the Olympics at the European Championship for the first time, too. The two best teams will take part in the World Cup, the first Olympic qualifica-

tion, in November. "At the ECH we will have a slight feeling of the Olympics, even if it doesn't matter to us at this tournament", national coach Stelian Moculecu said. "My players are keen to take part in the Olympic Games. None of the players of my team has succeeded in doing so. It's the greatest thing for a sportsman, and also for me as a coach", Moculescu said at the occasion of the press talking of the men of the German Volleyball Federation in the office of the Zürich Group, which supports the

selection of the German Volleyball Federation with their "Operation Olympia" in every way they can.

To achieve a lasting effect of the Zürich-Sponsoring, the "Zürich Team VC Olympia" was formed. This team is the junior's national team of the German Volleyball Federation, which takes part in the men's first league every two years, to get experience in competition and to stay in touch with the men.



Interview with Eduard Thometzek, chairman of the Zürich Group Germany.



ECH-News: Mister Thometzek, why does the Zürich support volleyball?

Thometzek: Volleyball in Germany is one of the most popular sports in school, and about 6 million Germans play volleyball in their free time. Especially among the ones, who are younger than 20, volleyball is extremely popular. On this basis volleyball might soon become more important; we want so support this development.

ECH-News: Does the image of Volleyball go along with your company?

Thometzek: Yes, because Volleyball is a demanding sport, which needs a good combination of technique, athletics and tactics. These are qualities, which we – of course in a figurative sense –

think of as our own values. With Volleyball we chose a fast, dynamic team sports and no single sport on purpose, because team spirit is important for the success of our company, too.

ECH-News: What do you think about the chances of the German national team?

Thometzek: A young, strong team will play at the ECH. I think a good result is possible. I wish the players the best of luck and success for the Olympic Qualification. I think it's the dream of every young sportsman to take part in the Olympics.

Interview with Sören Resch, Volleyball national player of the GDR team from 1983 to 1987 and employee of the Zürich in Frankfurt since 13 years.



Stefan Hübner at the SWR Tigerentenclub

The children who visited the SWR Tigerentenclub on August 7th were very happy: Captain Stefan Hübner was in the studio and answered the questions of the small fans.

Of course he gave same advice about the rules and technique and the Italy

ECH-News: Mister Resch, are you happy about the support of Volleyball of your employer?

Resch: Of course, as a former Volleyball player, I am happy that the Zürich supports "my sport". It isn't a sport, which is in the interest of the media – but I think that's not fair, because it's a demanding, exciting game. I am happy that we can accompany the German team on the way to the international top.

ECH-News: Will you watch the matches?

Resch: I will be in the competition hall for some matches to support our team. The advantage to play at home will create a great atmosphere in the competition halls and will support our team. I am really looking forward to some exciting matches.

ECH-News: What do you think about the chances of the German team?

Resch: The men's national team played some great matches at the World League and has proofed to be able to compete with the world's top. If the team is on the same form as at the matches against Italy, the team will be able to be among the top at the ECH.

professional gave many autographs.

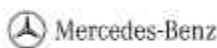
Hübner himself liked the "basis work" very much. The program will be broadcasted on the 31st of August at 8:30 on ARD.



Main Sponsor



National Sponsors



The following four teams aren't the top favourites of the ECH, because this title is already reserved for Russia, Serbia & Montenegro and Italy. IF you have to keep the teams in mind these will be Bulgaria, Poland, the Czech Republic and France. Below find the portraits of these four teams.

Bulgaria - pool I

Bulgaria in brief:

Olympic Games: 2nd place 1980
World Championship: 2nd place 1970, 3rd place 1949 + 1952 + 1986
European Championship: 2nd place 1951, 3rd place 1955 + 1981 + 1983
World League: 4th place 1994



A very important player for the Bulgarian is outside hitter Plamen Konstantinov!

day later they will play Serbia & Montenegro.

One should not underestimate the Bulgarian because on a good day they can beat any team of the world with their stars Plamen Konstantinov and Vladimir Nikolov.

Poland - pool I

The Polish team only missed the final

Poland in brief:

Olympic Games: 1st place 1976
World Championship: 1st place 1974
European Championship: 2nd place 1975 + 1977 + 1979 + 1981 + 1983, 3. Platz 1967
World League: 5th place 2002

round of the World League because Spain as host was automatically qualified. Therefore the second with the less points of the groups with 4 teams each had to give in - Poland. However our eastern neighbour should not be forgotten at the ECH, since two of their stars were forced to take a break at the World League by coach Waldemar Wspanialy: Pawel Papke (outside spiker) and Rafal Musielak (receiver) are regarded as the key players of the Polish attacking and will trouble the opponents of group I. That's what the Polish

Since the 2003 World League the teams of pool I have to keep Bulgaria in mind. The team from the Black Sea played - after substituting Argentina - extremely well and qualified with three victories against Olympic Champion and European Champion Serbia & Montenegro to the final of the best eight teams. They didn't make the big deal in the semi final, but still the team of the Serbian coach Milorad Kiaz caused some attention in Madrid. With the 3:1 lead in the last match of the preliminary round against title holder Russia, the Bulgarian really troubled one of the big ECH favourites. The two big opponents will get their revenge already at the ECH: Bulgaria will play Russia on the 5th of September; one



A strength of Poland is the block, here with 2.15 meters giant Marcin Nowak (right) and Robert Prygiel. **Photos FIVB**



players think themselves, too. They are self-confident and think a place in the final, which would open the door for the World Cup in Japan, the first Olympic Qualification, and therefore to Athens, might be possible. If they are defeated it won't be because of a lack of self-confidence.

France – pool II

France in brief:

Olympic Games: 8th place 1988
World Championship: 3rd place 2002
European Championship: 2nd place 1948 + 1987, 3rd place 1951 + 1985
World League: 5th place 1990 + 2001

When Stelian Mouclescu heard about



With fighting spirit the Czech and Martin Lebl have returned to the top.

the drawing of the France in the preliminary round, it was the moment when he was most shocked. "We don't like to play against France very much, the team plays technically very strong volleyball and does not make any mistakes."

That's exactly what helped the French to their biggest success at the 2002 WCH in Argentina. After being defeated very closely in the semi final by Russia with 2:3, they "crashed" Olympic Champion and European Champion Serbia & Montenegro in the match for the third place with 3:0. The WCH bronze medal was the reward for all the effort. It's not surprising that many are reminded of the glory days of the French in the middle of the 80ties, when the team around star setter Alain Fabiani won a medal at the European Championships two times.

In the ECH qualification, however, the French had to fight hard, but in the end they secured the ticket for the ECH as best second of the groups in the hardest group with Greece, Finland and Romania.

Czech Republic – pool II

After the Czech Republic finished fourth at the ECH at home two years ago, everybody held the opinion that the success was a one-time-wonder because of the advantage of playing at home. Only the Czech optimists believed that the team would be able to tie up to the big successes of the past.

At this time the CSSR advanced as best European team, next to the Soviet Union, and won two WCH and three ECH titles. With the crash to the 13th rank at the 2002 WCH in Argentina the critics seemed to be affirmed. However there were defeats against established teams like the Netherlands, Cuba, France and World Champion Brazil. The Federation re-



Dominique Daquin and colleagues have to keep their powder dry.

acted and changed the coach. Pavel Rerabek resumed the job of Italian star coach Julio Velasco and led the Czech to a sensationally fourth place at their World League premier.

The heavy middle blocker Martin Lebl, son of the vice president Antonin Lebl, played outstandingly and was awarded best attacker. And the critics were belied that the 2001 ECH was not a one-time-wonder.

Czech Republic in brief*:

Olympic Games: 2nd place 1964, 3rd place 1968
World Championship: 1st place 1956 + 1966, 2nd place 1949 + 1952 + 1960 + 1962
European Championship: 1st place 1948 + 1955 + 1958, 2nd place 1950 + 1967 + 1971 + 1985
World League: 4th place 2002

*including the results from CSSR



Main Sponsor: National Sponsors: