

International Handball Federation

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„Norway is my greatest motivation“ Russian coach Jewgeny Trefilow talks about the lack of interest in handball, the baby boom in his team and the chances of Russia in China

Jewgeni Trefilow is a workaholic. Since 1999 he coaches - very successfully - the Russian national team as well as the most successful clubs of his country. On club level he won seven Russian Championships with Lada Togliatti (5) and his current team Zvezda Zvenigorod (2). Furthermore his teams won all European cups such as the Cup winners Cup (Lada, 2002), the EHF Cup (Zvezda, 2007) and the Champions League (Zvezda, 2008). On national team level Trefilow (54) is even more successful: In 2001, 2005 and 2007 Russia won the World Championships, 2008 his team won the silver medal at the Olympics in Beijing and ranked third at the EURO in Macedonia (like in 2000). For a short period Trefilow was assistant coach of the Russian legend Vladimir Maximow for the men's national team and became World Champion in 1997. Trefilow is a tough coach, but his players like him very much, as he's always there for them.

Your team starts in China as the current title holder. Does this mean that Russia is the favourite for the gold medal?

Trefilow: No, we don't have so many chances in China, as we start from zero. Two years after the WCh title and one year after being finalist in Beijing, the team has changed completely, after a lot of experienced players are no longer in the national team. We have some young players to be integrated in the team, as all players older than 30 don't play anymore. As our team is so un-experienced, it will be very tough for us to play in China.

Moreover a baby boom has started. Sidorowa and Shipilowa have babies now, Bliznowa is pregnant...

Trefilow: Yes, that's right. In Russian handball we have two major problems: For men it's the army, for women it's babies. These factors affect the whole career. And it's very hard to get back to the same form as before the baby –we will have to wait and see, if those players return in general. Look at the German team: Nobody knows, if Grit Jurack will return after her pregnancy.

Does this mean that you're currently building a team for the Olympics 2012?

Trefilow: Nobody knows this again. It's a long time ahead until we play in London. A lot of things can happen in the meantime. Now we're just building a team for China 2009.

What are the objectives of your team for the WCh?

Trefilow: In Russia we say: You can't distribute the fur of a bear, before you haven't killed it. Concerning my team this means: We'll have to see, what players will go to China – and then: In what form are those players? We shouldn't speculate about objectives, as we have so many young players without international experience. It's hard to say, what goals we can reach, as we're still in a working process. And we have a lot of work before us in order to get a team from individual players.

(...)

Is the support of the federation still the same as in the past?

Trefilow: I don't want to comment this, I only say: When Sascha Kozhukov was still alive, everything was better. In his era the federation worked on a professional level.

(...)

What team is your personal favourite at the WCh in China?

Trefilow: There's no absolute favourite, as all teams lack constancy. Romania has an experienced team, but they're not playing solid. Germany is quite good, but no favourite. However, you have to be aware of Korea and China, even teams like Brazil or Angola can go very far in this tournament.

But you didn't mention Olympic winner Norway?

Trefilow: This is a very special story. They have a very good team – and Norway is my biggest personal motivation to continue as a coach.

You find the complete article under www.ihf.info. Printout for free.

Big Cities, giant Arenas

Background information about the Women's World Championship in China

For the first time ever a Senior's Handball World Championship will take place in China. All matches will be played in the province of Jiangsu near Shanghai, but there will be no games in Shanghai itself. 78 million people live in Jiangsu, which is known as the richest province of China.

Venues of the preliminary round are as follows: Group D with host China is playing in Changzhou, the group is completed by Spain, Korea, Ivory Coast, Argentina and Kazakhstan. Group A (Germany, France, Sweden, Denmark, Brazil and Congo) will play in Wuxi, group B will meet in Zhangjiagang, where Russia, Angola, Austria, Ukraine, Thailand and Australia play. Group C with the teams of Norway, Romania, Hungary, Japan, Tunisia and Chile starts in Suzhou.

The main round will be played in Suzhou and Yangzhou, the placement matches for the ranks 5 to 12 will take place in Suzhou, semifinals and finals are in the province capital Nanjing. The President's Cup where the places 13 to 24 will be decided, will take place in Wuxi und Zhangjiagang.

The names of those Chinese cities sound somehow unknown to most of the handball family, but these are not small towns: Zhangjiagang is the smallest one with 893.000 inhabitants, then the population rises quickly: Changzhou has 3,5 million inhabitants, Wuxi and Yangzhou have each around five million, Suzhou 6,29 million, and in Nanjing live 7,58 million people.

Also the playing halls are giant – the capacities are the following: Zhangjiagang Sports Centre Gym: 3750 seats Yangzhou Sports Centre Gym: 5500 seats Suzhou Sports Centre Gym: 6000 seats Changzhou Olympic Sports Centre Gym: 6000 seats Wuxi Sports Centre Gym: 7155 seats Nanjing Olympics Sports Centre Gym: 13.000 seats. The playing system is the same as at the 2009 Men's WCh in Croatia: The preliminary round will be played in four groups with six teams each. The three top ranked teams of each group qualify for the main round, which is played in two groups with each six teams. The three top teams from the preliminary round groups A and B play in Yangzhou, the three top teams of the groups C and D meet in Suzhou. After the main round, the two top teams of each group meet in the semi-finals in Nanjing where also the final will take place. The teams on the ranks three to six in the two main round groups play for the placements 5 to 12 in Suzhou.

More information on ticketing, venues and other facts about the WCh under <http://en.jiangsu2009.cn/>

Jiangsu 2009 WebTV live on <http://handball2009.videosport.com>

Handball fans all around the world can follow the 2009 Women's World Championship in Jiangsu (China) live on the internet as usual. The IHF, together with its partner SPORTFIVE, will once again stream all matches of the tournament live on <http://handball2009.videosport.com/>. The competition starts on Saturday, 5 December 2009. Fans that missed the action during the live broadcast can watch it on demand whenever they choose to. All videos will be delivered in a high streaming quality. IHF and SPORTFIVE established this service already in 2007 during the last Men's and Women's World Championships as well as at the Men's event earlier this year. A lot of handball fans were very pleased about the opportunity to watch the matches online. SPORTFIVE: „We are very happy that with this internet streaming service we are able to offer to the handball fans worldwide – another opportunity to take part in this unique handball event and to watch the matches live.“

IHF press conference in China

On the occasion of the Women's World Championship in China (5 – 20 December) the IHF will hold two press conferences. On the day of the opening in Changzhou the first press conference will take place an hour and a half before the first match (14:00 local time) with IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa, Chairman of the Competition Management Leon Kalin, Robert Müller von Vultejus (UFA Sports), Mr Mengwei, Vice President of the Chinese Handball Association, and Mr Zhouxu, Vice Executive of the sport office in Jiangsu.

On the final day will take place a closing press conference.

Handball in Qatar

In his duty to support handball all over the world, the IHF President paid a visit to Qatar to meet HRH Tamim Bin Hamad al Thani. As a passionate handball friend, the Crown Prince, who is also member of the IOC and President of the National Olympic Committee in Qatar, supports the handball sport and invests a lot in its development in Qatar. Main topic of the discussion between Dr Moustafa and HRH Tamim al Thani was the cooperation between the IHF and Qatar in view of different projects, such as the Super Globe, referees and coaches' courses and further tournaments. The International Handball Federation highly appreciates the activities of HRH Tamim Bin Hamad al Thani and wants to thank him at this point for his continuous support of handball.

World Handball Magazine will be published in January

The next edition of the World Handball Magazine will probably be published on 15 January of the coming year. Besides interesting stories and interviews the main issues will be the reports about the Women's World Championship in China and the preview on the Men's European Championship in Austria. Who is interested in the acquisition of the magazine can take out a subscription at the Head Office of the International Handball Federation. Contact: www.ihf.info.

WHM-Tech will be released in six languages

The next WHM-Tech which will be released in December 2009 and from now on be printed in six languages. Besides the traditional languages of the IHF (English, French, German) in future the WHM-Tech will also be published in Spanish, Russian and Arabic in order to provide for a worldwide distribution. New are not only the languages but also the fact that for each language a separate booklet will be printed. Up to now the magazine was printed in three languages in one edition. The magazine shall also be reevaluated with regards to its contents. Besides the analysis of IHF events, the future publication will also contain numerous supports for concepts for young players and for school handball. "With these main topics a big step forward has been made. This will be the decisive input for the formation and further training", says Dietrich Späte, member of the CCM. In the course of the Women's WCh in China it will be verified whether to publish the magazine also in Chinese.

IHF calendar of events

December

5. to 20.: XIX Women's World Championship in China
19.: IHF Council Meeting in China

January

15.-17.: EHF Qualification round for 2011 Men's WCh
18.-24.: Challenge Trophy on Mauritius
19.-31.: Men's European Championship / Qualification for 2011 Men's WCh in Sweden