



„Terrific group“ on course for gold

Team of veterans and youngsters compete in Leipzig

„It's showtime“ – with these words at the end of August DFB President Gordon Rapp heralded the last weeks of preparatory training before the start of the 2005 Fencing World Championships.

„We've assembled a terrific group of veterans and youngsters with our 25 fencers,“ an enthusiastic Gordon Rapp declared. Around one-third of the team will be participating in the World Championships for the first time. But expectations are nevertheless high considering the success they had last season – more than half the team placed among the best 16 in the world, automatically qualifying them for the round of 64. „Of course I want to succeed in Leipzig,“ Nicolas Limbach, one of the newcomers to the World Championships, said. „But I'm not going to let that pressure me. I've loosened up quite a bit over the last few years. I used to get really nervous. Still I've never



The German fencers will come to Leipzig with an impressive season under their belts and a strengthened confidence for the World Championships 2005.

fenced at such a big tournament in my own backyard. I can't wait to see what it feels like to be in the spotlight being cheered on by everyone. But even if I don't achieve my goal of placing among the top eight, I know this won't be my last World Championships. I'm not worried about that,“ the reigning junior world champion in sabre fencing went on to say. Sending all the Ger-

man fencers home with a medal, as happened at the last World Championships on home soil in 1993 in Essen, would be a noble goal. „All of our athletes are going to Leipzig with the insatiable hunger to reach beyond their limits,“ Gordon Rapp said. „This desire is the best proof that bringing the World Championships to Germany was the right decision.“



In front of and behind the camera

World Championships VIPs

All kinds of prominent personalities from sports and politics are expected at the World Championships. Some of them include National Home Secretary Otto Schily, Honorary President of the International Olympic Committee Antonio Samaranch and the Minister of Saxony, Prof. Dr. Georg Milbradt. Repeat Olympic foil champion, Anja Fichtel, will be on hand as well.



World Championships resonance

„The response to this World Championships is greater than ever before“, DFB-president Gordon Rapp said. About 300 journalists from around the world, including fencing powerhouses France and Italy are expected at the contests in Leipzig. The station Eurosport will be broadcasting live two hours a day. And the public television stations will provide daily roundup coverage of the competition.



Colourful, light and flexible

The strips from Schkeuditz celebrate their World Championships debut



The new pistes are here: Steffen Grollmisch and Eduardo Dos Santos at the inspection.

The strips from Schkeuditzer fencing equipment provider Artos have been waiting since 2001 for their big moment. They'll finally get it in October: The pistes celebrate their World Championships premiere.

The patented strips have already been tested at various world cups and at the 2004 Olympic Games. In August Eduardo Dos Santos, Director of the FIE Technical Commission, gave them the official World Championships seal of approval. And it's no wonder why: „At 24 kg, our variety of colourful strips are considerably lighter than the traditional pistes made

of metal (306 kg) or copper wire (70 kg) and are therefore lighter to transport and quicker to set up,“ Artos's Managing Director Steffen Grollmisch said.

Ticket Information

Tickets from Euro 9.00 are available via the hotline **0180/5 14 60 00**, the Arena's ticket portal at www.arena-ticket.com and from all known advance booking offices. www.fencing2005.com

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