



ÖVV-Headcoach on the U22 European Championship in Baden: „The main goal is a medal“

Beachvolleyball Baden in talks with ÖVV-Headcoach Stefan Hoemberg

On the occasion of the U22 European Championship, which is being held for the first time in Baden, the editorial team of Beachvolleyball Baden has been with Stefan Hoemberg, the Headcoach of the Youth & Junior National Team of the Austrian Volleyball Federation. Here is a summary:

The competition, both for ladies and for men, is very strong. We know our opponents very well though. The Norwegians, Russians, French, Ukrainians, Germans, Poles and Spaniards have a slight advantage compared to our male teams. Austria will compete with Moritz Pristauz and Paul Buchegger as the number one team in the tournament (AUT1). Moritz is a full-grown professional and has proven himself last year with his partner Martin Ermacora in both Baden and Klagenfurt. This is not surprising as Moritz is last year's U22 vice-European champion and won the silver medal at the U18 European Championship with Paul Buchegger four years ago. The latter will play the World League with the ÖVV national team in the hall four days before the European Championship in Baden. We'll see what is possible, I wouldn't put anything past them. The main goal in this year's tournament, however, is a medal. AUT2 consists of Felix Friedl and Lucas Skrabal, a team which exclusively plays on the beach, from the federal base of the ÖVV. AUT3 consists of Moritz Kindl and Marian Klaffender who won a very good 9th place at the U20-European Championship last year and have since developed a lot.

Among the women we're considering Latvia, Belarus, France, Russia and Germany as favorites. Here we are not quite as well positioned as with the male teams. The current plan is to play AUT1 with Julia Radl and Franziska Friedl. Julia had already finished her competitive sports career after great success in junior sports (World Cup and Olympic Fifth). For the U22 European Championship in her home country we have been able to bring her back to support Franziska Friedl, who has been practicing Beach Volleyball on a professional level for only one year but already made great progress. We're aiming for a top 10 position with this duo. AUT2 is almost equally strong and consists of Dorina and Ronja Klinger, which are siblings. Dorina played in the highest US college beach league for Florida International University in winter and spring. For them it will be the first international competition for the ÖVV. Her sister Ronja already won the 9th place at the U18 European Championship last year. Team AUT3 is composed of Sophie Weber and Marilena Preiml. These two are definitely good for a positive surprise and their main goal is to pass the group stage.

You can download the pictures from <http://flickr.com/photos/beachvolleyballbaden> in printable quality!

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