

Black Forest boarding school encourages high-level sport

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Young golf-player on the way to success

At the age of 14 he first set his foot on a golf course and it did not do anything for him. One year later, the swiss teenager Leo Bally really caught fire. "My stepfather suggested to try it again in a three-day golf camp. I signed up without any great expectations. Today I am extremely grateful to him for that."

It was three years ago that he visited this camp in France. "They have a great youth department and I had a lot of fun." There were both beginners and advanced players in the group and that is what still fascinates him about golf: "The handicap system makes it a sport for players of all levels who can exercise together."

But there was more to it. "A good shot, a good round, a good tournament - all of that just makes me happy," Leo says. "When you start playing golf, it either grabs you or you let it go." He was so gripped by it that he soon decided to give up the beloved tennis game. After all, he had started as a five-year-old and had achieved some successes within ten years.

As Leo lived in Switzerland he was driven to France to play golf at least twice a week, but that wasn't enough for the ambitious athlete.

He found the solution in the Black Forest. The boarding school of the Zinzendorf schools in Königsfeld cooperates with a renowned PGA golf school () and uses the 18-hole course of the local golf club, which is the official training venue at the Olympic base in Stuttgart. Leo Bally has been living in boarding school for a year and has since improved his handicap from 12 to 4.

There is a lot of discipline and hard training behind it. After class he uses the practice facility for hours and improves his tee-off, practices putting and sometimes he

also plays a round of 9 or 18 holes - alone or with other players. "I practice golf three hours a day, of which I have a coaching lesson twice a week. In addition I spend 1 to 1,5 hours in the weight room of the boarding school or I jog for half an hour through the forest. In total, I get 20 hours of training per week." Also there are often tournaments on weekends.

Due to his full schedule, the high school student has of course less time to spend with his classmates in the evening. "For special occasions I can arrange an evening off, but I have to know a week in advance. I make sure to maintain my social contacts, but unfortunately spontaneous activities are impossible. "

Back home in Switzerland Leo plays on the French golf course at weekends and also on holiday, but sometimes he stays in boarding school when he starts a tournament in Königsfeld, for example for the youth team. He can also drop out of school during the week. "It's great how well it works," he says. But that is certainly also due to the fact that he always "got through very well" at school.

He participated in 30 tournaments last year, including many international ones. He played his first international tournament in Austria last September and also took part in the Swiss championships. The next ones are in Berlin ,Ulm (Germany) and Spain. "Let's see if that takes place," says Leo Bally. "A tournament in Ireland that I had scheduled was canceled because of Corona."

His greatest success to date has been taking part in the national "Youth trains for Olympia" competition. "In the individual ranking, I became 11th out of 50 participants nationwide." But that should not be the end of the story, because the young Swiss has big plans. After graduating from high school next year, he wants to go to the United States for four years. He had offers from various colleges and decided on a sports scholarship from a college near New York. "I've already signed a preliminary contract," he says.

His big dream? To play as a golf professional in the European Tour. "But I started pretty late," he says. "That is why I pursue my school goals as well as my sporting goals ." He has a wide range of interests between natural sciences, psychology and business. "At the moment I could well imagine studying human biology."

More information about Zinzendorf schools

The Zinzendorf schools in Königsfeld, one of the largest private schools with boarding schools in the German federal state of Baden-Württemberg, are just as unusual in their character as in their educational offer. The network of general and vocational qualifications is wide ranging from technical college / middle school to general university entrance. They are rounded off by practical vocational training in socio-educational fields. Schoolchildren - whether external or in boarding schools - enjoy the atmosphere of security in a school with its more than 200-year history and special pedagogical principles.

photo: Zinzendorf schools

Leo Bally went from Switzerland to the German Zinzendorf boarding school for his sporting career. The conditions are ideal here in the Black Forest - in addition to school, the 18-year-old trains a good 20 hours a week.

Photos: Zinzendorf schools