

Interview with Karl Odermatt

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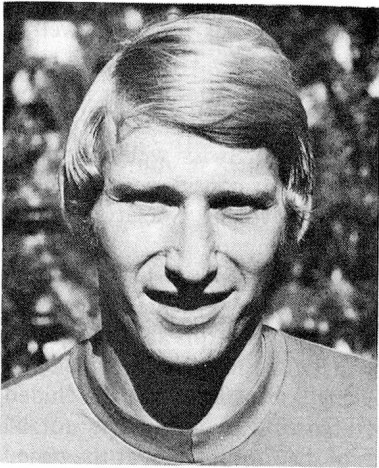
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INTERVIEW WITH KARL ODERMATT

Captain of the Swiss Football team



Karl Odermatt

KARL ODERMATT

Born: 17th December, 1942

Height: 1·82 metres

Weight: 74·5kg (1·5 to 2kg lighter after a game)

Occupation: Qualified offset printer

Clubs: Concordia Basle, FC Basle

State: Married

41 A-international games. First international match 1963 in Basle against England (1:8). First National League game in 1962, Basle against Lugano. With the Basle team champion in 1966/67, 1968/69, 1969/70. With the Basle team cup final champion in 1962/63 and 1966/67.

At what age did you join a football club?

I joined the FC Concordia Basle at the age of 11.

Please tell me your ideal?

Pelé, apart from Trainer Benthaus.

Do football players not think rather too much of their pay?

No one entering the playing field thinks of money at that moment. We then are like children, and all we want is to play football.

What trophy do you receive in case of victory?

The finest prize for me would be the cup. What else we receive is revealed after the game only, and then it does not matter whether we win or lose.

Which Basle game do you remember best?

The 4:2 victory against Zurich after we were behind 0:2.

Which international game do you remember best?

England v. Switzerland at Wembley. Also because I was lucky to make the equalizer.

Which player would you wish to include in your team 1) Swiss, b) foreigner?

- a) We are strong enough, but if I could mention a personal wish: Jakob Kuhn.
b) Cruijff or Beckenbauer.

Who are the ten players of world class, with whom you would like to play?

Banks, Beckenbauer, Vogts, Burgnich, Cooper, Pelé, Mazzola, Jairzinho, Mueller,, Dzaijc.

Which opponent do you fear most?

When one is in bad form one fears everybody; when one is in good form, none.

What is your reaction when the public show disapproval of you by hissing?

I try to appease them with a good performance.

Does your family have to suffer because of your activities as a football player?

Unfortunately I have to say yes. And if you won't believe it, ask my wife.

What is it like in a football team, does one not get fed up with one another when one is together for so long?

One does not get fed up with one's wife either, although one lives with her all the time.

Which are the most important offers you have received from abroad so far?

Turin, Anderlecht, Monaco, Strasbourg, Stuttgart.

How do you picture your future once you are too old as a football player?

I have always lived in such a way that it won't be too difficult for me to take leave from playing football.

Will you retire after the world championship in 1974?

Until then much water will flow down the Rhine. But if we become world champions, the time to retire would then be right.

How can one get an autograph from you?

Holbeinstrasse 65, 4000 Basle. But please add a stamped/addressed envelope.

I have often read that you are a great one for jokes. Please tell me your favourite story.

A: Do you know why the Letzigrund in Zurich has to be "roofed over"? B: No. A: Because games of chance are prohibited *unter freiem Himmel* – under open skies.

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During the Switzerland-Austria match of 22nd September 1968. The Swiss won 1-0.