

= Edina Müller =

Edina Müller (born 28 June 1983) is a German 2 @. @ 5 point wheelchair basketball player and KL1 canoeist . She played for ASV Bonn in the German wheelchair basketball league , and for the national team . As part of the German women 's national wheelchair basketball team , she won bronze at the 2006 World Cup in Amsterdam , won three time European champions (in 2007 , 2009 , 2011) , a silver medal at the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing , and a gold medal at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London . The team was voted 2008 Team of the Year in disabled sports , and Horst Köhler presented it with Germany 's highest sports award , the Silbernes Lorbeerblatt (Silver Laurel Leaf) . President Joachim Gauck awarded the team a second Silver Leaf after it won the gold medal at the 2012 Summer Paralympics . Müller was also a two @- @ time U.S. champion (2006 @- @ 2008) with her college team Illinois Fighting Illini at the University of Illinois at Urbana @- @ Champaign , and helped ASV Bonn win the European Cup (Willi Brinkmann Cup) in Valladolid , Spain in 2009 . From 2011 to 2014 she played for Hamburger SV .

Müller retired from wheelchair basketball after the 2014 Women 's World Wheelchair Basketball Championship in Toronto , at which she won silver , and took up canoeing . On 24 May 2105 she won silver in the women 's KL1 200 m race at the 2015 ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup in Duisburg . On 19 May 2016 , she won gold in the event at the 2015 ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup in Duisburg .

= = Biography = =

Edina Müller was born on 28 June 1983 , and raised in the Rhineland town of Brühl . In 2000 , at the age of 16 , she was playing volleyball , and felt pain in her back . A doctor straightened her back , but within two hours she lost feeling in her legs . She was rushed to hospital where a blood clot was discovered . Diagnosed with paraplegia , she spent the next four months in hospital . She had to repeat Year 10 at Max Ernst Gymnasium , but graduated in 2003 . Although confined to a wheelchair , she longed to return to playing sport , and initially tried sitting volleyball . She then took up wheelchair tennis , winning the Hungarian Open in 2005 , but ultimately switched to wheelchair basketball , playing for ASV Bonn . In 2005 she was invited to attend a German national team training camp by its coach , Holger Glinicki . The following year she made the national team and won bronze at the World Championships in Amsterdam .

Müller 's mentor and professor at the University of Cologne , Professor Dr Horst Strohkendl , advised her to pursue her sporting career in the United States . She attended a one @- @ week basketball camp in Illinois in 2006 , where she was noticed by Michael Frogley , the coach of the Canadian men 's national wheelchair basketball team and the Illinois Fighting Illini college team at the University of Illinois at Urbana @- @ Champaign . In both years they won the National Championship with the team . During the semester break , she travelled with the German women 's national team for tournaments and preparation camps . In 2007 , the German women became European champions before a home crowd at Wetzlar .

Müller graduated from the University of Illinois in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology , and moved back to Germany , where she helped ASV Bonn win the European Cup (Willi Brinkmann Cup) in Valladolid , Spain in 2009 . In 2011 she started playing for Hamburger SV . Her American degree was accepted in Germany , and she qualified as a rehabilitation therapist at BG Trauma Hospital in Hamburg @- @ Boberg . She worked with paraplegic patients , helping them become wheelchair mobile , by strengthening the chest and upper arm muscles . " It makes a difference , " she says " that the therapist also cannot walk . "

In September 2008 , Müller participated in the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing , but Germany was beaten in the gold medal game by the team the United States , which contained a number of former teammates and opponents from the University of Illinois . The German team took home Paralympic silver medals instead . After the Paralympics , the team 's performance was considered impressive enough for it to be named the national " Team of the Year " , and it received the Silver Laurel Leaf , Germany 's highest sporting honour , from German President Horst Koehler . Brühl honoured her with an entry in its Golden Book .

Müller helped the national team defend their European Championship title with the national team in Stoke Mandeville , England in 2009 . They hoped for a rematch against the United States at the 2012 Summer Paralympic Games in London , but instead faced the team that had beaten the Americans , the Australia women 's national wheelchair basketball team , which included former Illinois teammates Shelley Chaplin and Bridie Kean . They defeated the Australians in front of a crowd of over 12 @, @ 000 to win the gold medal , They were awarded another Silver Laurel Leaf by President Joachim Gauck in November 2012 , and were again named Team of the Year for 2012 .

Müller retired from wheelchair basketball after the 2014 Women 's World Wheelchair Basketball Championship in Toronto , at which she won silver . She then took up canoeing , training at the Hamburg Canoe Club . " From basketball " , she said " I learned to always have the sight set for a big goal . If something doesn ' t turn out how it should , it ' s not the end of the world . But it always helps to have a goal set in front of you . " According to her coach , Jens Kröger , " It ' s easy to motivate her . She ' s fighting to reach a training target . She never gives up . " Her hard work paid off . Not only did she earn national team selection , but on 24 May 2105 she won silver in the women 's KL1 200 m race at the 2015 ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup in Duisburg in a personal best time of 59 @. @ 981 seconds , her first time below the one @- @ minute mark . On 19 May 2016 at the 2016 ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup in Duisburg , she went one better , winning gold despite capsizing her canoe that morning during warm up .

= = Achievements = =

2006 : Bronze World Championship (Amsterdam , Netherlands)
2007 : Gold National Championship (Warm Springs , United States)
2007 : Gold European Championship (Wetzlar , Germany)
2008 : Gold National Championship (Champaign , United States)
2008 : Silver Paralympics (Beijing , China)
2009 : Gold European Championship (Stoke Mandeville , Great Britain)
2010 : Silver World Championships (Birmingham , Great Britain)
2011 : Gold European Championships (Nazareth , Israel)
2012 : Gold Paralympic Games (London , England)
2013 : Silver European Championships (Frankfurt , Germany)
2014 : Silver at the World Championships (Toronto , Canada)
2015 : Silver at the ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup (Duisburg , Germany)
2016 : Gold at the ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup (Duisburg , Germany)

= = Awards = =

2008 : Team of the Year
2008 : Silver Laurel Leaf
2009 : Entry in the Golden Book of the city of Brühl
2012 : Team of the Year
2012 : Silver Laurel Leaf
2013 : Hamburg Sportswoman of the Year