

= Johanna Welin =

Johanna Welin ( born 24 June 1984 ) is a Swedish @-@ born German 2 @.@ 0 point wheelchair basketball player . She played for USC Munich in the German wheelchair basketball league , and for the national team that won the gold medal at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London , after which President Joachim Gauck awarded the team with the Silbernes Lorbeerblatt ( Silver Laurel Leaf ) .

= = Biography = =

Johanna Welin was born on 24 June 1984 in Pajala , Sweden , a small town near the border between Sweden and Finland about 100 kilometres ( 62 mi ) north of the Arctic Circle . She has played football for Töreboda IK in the Swedish league . In the winter , her passion was snowboarding , until a bad fall in a snowboarding competition at Gothenburg in January 2004 left her paralysed from the waist down . She then took up wheelchair basketball , playing for GRBK Gothenburg in the Swedish league , but Sweden had no national women 's team . She spent two semesters studying German in Innsbruck , but there was no wheelchair basketball team there , and she began playing for USC Munich , initially for their second team . There , she caught the attention of Holger Glinicki , the coach of the German national team , who asked her if she would like to play for the German national team . She took German citizenship , a relatively painless procedure for an athlete , and made the German national team , which went on to win gold at the 2011 European Championships in Nazareth , Israel , defeating the Netherlands in the final , 48 @-@ 42 .

In June 2012 she was named as part of the team that competed at the 2012 Summer Paralympic Games in London , where they faced the Australia women 's national wheelchair basketball team , a team that had defeated them 48 @-@ 46 in Sydney just a few months before . They defeated the Australians 44 @-@ 58 in front of a capacity crowd of over 12 @,@ 000 at the North Greenwich Arena to win the gold medal , the first that Germany had won in women 's wheelchair basketball at the Paralympics since 1984 . They were awarded another Silver Laurel Leaf by President Joachim Gauck in November 2012 and were again named Team of the Year for 2012 . In February 2013 , Welin 's name was entered in the Golden Book of Munich .

She has modelled for the advertising campaigns of team sponsors ING DiBa and LoFric , and is currently studying medicine in Munich .

= = Achievements = =

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 : Gold at the European Championships ( Worcester , England )

= = Awards = =

2012 : Team of the Year

2012 : Silver Laurel Leaf

2013 : Entry in the Golden Book of Munich