

= Britt Dillmann =

Britt Dillmann (born 4 April 1963) is a 1 @. @ 0 @-@ point wheelchair basketball forward , who plays for RSV Lahn @-@ Dill in the German wheelchair basketball league . She has also played for the national team , winning a silver medal at the 1988 Summer Paralympics in Seoul . She retired soon afterwards , but staged a comeback in 2011 , rejoining the national team , which went on to win the European championships , and then a gold medal at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London . President Joachim Gauck awarded the team Germany 's highest sporting honour , the Silbernes Lorbeerblatt (Silver Laurel Leaf) .

= = Biography = =

Britt Tuna was born on 4 April 1963 . She played wheelchair basketball for RSV Lahn @-@ Dill , and the German national team which won the European Wheelchair Basketball Championship in 1987 . At the 1988 Summer Paralympics in Seoul , Tuna was considered to be the strongest wheelchair basketball player in her 1 @. @ 0 @-@ point class . The German team went through the tournament undefeated until the final match , which they lost to the United States , 38 ? 31 . Tuna was bitter about the defeat , which she blamed on a tactical error by the German coach . She later conceded , " So habe ihr diese Niederlage noch über Jahre nachgehungen " (" I indulged in this defeat for many years ") .

In the early 1990s , Tuna quit basketball to focus on her work . She married , changing her surname to Dillmann , and raised three children (Jana Dillmann , Charlotte Dillmann , Valentin Joshua Dillmann) . But in the summer of 2009 , Dillmann felt that she had become overweight and unfit . A low @-@ carbohydrate diet and daily exercise at the gym , in the pool , and on the handcycle , saw her weight drop by 30 kilograms (66 lb) in a year .

Dillmann then decided to try wheelchair basketball again . She retrieved her old basketball chair , now somewhat mouldy and smelly , from the basement , and sought a game with her old team , RSV Lahn @-@ Dill . Her debut game with the seconds saw the basketball officials reaching for their rulebooks to see if the old chair , of a type they had never seen , was still legal .

Although RSV Lahn @-@ Dill , eager to develop young players , would only let her play in the seconds , Dillmann caught the attention of national coach Holger Glinicki , who was looking for a top @-@ notch 1 @. @ 0 @-@ point player . In 2010 , she rejoined the national team that she had played on before many of her new teammates were born . The team went on to win the European Championships in 2011 . Dillmann 's treatment contrasted with that of national team mate Gesche Schünemann . While Schünemann received endorsements and could train in the hall of RSV Lahn @-@ Dill 's Rivers Barracks , Dillmann got none , and trained outdoors .

In June 2012 she was named as one of the team that competed at the 2012 Summer Paralympic Games in London . At the age of 49 , she was the oldest wheelchair basketball player there . In the Gold Medal match , the team faced the Australia women 's national wheelchair basketball team , a team that had beaten them 48 ? 46 in Sydney just a few months before . They defeated the Australians 44 ? 58 in front of a 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 in 28 years . They were awarded a Silver Laurel Leaf by president Joachim Gauck in November 2012 , and were again named Team of the Year for 2012 . For Dillmann , the gold medal victory removed the pain of the loss 24 years before . " Das hat mich versöhnt mit Seoul " (" This has reconciled me with Seoul ") she said .

= = Achievements = =

1987 : Gold at the European Championships (Lorient , France)
1988 : Silver at Paralympic Games (Seoul , South Korea)
2011 : Gold at the European Championships (Nazareth , Israel)
2012 : Gold at the Paralympic Games (London , England)

= = Awards = =

2012 : Team of the Year

2012 : Silver Laurel Leaf