

= Marina Mohnen =

Marina Mohnen (born 31 October 1978) is a 4 @. @ 5 point wheelchair basketball player , who plays for RSC Köln in Germany , and previously played for S. Stefano Sport in Italy . She also played with the German national team that won the European title in 2005 , 2007 , 2009 and 2011 and was runner @- @ up in 2013 . It was also runner @- @ up at the IWBF World Championship in Birmingham in 2010 . She won 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 President 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 .

= = Biography = =

Marina Mohnen was born in Bitburg on 31 October 1978 . Mohnen majored in economics and works for the Bundesakademie für öffentliche Verwaltung (Federal Academy of Public Administration) , a sports funding body , in Brühl . " Wenn das Nationalteam ruft , " she says , " werde ich freigestellt . " (" When the national team calls , I am available . ")

Mohnen began playing basketball when she was eleven , but in 1999 she suffered a severe anterior cruciate ligament injury . She took up wheelchair basketball as a 4 @. @ 5 point player , initially playing for her home town team in Bitburg , but she subsequently moved to Koblenz , then to Bonn , and then to Cologne , where she now lives again after a stint in Italy . As part of RSC Köln from 2004 to 2009 , she played an important role in the rise of the team . She then moved to the Italian club S. Stefano Sport in Santo Stefano , playing in Italy from 2009 to 2011 , after which she returned to RBC Köln .

Mohnen joined the German national team in 2005 . They went on to win European Championships in 2005 , 2007 , 2009 and 2011 . They were bronze medallists at the World Championships in Amsterdam in 2006 , and silver medallists at the World Championships in Birmingham in 2010 .

In September 2008 , Mohnen participated in the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing , her first , but the German team was beaten in the gold medal game by the United States , and took home Paralympic silver medals . 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 . Mohnen beat Olympic gold medallists Britta Heidemann , Marion Rodewald and Oksana Chusovitina , and long @- @ distance runner Sabrina Mockenhaupt , to take the title of Cologne 's Sportswoman of the Year for 2008 .

Mohnen was part of the team that won the European Championship for the sixth time in a row in Nazareth in 2011 , thereby qualifying for the 2012 Summer Paralympic Games in London . As part of the team 's preparation , they toured the United States and Australia . Mohnen was captain of the team in London . In the gold medal match in London , the team faced the Australia women 's national wheelchair basketball team , who had defeated them 48 ? 46 in Sydney just a few months earlier , in front of a capacity crowd of over 12 @, @ 000 at the North Greenwich Arena , that included Mohnen 's mother Kati and sister Sonja . The German team had been undefeated up to that point , but had started slowly in its games against the United States and China , winning both games by six @- @ point margins , and seemed to play their best basketball only in the final minutes of a game . They defeated the Australians 44 ? 58 to win the gold medal , the first that Germany had won in women 's wheelchair basketball since 1984 , a 28 @- @ year period . Mohnen contributed eleven points .

They were awarded the Silver Laurel Leaf by President Joachim Gauck in November 2012 , and were named Team of the Year for 2012 . Bitburg honoured Mohnen by entering her name into the Golden Book of the City .

In July 2013 the team lost the European Championship to the Netherlands before a home crowd of 2 @, @ 300 in Frankfurt by a point , 56 @- @ 57 .

= = Achievements = =

2005 : Gold at European Championships (Villeneuve d 'Ascq , France)
2006 : Bronze at World Championships (Amsterdam , Netherlands)
2007 : Gold at European Championships (Wetzlar , Germany)
2008 : Silver at Paralympics (Beijing , China)
2009 : Gold at European Championships (Stoke Mandeville , England)
2010 : Silver at World Championships (Birmingham , Great Britain)
2011 : Gold at European Championships (Nazareth , Israel)
2012 : Gold at Paralympic Games (London , England)
2013 : Silver at European Championships (Frankfurt , Germany)
2014 : Silver at the World Championships (Toronto , Canada)
2015 : Gold at the European Championships (Worcester , England)

= = Awards = =

2008 : Team of the Year
2008 : Silver Laurel Leaf
2008 : Cologne 's Sportswoman of the Year
2012 : Team of the Year
2012 : Silver Laurel Leaf
2012 : Golden Book of the City of Bitburg .
2015 : Gold at the European Championships (Worcester , England)