Gesche Schünemann

Gesche Schünemann (born 18 November 1982) is a German wheelchair basketball player and Paralympian who was part of the team that took the silver medal in the women 's wheelchair basketball at the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing , and the gold medal winning team in wheelchair basketball at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London .

After a promising basketball career was cut short by an Anterior cruciate ligament injury when she was a teenager , Schünemann took up wheelchair basketball , playing her first game in 2000 . She went on to win five national championships with RSV Lahn @-@ Dill . She began training with the national team in November 2005 , and made her international debut at the European championships in 2007 .

Biography

Gesche Schünemann was born in Gießen on 18 November 1982 . She was a swimmer and basketball player . Playing in a seconds game against TSV Grünberg , she was knocked down by Magdalena von Geyr , resulting in a torn anterior cruciate ligament and cartilage damage . Several operations failed to restore her knee to a state where she could play professional basketball , although she is still able to walk .

This ended Schünemann 's basketball career for a time . She moved to Tübingen , where she studied sports management with a focus on sports marketing at the University of Tübingen . In 2012 , she worked full @-@ time as a marketing consultant for an energy company . Schünemann did some coaching and played for the regional league , but her knee still bothered her and national league offers were cancelled .

Andreas Joneck , who later became the manager of RSV Lahn @-@ Dill persuaded Schünemann to try wheelchair basketball . She began playing for the seconds on her 18th birthday . RSV Lahn @-@ Dill went on to win the national championship in 2008 , 2010 , 2011 , 2012 and 2013 , with Schünemann playing forward . In 2013 , Schünemann moved to Hamburg , where her boyfriend Christian lives , and now plays forward @-@ center for BG Baskets Hamburg , a mixed gender team . In April 2014 , she was part of the BG Baskets Hamburg team that won the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation Euro League Challenge Cup , its first International title .

In November 2005 , Schünemann began training with the national team . She made her international debut at the European championships in 2007 . The German national team won gold at the European championships , and went on to win it again in 2009 and 2011 before losing to the Netherlands in 2013 . In September 2008 , she participated in the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing , but Germany was beaten in the gold medal game by the United States team , taking 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 Köhler .

The German team hoped for a rematch against the United States at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London , but instead faced the team that had beaten the Americans , the Australia women 's national wheelchair basketball team . They defeated the Australians in front of a crowd of over 12 @,@ 000 to win the gold medal , Gesche Schünemann the first time that Germany had won in women 's wheelchair basketball at the Paralympics since 1984 . They were awarded a second Silver Laurel Leaf by President Joachim Gauck in November 2012 , and were again named Team of the Year for 2012 .

After the Paralympics , Schünemann was required to rest for three months after surgery to repair the damaged tendons of the little right finger , but returned for the European Championships in 2013 , which Germany lost to the Netherlands . In 2014 , she won silver at the 2014 Women 's World Wheelchair Basketball Championship in Toronto , where the German team was defeated by Canada in the final .

Achievements

2007 : Gold European Championships (Wetzlar , Germany)
2008 : Silver Paralympic Games (Beijing , China)
2009 : Gold European Championships (Stoke Mandeville , England)
2010 : Silver World Championships (Birmingham , England)
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)

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2008 : Team of the Year
2008 : Silver Laurel Leaf
2012 : Team of the Year
2012 : Silver Laurel Leaf