

= Mareike Adermann =

Mareike Adermann ( born 3 August 1990 ) is a 4 @. @ 5 point wheelchair basketball player , who plays for the University of Wisconsin @-@ Whitewater in the United States . She has also played for the German national team , with which she won two European titles , was runner @-@ up at 2010 World Championships , and won 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 = =

Mareike Adermann was born on 3 August 1990 , the daughter of Karl @-@ Heinz and Kristin . She has a brother , Nils . She is nicknamed " MA " .

Adermann began playing basketball at the age of seven , and made her debut at the women 's regional championships in Germany when she was 14 . In that first game , she suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament . Over the next four years , she underwent knee surgery four times , three in the right knee , and once in the left , leaving her knees scarred . On each occasion she took eight months to recover , and ruptured an anterior cruciate ligament within weeks of returning to playing .

At the age of 18 , Adermann was forced to give up her dream of playing basketball . However , a physical education teacher suggested that she try wheelchair basketball , a sport she had never heard of . Although she is a wheelchair basketball player , Adermann does not require a wheelchair for everyday activities , and is classified as a 4 @. @ 5 point player , the lowest level of disability . Being able to move her body fully gives the 180 centimetres ( 71 in ) tall center a height advantage , but she found that shooting from the free throw line in a chair requires as much force as shooting standing from the three @-@ point line .

When Adermann took up wheelchair basketball in 2008 , she was not thinking of making the national team , but with hard work and daily practice , she made it in just one year . She was captain of the German Under 25 ( U25 ) National team , competing at their first ever World Championships . In 2009 , she began attending University of Wisconsin @-@ Whitewater in the United States , where she studied business administration ? particularly sports administration and coaching ? with the idea of one day becoming a coach . She found the workload much higher than in Germany . Whereas most German clubs trained only two of three times a week , training in the United States was every day , with weight and training rooms available 24 hours a day , seven days a week . While in Germany , she trained with the second division team Essen Rolling Bears , also travelled twice a week to Cologne to train with the 99ers .

She also played for ASV Bonn in the German regional league . In March 2012 , her UWW Warhawks team , coached by Daniel T. Price , defeated the University of Alabama 63 @-@ 34 to win the US Intercollegiate National Championships in a game in which Aderman scored 17 points and had 13 rebounds . Later that year , Team USA , which coached the Warhawks ' Price and including Warhawks Sarah Binsfeld , Desiree Miller and Becca Murray , headed for Charlotte , North Carolina for a last training camp before the 2012 Summer Paralympics in London . Meanwhile , Adermann played with the Germany team in Australia in July , and then to the Netherlands .

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 before , in front of a capacity crowd of over 12 @, @ 000 at the North Greenwich Arena . The German team had been undefeated up to that point , but had started off slow in its games against the United States and China , winning these games by six @-@ point margins , and seemed to play its best basketball only in the final minutes of a game . Adermann scored 19 points , more than any other player in the match , and was a key factor in Germany winning 58 @-@ 44 . " Most of my shots weren ? t even any crazy shots or any outside shots , ? Adermann said . " They were the same shots I took in the others games , but I played more in this game , and I had many more easy opportunities getting into the paint . " " I ? m always one of the shooters , but I think Australia underestimated me and didn ? t defend me as well as some of the other girls . They left me open a lot and I got some big shots , so

it went well for me . It just worked out that I scored the most points in the final , but it wasn't deliberate . "

It was the first gold medal that Germany had won in women 's wheelchair basketball at the Paralympics since 1984 . They were awarded the Silver Laurel Leaf by President Joachim Gauck in November 2012 , and were named Team of the Year for 2012 . " Many times , I was told that after winning a gold medal , I have achieved the most I can , so I could quit now , " Adermann later wrote , " But I disagree . "

= = Achievements = =

2009 : Gold at the European Championships

2009 : Silver at German Women 's National Championships

2010 : Silver at the Women 's World Championships

2010 : Bronze at the U22 mixed European Championships

2010 : Gold at German Women 's National Championships

2011 : Silver at German Women 's National Championships

2011 : Gold at the European Championships ( Nazareth , Israel )

2012 : Silver at German Women 's National Championships

2012 : Gold at the Paralympic Games ( London , England )

2013 : Silver European Championships ( Frankfurt , Germany )

2014 : Silver at the World Championships ( Toronto , Canada )

= = Awards = =

2012 : Team of the Year

2012 : Silver Laurel Leaf