

A Photography Exhibition of the German Football Museum
and the Ruhr Museum

At Zollverein in Essen 5/8/2023-2/4/2024

Football in the Ruhr Area



Myth and Modernity

Young spectator on the pitch of the ESV Frillendorf 08/85 in front of the Friedrich Ernestine coal mine, Essen, around 1951.

Photographer: Ernst Lerche/Photo archive Ruhr Museum



Bochum supporters on the way to the main station after VfL Bochum promoted to the Bundesliga, 23.5.2021.

Photographer: Sarah Rauch/IMAGO



The Exhibition

“The land of 1,000 derbies” and “The heart of German football”: No other region in Germany is as associated with football as the “Revier” (Ruhr area). Here, football is a way of life, a deeply-rooted social and cultural phenomenon, and for some, even religion. One year before the kick-off of the EURO 2024 in Germany, the German Football Museum and the Ruhr Museum are jointly presenting the first special photographic exhibition on the entire Ruhr region’s football on the spectacular bunker level of the Coal Washing Plant at the Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site.

More than 450 rarely or never shown football photographs come from the Ruhr Museum’s large photo archive as well as from well-known photographers such as Andreas Gursky and Roland Wirtz, renowned photo agencies and from the archives of cities and clubs. In the two departments “Myth” and “Modernity”, visitors not only experience “Yesterday” and “Today”, but also feel the importance of Ruhr football in all its facets. The two eras are presented in eleven themes: A Way of Life, On the Pitch, Revierderbies, Triumphs and Tragedies, Legends and Idols, Places of Action, Visits to the Stadium, On Cinders, On the Side Lines, Solidarity, and Commercialisation.

Football match of the TSV August-Thyssen-Hütte Hamborn in front of the August Thyssen-Hütte, Duisburg, 1937/38.

Photographer: Willy van Heekern/Photo archive Ruhr Museum



Myth

“Football is being worked here.” Football in the Ruhr area is the story of a working-class sport. The originally bourgeois-elitist sport became a mass event and a mass experience in the Ruhr area after World War I. The coal mines provided places for miners to play football on their premises and supported the local clubs. The legendary rise of FC Schalke 04 to become the preeminent German football team in the 1930s and 1940s subsequently triggered football enthusiasm from Dortmund to Duisburg that had previously been unprecedented. Many players were still miners at that time.

So-called “Malocher” clubs (Malocher is a dialect word for hard worker) continued to shape Ruhr area football after World War II. More than a dozen colliery and workingmen’s clubs played in the highest football league in the region, the Oberliga West. Championships and cup successes were celebrated in the Ruhr area, with Rot-Weiss Essen and Borussia Dortmund, Schwarz-Weiß Essen and also once again FC Schalke 04 recording victory after victory. The mining crisis was followed by a sporting decline from the 1970s onwards. Gloom reigned even at the two flagship clubs Dortmund and Schalke. However, the myth of Ruhr football with its triumphs and idols endures to this day.

Alexandra Popp (born on 06.04.1991, 1. FCR 2001 Duisburg) in the jersey of the national football team, Bielefeld, 24.11.2017.

Photographer: Jürgen Fromme/firo sportphoto



Modernity

Live and in colour: With the live broadcasting of matches in the European professional leagues, professional football experienced what was probably its most profound change since the 1990s. The new era in the Ruhr area is characterised above all by commercialisation, which is represented by the three Bundesliga clubs FC Schalke 04, Borussia Dortmund and VfL Bochum. Top-level football is experiencing exponential growth, with more and more money flowing into the sport, especially from lucrative television contracts. With other professional clubs such as MSV Duisburg, Rot-Weiss Essen, Rot-Weiß Oberhausen and SGS Essen as the most prominent representative of the increasingly popular women's football, the Ruhr area is still the most densely populated football region in Germany.

Amateur football can hardly follow this development, including the expansion of the sports infrastructure. But the small, often legendary clubs also continue to shape football between the Emscher and Ruhr rivers to this day. At grassroots level, football is the number one popular sport. Fans can experience football right on the doorstep, up close on football pitches, in small stadiums and large arenas, or follow the matches of professional clubs in the media.

A group of sports photographers at work, 16.10.1993.

Photographer: Jürgen Fromme/firo sportphoto



Football and Photography

The first comprehensive photographic show on Ruhr football is also a juxtaposition: if you compare the black-and-white photographs of the early years with the glossy shots taken by photo agencies today, you can see how rapidly professional football and its presentation in the global media landscape have developed.

In the industrial age, photography became the leading medium. Parallel to the emergence of football, the movements of players and their moves were captured in visual and film media. Due to their popularisation and thanks to the technical innovations, the matches are documented in ever more detail. The focus of the cameras also focuses on the surroundings: the football coverage is always close to the team, before kick-off, during the match or later in the dressing room. Even grandstands, cheering in the stands, trouble in the coaching zone or club squabbles are captured in sound and vision. They provide near real-time footage for newspapers and news services. And yet, football photography offers an infinite world of images in which no one knows what is going to happen next: welcome to the land of 1,000 derbies.

German Football Museum

Photographer: Werner Hannappel



The German Football Museum

Lively, emotional, interactive – the German Football Museum in Dortmund is a unique destination for young and old. 1,600 exhibits and numerous spectacular media productions form the core of this place of learning environment and experience. Topics include the great successes of the women's and men's national teams, the history of the Bundesliga, but also football in times of war, during National Socialism and in the divided Germany. In addition, the ANSTOSS cultural programme offers discussions and readings that look beyond current football events. The exhibition centre also presents itself as an attractive event location, with modern conference rooms, the N11 restaurant and a spacious and convertible arena.

Directly at Dortmund central station

Address: Deutsches Fußballmuseum, Platz der Deutschen Einheit 1, 44137 Dortmund, directly at the central station Dortmund Hbf

The museum is officially certified as barrier-free.

Opening hours: Tue–Sun 10am–6pm

Prices: €10 to €19, cheaper tickets available online

Ticket information: +49 (0)231/22 22 19 54 (Tue to Fri 10am to 4pm)

Tickets & Info: www.fussballmuseum.de

Ruhr Museum

Photographer: Brigida González



The Ruhr Museum

Present, Memory and History in a spectacular industrial setting: in its permanent exhibition, the Ruhr Museum at the Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site in Essen shows the fascinating natural and cultural history of one of the world's largest industrial regions – from the formation of coal over 300 million years ago to the modern Ruhr metropolis. Following the former path of the coal, you descend deeper and deeper into the history of the Ruhr area. The tour takes you through windowless bunkers past huge industrial machines, raw concrete walls and conveyor belts. 6,000 objects show how a formerly agricultural region developed into Europe's largest coal and steel production area and became today's Ruhr metropolis.

More than a museum

Temporary exhibitions on a wide variety of Ruhr topics provide unique insights into the history of a region in transition. The Schaudetpot (storage facility of the museum) at the Zollverein coking plant, the Small Studio House and the Model Flat on Margarethenhöhe, the Halbachhammer, the Mineralien-Museum and the Museumscape Deilbachtal round off the programme with events.

www.ruhrmuseum.de

Schalke fans in a VW Beetle classic on the way to the stadium, Gelsenkirchen, 9.6.1973.

Photographer: Frank B. Napierala



The Match Schedule

Two museums, one accompanying programme

The accompanying programme “The Match Schedule” contains the concentrated power and expertise of both museums. The venues are both the German Football Museum in Dortmund and the Ruhr Museum at the Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site in Essen. In addition to “classics” from the ANSTOSS program such as the football quiz, Fantalk and the cabaret series “Dem Fußball seine Dönekes” (football anecdotes) in Dortmund, exciting lectures and film evenings as well as the open-air cinema await their guests in Essen.

“The Match Schedule” offers the right event for all leagues and age groups. Together we look back at legends as well as “the good old days” and look at modern football during discussions and exhibition talks. Theatre performances, lecture series, workshops for young people and adults, various guided tours of the exhibition, excursions to clubs and stadiums, and football song evenings to sing along offer a colourful programme for every football fan.

Kicking the ball about cannot be missed, of course. When the UNESCO World Heritage Site will actually become a stadium is revealed in our flyer “The Match Schedule”. It can also be found at

www.ruhrmuseum.de/spielplan and

www.fußballmuseum.de/spielplan.



Exhibition address

Ruhr Museum in the Coal Washing Plant
Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site
Gelsenkirchener Straße 181
45309 Essen

Opening hours

Mon–Sun 10am–6pm,
24., 25. and 31.12. closed

Prices

€10, reduced €7, free admission for
children and young people under 18
and students under 25.

Tickets

www.tickets-ruhrmuseum.de

Special discounts

Reduced admission to this exhibition
upon presentation of a season ticket of
a football club of the Ruhr area or a
ticket of the German Football Museum.
20% discount on single and family
tickets for the German Football
Museum when purchased at the box
office upon presentation of a ticket
from this exhibition.

Free audioguide-app

1 hour, in German and English
At over 25 stations, the tour via app
leads through the fascinating world of
football in the Ruhr area.

Information and registration

Ruhr Museum (Visitor Service)
besucherdienst@ruhrmuseum.de
Mon–Fri 9am–4pm
Phone +49 (0)201 24681 444
www.ruhrmuseum.de

Getting here by car

Parking lot A1 and A2
Fritz-Schupp-Allee, 45141 Essen

Getting here by public transport

Tram line 107
Departing from Essen central station
in the direction of Gelsenkirchen or
from Gelsenkirchen central station in
the direction of Essen to the
“Zollverein” stop
Bus line 183
Departing from Altenessen train
station or Zollverein Nord train station
to “Kohlenwäsche” stop

Accompanying program

All events can be found in
the programme flyer
“The Match Schedule” or at
www.fussballmuseum.de/spielplan
and www.ruhrmuseum.de/spielplan

Catalogue

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