

1972 The Games of the Century

Percy Lehmann, HELIOS-University Clinic, Dept of Dermatology, University Witten-Herdecke

Having escaped the dark shadows of the Nazi period, and having mastered successfully the national reconstruction - Germany in 1972 was characterized by a period of optimism and euphoria, and the Olympic Games should demonstrate the new, relaxed, democratic and happy Germany. A counter draft to the militaristic and martial games of Berlin in 1936.

Below the daring and exceptional architecture of the tent roof, the phenomenal swimmer Mark Spitz, the young gold jumping phenomenon Ute Meyfarth, and the sprint queen Heike Rosendahl represented in the middle of the cold war a dream of a friendly and peaceful coexistence. Then, Palestinian terror led this all to a sudden death. However, Avery Brundage declared the parole: „The games must go on“ As eyewitness and participating Olympic-helper I will talk about the planning of the games, the infrastructure, the sport events, the horrible terror attack and the sustainability of the Olympiapark from 1972 up to nowadays