

## Der Bürgermeister



**FONTANESTADT  
NEURUPPIN**

Stadtverwaltung der Fontanestadt Neuruppin  
Postfach 15 51, 16803 Neuruppin

### Ortsteile nach Gebietsänderungsvertrag vom 05.12.1993

Alt Ruppin, Buskow, Gnewikow, Gühlen-Glienicke, Karwe, Krangen, Lichtenberg, Molchow, Nietwerder, Radensleben, Stöffin, Wulkow, Wuthenow

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## Press release

### Base Camp of the national soccer Team Croatia

Neuruppin - a city known for its famous citizen and writer Theodor Fontane - is planning a colorful soccer festival around the Croatian national team's stay for the European Championship. An official welcome reception, a public training session, public viewing and a "Mini European Championship" are just some of the highlights. Preparations for the European Championship training camp in Neuruppin have been in full swing for months. "The Croats' base camp in the city will be an unforgettable event - for our guests and the people of Neuruppin," says Mayor Nico Ruhle (SPD). The stars around former world footballer Luka Modrić (Real Madrid) will be preparing for their tournament matches at the renovated soccer stadium of the Märkischer Sportverein (MSV) from June on. Furthermore, they will find ideal conditions for their preparations at their team hotel, the Resort Mark Brandenburg, located directly on Lake Ruppin.

After their final test match in Portugal, the Croatians will arrive at Neuruppin on 9th June. In honor of the co-favorites for the European Championship title, the city and MSV will host a welcome party within the Kulturkirche on the same day. Children and young people from sports clubs in Neuruppin and the surrounding area will welcome the Croatians.

Just one day later - on June 10 - the Croatians hold a public training session on the main soccer field at the Volksparkstadion of the MSV. Up to 4000 fans should be able to attend: "We have rebuilt a few things and spruced up our stadium," says MSV club president Thomas Huch.

Torn down walls, new water pipes, lots of fresh paint: construction work has been going on at the Volksparkstadion for weeks. With the support of the city councillors and many supporters and



#### Hausanschrift

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sponsors, a new office is currently being built, which will serve as the camp headquarters. In addition, the soccer field is being brought up to a top standard with special care - as is the ageing floodlight system. Club president Huch: "Our guests can look forward to ideal training conditions." In addition, the Croatian Football Association (HNS) is building a press tent with 70 workstations. From here, UEFA and HNS accredited media can report on the team's daily training sessions during Euro 2024.

"Remodeling, security, medical care: We have been in contact with Team Croatia and UEFA for weeks to coordinate all of this." The lawn, for example, is regularly checked by experts, says Huch: "Nothing is left to chance." Croatia's ambassador, H.E. Gordan Bakota, visited Neuruppin back in January to take a look at the training area and resort.

Mayor Ruhle sees the European Championships and Base Camp as more than just a sporting event: "The whole city is looking forward to welcoming the European Championship guests." The tourist information "BürgerBahnhof" near the train station Rheinsberger Tor will serve as a welcome center for all guests in the summer, but especially for those from Croatia. "The citizens as well as our guests can then celebrate together at the public viewing," says Ruhle. The people of Neuruppin want to get in the mood on 24<sup>th</sup> May at a "Mini European Championship" for elementary schools. 24 teams will be competing for certificates and trophies in the city center - just like the European Championship participants.

The Resort Mark Brandenburg is also well prepared for the Croatian footballers. "We are delighted to welcome the national team," says Hans-Dieter Bergmann, General Manager of the 4-star superior hotel. The team has its own exclusive area, which is separate from the other guests, but has not rented the entire hotel. "We are in a position to be able to accommodate hotel guests during this European Championship period," confirms Bergmann. There is a constant exchange with the association in order to create the perfect conditions.

"We always assume that it is our duty to offer the national team the best possible conditions. Neuruppin was one of the most sought-after camps in the entire UEFA catalog for a reason, and I'm glad that our logistics handled it well and overtook numerous other national teams. We are in an excellent geographical position for the competition in the group, we will have idyllic surroundings and excellent sporting working conditions, which is the most important thing for the national team", emphasized the President of the Croatian Football Association, Marijan Kustić.

The application process had already begun in 2021. After various meetings with UEFA and various review committees, the resort at the "Ruppiner See", together with MSV Neuruppin, was selected as one of the potential Team Base Camps - and was available to all participating teams in the selection pool. The resort has plenty of experience with soccer teams: RB Leipzig, Hertha BSC, Union Berlin, Eintracht Braunschweig and FC Sevilla are just some of the teams that have spent their training camps at the resort in recent summers. FC Hansa Rostock, a second division team of the German soccer league, was the latest to attend. Over the past year, various national teams have visited the hotel, from England to Iceland, Portugal and Belgium. "The team proves every day that we are good hosts, and that will also be the case with the Croatians," Laura Stöner, Head of Sales & Marketing of Resort Mark Brandenburg.

In the preliminary round, Croatia will face Spain (on June 15 in Berlin), underdog Albania (on June 19 in Hamburg) and defending champion Italy (on June 24 in Leipzig).