



PRESS RELEASE

Up-and-coming handball players aiming for Kiel

Children from all over Germany are training at day camps for their dream of becoming the first THW-YOUNGstar

Kiel, 5 December 2016. THW-YOUNGstar - the tension is rising: the joint concept between star petrol stations and THW Kiel and the Handball Camps to encourage up-and-coming talent is entering its second round with the day camps in Düsseldorf, Berlin and Hamburg. 48 young up-and-coming players have to prove themselves in exciting tests and games, in order to get a coveted place in the third round of selections, the weekend camp in Kiel.

The response to the call for applications for THW-YOUNGstar has exceeded all expectations: Hundreds of talented handball players, big and small, took the opportunity to apply for the innovative concept to encourage up-and-coming talent, created by star petrol stations, THW Kiel and the Handball Camps, with a self-made video or handball action shot. And no wonder; as an incentive, the winner will get a several-month long handball scholarship at the home of the German championship record holders THW Kiel and national players such as Andreas Wolff. Now 30 kids have been selected for the second round by an expert jury and an exciting online vote. The Handball Camps trainers have also spotted 18 talented hopefuls who played particularly well and stood out in the autumn phase of the camps.

The dream of becoming the first THW-YOUNGstar came one step closer for the total of 48 handball-enthused winning kids. In the day camps in the cities they now have to demonstrate their abilities in exciting competitions and tests. The units, each with 16 participants, will be led by THW Kiel trainers for up-and-coming players, in Düsseldorf on 10 December, Berlin on 11 December and Hamburg on 17 December. Which of the talented players has a special skill? Who is particularly impressive as a true leader? Or which kids are particularly promising in terms of the way they play and their athleticism? Selecting seven players from each day camp for the third round, the weekend camp in Kiel, will be no easy task for the experienced coaches. There the handball-crazy participants will finally have the chance to qualify for the fourth round - also taking place in Kiel - the star Excellence Week, at the end of which the THW-YOUNGstar will finally be decided, in March 2017.

Klaus-Dieter Petersen, coordinator for up-and-coming talent at THW Kiel, who is responsible for the training concepts in the THW-YOUNGstar programme, is also anticipating exciting and intensive training units at the day camps. "Some kids have already attracted our attention with excellent skills in the numerous online applications. It's incredible how interesting and creative the videos and images that have been submitted are. Along with the kids who have been spotted at the camps, we now have a huge pool of talented people who have what it takes to be THW-YOUNGstar."



For Wieslaw Milkiewicz, the petrol station brand's Managing Director and Press Officer, the large number of applications received is a positive sign: "The fact that so many children and young people would like to be THW-YOUNGstar is testament to our commitment to working with up-and-coming handball players. Along with THW Kiel and the Handball Camps, we are now looking forward to training with the talented players at the day camps in December."

If you would like more information or have any questions about THW-YOUNGstar, the concept to encourage up-and-coming talent, please contact:

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star – a Strong Brand from ORLEN Deutschland GmbH

star is the petrol station brand of ORLEN Deutschland GmbH, which has been operating more than 570 petrol stations in the northern half of Germany since 2003. The company, based in Elmshorn near Hamburg, is part of the Polish mineral oil and petrochemical group PKN ORLEN SA, which is the largest Central Eastern European group, with an annual turnover of 21 billion euros in 2015.

PKN ORLEN SA is listed in Warsaw and London and is represented on the petrol station market in Eastern and Central Europe with a total of 2,700 service stations in Poland, Czech Republic, Germany and Lithuania. In recent years, major investments have been made in Lithuania and the Czech Republic to bring the group a step closer to its goal of becoming the leading oil company in Central Europe.

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THW Kiel Handball-Bundesliga GmbH & Co. KG

THW Kiel is the most successful and best-known German handball team of the past two decades. The “Zebras” have won the German championship 20 times, more than any other team. The team from Kiel has also won the DHB Cup nine times, which is also a record. And no German team has won the European “top class”, the Champions League, more often than THW Kiel. The team from Kiel has triumphed three times in this most important sport club competition in the world. “Tradition lives through sport” is the motto of THW Kiel, which promotes and encourages talents through intensive work with youngsters. For the THW, for Kiel and for handball in Germany.

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HANDBALL-CAMP

Handball-Camp is a brand of CommEvent Management GmbH, based in Kiel. Founded in 2003, the agency is Europe’s largest provider of handball camps, with more than 5,000 participants per year in more than 200 locations. Skilled camp trainers and almost 20 permanent employees provide the planning, organisation and implementation of the events. Founder Mannhard Bech was a player at THW Kiel and the German handball national team. The 48-year-old also trains a team associated with THW Kiel in the 3rd league, TSV Altenholz.

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