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A look back at the Swiss sporting scene in 1997

It has been a mixed year for Swiss sports stars. For the fans, Martina Hingis provided plenty to celebrate. Swiss skiers did well enough, but on the other hand the national football team proved a complete disappointment.

There are very few records in woman's tennis which Martina Hingis hasn't broken last year. In March she became the youngest ever world number one at the tender age of 16 and 1/2. Then she won the Wimbledon singles title, the youngest player this century to do so. She also slammed the opposition at the US-Open in New York and the Australian-Open, winning 12 titles altogether. She has already amassed 5 million dollars in prize money and untold fortune in advertising contracts. Judging by the continued excellence in her game, her run of success should continue well into the next millennium.

Switzerland's skiers did far better than expected at the world championships in Italy last (northern) Spring. There has also been some rare success for Swiss female runners in 1997. Nineteen year old Anita Weyermann won the bronze medal at the 1500-meters at the

world championships, successfully using her fighting spirit. She also gained the affection of sports fans with her earthy Bernese-humor. Another athlete from Canton Bern, Franzisca Rochat-Moser took home 50,000 dollars and a luxury car, after winning the prestigious New York-marathon. There were disappointments too in the sporting year of 1997. The Swiss National Soccer-team failed to qualify for this year's World-cup, after a dismal qualifying campaign. Also Swiss highly rated cyclists failed to make a real impact at the "Tour de France". The best among them, Alex Zülle, had to abandon the tour because of an injury.



A reproduction of Shakespeare's Theatre for Eastern Switzerland in 1998

Do you intend to travel to Switzerland this year? If so, you will have the opportunity to attend a theatrical production of "Die Gerichtsnacht oder Was ihr wollt" by Ulrich Bräker. He was the most famous son of the Toggenburg region in Eastern Switzerland and a literary giant of his time. In order to mark the 200th anniversary of Bräker's death this year and since Bräker was a devotee of Shakespeare in his own time it is planned to erect a Shakespeare Theatre in the small town of Lichtensteig. Within this historical building Bräker's play will be produced for the first time on 24th July 1998.

The play "Die Gerichtsnacht" is regarded as a piece of world-literature, but for anyone not familiar with Bräker's style of writing, the study of Bräker's biography "Der arme Mann im Tockenburg" is recommended.



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