

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 79 (2013)
Heft: [1]

Artikel: Roger Federer - my hero
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943729>

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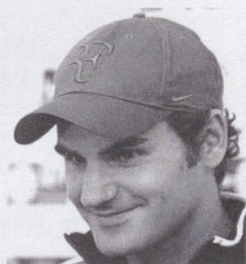
(Almost) Swiss sports news and random acts of kindness

Roger Federer – my hero

Those who know me will think this is an unlikely choice for me: I'm non-competitive to a fault, not sporty altogether; I don't even follow sport on TV, couch potato-style – even if I had a couch and TV, I wouldn't watch sport. So how come I admire Roger Federer and shall try to follow in his footsteps? You'll see.

Paul, a good friend of mine, a true New Zealander, very sporty in his younger days, is now in his late seventies and quite frail, and suffers from bad arthritis. He badly needs new knees and new hips, but as his heart is fairly weak, the doctors don't want to operate on him; they fear his heart wouldn't come through an operation. So Paul is resigned to a life of pain. He still gets around a bit: The walk to his letterbox is his daily fitness program. He tries and keeps the household supplied with firewood, and he doesn't complain; he enjoys his wife's company and is hugely grateful that she looks after him, and sometimes his daughters and sons and grandchildren come to see him, and he enjoys their company, too.

Paul has two great passions: He loves watching sport on TV and he loves his stamp collection – both passions compatible with his frail condition. Paul is a great admirer of Roger Federer because, in Paul's opinion, Federer is a superb tennis player. Paul dreamed of having Roger Federer's autograph, and when he got a stamp with Federer's picture (I keep the stamps from my mail and send them to him) he had a daring idea: He carefully soaked the stamp and got it off the envelope and dried it. He put the dried stamp into an envelope and wrote, in his best handwriting, a letter to Roger Federer asking him to sign the stamp.



Roger Federer - a good "sport" all around.

And Roger Federer did, he even sent him a signed, slightly bigger stamp, and he wrote him a letter. Can you imagine my friend Paul's surprise and joy? Roger Federer might have a secretary who helps him with his fan mail. But he did sign the letter and the stamps and he made my friend Paul very happy. And that's why Roger Federer is now my hero, too.

By Trudi Brühlmann

Photo: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Roger_Federer_2012_Doha.jpg (Vinod Divakaran)

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Züritüütsch

A poem about a changing Swiss dialect

S säit chuum na öper Anke,
s säit niemer mee Binätsch,
s säit sälten äine tanke,
defüür macht alls en Lätsch.

D Guggummere sind gstorbe
und d Fadezändli au
isch das e Mundart worde!
Statt läb wool säit me tschau,

statt Tüene säit me Wëie,
a Stell vo druus cho "in"
Me säit statt büetze nëie
statt näi, es lyt nid drin,

hoi Tschegg statt grüezi Jakob,
a Stell vo Musik Hit,
de Tscharli tuet de Trank ob,
statt ordli zwääg, bisch fit.

Me säit hüt Girl, statt Mäitli
und Tween, statt junge Puurscht,
s trät sälten äin es Schätli,
es isch nen ales Wuurscht.

Die Gschicht liess sich vermeere.
Es müesst nid sy, s isch schaad.
Mir ständ in alnen Eere
am Züritüütsch sym Grab.

Vil Uusdrück gönd verloore,
vil Import chunt derzue,
vil Schwyzer, chuum geboore,
scho teckets d Mundart zue.

S säit chuum na öper Anke,
s säit niemer me en Blätz.
Ich mache mir Gedanke,
mich tunkt das äifach lätz.

Contributed by Edith Hess

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