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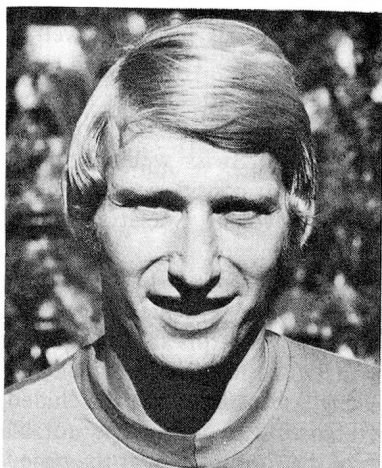
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# INTERVIEW WITH KARL ODERMATT

## Captain of the Swiss Football team



Karl Odermatt

### KARL ODERMATT

**Born:** 17th December, 1942

**Height:** 1.82 metres

**Weight:** 74.5kg (1.5 to 2kg lighter after a game)

**Occupation:** Qualified offset printer

**Clubs:** Concordia Basle, FC Basle

**State:** Married

41 A-international games. First international match 1963 in Basle against England (1:8). First National League game in 1962, Basle against Lugano. With the Basle team champion in 1966/67, 1968/69, 1969/70. With the Basle team cup final champion in 1962/63 and 1966/67.

*At what age did you join a football club?*

I joined the FC Concordia Basle at the age of 11.

*Please tell me your ideal?*

Pelé, apart from Trainer Benthaus.

*Do football players not think rather too much of their pay?*

No one entering the playing field thinks of money at that moment. We then are like children, and all we want is to play football.

*What trophy do you receive in case of victory?*

The finest prize for me would be the cup. What else we receive is revealed after the game only, and then it does not matter whether we win or lose.

*Which Basle game do you remember best?*

The 4:2 victory against Zurich after we were behind 0:2.

*Which international game do you remember best?*

England v. Switzerland at Wembley. Also because I was lucky to make the equalizer.

*Which player would you wish to include in your team 1) Swiss, b) foreigner?*

- a) We are strong enough, but if I could mention a personal wish: Jakob Kuhn.  
b) Cruijff or Beckenbauer.

*Who are the ten players of world class, with whom you would like to play?*

Banks, Beckenbauer, Vogts, Burgnich, Cooper, Pelé, Mazzola, Jairzinho, Mueller, Dzaic.

*Which opponent do you fear most?*

When one is in bad form one fears everybody; when one is in good form, none.

*What is your reaction when the public show disapproval of you by hissing?*

I try to appease them with a good performance.

*Does your family have to suffer because of your activities as a football player?*

Unfortunately I have to say yes. And if you won't believe it, ask my wife.

*What is it like in a football team, does one not get fed up with one another when one is together for so long?*

One does not get fed up with one's wife either, although one lives with her all the time.

*Which are the most important offers you have received from abroad so far?*

Turin, Anderlecht, Monaco, Strasbourg, Stuttgart.

*How do you picture your future once you are too old as a football player?*

I have always lived in such a way that it won't be too difficult for me to take leave from playing football.

*Will you retire after the world championship in 1974?*

Until then much water will flow down the Rhine. But if we become world champions, the time to retire would then be right.

*How can one get an autograph from you?*

Holbeinstrasse 65, 4000 Basle. But please add a stamped/addressed envelope.

*I have often read that you are a great one for jokes. Please tell me your favourite story.*

A: Do you know why the Letzigrund in Zurich has to be "roofed over"? B: No. A: Because games of chance are prohibited *unter freiem Himmel* – under open skies.

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*During the Switzerland-Austria match of 22nd September 1968. The Swiss won 1-0.*