

"Forgotten Records"

Potsdam University to show exhibition on Jewish sports in track and field in the 1920's and 1930's

Exhibition is part of the official programme of the World Championship in Track and Field 2009, to be held in Berlin 15–23 August 2009.

On the occasion of the world championship in track and field, to be hosted by the city of Berlin this August, the Institute for the Contemporary History of Sports at Potsdam University is currently preparing an exhibition on Jewish sports, especially track and field, during the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich. The exhibition will be shown in the "Centrum Judaicum" Berlin. The Institute is still looking for contemporary witnesses, as well as objects and photos illustrating this period in Jewish sports.

"Forgotten Records" will open on June 21, 2009 and will be shown until August 23, 2009. It will center on the biographies of three Jewish female athletes: Lilli Henoch, Gretel Bergmann and Martha Jacob. The exhibition will, on the one hand, commemorate their outstanding achievements as athletes in track and field. Furthermore, the personal fates of these three women will illustrate the brutal destruction of Jewish sports as well as the racial prosecution of Jewish athletes after the National Socialist Party came into power in 1933. Martha Jacob was expelled from her home club and emigrated; Gretel Bergmann was arbitrarily excluded from the Olympic Games of 1936, and then also emigrated; and Lilli Henoch was deported by the regime and eventually murdered in September 1942 in Riga.

The multimedia-based exhibition is financed by the "Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung" and supported by the "Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum" in Potsdam, the "Jüdisches Museum Berlin", the "Sportmuseum Berlin", the "Zentrum deutsche Sportgeschichte Berlin-Brandenburg", and the "Institut für Judaistik" at the Free University of Berlin. The project is part of a practical course for students in sports history at Potsdam University.

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