

Europe's top soccer leagues get first female referee

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A German policewoman, Bibiana Steinhaus, will become the first female to referee in Europe's top leagues. Germany's Bundesliga promoted Ms Steinhaus on Friday. She was a referee in the lower divisions of German football. She is very happy to be Germany's first top-flight female referee. She said: "For us all, it's a dream come true. I'm very much looking forward to the task that awaits me." She also knew that people would be watching her to see how she manages in top-level men's matches. She said: "I am aware that I will be the first female referee in the Bundesliga and will be closely watched by the media". She added: "I'm used to pressure and am convinced I will find my feet quickly in the Bundesliga."

Steinhaus, 38, has a lot of experience as a referee, both in Germany and at international level. She has been refereeing Bundesliga 2 matches since 2011. She also refereed the 2011 women's World Cup final and the women's gold medal match between Japan and the United States at the London Olympic games in 2012. After she was told about her promotion, she said: "I was quite speechless. I feel disbelief, joy, happiness, relief and curiosity. It was simply a roller-coaster ride of emotions." She added: "It has always been my dream to be a Bundesliga referee. That this dream will come true naturally fills me with joy." Steinhaus will next referee the Women's Champions League final on June 1st.

Sources:
bbc.com / Bundesliga.com / bavarianfootballworks.com

Writing

Football (soccer) is the most beautiful and greatest sport in the world. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

policewoman / referee / football / happy / dream come true / media / pressure / feet / experience / international / final / gold medal / Olympics / roller coaster / emotions

True / False

- Germany's first female Bundesliga referee is also a policewoman. T / F
- Bibiana was promoted from the lower divisions in Poland. T / F
- Bibiana said becoming a Bundesliga referee was a dream come true. T / F
- Bibiana said she would find her feet quickly in the Bundesliga. T / F
- Bibiana has been refereeing Bundesliga 2 matches since 2001. T / F
- Bibiana refereed women's gold medal game at the London Olympics. T / F
- Bibiana spoke a lot after she was told about her promotion. T / F
- Bibiana first wanted to become a Bundesliga 5 years ago. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. female | a. skill |
| 2. divisions | b. job |
| 3. dream | c. certain |
| 4. task | d. lost for words |
| 5. convinced | e. leagues |
| 6. experience | f. feelings |
| 7. matches | g. woman |
| 8. speechless | h. of course |
| 9. emotions | i. ambition |
| 10. naturally | j. games |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you have a lot of experience doing?
- What are the differences between men's and women's football?
- When was the last time you were speechless?
- How might men and women referee differently?
- How might players act differently with a female referee?
- What advice do you have for Bibiana Steinhaus?
- What questions would you like to ask Bibiana Steinhaus?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. She was a referee in the lower | a. speechless |
| 2. I'm very much looking forward to the | b. feet quickly |
| 3. closely watched | c. as a referee |
| 4. I'm used to | d. task that awaits me |
| 5. convinced I will find my | e. medal match |
| 6. Steinhaus, 38, has a lot of experience | f. by the media |
| 7. at international | g. divisions |
| 8. the women's gold | h. true |
| 9. I was quite | i. pressure |
| 10. this dream will come | j. level |

Discussion – Student B

- Is football the world's best sport?
- How do you think Ms Steinhaus will do?
- What will be the most difficult thing for Ms Steinhaus?
- What would be a dream come true for you?
- What are you very much looking forward to?
- What responsibility does Bibiana have as the first female referee?
- Why will the media be watching Bibiana closely?
- What kind of pressure will Bibiana have?

Spelling

- Germany's Bundesliga oeotpdmr Ms Steinhaus
- a referee in the lower iidiosnvs
- Germany's first top-ifglht female referee
- I am eraaw that I will be the first
- I'm used to esrsrepu
- cecivdnon I will find my feet quickly
- Steinhaus, 38, has a lot of exrneceip
- the women's gold demal match
- I was quite eespecslsh
- joy, happiness, relief and oircyutis
- a roller-coaster ride of stenimoo
- lyruatnla fills me with joy

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. b	5. c
6. a	7. j	8. d	9. f	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Referee

You think a referee has the most important job in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): coach, striker or goalkeeper.

Role B – Coach

You think a coach has the most important job in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): referee, striker or goalkeeper.

Role C – Striker

You think a striker has the most important job in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): coach, referee or goalkeeper.

Role D – Goalkeeper

You think a goalkeeper has the most important job in football. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): coach, striker or referee.

Speaking – Football Jobs

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important jobs in football at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| • striker | • FIFA boss |
| • goalkeeper | • referee |
| • club owner | • manager / coach |
| • captain | • scout |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.