

self-conception. Nevertheless some basic values are non-negotiable in our club's environment. We don't care where people come from, if or which religious beliefs she or he holds and which sexual orientation or social status a person has. Moreover we are committed against racist, sexist or homophobic tendencies in sports and the whole society. We are not only trying to create an open atmosphere within our club, but beyond its borders. That is why we are organizing and participating in initiatives or activities reaching beyond football or sports.»



Team in front of fans in Schildau

German football system has 11 leagues. Red Star began from the very bottom and in the fourth year of existence already played in the 8th league. Now the team is in the 7th league - this is the league of the district. The nationalist party AfD (Alternative für Deutschland) received more votes than any other party in Saxony at the last elections, and the "Red Star" often has to play in cities full of Nazis. Even the oppositional teams are often made up of Nazis. Therefore, the life of fans of the Leipzig club is full of challenges.

Schildau is one of those Saxon places, where you can easily come across some Nazis. And now "Red Star" is playing with a local team. In addition to passengers of our "police" van, an incredible number of real police cars and real cops in armored jackets. And here I am, wearing shorts and T-shirt, without any clue of what to expect, just enjoying a sunny day. At home games in Leipzig there are no policemen and no security check. But in

Schildau we are fully examined and I was not allowed to take even a plastic, transparent bottle of water to the stadium. You are not allowed to bring liquids to the stadium. I got lucky that a lunch box with vegan

sandwiches didn't seem very interesting to police officers and now safely stays with me. Well done, because Roter Stern fans boycott local food and beer.

Besides my water-bottle, the stadium does not allow to bring anti-fascist stuff and even the drums. The fans of the Red Star wanted the team to appear on the field wearing T-shirts with the slogan "Nazi get away from the stadiums" before the match with Schildau. But the police and the football association have banned it, believing that this would provoke opposition fans. The club is often being accused of mixing football and politics. Do officials have a hunch about something?

We shout the well-known "Alerta! Alerta! Antifascista!". The Nazis in the other corner of the stadium are straining in an attempt to shout over us. Someone of ours manages to drag through the police cordon an antifa-

banner - we hang it out closer to the end of the game. The stadium's security service tears it off, but we do not allow it to be picked up. Opponents from the other side of the field are certainly furious, but they cannot do anything - their team blew 0:4, Red Star players appear on the field in those antifascist T-shirts. We leave Schildau in good spirits to the accompaniment of empty bottles and stones flying into our car line.

And all their events are highly politicized. In any incomprehensible situation Roter Stern promotes an anti-racist, anti-homophobic and anti-sexist agenda to the masses. For example, at one home game, the captain of the team ran around with a rainbow captain's band. And in September the union organized an open anti-fascist bike race.

Roter Stern are anti-racists in both word and action. To overcome the isolation of refugees, they organized a place where anyone is free to join to play football in a casual and relaxed atmosphere. The project got the name "Zocktreff". Many people joined the initiative and so they decided to include the team in the structure of the association. The idea is not to isolate the migrants in a separate yard, but to involve them in the community. Therefore, team No. 4 have never been a team specifically for refugees, although refugees are prevalent in it.

Jens-Whom-Everybody-Know

If you ask someone here "Where is Jens?", no one will specify exactly which Jens. Everybody knows him.

