

## Being Timo Schultz – Episode 3

((phone ringing 2x)) Schultz!

Music Thees: “Bon voyage Timo Schultz, also for district and club  
You shall be my very last FC Sankt Pauli coach.  
How much can love endure? I may never make it out!  
But until then fuck it, Forza, FC Sankt Pauli!”

Debbie: Being Timo Schultz, a MillernTon podcast with the coach of the FC Sankt Pauli.

*Timo: Yes.*

*Tim: Like that [Windows system sound] Right, recording started, very good. Man, you've got a lot going on here!*

*Timo: Yes, I'll tell you that. But /ahem/ if we want to turn the rudder around or if we want to take a different path, then I think there's no alternative.*

Tim: ...and with these clear words, welcome to the third episode of "Being Timo Schultz". In this podcast project, we have had short conversations with Timo Schultz at regular intervals, trying to get to know the FC St. Pauli coach a little better and looking over his shoulder a little at work. And while we experienced exactly one draw and otherwise a bunch of defeats in the second episode, we can present you with better results in this episode. However, at the beginning of the year, it didn't look that way, as the short intro just now from the pre-talk of the very first recording of the year suggests.

[Fan chant: Sankt Pauli scores a goal for me...]

Debbie: The year 2021 started for FC St. Pauli with a real mammoth programme. Seven games were scheduled in January alone - you remember the drama surrounding the last-minute cancellation in Würzburg? Yes, that game also had to be made up. But already on the third day of the year, we had to travel to the difficult away game in Fürth.

[AFM-Radio: St. Pauli lose their fifth match in a row at Greuther Fürth with 2 to 1. A brief glimmer of hope after Leon Flach's goal - when was that? Bobby: 83rd? It was already 83<sup>rd</sup>, late, but you could see how it can go if you dare - otherwise we have too much - Bobby: Also. I'll take Lankford as an example, he simply lacks courage! Knut: Yes, I know. That's- Bobby: He doesn't go for the goal, he doesn't make any speed, he just lacks the conviction to make a good move or even to score the goal. Knut: Exactly. In the second half, he said: come on, get your body out there again, and he went all out, he even ran over people wildly and impetuously. So you can see that he wants to. But the right dose is missing, the right yes - professionalism? Bobby: Quality? Knut: Quality? Is that it? Yes, there are many words for it. Words can flip switches! We tried, stay tuned too].

Debbie: It sounds pretty gloomy what Wolf and Bobby are saying on AFM radio after the game, but if you look at the facts superficially, the start of 2021 could hardly have gone better: FC St. Pauli scored directly with their first goal of the year. However, it was only the equaliser to 1:2 in the 84th minute. Yes, FC St. Pauli's first shot on goal in the match against Fürth was only scored in the 84th minute. Before that, the team was literally overrun by SpVgg Greuther Fürth and could have been four or five goals behind early on. Only three days after the defeat in Fürth, another match was scheduled in the south of Germany: FC St. Pauli, at that time in 17th place in the table, were guests of the last team in the table in Würzburg for a catch-up game. Yes, a real basement duel. The day before, however, there were changes in the FC St. Pauli squad: With Dejan Stojanovic and Omar Marmoush, two players came to FCSP on loan. What role these two players would play for the rest of the season was not quite foreseeable at the time. But with four goalkeepers in the squad, one could already guess what would follow in the next few days. But before that, FC St. Pauli had to play in Würzburg. The mood before the game was pretty gloomy. Even the NDR (North German Broadcasting) advertised the match as a "fateful game". In the article itself, there was talk of Timo Schultz finding "no solutions".

[Fan song: I love you, I dream of you...]

Tim: FC St. Pauli got one point in Würzburg. Given the situation in the table, that was an inadequate result. But based on the course of the game, it was more like a point gained. Despite falling behind early and being outnumbered for more than a half, St. Pauli were able to equalise and, with a bit of luck, could even have won. Nevertheless, nine points after 14 games is not much more than a meagre haul. The criticism of Timo Schultz was now clearly audible, both in the media and in the fan scene.

And I must honestly admit that the situation in the standings was starting to make me a little uneasy. The performance against Würzburg gave me hope, and I personally was convinced of Timo Schultz as coach based on my conversations with him so far. But, man, the situation in the table was really shitty. Sure, Timo Schultz was publicly backed. But what would happen if real successes didn't become visible on the pitch soon? Would FC St. Pauli really sack Timo Schultz if things continued like this? And what would then become of this podcast project? Will it also end or perhaps never be published?

I had already prepared a list of questions under the pathos-laden title "The End".

"Timo, did you notice in the days before that there were discussions about you in the background?" - "How did you say goodbye to the team? How did the team react? -

"How would you have reacted as sports director? Would you have sacked yourself?"

- These were some of the questions on the list. The good thing about that list: It no longer exists, I have since deleted it. One reason for this was FC St. Pauli's performance at home against Holstein Kiel:

[Play-in AFM radio: ...Sankt Pauli on the counter-attack via Burgstaller via Kyereh, now drives the ball through the centre with a lot of speed, goes towards the defence, passes to the right, plays the ball out to the right, to Marmoush, shot: GOOAAAL! MARMOOOUUUUSSSHHH! OMAAAR! MARMOUSH! BANGS THE BALL INTO THE LEFT ANGLE WITH A FULL INSTEP KICK, after being offset from the right maybe eight metres from the baseline, diagonal shot, Sunday shot hits the soul of the ball! Drives the ball 'left' into the angle, it hits the top of the goal net. 1 to 0, (Knut:

Strong preparation!) in minute 52. Knut: Strong preparation. Kyereh drives the ball with speed from the halfway line to close to the 16-metre area, twenty metres from the goal, laid out to the right in the 16-yard area and then Marmoush with a small ball forward. He is inside the box on the right, takes a look at it, no, he takes it directly and hits the ball with his right foot, the ball ticks under the crossbar and then goes left into the inner goal net, no chance for Gelios, who closes the short corner. Marmoush in his first game right from the start...]

Debbie: In the home match against Holstein Kiel, FC St. Pauli showed a surprisingly convincing performance for long stretches, considering their position in the table. This was due to some changes: For the first time, Timo Schultz had his team start with a midfield diamond. FC St. Pauli did not move away from this formation in the following. There were also personnel changes at the home match against Kiel, which in retrospect can be described as an important piece of the puzzle for success. For the first time, Omar Marmoush, whose goal we have just heard about, and Guido Burgstaller took the field as a double in the forward section. But as convincing as the playing performance on the field was, in the end FCSP could not win against Kiel either. It was the 13th winless league match in a row. Thus, FC St. Pauli continued to be up to its neck in the relegation battle.

*Tim: Timo, why does your team only have ten points after 15 games?*

*Timo: Yes, they always say that the table doesn't lie. I think the main reason is actually the box, both in front and behind. I think everything that goes on between the penalty area: orderly defending, transitioning with a cutback in both directions, but above all our play with the ball is absolutely good. Before the winter, I think we were the team with the most shots on goal, together with Fürth, but when it gets tough in the box, when it really comes to the decisive situations, we're not consistent enough, whether you want to call it quality or just luck or whatever. That has to be said quite clearly and that is also the main starting point. We said in the winter that we have to put more emphasis on our transition phases. I think we scored ten goals after losing the ball within the next six or eight seconds. We were often not organised enough. We are now really trying to improve that by positioning ourselves in front of the back four, so that we always have a very, very clear six. Who only stays there. We often played with very offensive players and apart from that, I think one of our shortcomings is that, although we are very good defensively, we could have our standards in the offensive and, of course, maybe also the one or other loose opener, and we haven't managed that so far, that is of course also connected to the fact that we have relatively few players with strong headers and finishers, and yes, that is the good thing that the problems we have in the first half of the season are actually obvious and you would think that you can also fix them relatively well as a coach.*

*Tim: I'm a fan of statistics and more in-depth data, including expected goals, but you've already said that FC Sankt Pauli has the most shots on goal in the box. I can tell you that FC Sankt Pauli, according to various statistics, makes too little of its opportunities offensively and is the second weakest team in the division defensively. As a coach, do you also see it that way, let's say with the performances you've seen on the pitch?*

*Timo: Yes, I'm also involved in a lot of statistics and if you go by different models, then we should be somewhere between, I think, tenth and twelfth place (Tim: Yes!) in terms of pure performance statistics, but we can't buy anything for that and especially this statistic with, we are defensively the second-worst team in the division. Of course, you can take different parameters into account, but it's simply the case and it's obvious that our tackling behaviour, our individual tackling behaviour in the defence, I think, is by far the worst in the league with less than 50 per cent, and when I remember the games, for example, just remembering that when James was on the pitch, Lawrence, it looks completely different and that's of course something that perhaps the Kiel game has also brought home to you a little bit, when such a (Hero/Libero?) is on the pitch, then those around him play better and more structured. And I don't think you should always take yourself too seriously as a coach, of course these are personnel and cornerstones that we can't replace, and certainly not over 14, 15 games and beyond, and I've already said that as a coach I can very well dictate the order even more clearly at the moment of losing the ball and draw even clearer conclusions, so that we're not permanently in equal numbers or only one over, but two over, because then this lost duel, which we unfortunately have to plan for at the moment, won't be quite so important if there's still someone there to compensate for it. Which will then probably be at the expense of the offensive - the ferocity, because you're missing a player there. We might have to make these concessions in the second half of the season and adjust the structure accordingly.*

*Tim: Adjustment is the right keyword: You started the season or you started the season with a three-man backline. Then you changed to a four-man backline, played a lot in a 4-2-3-1 and now you played a 4-4-2 with a diamond against Kiel - I was really happy about that! I knew I would never have thought that the diamond would come back. What are the advantages of the formation, the diamond, the midfield diamond?*

*Timo: Yes, it's a bit - how should I put it, unfortunately we don't have any offensive wing players. Ryō was completely absent for the whole year, who would have been a weapon for us with his speed and his attacking one-on-one, and so you had to play with different players on the flanks, and otherwise you only have the three-man backline if you don't have any flank players or defensive flank players, and yes, we wanted to play with two front players, at least during the time when Guido was fit and we saw Simon doing well, because that's something that suits us better. With two front players, we get more pressure on the ball, we have the quality up front in the centre of attack and yet we also have a lot of eights, I'll just say, with Zalazar, with Becker, actually also with Benatelli. Players who don't have a quota of ten to twelve goals, but who are also not so stable in the air or in defensive duels that they don't let anything happen, and yes, we've already switched a few times during the first half of the season to a four-man back four during the game or from various basic orders in - with the ball, in the game with the ball, I believe that it simply suits our personnel best at the moment. So, as long as Ryō is not fit, we don't have a classic right winger, with Dittgen we have a left winger in the squad and then you want to play a 4-2-3-1 or a 4-4-2 and you know that at least two or three players don't play in the position where they belong and it's incredibly difficult to defend from the diamond, that has to be said quite clearly. When you play with the ball, you have a lot of advantages, you have a lot of layers, you have a lot of players in the centre and I think that suits us really well. Against the ball, of course, Becker and Zalazar have to*

*defend on the wing against the full-backs. That means a lot of running, but they can do that. But also a Rico could do that, also an Afeez could do that and if Eric Smith comes in, we might even have another player for the diamond position, so from that point of view, I think it's currently the formation in which we feel most comfortable and which also causes the opponent the most problems with us.*

*Tim: You already mentioned the new arrivals. There were four new arrivals in the really short winter break: Omar Marmoush, Adam Dzwigala, Eric Smith and Dejan Stojanovic. You already demanded or didn't demand a physically strong six-man in the summer preparation, but publicly said that you had this type of player as a desired player. Did you get him now?*

*Timo: Yes, you can't really tell after two or three training sessions. I think Afeez has already taken two or three steps forward, who we signed back then, knowing that he won't work immediately. Unfortunately, he's still a bit in the acclimatisation phase. Eric is a completely different type of player. Eric is a very positional player who radiates something because of his size alone, but has a really, really fine foot. So I do believe that he is a real player for us in the diamond, in the diamond position on the six, who will bring us forward. We have also said that in the winter we only want to sign players who we think are candidates for the starting eleven. Eric has one or two problems that will probably make his start a bit more difficult in the short term. He had his last game on December 6th. The second problem is that in Scandinavia you play 90 per cent of the time and train 90 per cent of the time on astro turf, and then of course you come here to the Kollau on two pitches that are more like a muddy desert than an astro turf and the games are also very intensive, so the pitch in Würzburg was incredibly deep and the pitch at Millerntor is not exactly known as a carpet. So a.) he will first need a training rhythm and b.) he doesn't have the power yet to be able to play 90 minutes in that position.*

*Tim: That's a shame, because you have seven games in January!*

*Timo: Yes, and that's almost the good thing, so to speak. He can certainly play, but not the seven games. And that's the good thing, we have Rico, a player who can play. With Afeez, we have someone who we have seen fulfils his defensive tasks very reliably. So as I said, Eric won't be the player who helps us from start to finish for the next seven games, but he's definitely an alternative for us and a component that we haven't had in the team so far and who should help us of course. He should not just be there and play, but he should help us in the games in which he is on the pitch, but perhaps from our side with a bit of a sense of proportion as far as the workload is concerned.*

*Tim: Another change, a newcomer is Dejan Stojanovic and the development of the goalkeeper position has been discussed a lot in public in the last days and weeks. You cite sporting reasons, purely sporting reasons for the demotion of Robin Himmelmann. The statistics fully support that. But there are also sporting reasons that have been mentioned, such as Robin Himmelmann's hesitant exit behaviour. He is the goalkeeper in the second division who by far leaves his goal the least when he receives crosses, but his lack of leadership from teammates on the pitch is also an issue, something he has been accused of, so to speak, for years. Why wasn't such a decision made already in the summer?*

*Timo: First of all, I would like to say that this was anything but easy for me and that this sporting decision, which I stand by 100 per cent and which Robin has always emphasised, he respects 100 per cent and Robin is also a sportsman enough that he has been in the business long enough and that such things can happen and this is not the first time that this has happened to him, even with us. That's part of it and, as I said, he respected and accepted it. The other thing, of course, is that we asked ourselves before the winter: do we want to take the risk of starting the second half of the season with two young goalkeepers plus Robin, or do we at least look around to see if we can find a candidate who we trust to be more stable in this situation and to perform better, and in the end we decided to add Dejan. He knows this situation from Middlesborough, from St. Gallen, where he stood in goal in exactly such situations a.) replacing the previous number one and b.) keeping the club in the division and he performed well. And beyond that, but that's not something I want to accuse Robin of at all, Dejan is of course a completely different type, he's very extroverted he's loud, he's kind of, he waves his arms, he comes out, he's going to make mistakes sometimes, that's part of it. So, of course, we allowed Robin to do that too, but we want a new start. We want to move in a different direction, first of all in the short and medium term, but also in the long term, and then of course the goalkeeper position is a very, very, very decisive position, and therefore there was no question for us when the option was there that we wanted to do that, because we simply see that we are improving there. And we want to improve in all positions when we bring in a new player. And as I said, the other thing, that he's not vocal or that he doesn't come out, I'm not accusing a six, I'm not accusing Rico Benatell of being weak in the head. But I can't suddenly expect Robin to do things he's never done before! Robin is outstanding on the line, Robin is, in my opinion, a good footballer. Robin understands the game, he's certainly, I think, one of the better goalkeepers in the second division in goal defence. But he's never been, well I was there myself when he was in trial training with us, he's never been a goalkeeper who's been really good in penalty area control. He's never been loud. So I'm far from accusing him of that now, because that's simply not him. No, and the side effects, I know that myself, I mean, I've been here for so long and there have already been a lot of stupid farewells for many players, and we also know that when a well-deserved player gets a farewell like that, it's not only met with approval. But for us, unfortunately, it was out of the situation, the way it developed, we didn't see any other possibility together. So both Robin's side and ours.*

*Tim: That's also a very human component that comes into it, which probably has to be expected of you as a coach. If you look at things from a purely sporting point of view, who is in the starting eleven and who is not, then one or the other player will certainly always be a bit dissatisfied with his role. How difficult are conversations like that for you? For example, you will have talked a lot with Robin about his role recently? How difficult is that?*

*Timo: Yes, this is really a special case, you can say that quite clearly, because I already talked to him in the summer training camp about his role and of course also about what I expect from him and what I don't expect. Then there were two conversations in between where I said where I still saw potential and where I thought he had to behave differently and play differently and train differently. And then finally, at some point, there was the conversation where I told him that he was no longer*

*number one. That's, yes, I'm saying that quite clearly, it's not fun to have a conversation like that, but that's part of it and if I think it makes sense from a sporting point of view and I'm of the opinion that it will bring us forward from a sporting point of view, then yes, I'll do it with 100% conviction. So that fits and ultimately we also told him before the winter that his contract would not be extended and I believe that and that was always a key point when you talked about the older and more deserving players, that you always held them off for so long and hang-ups and sometimes not even a farewell at the Millerntor, because it was then not yet certain before the last home game. And I believe that we in the sporting management can't be blamed at all as far as the process and the talks with Robin are concerned. And the fact that Robin then naturally draws his own conclusions and thinks about how things should continue and so on, that's also part of it. There are always two sides to it, and unfortunately the situation has developed in the last two weeks in the way it has, and we know that it doesn't always look great from the outside. But as I said, I'm not a coach who makes decisions based on sympathy or out of fear of negative conversations, that's not possible. So I'm responsible for everything and not just for one player.*

[Interlude]

Tim: You will have noticed that we have deviated a little from the chronology. Because at the home game against Kiel, Dejan Stojanovic was in goal for FC St. Pauli for the first time. One day after this match, it was announced that Robin Himmelmann was no longer training with the team, but only on his own. And shortly after the end of the recording of what had just been played, the press release trickled in that Robin Himmelmann's contract with FC St. Pauli had been terminated.

This ended a chapter that began with Himmelmann's demotion after the Braunschweig game in the autumn. Timo Schultz said it clearly in the interview: From a sporting point of view, those responsible saw no other option. And in doing so, they accepted the response from the media and the fans, or were aware of the effect this personnel decision would have. On the long list of unfortunate departures of deserving FC St. Pauli players, Robin Himmelmann's departure definitely lands on the podium.

After all, Robin Himmelmann was a bit more than just the long-time regular keeper. Over the years, it had become clear that FC St. Pauli was much more than just an employer for him. He was involved in many areas off the pitch. And so the way he was demoted led to corresponding resentment. As you can hear in the recording, I personally fully share the sporting reasons for his demotion. Nevertheless, I hope that FC St. Pauli will manage to say goodbye to long-serving and well-deserved players better in the future than to demote them in the middle of the season, some would even say to cut them off. In retrospect, the plan to sign a new No. 1 in the winter worked out perfectly. But I can't even imagine what would have happened if it hadn't worked out so well.

[Fan Chant]

Debbie: Almost two years had passed between FC St. Pauli's away win in Paderborn in early March 2019 and the game in Hannover in mid-January 2021. Guido Burgstaller had not scored in a league game for a similar length of time, since May

2019 to be precise. In Hannover, both series were ended. The first already after 10 minutes when Burgstaller converted a cross at the second post in best goalscorer manner. With that, he even marked the 2-0 from FCSP's point of view. The away win, however, was not wrapped up until the very end. Hannover 96 equalised within a few minutes at the beginning of the second half, so that the game became quite open. Quite a few of us must have been pretty desperate at that moment. Does it never end? But we scored the final goal in the 92nd minute:

[Recording AFM-Radio: Knut: Second row, forty metres to the goal, Dittgen, Dittgen all the way out to the left. Paqarada comes into the box but Thomasi has the shortest way and then the cross comes in anyway and ... GOOAAAL, GOAL, GOAL, GOAL, GOAL, GOAL, IGOR MANTANOVIC GOOOOAAAL, GOOOOOAAAAALLL! GOOOOAAAALLL! With the long sole! Long on the ball! Ball ticks right against the post at thirty centimetres and is in! FUCK! MAN! ... FUCK!]

Debbie: "Fuck... Man... Awesome!" Calmly spoken, Wolf. After 13 games without a win, FC St. Pauli managed to win again. The 3-2 win in Hanover brought noticeable relief to everyone who supports FC St. Pauli. And it got even better: At the end of the first half of the season, Jahn Regensburg played at the Millerntor. Guido Burgstaller and Omar Marmoush scored to make the final score 2:0. In the last game of the first half of the season, FC St. Pauli managed to finish a game without conceding a goal for the first time ever. Another series that fortunately came to an end. I assume that not many of us remember pictures of the game directly. Because it was a really tough match, in which Jahn Regensburg presented themselves as a really unpleasant opponent. But that's what made this victory so special. In recent years, FC St. Pauli has always had a hard time against such destructive teams. After a sobering start to 2021 with the defeat in Fürth, FC St. Pauli first scored against Würzburg and Kiel and then won against Hannover and Regensburg. At the end of the first half of the season, Timo Schultz's team was just above the line. A remarkable development. But what did FC St. Pauli do differently than at the end of 2020?

*Tim: Timo! At the end of 2020, FC St Pauli failed to win or even lost many close games. Now there were eight points from four games that could just as easily have been lost. If you look at the statistics, there was no significant change and just the last win against Regensburg was one where I would say you would have lost that at the end of 2020. What is different?*

*Timo: Yes, I think I agree that, that we probably would have lost the game at the end of last year. There are a few little things that I think are obviously different and that we also noticed in the analysis during the first half of the season. These are the last five to ten per cent that you can work on in training through absolute commitment, through volume, through energetic intervention, through friction among each other, through shouting at each other on the pitch, this sharpness that we often lacked in training, both internally and externally, which I have also often mentioned externally, that it is not enough in this area. It is a very hard-working team, but also a very calm one. And that five per cent, to be lucky enough that the opponent doesn't put the ball in, but that together we thwart it, that in the 92nd minute we still have the run in the tank to set up an assist for someone who has been substituted. I think that's the biggest difference compared to last year, and that was also our analysis of the first half of the season, which we started back in October, when it was already clear that*

*we had to improve in the area of the players on the centre line, but it was also clear that we had to improve in the area of the players who create a bit of atmosphere, not only on Saturdays between 1 and 3 p.m., but also during the week.*

*Tim: You played with the same system against Kiel, Regensburg and also in Hannover and with the same formation and with the exception of Sebastian Ohlsson, who came back after Kiel, also with the same starting eleven. How important is continuity in that area?*

*Timo: Yes, it is important. That's what you always want as a coach, of course, that you have to change as little as possible, that the boys can get used to each other, that automatisms, as they always say, develop. A player who comes in or is in training should actually know all of them, but it's clear that you play with a completely different self-confidence and self-image than when you're only on the pitch once every three weeks or have someone else around you all the time. So that was the case in the first half of the season. I didn't choose that, it was due to injuries and, it has to be said, some bad games and maybe also due to the fact that we didn't really find our system. In retrospect, I have to say that we simply changed back and forth too much. I'm sure one or two percentage points fell by the wayside.*

*Tim: It's good that you mention that. With your system, where you switched back and forth, I would say that this system with two strikers is only possible because there are two strikers who were not available in your squad a few weeks ago?*

*Timo: Yes, I think you have to make it clear to yourself that as a coach you shouldn't take it too seriously. So, am I a better coach now with eight points from four games because Guido is fit again? Well, that's a factor. Of course, we can't replace Guido. But that would be bad if we couldn't. The others are twenty, twenty-two, he's thirty-one and has played Champions League. The same goes for James Lawrence at the back. He's a Welsh international, he plays internationally. I can't expect Marvin Senger or a player who is perhaps only half at home in that position to deliver the same performance. And these players are not only valuable because of their performance, which I can be sure of as a coach, but also because of their effect on the other players. And when you see how Kofi is performing again, how much confidence Rodrigo and Finn-Ole are gaining because Guido is there. That shows all the more that one of our biggest problems in the first half of the season was that we were missing precisely these players, these leading players. Because now we have such an axis, such a half-axis with Stojanovic, with Ziereis and also with Buballa, who do it very well in the back and have a charisma. With Rico, you have a player who perhaps doesn't have the mega charisma, but always wants the ball, always demands the ball, is extremely ball-secure, which somehow also gives the other guys a bit of confidence, and up front, of course, with Guido, you are then, it simply has to be said, on a different level than was the case before.*

*Tim: We had just talked about continuity, how important that is. There have been five new arrivals now, also in the winter. There were many, many new arrivals last summer. Apart from Sebastian Ohlsson and, in case of doubt, James Lawrence, who is also a new signing, so to speak, only players who were not part of the squad less than ten months ago could be on the pitch in the next few weeks. Does that surprise you how radical this upheaval is?*

*Timo: Yes and no. On the one hand, yes, because that wasn't really the goal, to make such a big change in the winter. On the other hand, as I said, we as the sporting management are there to analyse things and, of course, first of all to analyse games and players. And if we then come to the conclusion over a period of six months in my case or one and a half years in Andreas' case that we have to change and improve in certain positions, then that is simply the nature of things and that is professional football. I know myself that we got ourselves into a bit of a mess with some of the personnel in the winter and also knew that this would not meet with universal approval. But if we are of the opinion that it is necessary from a sporting point of view and that, above all, it is necessary from a sporting point of view now and not just next summer, as I said, that's what we are here for and the trend at least shows that we were not completely wrong with our analysis.*

*Tim: You've been an active player in a squad like that for a long time and you've also noticed a few things when new players have arrived. What's it actually like when you play a position as a player and suddenly someone new comes along who also plays your position? What is it like, did that always spur you on in the past, was it more of a "what should it be" moment for you or what does that trigger in players?*

*Timo: Yes, it's very different. It was clear to me that if I take St. Pauli as an example, all those who will hear this at some point will think to themselves every year: Boa, now Schultz is playing on the six again! My goodness, can't we find anyone better? And of course that's what the sporting management thought every year, too. So, if we want to improve, we need a strong six and then we have Schulle at the back. And for me it was fun to see every year that someone would come along who could jump higher, run faster, shoot harder and pass three times better anyway, and who would be on the pitch on the first day of every match? That was me! So you mustn't make the mistake, and I'm against that in a squad planning like this and in the situation we're in now, not to make the mistake that everyone else we bring in from outside is better than the ones we have. So finding better ones than the ones we have is not easy. But of course we also have to look the other way round: how can we intensify the competition? Either with a young player whom we trust to outperform an older player, or maybe even with an older player where we know: he'll perform immediately, he won't need any start-up time and he'll make the others better. We are now talking about Tore Reginuissen, for example, directly after the signing, where I can honestly say that the first time Andreas suggested him, I said: Boa, Andreas, you were already looking at his age, weren't you? Yes, but then he comes along and says, "You've already seen what Guido has done for our team in the last few weeks? No, and then you stand there and say: yes, it's simply the case that we hardly have any players over 30 in the squad and that some of the signings are only for short-term purposes, that's the way it is. And as I said, if I'm in the squad as a player, then I have to come to terms with that. Either I take on the competition or I have to get in line and live with the role or I just look for another club, so we at St Pauli shouldn't be more romantic than we are allowed to be. No matter how long someone is with the club, in the end it's a professional football team. I think every fan wants to have maximum sporting success and doesn't want to say, but great, that the player was there for twelve years, we were relegated three times in a row at the end and he played 33 games each time and we didn't win any more games either, but everything was great. That's not who we are and that's not who we should be*

*and yet of course we have to see that we manage it all well. Now I, as the coach, have to manage the squad so that everyone gets their time, that everyone feels valued and, above all, that everyone knows exactly what their role is. No, because one thing is clear, if a new player comes in and he's going to be a regular, then a.) a regular player gets kicked out of the first eleven and b.) a squad player gets kicked out of the squad. And then it's up to me to communicate and handle that.*

[Interlude]

Tim: A certain Guido Burgstaller was emblematic of the upswing at FC St. Pauli. He was sent off from Gelsenkirchen last summer with some unpleasant words. Because his last goal was more than a year ago at that time, Debbie has already told you that. On the one hand, there were many who saw Burgstaller as a top transfer, but on the other hand, there were some who criticised his age and his lack of goals. The serious injury after two appearances in the FC St. Pauli kit was more like grist to the mill of the critical voices. But then came the game in Hannover and the more games that followed, the clearer it became that Guido Burgstaller had broken the knot. He followed it up with a goal against Regensburg and it was to become a record series of seven games in a row with Burgstaller scoring.

Timo Schultz made it clear in the last interview: The return of Burgstaller and Lawrence, for example, has been of enormous importance for the stability of FC St. Pauli. At this point, I would also like to emphasise once again how important Burgstaller has been for the entire team this season. Not only because of his many goals, no, no, but also because he has clearly taken on the role of a leader. A role that was not filled in the squad at the end of 2020.

Debbie: Only a few days after the end of the first half of the season, the second half of the season started for FC St. Pauli. In the English week, VfL Bochum came to the Millerntor. And the Bochum team showed impressively what a top team they are. Despite going behind early and although FC St. Pauli definitely tried to disrupt early, VfL Bochum clearly dominated the game and deserved to win 3:2 at Millerntor. This game showed that the trees do not grow to the sky at FC St. Pauli. But just three days later, things could be improved in Heidenheim:

[AFM radio: ...in the centre there is Zalazar to his left Kofi Kyereh and to his right Paqarada, who is now the first to take a run-up as a left-footer, a short run-up, he will only need two steps and Kofi Kyereh has taken four, five steps back. Zalazar is all the way out. So Zalazar has lost the draw, two shooters left, Paqarada or Kyereh? Kyereh shoots, low goal! GOAL! WHAT A GREAT THING! 2 to 1 FOR FC SANKT PAULI! WHAT A COOL THING! WHAT A FREE-KICK, Kofi Kyereh doesn't shoot so hard, flat, so actually just pushes the ball from, as I said, exactly 16 metres from the shooter into the bottom right corner and some Heidenheim player will have put his foot up, I don't think anyone really jumped up, but will have put his foot up somehow, the ball slips through, goes into the bottom right corner. No chance for Kevin Müller, two to one, the lead for FC St. Pauli, now exactly in the 30th minute, wonderful free kick, lead for FC St. Pauli].

Debbie: Did I just say that trees don't grow to the sky at FC St. Pauli? Well, after the game in Heidenheim, this thesis may be doubted. For in their seventh appearance

on the Brenz, FC St. Pauli achieved something historic: for the first time ever, they were able to take home something countable in Heidenheim. And then it was three points: FC St. Pauli won 4:3 in a wild game against Heidenheim.

By the way, Daniel-Kofi Kyereh's goal, which you just heard on AFM radio, was nominated for the goal of the month. He simply pushed a free kick from a promising position flat under the wall into the corner. This was not a spontaneous move, as Kyereh later revealed in an interview. He had already sunk a ball from a similar position in the warm-up shoot-out before the match.

And just like in some games before, FC St. Pauli showed that they are always a force to be reckoned with until the final whistle: After 1. FC Heidenheim had been able to equalise the lead three times, Rodrigo Zalazar set the final point with his goal in the 87th minute.

[AFM radio play-in: ...to Dittgen, Dittgen feints with his body to the right and then he has played beautifully into the lane in the 16 metre area and GOAL, GOOAAAL! GOOAAAL, ZALAZAR! GOOAAAL, GOAL, wonderful, a great thing! A great pass! How great was Dittgen's pass? Dittgen gets the ball with his chest 25 metres in front of the goal, in a central position, goes half left towards the sixteenth and plays a wonderful pass into the 16th, at 7.8 metres Zalazar comes in, who I saw, sorry earlier, during the substitutions but it must have been Marmoush who went out there. In any case, he plays the ball into the 16 and at 7.8 metres Zalazar gets the ball, takes the ball, takes 2 or 3 more steps and then pushes the ball flat into the goal for a 4-3 lead for FC St Pauli here in the 87th minute in Heidenheim].

Debbie: Only a few days after the match in Heidenheim, FC St. Pauli showed again that many things are different than a few weeks before: SV Sandhausen was the guest. And just like Jahn Regensburg before, Sandhausen presented itself as the expected unpleasant opponent. In addition, the situation in the standings was not a pleasant one: FC St. Pauli had 10 points from the five previous games, but the match against Sandhausen was a classic six-point game, with the 15th-placed team in the table facing the 16th-placed team. But FC St. Pauli showed in this match that they had understood the nature of such games: With a concentrated defence and a patient offensive, they managed a deserved 2-1 victory with goals from Kyereh and Burgstaller.

[Fan chant: Oh Sankt Pauli, bist mein Verein...]

Tim: Breathing deeply was the order of the day. At least a little. There were nine days between the game against Sandhausen and the following one in Nuremberg. In view of the change in the standings, that was a real breather. For this podcast project, it finally gave us the opportunity to deal with topics that have always been pushed into the background due to the difficult sporting situation. In November, the club announced that it would be equipping itself independently with its own brand, DIY, from the coming season. Due to the sporting situation, this had once again led to the recurring accusations that FC St. Pauli was not concentrating enough on its core business. I make no secret of the fact that this accusation is complete nonsense to me. But how does Timo Schultz actually see it? Does a turbulent environment influence the players and the coaching team?

*Timo: To be honest, not at all about such topics. And to be honest, I also think it's a bit unfair to throw them into the same pot. I don't think we've ever just drawn or lost a game because the club somehow plans to produce its own jerseys in parallel. One has nothing to do with the other. So we don't lack one euro in money - or somehow two employees in manpower. That's really, those are two completely different things and beyond that, when you ask directly if that influences us? That doesn't interest me either. To be honest, whether I'm wearing Under Armour this year or this D Y I I or whatever, that shouldn't be an issue for us in the sporting area and it's not. I think it's good that the club is doing this. I think it suits us, and if not us, then who? These are all projects that many of the fans are longing for and for which FC St. Pauli should and must stand, because we should always be aware of our social responsibility and want to live up to it. But everyone can be sure that this does not in any way mean that the sport has to cut back. On the contrary, in the long run it may even generate funds that could not be generated otherwise. So you can also develop the imagination.*

*Tim: Absolutely! Nevertheless, you have to face the truth a little bit and see that it's not only a topic in, let's say, the fans' area, but there are also articles in the relevant FCSP media á la more football, less politics, where some ex-players or ex-officials comment on it. Such articles always make my skin crawl. You too?*

*Timo: ((laughs)) Yes. To be honest, I'm a bit ambivalent about it, because Corny always said quite well that if the first team is doing well, then everyone is doing well. And it's also the case that these issues and these ex-players or would-be experts, they all only get called on the scene when things aren't going well. So if things are going well now, no one will come and say "What's with the stupid jersey? Why are you doing it yourselves? Let someone else do it and concentrate on football". So we just have to make sure that things are going well in sporting terms, and unfortunately I have to agree with some people, it's just the way things are with us that the media often focus on topics that shouldn't play the first fiddle, or perhaps shouldn't be such a topic at all. There is also the saying "Do good and don't talk about it" and we should make sure that we strengthen our core brand, which is and remains football. Both in sporting terms, which is the top priority, and in the media, and I believe that if we manage to do that, then these side issues that are part and parcel of FC Sankt Pauli will always find their place. But it must never be the other way round and I can understand certain points of departure, 'ne, because I've been watching it from a safe distance for a few years now from the NLZ and sometimes you had the feeling, "yes, it's not so bad that we lost, but this and that are going quite well right now. And let's get involved again for this and we have to do something again" and that must never happen.*

*Tim: Let's turn it around and play out a kind of utopia: I read an interview with Marcell Jansen, the president of a neighbouring club. He said that a turbulent environment does influence the players and directly mentioned the example of HSV. The unsettled environment, however, refers more to the recurring power struggles between the presidium and the supervisory board among themselves and with each other, but also in the sporting functionary levels. Would that already influence the sporting performance on the pitch or affect the players? If there is such torment in the supervisory board and presidium?*

*Timo: Yes, I can only confirm that, also from my own experience. When the shit hits the fan in the immediate sporting environment, and everyone is really down in the dumps, and it's more like being against each other than with each other, and you really notice that there are tensions everywhere, then of course that affects you and the players. I see all of this directly because it is also happening on the training ground with the respective people and is of course also being covered by the media again and again. That is, of course, and in my eyes, something completely different. So when it comes to the people involved and really who is shooting against whom? And if there are internal power struggles, and it's no different than in private life in a big family or in politics, then of course there are always cronies and cronyism, and once that gets into a team like this and into the environment of a team like this, then it's very difficult for you as a coach. So that's the worst thing that can happen to you, a centre-forward somewhere who doesn't score or somehow one or two quacks in there or somehow a small group formation like that, you somehow get it all sorted out. But if your environment doesn't give you the peace and quiet to work, then you have so many sideshows that the team eventually gets to know everything.*

*Tim: Can a team also hide behind it?*

*Timo: Yes! That's the next thing, that gives the team an alibi. I'm sure there are also players who stand up after the game and say, yes, of course that influences you and that's why I couldn't perform at my best today. I personally wouldn't have any understanding for that, if I'm honest, because at the end of the day that's 90 minutes of playing football on the pitch. So, you can always play well and badly, but that's certainly not due to whether two good players can play together or not.*

*Tim: You were a player for FC St. Pauli in, let's say, financial times that were not like those of the last ten years. If I look at the "Bokalserie", which just celebrated its anniversary, from 2004 to 2006, the club was in a very critical financial situation. How did you perceive that as players? There are always these anecdotes about "only cold water in the showers" and so on?*

*Timo: Yes, well, that was due to the burst pipe (Tim ((laughs)) Hahaha!) or the lack of technology and the old building we were in. But there's actually this story that the car drove up to the old clubhouse with the oil and said, the heating was out, the tank: "I'll pump this in for 500 euros, but only if you pay the 500 euros from the last time! And then everyone looked at each other with big eyes and said, "Well, I don't have any money." - "Yeah, me neither." And then Corny ran over from his theatre and gave him 500 euros so that the heating would still be running in the evening on match day. And that's how you have to imagine it back then. At that time, Frank Schulz was also somewhat responsible for that. I don't know if he was already a member of the supervisory board or if he was only responsible for the numbers with Michael Meeske. So every round in the cup, and we were also told that, contributes to the survival of the club, and that was close at the time. So we had - there was no money. And nobody really knew what was going to happen. And because of this cup series and the construction of the new stadium, you could foresee that things would get better in the medium term. But we also needed a pusher like that back then. Either a player transfer, which was utopian at the time with our cucumber squad, or an extraordinary income in the sense of making it to the semi-finals in the Cup, or, I don't know, nowadays you would sell your merch rights or whatever, 'ne, this kind of*

*silverware. But at that time we were already sucked dry, 'ne. It was just before the end of the year and we were told that clearly. But my goodness, I also say that I don't play better or worse football because of that.*

*Tim: Do you think so? So I would have assumed that such a bad financial situation could either weld a team together or if it becomes really bad and you then also talk about something like missing salaries, that it then becomes really tight for a team?*

*Timo: Yes, but somehow I don't know, maybe I'm too naive or maybe I'm too set in my ways. Well, then I would have done something else. ((laughs)) That wouldn't have been so bad. But when I go out on the pitch and play football, I don't worry about whether another oil tank is being filled somewhere or how much is left before the end. So, 'no, it doesn't fit with me, it doesn't fit in my world'. Well, I've always been able to separate them quite well and certainly there are situations like that in clubs and I mean, there are just these blatant examples with Uerdingen or Türkgücü where there's just this one investor and he pulls out and then it's like, "Well, then you can all leave the club. Then eight new people look for a club and then he says, "Yes, you see, so I've achieved what I wanted" - long nose and I'm not leaving the club after all, by the way, but I just got rid of eight people from the payroll. And that's what I find, that's very different from when you're financially strapped as a club and have to look where you're going to stay and somehow can't plan for more than six months. But I think that's the case for a lot of clubs in the Corona era that we're in right now.*

*Tim: Yes. Let's bring it back to today, so to speak, what would have to happen in the environment for the coach Timo Schultz to say, I'm not going to continue like this?*

*Timo: ((laughs)) Haha. Oh, no, to be honest, I can't imagine any scenario. So if a sporting superior were to somehow try to talk me into it or something, I would have an allergic reaction. I can't have that at all. If I'm going to make mistakes, I want to make my own, but I'm not in any danger of that with Andreas or Oke. That's a scenario that I think I would have problems with. Now, however, simply because that can't work in my eyes. Otherwise, I don't have a scenario. A permanent lack of sporting success for sure. So I don't want to rule out the possibility that at some point you'll say, "Boa, you know what, guys, let someone else have a go. But I haven't reached that point yet, for example, and I hope that we don't have another bad phase with thirteen games we haven't won. So from that point of view, what you can't rule out, what I've also heard from many fellow coaches and former coaches, is that at some point, when you're in this hamster wheel and every year you're back to the grind, a new team, starting again, pressure again, a bad situation again, that you might get tired at some point, I mean Ralf Rangnick is also a prominent example of a kind of burnout. I believe that if you don't free yourself from certain things, then something like that can happen to you. Personally, I see myself as quite stable, but I understand everyone who at some point says of their own accord: "Hey, I can't do this anymore, I don't have any more energy and I need some time off! That's the way it is in normal professional life and I think that as a trainer you have to have a thick skin, even with all the publicity and so on, to withstand the pressure and to remain stable and positive, that's quite a task.*

[Interlude]

[Recording AFM-Radio Knut: ....They are there now with many people in our half, because Ohlsson plays the ball on the right side about 25 metres from the corner flag. Long drive forward, now Burgstaller drives the ball, there are three St Paulians, Burgstaller can't get to it, but it gets Kyereh the ball again, Burgstaller now shooting POSITION, SHOT, BURGSTALLER, GOOAL, LEFT IN THE ANGLE, BUT WE HAVE A POSITION OF GOAL? Ref? What does the ref show? Nothing? Bobby: Nothing at all, so- Knut: I thought so, he has his finger here at waist level. Burgstaller hits the ball into the left corner - Bobby: With the right outside of the foot, mind you].

Debbie: FC St. Pauli played one of their best games of the season in Nuremberg. After 65 minutes, FCSP had a well-deserved 2-0 lead thanks to a wonderful goal by Burgstaller and a converted penalty by Marmoush. Only the poor use of chances made the game exciting again. Thanks to an increasingly strong Mats Möller Daehli on the Nuremberg side, there was still a chance to tie the game and it was a nail-biter at the end.

But that was also part of FC St. Pauli's daily routine: The games in which things got or could get really dicey at the end were now won almost without exception. In the following home match against Darmstadt 98, two of the most offensively strong teams in the second division met. And this game was to deliver what it promised: In an intense 95 minutes, FC St. Pauli only squandered a 2-0 lead within minutes, only to regain the lead around ten minutes before the end, again through a Burgstaller goal, of course. The highlight of an already high-class match was then also the final point. Because shortly before the end, there was one last corner for Darmstadt...

[Recording AFM-Radio: ...and on the right side there is now the cross ball, the corner...last action of the game. Schnellhardt has gone out for the corner, Schnellhardt, Kempe is out, so now Schnellhardt takes the corner and we watch out for the yellow-clad goalkeeper Schuhen, who is standing in the five-metre area. A bunch around the five-metre area, two Darmstadt 98 players, with their hands resting on their knees are lurking. And corner kick comes now, a St Pauli player is outside, that's Paqarada, he's outside, he has to be treated, now the corner comes in from the right, turned in, headed shot -shot, cleared on the line and with his hand and to the CROSSBAR AND AGAIN WHAT IS IT? TWICE CLEARED ON THE LINE, Once again the ball is hot, it's in the sixteen again and there's THE FINAL WHISTLE! ST PAULI WINS AFTER A WONDERFUL TUMULT, INTO THE BAT, CLANKED ON THE LINE, THEN a player then sitting down still wipes the ball away from the goal line Uiuuiui. Pardon my French!]

Tim: FC St. Pauli has already played ten games in 2021 up to mid-February. Five of them were away matches, which always included at least one overnight stay. The entire FC St. Pauli team is on the road a lot, especially at the weekends. Like me, Timo Schultz has three children, and since I know exactly how family life works and that weekends are a very special time for families, I had to ask myself one question: How well are professional football and family life compatible?

*Tim: Timo, what do you actually do when you don't want to have anything to do with football?*

*Timo: ((laughs)) Haha, that really happens rarely because I spend my whole life with football (?) It also looks like this, that when I have a day off, then (I am?) right away with my son, who is 13, usually somewhere on the football field and play football with him. So it's really an exceptional situation, but when I'm kind of fed up or just say I need to switch off, as was the case from time to time last December, I actually leave the mobile phone at home and go for a run in Alstertal or go for a bike ride with my wife or with Frieda and try to distract myself somehow, that's also important. It's important to have days and phases when you're not too preoccupied with it, but I can't quite get away from football in everyday life.*

*Tim: How much football do you watch on the side? Well, of course you watch the second division for analysis purposes. But do you watch Champions League, international matches, first division? What do you watch? Do you finally watch the Champions League in the evening on the couch, again like that?*

*Timo: Yes, that is indeed the case. But there's a simple, pragmatic reason for that: our little girl usually goes to bed between seven, eight and half past eight. And usually that's the only time of the day when I can talk to my wife in peace and quiet, and then we don't watch another film or series as we don't anyway, but there's usually some kind of football on and we take care of the things that were left over during the day and also talk to our wife in a quiet minute. Which otherwise often comes too short, because I'm working all day, my wife too, we're busy all day with work, with children, and that's the only quiet time of the day when you have time for yourself.*

*Tim: I'm a family man myself-*

*Timo: But I like watching the Champions League! Therefore-*

*Tim. Yes, I also like watching the Champions League, the speed is insane, especially when you compare it to the second division.*

*Timo: Yes, it's a different kind of sport, to be honest. I have to say that I've watched less of it now, because I used to watch the Bundesliga conference on Saturday afternoons, and now I don't watch it every now and then, so "All the games, all the goals" is enough for me when I go to the playground with my little girl.*

*Tim: We can hear your little girl in the background right now! Mine could also be heard in the background, I'm a family man myself, soon to be a father of three, and I have to ask this because you're basically on the road every weekend too: How family-friendly is the job of a football coach?*

*Timo: Well, you have to weigh it up. It's family-friendly, especially if you're still a player yourself. Because you really have a lot of free time and a lot of opportunities to take care of your family and be more active in your own education. Now, as a coach, it's actually the case that on days when we have one training session, I might be back home in the late afternoon, after I'm usually at Kollau around eight or half past nine in the morning, and on days when we have two training sessions, it can be seven or eight in the evening, so I'm almost gone for twelve hours, We are well organised, the two older ones, you hardly have anything to do with them now*

*anyway, they are thirteen and fifteen, but the little one, you always have to organise her away somehow or to manage everything well as a family so that it all works. But we are experienced, it's not the first child and we are flexible, both me and my wife, so everything works out.*

*Tim: And you already said that you are home in the late afternoon when you only have one training session, when you have two training sessions it is a bit later. Then of course there are the games at the weekend and I would assume that when you are at home that doesn't necessarily mean that you have stopped working. How long is your working day on average? What do you estimate?*

*Timo: Ah, I see - you're right. When I'm at home, I also like to watch a half-time of the upcoming opponent on the laptop on the sofa or watch scenes from my own game again or prepare for training the next day. So the whole thing doesn't really let you go, so it's usually about ten or twelve hours a day. If you add it all up. But it's a job that's fun and cool, and there are a lot of cool things that I get to do, and it's hard for me to describe the time on the training field as work. I do nothing else my whole life, it's so much fun for me to deal with the boys every day, to talk to them about football, to somehow try to make them better or to somehow organise things, whether it's for training, whether it's procedures, everything that somehow comes up as a coach, so there are days when I sit at home in the evening and I'm really exhausted from work, but most of the time I come home and the wife asks or the kids ask: how was training, how was it all around and did everything work out? And I always say, yes, it was cool, it was fun and this and that happened and this and that went well and there are also phases where you say, man, that didn't work out at all or he trained really badly and this and that happened. But for the most part, it's actually fun and I like going.*

[Interlude]

Debbie: Admittedly, that was a very short conversation between Timo Schultz and Tim. But maybe that was also due to what followed after that conversation: Because the derby at the Millerntor was already casting its shadow. And FC St. Pauli went into this game in no less than absolute top form, having won six of their last seven games, some of them really convincingly. HSV, on the other hand, had not been able to win the three games before the derby and in the last game had conceded a heavy defeat at the bottom of the league in Würzburg. Nevertheless, the HSV coach at the time, Daniel Thioune, made a challenge that he knew would blow up in his face: "St. Pauli is St. Pauli and HSV is Hamburg. Never did I hear such bullshit before!

On 1 March, the time had come. FC St. Pauli welcomed HSV to the town's championship. And we briefly recall what Timo Schultz had demanded at the beginning of November as motivation for his players: New Year's Eve firecrackers should be set off before kick-off. No sooner said than done - let's have a listen to how the teams were welcomed at the Millerntor:

[AFM radio: On the bench today Brodersen, Dittgen ((Dong!)) and then Hells Bells! ... ((New Year's Eve fireworks))]

Debbie: The teams were welcomed with a breathtaking fireworks display. And it did not seem to have missed its mark. Although HSV had a few chances through standards at the beginning, only FC St. Pauli played from the middle of the first half at the latest. Despite a multitude of chances, however, no goal was scored. At least not until the 88th minute, exactly when Knut from AFM-Radio had already set himself up for a 0:0...

AFM-Radio: Left side Buballa back pass to Zalazar 35 metres from goal, now Zalazar spins a beautiful banana into the middle, has shaken off two HSV players, high ball into the BOX THERE IT IS ZANDER, HE LAYS THE BALL BACK, THERE COMES KYEREH, KEYREH SHOOT ... GOAL, GOAL, GOAL, GO-AL, GOOOOOOAAAAAALLLLL, KYEREH CURLS THE TIGHT RIGHT-FOOTED SHOT INTO THE ANGLE ON THE RIGHT, SOMERSAULT BACKWARDS FOR REWARD! PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE. I thought it would end 0:0 here. But then this rocket! from Daniel-Kofi Kyereh and everyone is over there at the corner flag between the main stand and the south and lying on top of Kyereh. He's lying on his back now, gets taken down again by Zalazar from above receiving kisses, in minute 88].

Tim: So FC St. Pauli has once again defended the town's championship. So once again we state: "Hamburg is and remains brown and white!" I experienced the game Corona-style in front of the TV. Of course I completely escalated when first the late goal was scored and minutes later the thing was whistled off. But when the first adrenaline rush had subsided, there was also quite a lot of melancholy.

*Tim: Timo, we are talking two days after the derby win. Congratulations!*

*Timo: Yes.*

*Tim: I must honestly admit that besides my joy about the city championship, I also felt a great deal of melancholy after the whistle blew that I wasn't there, that I wasn't in the stadium. How do you experience it as a team or how did you experience the derby victory and how do you experience it without spectators?*

*Timo: Yes, that's actually not only a small but a big drop of bitterness, because everyone who has experienced all this, whether as a player or as a fan, knows of course what emotions can be released and when you go to the stadium and then there are a few of them and they pull off a pyro show, and you could feel the cold, knows of course what kind of emotions can be unleashed and when you go to the stadium and a few people are standing there putting on a pyro show, you can already feel the crackling in the bus and especially our players, and there are quite a few of them who have never played in front of spectators at the Millerntor, they don't know what could have happened. The week before, I already imagined the scene against Darmstadt when we cleared the ball on the line, under the crossbar and out! And right after the final whistle, you could have renovated the first stand, and now in the derby with Kofi's goal, I think you would have had to sweep the rest of the stadium again. So yes, those are the moments that everyone lives for, both the players and the fans, and that you can't experience that together is really extremely bitter.*

*Tim: Absolutely. You have experienced it yourself as a player and can certainly assess it well and have certainly been asked this before, but of course I am also interested in it specifically from you: How important are fans in the stadium for a team? What effect do fans have on a team?*

*Timo: ((laughs)) Yes, that varies a lot. Well, let me put it this way, I think Schalke 04 can be happy ((laughs)) that there are no fans in the stadium. That would certainly not be so pleasant. With us, it's like this symbiosis that sometimes develops between the team and the fans, that naturally has an extreme impact. I can remember a few games in the first half of the season where we played really well, but just couldn't get the ball over the line and I believe that these few percent, which you might be missing, would definitely have been there with our fans and that we would have won one or two games. And I mean, I've been in the stadium more often in the last few years and I've seen a lot of really sleeper events and I was sometimes really bored by the games and when I see how we're playing at the moment, how we were playing forward even before the winter, everyone knows what would happen at the Millerntor, 'hey, and especially here where it's not just a singing area like in other stadiums, but where the whole stadium joins in, it's of course already, I mean, that's why we all go to the football. It doesn't matter if you're old or young or male or female or green, yellow or blue. We all want to celebrate, we all want to have fun, we all want to give it our all, and if that's already the case on the pitch, then it's even more so in the stands.*

*Tim: You mentioned Schalke 04, have you also experienced situations, you were also a co-trainer in the licence area, but you have also generally followed the second division team in recent years, have you also experienced situations where you thought that this could also have a negative effect on the performance? I know, I have a bit of an accusation in the back of my mind, or what do you mean by accusation, that the general criticism of players and the style of play at St. Pauli is not dealt with very well. So whistles at half-time when the game isn't going well or something like that, that's something I've only experienced very, very rarely at the Millerntor. Is that a positive or a negative quality? So would you say that sometimes the players can get fired up, that's okay, or would you say that it's good that they don't get so much pressure from the stands?*

*Timo: Yes, you should never forget that most of them are 19-, 22- or 25-year-old kids who can be influenced and manipulated on the one hand by their teammates, opponents, coaches and of course by the audience, and I think you can see that now, when there are no spectators in the stadium, it might be easier for one or the other to perform. Because they don't have these influences, because they don't feel this pressure so much. For me personally, and I know a lot of other players, it was more of a boost to be booed away from home and to be supported at home. I think that's a huge plus for us, that our players simply have the security of knowing that the crowd is 100% behind us. That you don't have to be afraid that you'll be thrown out, that you'll be insulted, that you'll be booed. You know, hey, all we need is a corner or a good action and the crowd is there again, and I think that's a huge advantage and I don't think anything of putting your team down or booing them. What's different is that maybe somewhere in a bad phase, after the game, you can clearly express your opinion, at the fence or even with whistles or chants. I think*

*that's something completely different. But during the game, I think you should always support your own team, that's just the way it should be, at St. Pauli anyway.*

*Tim: You mentioned at the very beginning that there are quite a few players and also people in your coaching team who have not yet experienced a full Millerntor, how - so did you tell them about it? Are they already looking forward to it? Can they somehow empathise, because there were two games where 1000 spectators were allowed in the stadium. Was that anything comparable?*

*Timo: ((laughs)) No. I remember when my co-trainer Fabian Hürzeler came to me after the Heidenheim game and said: "Boa, it had a real stadium atmosphere and I think there were two and a half people inside. And I just said to him: Fabi, when things get really crazy here, floodlights, late goals or hectic decisions, you don't understand your own words down there. You simply can't compare that. And also these 1000 or 2500, that's nice, that's good, but that has nothing to do with Millerntor, that has nothing to do with the Roar that we all love so much. It has nothing to do with this huge melange of background noise and you can't replace that either. And you have to be honest, a derby win like that is of course incredibly cool and we still managed to do it somehow, because you could hear from inside what was going on outside, you could also see it with the fireworks. We still managed to create a connection somewhere, but it's just not comparable, neither for the fans nor for us.*

*Tim: You used to be a fan at the FC St. Pauli stadium, you told me once, or you told me once in the Millernton in the monthly podcast. Where did you stand? Or were you sitting?*

*Timo: ((laughs)) Haha! Cake block! Because there the beer was for free! ((laughs)) Hahahaha! At that time, I got tickets very, very early through the Paulick law firm. And then through Sebastian Wojcik, who played here before me. And those were always relatively good tickets, I also stood on the Gegengerade. Most of the time I was on the halfway line, but most of the time I was in the cake block, I have to be honest.*

*Tim: What is your favourite fan song at the Millerntor?*

*Timo: ((laughs)) Haha! Corner and bunch of keys! Yes, that somehow still stuck with me from my time when I was still a fan myself, I always had a lot of fun with it, that when there was a corner, everyone took out their bunch of keys, as if the doorbell was about to ring. That was always the coolest thing for me.*

*Tim: Now it will probably be a while before you hear chants in the stadium again. The club has now published a refund catalogue in which it is also announced that it is more or less no longer expected that spectators will be allowed into the stadium this season. Team sports in the amateur sector have been around for ages, and if I put it very pointedly, many of us are currently watching you do something that is forbidden to all of us, right? That you as a team, you always post a winning photo after the game, that you can somehow be together as a team, celebrate together, have super close contact with, well, you are a team, there is of course also super close contact with good friends. Are you aware of this - on the one hand it can be described as*

*your job, as something you have to do - on the other hand it can also be described as a huge privilege. Are you aware of that?*

*Timo: Yes. And that's actually something that we always try to get across internally, that the boys simply have to be aware that they - well, we really have - it's already an absolutely great life as a professional footballer, everyone has to be aware of that, because then there are always these grumblers: "Oh, why training again? Why here? Why do I have to go to autograph sessions and stuff like that, which isn't happening at the moment. And to be able to do all of this at this particular time, and of course with all kinds of exceptions, some of which no one understands, but to be able to experience all of this is a huge privilege and we are all aware of that, which is why we keep pointing it out: Be a role model, make sure you stick to the rules in your private life, we at Kollau have the highest hygiene regulations and measures with masks and all the rest. On the other hand, you have to say quite clearly that it's our job, and I think that's also something that the boys have to understand when it comes to the question of privileges. How do we behave? And here and there? You have a responsibility to yourself and to the whole profession. Nevertheless, I always try to emphasise that - I mean: Hey, you can go to the football field every day and play football. With your mates! What could be better? Now regardless of whether it's your profession or not. And a lot of people miss that right now, 'ne, so regardless of whether it's football or handball or just doing something in the city park with your colleagues, that's already - yes. That is definitely an exceptional position, we know that.*

[Interlude]

Debbie: By the way, HSV also lost 1st place in the table due to the defeat in the derby. As we know, they should not regain this place in the further course of the season...

FC St. Pauli, on the other hand, stood somewhere in the middle of nowhere in the table at the beginning of March with 31 points after 23 games. And that was nothing less than a truly fantastic development. Between the beginning of this episode, when FCSP were deep in the relegation zone and Timo Schultz was credited in the media with having "no more solutions", and the end, when they were celebrated derby winners and picked up 22 points from their last nine games, there were less than two months. If any more proof were needed that football is an enormously fast-moving business, one would only have to look at this short phase of FC St. Pauli's season.

[Fan chant: We are oohhh Sankt Pauli!]

Tim: We are very happy that we didn't have to stop this podcast project at the beginning of this year. We are glad that those in charge continued to stick to the path they took in the summer, even in the really critical phase in terms of the league table. We are glad that Timo Schultz's time as coach of FC St. Pauli did not come to an early end. What is coming to an end now, however, is the third episode of "Being Timo Schultz". You will hear about the last games of the season and the corresponding conversations with Timo in the fourth episode. Despite the relaxed sporting situation, Timo Schultz and I will get into a heated discussion, as we have discovered the joy of discussing things. Look forward to it!

[Fan chant: The Heart of St. Pauli]

Debbie: "Being Timo Schultz" is a podcast project by MillernTon. Working on this project was a lot of fun, but it also cost us a lot of time. The MillernTon is always happy about your support. We are currently in the process of professionalising ourselves further and developing into an established medium for reporting on FC St. Pauli and fan topics.

You can help us with this. Firstly, by making us better known: share our content, comment on it and like it on social media. There are many people around FC St. Pauli who haven't even noticed what we do here at MillernTon. Another way to support us are donations, with which we try to create editorial positions. With a small monthly amount you help us a lot in this way. More information on how you can support us can be found on our website. There you will also find our daily "Lage am Millerntor" and many other blog articles as well as various podcast formats. Just take a look, there's always something going on here.

We would like to thank a few people for the realisation of this project. For example, there's Wolf Schmidt and the entire team of reporters from FC St. Pauli's Blind and Visually Impaired Reportage, also known as AFM Radio. They certainly gave some goosebumps in this episode, especially with the footage from the city derby. Thanks for that!

In a moment you will hear Thees Uhlmann again, who wishes that Timo Schultz will be his last coach of FC St. Pauli. We would love to grant you this wish, Thees. If only because you recorded the corresponding part of "Being Timo Schultz" again in the studio. Thank you!

We would also like to thank the club and especially the media department of FC St. Pauli for agreeing to this project, back in July 2020. Of course, Timo Schultz also agreed to the project. Whether he knew at the time what was in store for him? We don't know. But we do know that this podcast has given us an insight into the inner life of FC St. Pauli and especially the coach that is simply unique. For that, for these always open and honest answers, for the unique insight into your thoughts, we would like to thank you, Timo!

I am Debbie and I will guide you with my voice through the FC St. Pauli season, which has reached a real high in the meantime. Behind the controls sits Maik, who has a lot to do with the countless edits and audio snippets to put together our texts, the fan chants and jingles, the conversations with Timo Schultz and the live recordings of the games into one big whole. And then there's Tim, who's been doing the talking to Timo Schultz since last summer and who was almost bursting with excitement the week before the release. This podcast is now also available as a transcript on our site. Both in German and in English. This is made possible by our island correspondent Arne, who also diligently translates our blog articles and has climbed his own personal Mount Everest with the transcription of this podcast project.

[One Player Fan Chant]

Debbie: That's it for the third episode of "Being Timo Schultz". As you know, FC St. Pauli played really well in the spring and in the end the season came to an end. However, "coasting" is completely the wrong word for the conversations with Timo Schultz in the fourth episode. You will be able to hear it in a few days. Look forward to it.

Outro: Bon voyage Timo Schultz, also for district and club! You shall be my very last FC Sankt Pauli coach. How much can love endure, I may never make it out, but until then, fuck it, Forza, FC Sankt Pauli!]