

Being Timo Schultz - Episode 4

[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 project, with the FC Sankt Pauli coach.

Debbie: Welcome to the fourth and final episode of "Being Timo Schultz" - a podcast project in which we accompanied the FC St. Pauli coach for a whole season. And since we were only able to finish the production of this episode after we had an extensive conversation with Timo Schultz after the end of the season, we can include a big thank you here: Thank you for all the positive feedback we got. It feels really good and warms our hearts. We really invested a lot of time in this project and it's even nicer that so many of you like it. Since we would like to implement similar projects like this one in the future, we'll just take advantage of the fact that you're listening and include a small advertising block:

Tim: In August 2018, our website Millernton.de was launched. There we combined three different formats:

1. the MillernTon podcast, which was previously docked at Übersteiger and where we welcome various guests from the FC St. Pauli environment in a kind of talk show.
2. the pre- and post-match talks, where we always have a fan of the upcoming opponent as a guest.

And 3. there is the MillernTon blog. At the beginning it was rarely visited, but as time went by it became more and more regular. Match reports, fan topics, really rough mischief, player profiles and much more. On top of that, we developed the "State of the Millernton" in October 2019. We planned to do this as a weekly overview. But we quickly realised that there was far too much to report if we "only" put it out on a weekly basis.

So in January 2020, the "State" started every weekday, and the number of normal articles also increased strongly. It was probably a mixture of curiosity, fun, tiredness of the previous coverage of FC St. Pauli and self-abandonment that moved us to publish something about FCSP every day. Maik and I wanted to find out whether we still enjoy our work at MillernTon when we do it every day. And lo and behold: Yes, we really enjoy it. And the response to the expanded reporting was consistently positive.

[Fanchant]

And because we enjoyed it so much and the response was so great, we asked ourselves about a year ago, can we make this hobby our profession? Because it was clear that the quality and quantity of the reporting could not be sustained if we were "just" doing it as a hobby.

What seemed completely insane to us at the beginning became more and more of an idea. Because if there are so many people who read the MillernTon and we have so much fun with it, then we simply have to try it. "It's now or never!" we thought to

ourselves. Because we would probably have been annoyed at some point if we hadn't tried it a year ago. And now we can state: Working at MillernTon is more than a hobby for Maik and me. It is (at least partly) our profession. And that feels incredibly good.

This is possible because we earn money through two pillars. On the one hand, we earn money with advertisements. Here we take a much more difficult, but for all sides more pleasant route: we choose our partners ourselves and do without automated advertisements. The second pillar is you: your donations. We are very pleased that we already have a considerable number of donors who support our work with small monthly standing orders. From one Euro to 19,10€ per month, everything is possible. These donations help us immensely. It is really great and makes us incredibly proud. BUT: We can call MillernTon a profession to some extent, but financially it is all pretty much on the edge and would probably not turn out well in the long run without growing support.

Therefore, we would like to take our chance that you are forced to listen here right now because you absolutely want to hear Timo Schultz. If you like what we are doing, then support the MillernTon if you can. A small monthly contribution from many people helps us a lot to be able to continue on this path with the MillernTon. Thank you!

[Fanchant]

Debbie: So, enough of the commercials. The last episode ended really well, namely with the derby victory. From a sporting point of view, however, the start of the fourth episode is rather sluggish. A few days after the Derby victory, FC St. Pauli played at the in-form Karlsruher SC. At that point, we had scored an impressive 22 points from the last ten games. KSC had even picked up one more point in the same period and could have been expecting something in the direction of the promotion places. The game was then characterised by mutual respect. Both teams were very cautious and the result was exactly what it deserved: 0:0. For KSC, this game was the start of a series of nine games without a win. Of course, it's always difficult to judge something like that from a distance, but at the end of the season, KSC looked like they were "coasting". Who can blame them. Before the season, the team was considered a clear relegation candidate, with a very tight financial situation. After they scored a season point 40 against FCSP, the danger of relegation was averted early on. By the way, the 32 points FC St. Pauli had after this 23rd matchday would have been enough for relegation at the end of the season. And now take another look at the table after the match in Fürth at the beginning of January.

Tim: One week after the point in Karlsruhe, SC Paderborn came to the Millerntor. And in this match it was already noticeable early on that things were somehow not running smoothly from FC St. Pauli's point of view. After just seven minutes, Paderborn's Chris Führich lofted the ball past Stojanovic into the goal. Further chances and a penalty for Paderborn, which was taken back by the video assistant referee, could have ensured a clear situation in the first half hour. FC St. Pauli tried a lot, but in the end it was a deserved defeat.

[AFM radio: The ball goes into the middle, to Justvan and a wonderful ball into the depth to Führich, alone against Stojanovic, chips the ball past - saved on the line, No! The ball is in the goal. 0:1 in the seventh minute...

...(?) wants to pass into the middle, but St. Pauli in between and then the game is over. Referee Schröder blows the whistle at that moment, we hear a sharp scream, that was Steffen Baumgart, who beats FC St. Pauli 2:0 today with his SC Paderborn. Knut: Yes, and you have to say, quite deservedly St. Pauli had a super strong opening phase, really set off fireworks for six minutes and then Paderborn came with a gripping game].

Debbie: FC St. Pauli travelled to Osnabrück on the next matchday in 10th place. In the meantime, they had reached the relegation zone. The VfL had picked up a point in Nuremberg, but while FC St. Pauli had picked up 23 points from the previous eleven games, Osnabrück had just that one. And so Tim wrote unusually clear words in the preliminary report: "FC St. Pauli will arrive at Bremer Brücke as clear favourites." And Timo Schultz's team lived up to this role as favourites. With a convincing performance and goals from Guido Burgstaller and Omar Marmoush, three points were taken away from Bremer Brücke. But especially the first goal caused discussions afterwards. During a duel in the penalty area, the referee saw contact between Omar Marmoush and Maurice Trapp - and decided on a penalty. A controversial decision. It was not the only one in this match and at the press conference afterwards Timo Schultz said quite clearly "I don't think anything of the video assistant referee!" - Time for a discussion:

Tim: Timo, I would like to talk to you today about the video assistant referee! Is that okay?

Timo: ((laughs)) Ha! Ha! Ha! Do you want to provoke me in the good times or what?

Tim: Yes, I thought if the good times are already here, then we can discuss a bit more. If you feel like it?

Timo: Yes, all right.

Tim: If you don't like it, then we don't have to do it.

Timo: Yes, let's go ((2x clapping))

Tim: Timo, at the press conference after the game against Osnabrück, you said that you, and I quote, "don't think anything of video evidence". Why?

Timo: Because for me, it's just another step away from the original football. Wrong decisions are part of it and everyone who imagines that wrong decisions have been or will be abolished by the video assistant referee has been proven wrong in the meantime. I simply think that so much of what makes football and makes it so original - from the district league to the Bundesliga - is being able to do a goal celebration alone! You can't even cheer these days. The first thing when the ball is in the net is that the referee grabs his ear and five men from the opponents sprint towards him and think of something that might not have gone that way. And then

they sometimes find something. Whether it's some funny offside situation, whether half a minute earlier the ball bounced into someone's hand on the other side or whatever. The rules are so open to interpretation and so flexible and I don't enjoy it, I don't enjoy it at all and I'd rather live with a wrong decision and hope that it evens out over the course of the season than have to wait for the referee six times a game and look: what's wrong now?

Tim: Ultimately, I would say that the introduction, which is now the third season of the video assistant referee or even the fourth, I'm not quite sure, was about making football fairer. And the statistics also say that yes, football has become fairer with the video assistant referee, and significantly so. Is that still not enough for you? Do you prefer to live with this injustice?

Timo: Why? Which statistic is that?

Tim: Well, it's about how many wrong decisions were taken back or changed in penalty decisions or disputed decisions or when the video assistant referee got involved. I'm not talking about offside decisions, we can talk about that separately in a moment.

Timo: Yes, good. I don't think much of statistics like that! Because you give me five minutes and I'll smash them to rubble! (Tim ((laughs))) Because in the past there were also wrong decisions that were not seen or were taken back. Now there are just as many wrong decisions that are not discovered. So I can remember so many handball cases that are whistled against us, I think we got two or three penalties for handball cases where the ball jumps from our body to the hand and we have five, six situations, exactly the same again. So for and against us, where the whistle is not blown. Are these also wrong decisions that are included in such statistics? You just have to shout louder or, to put it in Marco Reus' words, just be Bayern Munich or - so what is it measured by? So also these offside situations! That's complete madness. It takes them three minutes to recognise whether it's offside or not. I can maybe turn the cog in Cologne one frame further, then he's offside, and if he's a St. Pauli fan, then he turns the frame back one frame, then he's not offside. And how is that a wrong decision or not a wrong decision? It doesn't fit, it just doesn't work. And when does it take effect - the next thing is that there are still people involved. So when does this video assistant referee intervene? If we remember the scene from the derby: Gideon Jung goes into our player with both legs stretched out, there is - everywhere on the halfway line the whistle is blown immediately and if he is unlucky he gets a yellow. But there, at the penalty kick, he looks at it again and because he might have hit the ball before, it's suddenly no longer a penalty kick. Whereas now in Osnabrück Omar is maybe touched a little bit somewhere and he doesn't take it back. So it just doesn't fit. Mistakes are still made. Just on a different level. And it takes much longer. And as I said, it's only possible in the Bundesliga or maybe only in the second division, but not below that and that - no, that doesn't fit. That's not football as it should be.

Tim: I would say that - you mentioned the handball - that the handball rule is a separate case, it is not a question of the video assistant referee, but of the interpretation of the rules themselves. Even before the video assistant referee, hardly anyone understood it, or it was always a matter of interpretation by referees. I

would say that it is definitely an advantage, as the statistics show, if several referees look at situations, especially in the areas where you said that from the 3rd division onwards it is no longer the case, but especially now that the speed in the first and second divisions or in the professional leagues in general is so insanely high that many situations are very difficult for referees to resolve. Why shouldn't technical assistance be used?

Timo: Well, I'm more with the motto: many cooks spoil the broth. Because then something else is seen and something else is seen, right now with the handball rule, there is actually only one cause for me: Is that intentional? And then nobody needs to tell me about an increase in height or whatever they call it. If I get the ball shot at my forearm from 60cm with 140km/h, (Tim ((laughs))) but the ball flies somewhere towards the corner flag and there's a penalty for that. Sometimes you get the feeling that the players, when they are in the box, deliberately shoot in the direction of the body and then immediately shout "hand", just to create a hectic situation. The other day, someone even shouted "hand" when the goalkeeper had the ball in his hand. (Tim ((laughs))) That just doesn't fit. I'm not at all narrow-minded and only traditionalist. For example, I think the goal-line technology is really good. And I might even somehow - although not really - if we're already talking about the video referee, then really about clear wrong decisions, which is why a goal is scored. And then I'm really talking about the ball being carried into the goal with the hand. Or someone was two metres offside beforehand. But not all this other shit! And as far as the hand rule in particular is concerned, this year they are fortunately taking three steps backwards again for the first time in what feels like fifteen years, that they are leaving out all this what-if stuff, but really going back to it now and asking themselves first and foremost, is it intentional? And if I jump up for a header and my arm is actually, because I'm jumping, a bit above my shoulder and from behind I'm headed against it, no one can tell me that's intentional! I don't like that, it really upsets me and I can only shake my head during the game. We score two beautiful goals against - I don't know who, last home game it was - and you can't even be happy. You can't even be happy! That's terrible, I think that's really bad.

Tim: If I can hear that from all the emotions you are showing, then your main concern is that a possible video assistant referee intervenes in the case of clear wrong decisions, which is actually the reason why it was introduced in the first place. Would you now abolish it completely or would you under - would you simply have change requests as to how it is implemented?

Timo: Well, I personally would abolish it. Completely. Or, you have to go there and then, when everyone says that this is a million-dollar business and here and there, then the first step is that I train professional referees (Tim: Yes!), that they are paid accordingly, I mean, they are not badly paid now, but that they are really professional referees and that these people in the - no matter whether it is in the basement or something else - there should also be proper training. And then everything would have to be clear, and that's just not the case. I mean, you see that every weekend. And as I said, we only get upset about the things that are assessed incorrectly, we don't get upset about the things that are not assessed. I bet you that if we look at any game from the first or second Bundesliga, we will find at least five so-called wrong decisions that are judged differently at other places. Whether it's a handball in the penalty area, whether it's offside or not offside, sometimes the linesman raises the

flag immediately, sometimes he lets play continue for another half a minute. These are all things that have now been created by the video assistant referee that are simply no longer coherent, that are simply not coherent with each other, i.e. in the evaluation of the scenes. You say that the more people look at it, the better it gets, but it is simply the case that the same situations are still evaluated in completely different ways and, on top of that, the whole game comes to a standstill and right now there are no spectators, but in my eyes it doesn't make any sense that way. It's a lose-lose situation for everybody.

Tim: If we were to create such a utopia and the video assistant referee actually always intervenes correctly in the case of blatant wrong decisions and says that something was wrong here, that is, in an ideal world, all decisions made by the VAR would be completely correct and comprehensible - I have also heard that you are also bothered by the fact that you simply don't know as a team whether a goal counts or not - would that outweigh it? So would you say I can live with the video assistant referee if all the decisions that come from him are also correct and understandable or is your: "We can't be happy about goals anymore" outweighing that?

Timo: Yes, definitely! And I think if you were to do a survey among the coaches and also among the fans, I'm sure the majority would be completely in favour of doing away with it.

Tim: In other sports, video evidence is fully accepted. Could the criticism and the low acceptance also be related to the fact that referees in football are already generally less respected?

Timo: No, so if we are already discussing that there has to be this thing and there is no turning away from it, then of course you have to create a completely different transparency, so it already starts on TV, then somewhere it is said that the goal is being investigated and you somehow only see the people standing on the field. You don't know what is being investigated? You don't get to see the scenes, then at five o'clock on ARD it's offside and in the evening at a quarter past ten on ZDF it's not offside, as I said, depending on how they turn the wheel. Then the referee really has to go there, then the referee has to say - like in football, for example - "Watch out, this and that is being investigated. Then the pictures have to be visible to everyone, but they're also scared of that because they know exactly, okay, there are pictures on the monitor that aren't clear. And at the latest at that point, the thing has hit the wall. If you can't even say, we'll show this scene! Every stadium has a screen now and everyone knows that it was offside! But then you show a scene like the one we had at the weekend with Marmoush (and he's typing in the rubbish?), second to last match day, team in a relegation battle, the goal is taken back because of offside. I wouldn't want to be a referee there. That's for me - anyway - I don't want to be a referee any more. I used to be a referee. In the meantime, I wouldn't want to be a referee any more.

Tim: You used to be a referee?

Timo: As you say, from the line two talk in...

Tim: ((laughs))

Timo: Yes, of course, I was a referee!

Tim: I'll have to ask you about that again separately!

Timo: My dad was a referee instructor. So, of course, I had to be a referee as well.

Tim: Ah yes, all right.

Timo: I got a referee grade of 0.9 on the football teacher's test, so I got every question right!

Tim: ((laughs))

Timo: I think that's good in American football, for example, they explain it and they go and everyone knows about it. And they take the lads with them. And there are also clear rules, or in tennis, for example, with the challenge, you know, then the responsibility lies with the player. In football, I find it difficult to put even more pressure on the coach, but my goodness, these are all models that are clear. But with us, nothing is clear. In the meantime, the referee sometimes doesn't even make a decision anymore, he says, better wave no more offside, if a goal is scored, we can always take it back. But then a corner is taken from an offside situation, so the corner is taken and a goal is scored, even though the player was 2 metres offside beforehand. And normally the linesman would have waved. Yes, where is that fairer? That's pure shifting and droning back and forth and waving away your own person, so I would give the ref all the power and if we have to agree that the assistant referee intervenes, then really only in the case of goals or goals against that are completely wrong decisions. And then a penalty kick that Omar gets doesn't count as a completely wrong decision because he just hits him and it's his own fault if he goes in so stupidly in such a situation.

Tim: ((laughs)) Hehehehe.

Timo: We have also had penalties like that against us.

Tim. That's right. So let's summarise: Video assistant referees will never be your absolute favourite. You would like to see video assistant referees only intervene in the case of very blatant wrong decisions and that more transparency is created. I think about that for example in - not only in American football - there is a lot of discussion about the rules, I follow American football a lot in my Twitter timeline, but if you look at rugby, for example, all communication between the referee and the video referee is disclosed.

Timo: YES! Also cool!

Tim. Then everyone hears that, everyone can hear that.

Timo: Also cool. Yes, also cool, yes.

Tim: Let's take it that way.

Timo: But as I said, if it's up to me: abolish it completely! That's why you need to discuss this with me - actually, we've been discussing it for too long.

Tim: ((laughs)) Haha, the word for Sunday. Thank you.

[Interlude]

Debbie: After the match against Osnabrück, there was another international break. However, this did not dampen the good play of FC St. Pauli. On Easter Monday, the match against Eintracht Braunschweig was scheduled, which was something of a low point in the first half of the season. But in the meantime, the match was on the brink of collapse. Jannis Nikolaou, Fabio Kaufmann and the coach and co-coach of Eintracht Braunschweig tested positive for the Corona virus. However, Eintracht Braunschweig did not have a domestic quarantine, as was ordered shortly afterwards for SV Sandhausen and Holstein Kiel. At the match itself, a difference in class became clear:

AFM-Radio: Knut: Now transitioning situation for St. Pauli with Burgstaller played deep on the right wing, where Marmoush runs, has his opponent in front of him, penetrates into the sixteen: Marmoush, Marmoush, Marmoush, wiggles out, Marmoush SHOOTs; GOOAL, GOAL, Marmoush wiggles out his opponent, that has been good. It was very good indeed, because it's 1:0. Schlüter, the Hamburg youngster, is fooled by Marmoush... ..Leif: Intercepted by Paqarada, Sankt Pauli can now switch with speed again via Beckers into the centre to Marmoush, who plays the ball deep to Kyereh, KYEREH FREE IN FRONT OF THE GOALKEEPER, RUNS PAST HIM, SHOOTs THE BALL: GOOAAAL! 2:0 Daniel-Kofi Kyereh and then he does his somersault. Super job, running past the goalkeeper, it's a two-on-one situation and then he does it ice-cold].

Debbie: Just like in the game against VfL Osnabrück, FC St. Pauli dominated the game against Braunschweig. Already after 15 minutes they led 2:0 through goals by Marmoush and Kyereh. The only reproach to the team on this day was that this result did not turn out much higher. Times change so quickly if that is the only criticism. And it continued in exactly the same way: since 2013, there hasn't been much more than a noodle pot to pick up away from home in Aue. All five games since then have been lost. But the second half of the season has already shown, with the historic victory in Heidenheim, that it is time to break series. Compared to the two previous victories, FC St. Pauli even improved their performance a little and deserved to win 3:1 in Erzgebirge. Luca Zander scored twice in the match. And he did so with the identical run-in variant for set-piece situations. Yes, and that is particularly remarkable because Timo Schultz complained before the game that his team scored too few goals from set-pieces.

Tim: In April 2021, FC St. Pauli was riding a wave of success and playing really good football. The team seemed to have fully internalised the procedures of the formation with the midfield diamond, and so one wheel usually fitted into the other on the pitch. As long as there were no injuries to regular players, this wave of success also meant that some players spent a lot of time on the bench or even in the stands. Personally,

I find it very frustrating when you, as a player, are sometimes quite suddenly no longer part of the first eleven or even the squad. From my point of view, that is a potential source of unrest for the whole team. That's why I wanted to know how a coach keeps the players happy who are no longer part of the regular line-up.

Timo: Timo, you won very convincingly in Aue at the weekend, and before that you won against Braunschweig and Osnabrück, and if I summarise that briefly, then the way you play has become more convincing with every game. That was very pleasing, it looked very good, so there's not much reason for big changes on the pitch, you don't make many changes, if you do, then it's mostly injury-related changes in personnel. So, I don't want to pour water into the wine, but not everyone in the squad is happy with that. As a coach, how do you keep the mood high among the players who are not playing that much at the moment?

Timo: By talking to them a lot. I think that is the most important thing. By putting additional pressure on them, showing them a way forward, I think that's also a very decisive factor, that you don't leave them lying somewhere and promise them that they'll be encouraged and that you'll get your chance at some point, but that you tell them very clearly why they're not playing, which can also be simply because the others are playing well and successfully at the moment, and you also tell them very clearly that this and this are the points you have to work on and then it's up to us to work with them on such issues, that you say: Video analysis from training, for example, video analysis from the test matches, all things like that. That they notice that you still want to bring them forward. I say, especially with younger players, this is a decisive phase in how they deal with it. If they accept that and work on themselves, then they will still take their next steps and sooner or later they will be on the pitch. And I have to say that the players who are at the back, who are not playing at the moment, are very, very hard-working. They give it their all and I think you can always see when they come in that they are really burning for the big picture and it's clear that at the moment when a team is successful, permanently, the mood is of course better than when you often don't win or only lose and are in a bad phase and when you don't play, then of course it's even harder to bear.

Tim: You said that you talk a lot with the players. Do you actually talk more with players who are not playing than with players who are playing? Can you divide it roughly like that?

Timo: Yes, you can definitely underline that, yes. A lot of communication is necessary. For example, I go for a run with the players after training as an additional burden and talk to them about the situation and try to awaken a bit of understanding. We work a lot with sequences from training, for example, and have set priorities that they have to work on. Simply to make progress anyway. I think that's important for the players, that they feel involved. In addition, as head coach, I now also have the responsibility for the players who have to bring us the points at the weekend. Of course, the closer it gets to match day, the more I communicate with the players who I know have to get the points at the weekend.

Tim: How many one-on-one meetings do you have with players per week? Can you roughly divide that up? Well, I don't mean talks along the lines of here, you have to look at - how to deal with Testroet, the striker from Aue, but more along the lines of

what can you do better? How do we imagine your career or your style of play at the club? So what are the, let's say, bigger one-on-ones? How many do you have per week, or is it not possible to divide them up like that?

Timo: That's actually because the weeks are so different, you can't say that. But it's actually the case that every player gets a video analysis every week, an individual one that is specific to him. But that's mainly done by my co-trainers, who work with sequences and then take the lads along again and again, sensitising them to their own issues. I always talk to the lads a lot around the training sessions, and sometimes bring them into the office. Yes, we simply want them to notice that they are on our radar, that we are dealing with them. And if it's only two or three minutes, I think that already has an effect.

Tim: How do you communicate the composition of the matchday squad to the team?

Timo: Yes, well, if there are cases of hardship, especially if they are older or more experienced players who are not in the squad, then I actually go there one or two days before and prepare them by telling them: Watch out, it looks like this and this, it may well be that you are not there, for this and that reason. Otherwise, they usually find out about it the day before the game, because we often train with the team and I mean, everyone can work out for themselves that if there are 20 places in the squad, then it is often the same ones who are not in the squad. And apart from that, the final naming of the squad is more or less a notice where the procedure for the next two days is written. So a.) the team/squad meets then and there to do this and that and b.) the players who are not in the squad have training with the coach at that time at that place. That's then sort of the final squad naming. But before we put the notice out, pretty much everyone knows.

Tim: And how well can players cope with the information that they are not playing or not even in the squad?

Timo: Yes, it varies from type to type. I think a young player who somehow has to deal with the fact that he's not in the squad will notice that, because we put a lot more pressure on the players who aren't in final training. That's also totally unusual, I've never experienced that myself. But we want to support every player as much as possible, so they usually know by the end of training that, okay, I have a four-a-side tournament here, which means I'm not here. But as I said, if you prepare them, if you talk to them, if you somehow show them a way, then they understand. But of course nobody is happy if they are not in the squad. So, especially an older, experienced player, I mean, Knolli was not in the squad two or three times. Of course, you have to deal with him differently than with a 19- or 20-year-old.

Tim: How well was the player Timo Schultz able to cope with the information that he is not in the squad?

Timo: Yes, it was very different. As a young player, especially at a higher level, you have to grudgingly accept that. When I was older and came to terms with the matter and had a very good relationship with Stani, especially when we were promoted to the first division, it was foreseeable for me, but then I was in my early or mid-thirties. I already had two children at home, so you take things differently. But week after

week it's actually a punch in the gut. So a sinking feeling, am I into it? Am I not on the list? And that's not fun for the player or for me as a coach, that has to be said quite clearly.

Tim: You come from the youth sector, you coached the U17s, the U19s. I imagine the conversations, even these one-on-one conversations, to be much harder than the answer: Maybe you won't make it here, you need another professional club because we don't have any prospects for you here. In case of doubt, the talks tend to be along these lines. Out of you - or that will generally be nothing. You won't become a professional footballer. Is that - is there such a blatant difference? Are the talks tougher at youth level because younger players or younger people generally find it harder to cope with such things?

Timo: Nope. I wouldn't make such a big difference. In the youth sector, it's already the case that many players actually have their dreams come true. They believe that they will become professionals. That's why they make such a huge effort. Here at the professional level, it's simply the case that - here at St. Pauli, every player likes to be a player, and in the meantime they earn good money, and some of them have families that have to be fed. And you have to worry about moving again, or you have to make sure that you continue to have work. And I think on the one hand it's very different as far as the setting is concerned, but on the other hand it's always a conversation that you don't like to have as a coach. But I've become relatively unemotional about it, so the truth is something that every player needs, whether he's fifteen or twenty-eight. Because it doesn't help anyone to waffle around somewhere or to make a fuss somewhere. In the end, it's about giving a sporting assessment, which I don't necessarily have to be right about, but which is ultimately made in the interests of the club or the team, the decision. And there are always two sides to it, so on the one hand the players get good contracts and on the other hand, when such a contract expires, the club also has the possibility to say that the contract can't go on like that. So either the contract is changed or there is no new contract at all. That's the way the business is, it affected me a few times as a player and the lads know that too. And in the end, it's up to everyone to perform as well as possible, to behave as well and as diligently as possible, then the likelihood that you'll get a good contract again increases. Whether it's with us or somewhere else.

Tim: If you look into this area far away from matchday squads, I would guess that there are a lot of conversations with advisors. Not only with the players, but also with their advisors. How is that? Is it mostly conducted by Andreas Bornemann, so to speak? I mean, many advisors certainly want to hear from the team's head coach about the client, with whom we are now planning for the long term, or to be shown a perspective. Do you talk a lot? Is it rush hour in the spring as far as talks with consultants are concerned?

Timo: Well, many advisors overestimate that. To put it bluntly. Most advisors are really only interested in the contract. That sounds stupid, but that's simply the way it is. An advisor only really comes into the picture when it's a question of whether a contract will be extended or whether he has to change clubs. Then all of a sudden the player is important. Then all of a sudden they have to make phone calls and talk, but during the rest of the contract period you hear relatively little from them. I have contact with maybe a handful of advisors, and they are either former players of mine

or advisors I know from the youth sector. Apart from that, nobody calls me. But I've never called any parents either and I'm quite happy about that, Andreas does all that.

[Interlude]

Debbie: After the victories against Osnabrück, Braunschweig and Aue, where FC St. Pauli's style of play became more and more convincing, the Würzburger Kickers came to the Millerntor. It was to be the highlight for FCSP this season from a playing and results point of view.

AFM-Radio Knut: Throw-in Sankt Pauli, twelve metres from the right corner flag. Zander to Becker, Becker back to Zander, back to Becker, now shooting position, cross position I mean, put in the middle, 28 metres to goal, Paqarada, central position, Paqarada shoots ... GOOAAAL! DELICIOUS SHOT! WHAT A GOAL! PAQARADA BANGS THE LEFT FOOT AGAINST THE BALL AND THEN THE BALL FLIES INCREDIBLY AT THE HEIGHT OF THE BELLY-BUTTON AT THE LEFT POST for 3:0 into the goal. And using finger language signs, somehow Paqarada makes with fingers pointing down: 3:0!]

Debbie: After just 20 minutes, FC St. Pauli took a 3-0 lead against a completely overmatched Würzburg thanks to Lert Paqarada's dream goal. This was Timo Schultz's team's fourth win in a row. With 44 points after 29 match days, things got a bit tingly. Whereas relegation had been the most likely option for leaving the division around two months earlier, the team suddenly felt that they were within striking distance of the promotion places.

Even if it was really only a feeling, since Holstein Kiel in particular, but also other teams, had to play some catch-up games, the table calculator of the Kicker sports magazine became one of the most popular toys within the fan scene. Now that the season is over, however, we can state: Even if FC St. Pauli had won the remaining five games of the season, it would not even have been enough to qualify for relegation. With the 59 points FC St. Pauli would have had on their account, they would have finished the season in fourth place. But fourth place in Division 2... that's been taken elsewhere in Hamburg.

And to make sure that no false hopes were raised, FC St. Pauli put an end to all speculation about a possible promotion: Only a few days after the convincing 4-0 win against the Würzburg Kickers, they suffered a deserved defeat in Düsseldorf.

AFM-Radio: Sankt Pauli ... is redeemed at this moment, there's no other way to put it. Like a piece of something that has been stored for far too long, we are hanging in the corner, empty, used up. Bobby: I think I said it once in Fürth: They dominated us in a relaxed way].

Tim: "Relaxed dominated". Nice formulation, Bobby. The disappointing defeat against Fortuna Düsseldorf, a team that - to put it kindly - has not been very popular with many fans for many years, was followed by one of the most beautiful games of the season. SpVgg Greuther Fürth were the guests. Already in the 10th minute, Luca-Milan Zander was able to put the ball into the Fürth goal following a standard. The game remained open until half-time. Shortly after the restart, Guido Burgstaller

increased the lead to 2-0. Greuther Fürth could only score the final goal in injury time. A very strong game by FC St. Pauli against a promoted team.

Even after this game, there was still a theoretical chance of at least reaching the relegation zone, but as you will hear in the next conversation, this was not an issue within the team. But the certainty that FC St. Pauli will continue to play in the second division next season finally gave me the opportunity to talk to Timo Schultz about his personal situation in the winter:

Tim: Timo, we're talking today, one day after the quite respectable victory at home against Greuther Fürth. After 31 games, relegation is no longer possible, it looked a bit different in the winter. Now relegation is no longer possible, but theoretically even promotion. Honestly, have you ever used the table calculator from Kicker?

Timo: No, quite honestly: Really not. Even if no one believes it, I'm still really marked by December and January, I really only looked down until three weeks ago and saw that in theory it's really no longer possible and somehow it really was in winter - and if someone had approached me and given me a final match in Regensburg, I would have said: Let's take it! And now we are in a completely different situation, which is of course madness.

Tim: How did you yourself perceive the situation around you in winter? In the media, there have been a few voices that have said: "Well, Schultz and Sankt Pauli or FC Sankt Pauli, that doesn't fit!" How did you perceive that?

Timo: I think my greatest strength is that I don't use social media. I think that there it is put on the day with a completely different sharpness and vehemence. There are 80% of people on the go who tend to look where there is something negative and where they can somehow put their two cents in and somehow talk about failure or other scenarios. I even found that the tabloid press reported everything very objectively. We only had eight points. So no press can make more or less of it and we didn't manage many games in such a way that we deserved to win them. That's why I knew at the moment I signed the contract in the summer that such phases would come. That I will be blamed somewhere, that criticism will become louder, that's part of the business and if that would have influenced my work in any way, then I would definitely have been wrong. We analysed things well in December, I always had the feeling that the exchange with Andreas and also with Oke was always very close and very honest. I can say that, especially in this phase, I felt an extremely high level of trust on my part. That's why I didn't concern myself so much with this immediate scenario, that I might no longer be a coach, but rather I made sure that I did what I could do, what I could influence, i.e. to find solutions, to continue to think in perspective. And I think that does you good when you focus on your daily work.

Tim: One of the things you did every day at the end of autumn was to change the goalkeeper in the middle of the season. I would put forward the thesis that in many clubs or in many situations for coaches, even if it's not going well at all from a sporting point of view, such a change in the goalkeeper position is really the very last bullet. Have you also felt that way?

Timo: Um, yes and no. Funnily enough, I said exactly the same thing to Matze Hain back then. Wow, that looks like the last bullet! Although at that moment, at that time, it wasn't like that at all for me, I simply made a sporting decision and did so with a consistency that perhaps hadn't been there before, with other coaches or in other settings. So, but I can't say somewhere, if I want to continue to come across as a fair coach, then I can't say we have a competitive situation but it counts somewhere, just not on the goalkeeper position. That doesn't work either. So, I was already aware of what kind of signal that would send to the outside world, but we also chose that quite consciously because we were convinced of the move. That's why as a coach you have to decide at some point, what do I want now? Do I want to go through with it the way I think is right? Or do I prefer to see how I look to the outside world and how I can perhaps cause the least amount of trouble internally, in order to then perhaps somehow reproach myself afterwards. So there was no alternative for me.

Tim: You attribute the current success to the decisions made during the winter break. You always emphasise that the right decisions were made in the winter and during the winter break. Do you actually only mean the winter transfers that were made?

Timo: No, no, no. Well, it's also a decision to stick with the coach. If we're talking about it, we have to mention that somewhere, from my point of view, with gratitude. Because it's not a matter of course when you don't win thirteen games in a row that you continue to sit so firmly in the saddle. I also believe that the personnel decisions, we did some things right, of course. We signed Eric Smith and then Burgstaller came back, so that was also like a new signing. And then there were a few small things, but in terms of the process, in terms of the mindset, we changed a few things. For example: more focus on the defence. In the analysis, too, we analysed even more sharply and brought the whole thing to the players in a somewhat clearer and more structured way. Sometimes less is more. So we changed a few things in the analysis from December to January. And as I said, with the signing of Stojanovic, Marmoush, Smith, the return of Burgstaller, we are now also just after the Fürth game. How many players do you think were still on the pitch from the first leg? Knowing you, you probably counted them, but?

Tim: No, I didn't count. I know that Dzwigala played at that time. I think Zalazar and Kyereh had a break against Fürth. At least they didn't play from the start. So if anything, I'd say one!

Timo. Yes, it's all wrong! All wrong, all wrong so far, ((laughs)) haha!

Tim: Shit! ((laughs)) hahaha!

Timo: Zalazar and Paqarada played but Paqarada we even substituted at half time.

Tim: Oh yes, because he had so many problems against Leweling, I remember that too. Time and time again.

Timo: Yes, well, we all had a lot of problems. With Paqa, however, we knew that he would have to play 90 minutes again against Würzburg, so we said at half-time, "Come on, let's swap!"

Tim: That's quite a change when you compare the teams that played there. I've been following it and it's true that sometimes there are only one or two players left in the starting eleven who played for FC Sankt Pauli last season. Nevertheless, you can of course blame it on the upheaval, which took a little while to settle in, but you also mentioned that you changed some things. I noticed that you actually tried out a lot of formations and personnel in the autumn of the first half of the season, some of which didn't work out and some of which may even have gone really wrong. Looking back, would you perhaps also say that you simply made some mistakes in a certain way? That you would no longer make now? Would you clearly name any mistakes that you would say I wouldn't make again?

Timo. Oh, it's always very easy to say afterwards. If you had done it that way from the beginning or it was stupid or something. I think I would have done most of the things that were often simply born out of the situation, not even because the plan allowed it, but because someone got injured again and something didn't work out, I would maybe do things differently, that's definitely the case. I think it was good for us to stick to the system, even if we had a setback or a bad game. Well, we actually had two good phases in the season, one was around the first international break, when we really rehearsed the three-man backline in detail, which I think we played very well by our standards. And now, of course, the phase where we stay with the diamond permanently and I think that for the lads, this security of one system is much more important than flexibility within several systems, which would of course be nice for me as a coach. But then maybe I overestimated some of the players or the group a little bit. So, the security of always having the same procedures in certain positions is especially important in times when things aren't going so well in sporting terms, and that's why we decided to go with this one system in the winter. A factor that gives the lads security.

Tim: And that's where I would personally start my analysis. You mentioned the switch to a diamond. You also said that the three-man backfield worked relatively well. I would put forward the opposite thesis and say that the three-man backfield - especially with regard to the build-up to the game - only functioned very slowly. Is that something that you would perhaps not change again? Or would you not try it with the squad that you had at your disposal at the time?

Timo: I think that's the decisive epilogue that just came. Of course, you always have to look at: what kind of players do I have? Are they more defensive players, are they more fighters, are they more openers? I believe that we have now found something that really suits the squad and that we did something with the three-man backline that actually worked really well, but where perhaps not every player found himself in his position 100 per cent. And we also played really, really good games with the three-man backline. I can remember dozens of games where we had 20 shots on goal to 6 and hardly let anything happen at the back, created at the front without end and we definitely didn't push the three-man backline away, but I think that will be an issue again, if at all, for the last two games of the season and then perhaps again for the preparation, solely and perhaps also for the reason that we are now so solidified in our procedures in the diamond that, if we were to start next year, then I could say: Come on, we'll play a diamond formation, everyone knows about it, let's go. That's why we're already one step further in any case.

Tim: Let's get back to you, the coaching carousel, especially in the first division, is currently rotating so much. Today is the day when a transfer fee of 30 million euros for Julian Nagelsmann to FC Bayern Munich is being discussed. It's not even that impossible that the current top seven in the Bundesliga will start the new season with a new coach. What do you think of this development?

Timo: Yes, this is actually a completely new trend. Normally, it's always the last seven who change everything, now it's the first seven lately. I see that somewhere, of course, like everyone with such a slight shake of the head, because in my opinion it can't be that. We always talk about consistency and about wanting to develop something, and then every one point six years you have a change in the coach's chair and the sports director's chair. On the other hand, I have to say that we can discuss it however we want, the coach is the most important person in the sporting area of a club. At least as far as working with the team is concerned, and before I buy a player - that is, a player for twenty million euros - who might make me better but who, if I'm unlucky, also has a drop in form or gets injured, I'd rather, if I'm convinced of it, get a coach who, in the best case, might even make all the players really better. That's a milkmaid's calculation! That's the multiplier. So I can absolutely understand the trend, really, if you are convinced that you want to get a coach and if you are convinced of his quality, to really spend money on a transfer fee. On the other hand, there is of course the trend to immediately pull the ripcord at the first failure and then somehow have five or six people back on the payroll. That's also frightening, of course.

Tim: Yes, it's quite a shark tank, too. That's always my impression, so the trainers' shop is actually about the hottest chair in the industry. What do you actually do when one of the top seven teams knocks on your door? You're playing a good season now, you have a young - you're still a relatively young coach. Objectively speaking, and I would even underline all of that, you and your much younger co-trainers have really got things going at Sankt Pauli, you have massively developed football in a way that it hasn't been developed in the offensive area at Sankt Pauli for almost a decade. That will automatically lead, I would say, to you playing a role elsewhere as a person. What will you do if something happens now? If someone writes to you and, let's say, the VFL Wolfsburg says: Oh, man, Schulle, you're doing a great job there, why don't you come over to us? Wolfsburg is also a beautiful city.

Timo: ((laughs)) Haha. I don't think they would write that! Hahaha! They know that I know Wolfsburg! No, what I said before, I think that as a coach you have to show some gratitude for the fact that even in such a bad phase, in such a difficult time, and I mean, it's my first station here, you still get the trust. That is not a matter of course. And I also believe that you shouldn't immediately flee at the first offer and say, but I'll earn more money there, I'll train better players there, I'll have a better environment. That's not my thing at all, so in the end I started here with a mandate that I gave myself to bring the club back into shape in several areas, first of all with the team, of course, but also with the surrounding area, as far as Kollaustrasse is concerned, as far as the training conditions are concerned. And we're on a very good path at the moment and that's why it's very difficult for me to imagine leaving my team and the club. I also know that this will definitely be the case at some point! Either we're permanently unsuccessful and I'll be kicked out, or things are going so well that I'll actually want to, can, may, have to take the next step at some point. But I don't really

see that happening in the immediate future, but rather in a medium-term plan that will probably happen at some point.

Tim: Well, I have a pretty precise medium-term plan, which foresees 2030 Champions League with FC St. Pauli and you'll still be the coach on the sidelines! Is that also your plan?

Timo: ((laughs)) Haha. So if we were to develop the plan together and put it into practice over the years, I think we could both live with it very well. I mean, Jürgen Klopp was the one who said, somehow, "if we're still all sitting here together in three years' time at his inaugural press conference, then I think we've done a lot of things right in that period. And I think that's always a period of time that I thought about as a player, that I thought about when I was a youth player and that I think about now when I'm in a men's team. You always need a year or a year and a half to develop something, and then you have to perform for a year or a year and a half, that's just the way it is. And either it works in that period of time and then it's good and you've developed both as a coach and as a club, or it doesn't work and then you have to ask yourself why and how you can do it better. And then there are different ways.

[Interlude]

Debbie: "A piece of gratitude" is what Timo Schultz wants to show, making it clear that he will remain coach at FC St. Pauli next season. For the fact that the club placed its trust in him in the winter. We gladly accept the gratitude. And for a few more years, Timo! Knowing full well that our secret plan of the Champions League - or whatever UEFA's SuperDingelDongel product is then called - will work out with Timo Schultz as coach.

In sporting terms, FC St. Pauli went to Kiel for an away game. Kiel only came out of quarantine at the end of April and had to play a few catch-up games. And they came out of the break really strong, winning 5 of their first six games in the 2. division. Only two defeats at the end of the season ensured that they ultimately only ended up in the relegation place. As we now know, Holstein Kiel will continue to play in the 2nd division next season. The FC St. Pauli game started quite well, but the longer the game lasted, the better Holstein Kiel became:

[Recording AFM Knut: Serra is through, Serra crossed again, shot and goal. ... Yes, now Bartels has free lawn in front of him, comes to the right of the box, a ball forward, next contact, is on it again, baseline, shot, goal. ((Cheers)) Bartels, 2:0. ... Point to Bartels, shot, Bartels, goal, in three moves matt ... Then another good shooting position, right on the box, Kiel, shot, Hauptmann, back on - follow-up shot: goal! Hauptmann to Stojanovic, who lets the ball clap again and then comes behind, Serra, Jannis Serra can now finally register as a striker: 4:0 Kiel.

Debbie: "Nelly the Elephant". Nobody here wanted to hear that song after the game. FC St. Pauli lost 0-4 in Kiel. Theoretically, this meant that all hopes of promotion were finally buried. Holstein Kiel clearly showed FC St. Pauli that there is still a considerable difference between the teams playing for promotion and FC St. Pauli. To be honest, it was quite perfect for our podcast project that the season petered out a bit. Because that meant we could start producing the first segments early on,

knowing full well that everything would be fine in the end. And since the season was more or less over, we were also able to start talking to Timo Schultz with a light season summary:

Timo: Timo, the season is almost over, you lost, yes, 4:0 in Kiel, but you showed a not so bad game, especially at the beginning, a pretty good one even. Let's do a kind of individual analysis and see which players have developed under your leadership and during the season. Introductory question: Which players have surprised you the most this season with their performances?

Timo: Yes, surprise is always a silly word, it means yes - it would mean that you didn't think they could do it. But I think that if we now take such an individual development of a player like Rodrigo Zalazar, who I think I also called a surprise package at the very beginning of the season, who I think has now matured into a really, really good second division player, where at the beginning the wildness was very much predominant. Then he is certainly a player who came out of the box a bit like Kai, I also believe that we saw a lot in Kofi Kyereh. But the fact that he played such a dominant role in the end and then also scored so many points, that was already, well, the way he has performed now, that is really the optimum that I had imagined before the season. Otherwise, I think that the importance of players like Lawrence or Ziereis is often only seen when they're not playing. They're often not as much in the spotlight as the offensive players who do the extra nice and the extra great. Apart from that, I think we have a number of players in the squad, Paqarada, Daschner, Finn-Ole Becker for long stretches of the season, Rico Benatelli, who had to fight his way into the squad but is now indispensable. There are also guys who have been with the team for a long time, but this year, I think, is the first time they have really reached their optimum performance or close to it, which I don't think was the case in the last few years.

Tim: By the way, when I was thinking about these questions, I also made a little list of players who surprised me the most. And for me, Rico Benatelli is actually at the top. And that's because he's actually been playing on the six in the last few weeks and is doing a pretty good job, and from my point of view that wasn't at all foreseeable in the winter. In retrospect, how did you, how do you turn Rico Benatelli into a six?

Timo: ((thinks)) Hm, well you don't make a six out of Rico, but Rico makes it out of himself. And the playing system. You have to say that very clearly. Rico is a player for a certain way of playing and for a certain system of play. If you have a tight centre with a diamond shape anyway, then the distances for him are very small, then he has a lot of contact with the ball, and of course we also play a lot of football. I think we are the team with the shortest average passing distance. Of course, all that suits him very well. If you are more passive and wait and see, like in the last few years, and stand deep at the back and react to the opponent, then he is certainly not the perfect player. That's why you have to shape the game a bit so that Rico's qualities come into play.

Tim: On my list, and you also mentioned him, there is also Leart Paqarada, so you could sort of turn it around if we now look at how the development of other players is. Leart Paqarada wasn't a regular at the beginning of the season, that was Daniel

Buballa, who first played in the three-man backline but also later in the four-man backline. Leart Paqarada has also outstripped Daniel Buballa a bit. Is that - how would you describe the development of Daniel Buballa?

Timo: Yes, I think Buba was one of our most reliable players in the first half of the season with the way he interpreted the position, regardless of whether he was in the back three or the back four, but of course you know what you get from Buba, extreme strength in tackling, super mentality, great pace and ultimately we switched to the diamond in the second half of the season, so that we always let James Lawrence play inside the back four and on the left it was a duel between Buba and Paqa and while Buba prevailed at the beginning of the season, Paqa prevailed at the beginning of the second half of the season, got better from game to game and finally became an integral part of the team. Of course, that was extremely annoying for Buba at the time, but that's how professional football is in the end, so Paqa performs at a super level and I think he also found a different attitude towards himself at some point in the course of the first half of the season, so that he simply realised, okay, I have to step it up a notch, even off the pitch, and maybe he also needed a bit as a type to arrive in the group and is now one of our leading players.

Tim: I have Philipp Ziereis on my list, you also mentioned him. You actually still know him when you were co-coach at FC Sankt Pauli and he has always had to struggle with injuries for a long time. I'm always worried that he'll just get injured and then be gone again. I think he's incredibly strong and, for me, he's increasingly exceeding the expectations that I personally have of him and his game. Meanwhile, he's also playing really good passes forward in the build-up play. Is that, I don't know, the best Philipp Ziereis you've ever seen?

Timo: Hm, he is definitely the most stable. Neither he nor I have the feeling that anything can happen at the moment. He also says every time: I feel better than ever. I think with him it was simply a matter of training and playing for two, three, four months at a time, and he wasn't that far along in the first half of the season, for example. And by that I don't mean going full throttle every game and every training session from start to finish, but just getting into a rhythm and if it's somehow one less training session a week or if he's left out of a game, even if he doesn't want to admit it, that he just got through half a year. And now he is, he is fully fit. It's very rare that he still has problems anywhere and that shows on the pitch that he, like the whole team, has gained self-confidence, is calm on the ball, now dribbles, plays a lot of diagonal balls, and is gaining more and more self-confidence strategically. That's why I think he's currently in his best phase since he joined FC St. Pauli.

Tim. I have two players, or rather I have three players on the list of new arrivals, who I would say have not quite fulfilled my personal expectations of them. Those are Simon Makienok, Lukas Daschner and Afeez Aremu. I would like to talk about Lukas Daschner and Afeez because they are still relatively young players. Are they players who you say: Boa, they will explode at some point and then they will definitely be regulars and make their mark on a game. Do they just need a moment? Do they have problems adapting? What is not working properly at the moment?

Timo: Well, I think that's a good example, these three players, even if we're only talking about the two of them, of how differently you can and have to evaluate

individual personnel and how differently a season can develop. Let's take Afeez, for example. Unfortunately, Afeez came to us relatively late in the preparation. He has communication problems and is a very quiet, introverted type. In the first two or three months, he really didn't manage to maintain the appropriate level in training and in the game. He has extreme fluctuations in his training performance from super good, where you could really see what his skills are, why we brought him in, to: Phew, what was wrong with him today? And then, of course, as a coach you have no feeling for the weekend. Accordingly, he was on the pitch less often before the winter. But little by little, step by step, he arrived in the group, adapted to the training level, got to know the contents. Of course, if you can't communicate that well, it's more difficult. Especially in coaching, and I think everyone who has been following our season has seen that Afeez has played a completely different role after the winter, with a completely different calmness on the ball, super positional stability and I would simply say, without being able to prove it with data, that he has one of the most ball conquests per minute and leads the most duels, and he will have a very, very high value for us, because he simply has a weapon there. And nowadays it's not so often that players really have a weapon against the ball. With Daschi it's like that, Daschi had a very, very good start with us. He's also had his playing time, and I think he's the player with the most goals, in terms of assists and his own chances. I think he just missed that one moment, that one game, in the course of the season. He always had his super actions! And I think if he had just rewarded himself with a goal somewhere or with a great assist, then he would be two steps further in terms of external perception. But in the physical area, but also in the technical, tactical area, he has also made his steps, although he has received relatively little playing time. I assume that both players will become real factors for us in the new season at the latest, and that's how it is with these younger players that there is another season or sometimes half a year, sometimes only three months, sometimes maybe even two years to simply get to the level to be able to call that up permanently. That is a completely normal process. That's why I'm not going crazy and I'm totally convinced of the two of them.

Tim: I have to agree with you about Afeez. According to the data, he is indeed the player who wins or intercepts the most balls in your squad, just ahead of James Lawrence, but there is a lot of space behind him. I also agree with you about Lukas Daschner. That's definitely the player who creates the most chances over the 90 minutes. Both with his own goals and with assists. What do you do then when Lukas Daschner actually takes that step forward, has that aha effect in a game? I mean, you only have one position in attacking midfield? And with Kofi Kyereh, that position is pretty well occupied at the moment.

Timo: Yes, but those are now - so a.) if it would be a problem at all, I'm happy to accept that. Both players can also play second top just as well. In Duisburg, Daschi even played more as a top player than as an attacking midfielder, and Kofi actually also comes from a striker position. So it wouldn't be a problem at all to get both of them on the pitch at the same time. And so it could well be that we see that again this year. ((laughs)) Hahaha!

Tim: Very good. I personally found it really annoying that Igor Mantanovic can't play at the moment because he's injured. He slipped into the squad in the course of the season. You also coached him in the youth team before. Take us with you. How do

you develop a player like that? Do you just throw a youth player into the deep end and see if he can swim his way out or do you build him a little ladder into the water, so to speak, or how do you develop such a player? He was simply needed up front in the meantime!

Timo: Yes, it always varies from youth player to youth player. Of course, there are classic youth players who simply need time to develop, especially in the physical area, in order to adapt to the pace of play. Then it's usually enough to simply participate in training and make specific appearances in the U23s or with us. And with Igor, it's a slightly different case. Igor is simply an exception in this area. He is physically extremely strong and he already has the footballing ability to be a full member of our squad and to play, and to make a cautious prediction, he is certainly the player in our squad with the highest final prospects.

Tim: Yes, that's already indicated. From time to time, there are a few lists of such a player on our blog - we work together with a data provider, the Global Soccer Network, who present this from time to time and that confirms your thesis. They also say that Igor Mantanovic is the player with the highest end perspective. Let's turn this around now that we've talked about the development of talent, but also about the positive surprises. As a negative surprise of the season, I have players here, of course. Christopher Avevor, for example, is injured, which is of course annoying, as are Ryō Miyaichi and Christopher Buchtman. But there are also two players I've made a note of here, actually almost three, if you think about the one player to the end, that I personally have as players who have fallen a bit short of expectations. Let's take a look, as you can imagine, at the goalkeeper position. You started the season with Robin Himmelmann and then changed goalkeepers. How does something like that work? How - well, from a statistical point of view I could fully understand it then and I still can - but how does something like that work when someone doesn't live up to expectations or when things don't work out somehow. What kind of analysis do you actually do?

Timo: Well, of course we also have our subjective impressions from match day to match day, from training to training, on all positions. And beyond that, of course, at some point we go into more in-depth analyses. At the latest when it comes to questions of perspective, i.e. topics such as squad planning, matchday composition, how do we want to proceed in terms of personnel in the short-, medium- and long-term future, and then you also draw on data, and when you come to certain decisions as a coaching team and later on as a club, and that is part of football, that sometimes unpleasant sporting decisions have to be made. Then you have to communicate them clearly as quickly as possible, and that's what we've done in some cases this year, and that's also part of being a coach, but it's also part of being a player. So, the players all get reasonable money here and have their contracts and then it's also part of it that maybe one or the other contract isn't extended. That has happened to me as well.

Tim: When Robin Himmelmann was put on the bench after the first leg in Braunschweig, there was a change, then Svend Brodersen came into the goal, but in the four games, well, he either didn't have enough time to distinguish himself, but subjectively he wasn't convincing from my point of view either. I'm sure you expected things to be a bit different before the season. How did you plan it to work? Did you

think that this build-up of goalkeepers, you signed Dennis Smarsch before the season, did you miscalculate? It sounds a bit too mathematical now, but did this plan simply not work out? So that you had to readjust?

Timo: Yes. It was obviously like that in the end. There's no need to talk about it. We started the season with Robin as the clear number one, because from the impressions of the last few years we actually assumed that he would keep the balls for us consistently at a high level in the second division and we knew that we had signed a very young and talented goalkeeper in Dennis Smarsch and our own youngster in Svend, who has already proven that he can hold his own in the second division, and in the end, yes, you have to say that we were in a predicament in the winter, that maybe we couldn't say we'd risk it with Brodersen or Smarsch, of whom we are convinced, but couldn't guarantee that it would work for 20 games. And then we decided on the experienced option with Dejan Stojanovic, who has simply been in such a situation twice before and I believe that the decision and the way it went and his performance confirmed our decision in favour of him to a certain extent. Of course, what this means for Dennis Schmarsch in particular is that he has to keep up the pace in training, that he has to reduce the gap that he had at the time, but which he has made up in the meantime, so that he can perhaps fight for the number one spot in the near future.

Tim: A bit of a symbol of your turnaround, I'd say almost from a negative point of view, is actually Marvin Knoll, who played a lot until the Würzburg game and was also a regular at times in Würzburg, then first caused a penalty and was sent off with a yellow card shortly before half-time. And then there was also that half-time in Würzburg, which you already mentioned, where we all thought to ourselves: Come on, fuck it, we're going to do what we do - we're just going to do everything we can, no matter what the outcome, and since then things have gone uphill, so to speak. Would you describe Marvin Knoll as one of the losers of the season?

Timo: I always have a hard time with the word loser or the term loser of the season. So in the end, Knolli had a lot of playing time until then, I think he was even our captain more often on the field, and de facto we just didn't get enough points in the constellation before the winter. Now, regardless of how each player played individually or how we presented ourselves as a team, which wasn't always that bad, we didn't get enough points. And it's simply the case at the moment that, if we take Knolli as a centre-half, we have James, a player who is simply set, and Adam, a really good alternative behind him, and unfortunately he has to sort himself out for him at the moment, and he's doing a great job in training and around the game, and he's all in and he's getting stuck in, but that - yes - it's just the way it is, that we are now in a very good phase for a long time, as we said earlier with Buba, where the players who are playing are very, very stable and Knolli has had enough games this year and enough chances to present himself and perform better and at the moment he is certainly, if you want to put it that way, a bit of a victim of the successful series. Yes, and then unfortunately in his case you also have to somehow come to terms with the role.

Tim: If we think a little bit further and look a little bit into the future, then loan players will also leave and then there will certainly be one or two changes in the squad of players whose contracts expire or are not renewed or maybe a transfer is suggested

to them anyway or they want to make a transfer of their own accord. When you think about it now, where do you see the midfield diamond remaining the formation of choice, where do you see the need for it next season?

Timo: Yes, assuming that the players on loan will leave us for the time being and that they will rejoin us relatively late, if at all, then we certainly have a main need in the diamond, i.e. in the eight positions, the classic box-to-box players, midfielders. I think that we are already very well positioned in the back four. That we have enough alternatives up front, despite the departure of Omar, and that we are certainly better than average on the ten with Kofi and Daschi. We have already made extreme adjustments to the six during the season, where we now have three options with Rico, Eric and Afeez. But in the diamond, I could imagine us signing not just one, but perhaps two players.

Tim: Would you rather do that with commitments - how do you go about it? You are now the coach, so to speak, you are not the squad planner. I don't want to say that you have nothing to do with squad planning. I think you have quite a lot to say about it, I would guess. Would you then be in favour of the diamond - how do you go about it? Do you rather bring in players who can develop or players who are already performing right away? I think, for example, the difference between Eric and Afeez, that's a clear difference, because Eric was the immediate help, so to speak, and with Afeez it might take a little longer. How do you develop something like that? How do you plan something like that? Do you have a kind of shadow squad that you develop over the years?

Timo: Yes. Yes, in my case not for years, but it is actually relatively clear from the position profile what kind of demands we have there. Accordingly, our people in the background of squad planning are of course working through the profiles, looking at what is on the market, or what could perhaps be generated somewhere or whatever you want to call it. And especially in that position, there are of course two types of players. First of all, there is the more defensive player with enormous running and fighting power, and then there is perhaps more of an offensive player who can also score goals from that position. What is always important to me is that there is a clear skill somewhere. So that it's not somehow between a tree and a bark, but that you can really say that if I put a player up, then I assume that he will somehow have five goals and three assists. Or else, I put the player there and I know that nothing is burning on that side and he wins sixty per cent, seventy per cent of his duels and is extremely stable defensively. As far as age is concerned, I wouldn't want to commit myself at all. I think that the age structure in our team is very good at the moment and the example of Tore Reginiussen has shown that it can make sense to sign a 34-year-old if he simply gives the whole group support. So I wouldn't say he should be 20 to 24 at the most, because if we get a good 27-year-old or a 31-year-old who we are convinced will help us for the next two years, then I think that can also be a very high added value.

Tim: That fits in pretty well with what's happening in the second division at the moment. In all likelihood, VfL Bochum will be promoted if nothing really, really goes wrong. They have actually developed their squad over the years and, with Robert Tesche, for example, they also have players who have aged well. How, yes, this sounds a bit strange, but how envious are you of such teams and clubs?

Timo: Not at all. Not at all, so-

Tim: Because you don't want to get promoted to the first division or what?

Timo. No, no. Because we are actually, so to speak, still three steps behind them. I count Fürth and Kiel as well. The core of their team has been playing together for three, four or even five years. And if I can maintain that, and if various processes become ingrained, I mean, we are a good example of that, then you may not necessarily have the absolute top players like other teams in the division, but you function as a team. And if, on top of that, one or the other player plays an outstanding season, like Tesche for example, like Zulj, like Zoller, then I can also, I'll put it this way, simply pull off a surprise, maybe even though I have 5 million less in the budget, even though I don't belong to the top 3 or top 5 in terms of the individual skills of the individual players. But the lads simply manage to play to their strengths better in a fixed system with clear procedures. And I'm sure that if we kept our team together for two or three years and strengthened it in certain areas, we would be able to play a role at some point, like maybe Fürth or like, maybe even like Bochum, don't we? But realistically speaking, we are still one or two years away from that.

[Interlude]

Tim: Woah, I just did a detailed individual analysis of a large part of the FC St. Pauli squad. And with the head coach of FC St. Pauli. You don't get that every day. Personally, I'm very excited about Lukas Daschner's next season, for example, and also about Afeez Aremu. At the time of these talks, nothing was known about new arrivals or departures. However, it already became clear in the conversation which players would play a central role in the plans for next season and which would play a less central role.

Debbie: Even though we are already hearing planning games for next season here - there were still two compulsory games to play. Unfortunately, the emphasis here is clearly on the word "duty". In the home match against Hannover 96, FC St. Pauli showed a very mixed performance and deservedly lost 1 to 2, although the result was rather flattering for FC St. Pauli. At least Ryō Miyaichi and Christopher Buchtmann could celebrate their comebacks. Both had been unfit for action throughout the season due to various injuries and a series of setbacks. As we now know, it was not only Ryō Miyaichi's last appearance at the Millerntor. We feel it is a great injustice that we were unable to give a dignified farewell in the stadium to the large number of players who are leaving the club this summer after, in some cases, many years in brown and white, as we did the year before. This kind of farewell is simply not deserved by a player and a person like Ryō Miyaichi, for example, or Schnecke Kalla before him, and that makes us very sad. We wish all the players who are leaving FC St. Pauli this and last summer all the best for the future, at least in this way. You'll never walk alone!

[Fanchant: You'll never walk alone!]

Debbie: One week after the defeat against Hannover, we went to Regensburg to finish the season. FCSP showed many good approaches in this match as well, but

when it went into the critical zones offensively or defensively, it was Regensburg who won the duels or made the right decisions. It became clear once again that FC St. Pauli was absolutely capable of winning against any opponent in the second division this season, but only when the team was at its own performance maximum. If there was even a slight deviation from this level, the result was what we saw from FC St. Pauli in the last three games of the season. So the end of the season was rather sobering. However, none of us would have thought in January of this year that we could afford three defeats at the end of the season and still end up in 10th place in the table. What a rollercoaster ride! What a season!

Tim: Timo, the season is over. I'd like to talk to you about the season and you know what, I'll start with the tough questions. What did you learn in your first year as a men's coach?

Timo: ((laughs)) Haha. Uiuui. How long should the fourth episode last is the question. (Tim ((laughs))) No, there are a few main points, I think, that have stuck with me in the analysis already in the winter, but also now at the end of the season. First of all, that you shouldn't overload the players with content. That you keep it as simple as possible. That you can perhaps think a little more complex yourself, but that if you want to bring a plan to the team, then perhaps such banalities as perhaps only a fixed system of play at first gives the lads more security than perhaps a certain flexibility. That you have to make decisions with a completely different consistency, either for or against something and not always try to do both. Because then both usually go down the drain. And so for us, now also when we talk specifically about the team, then really squad planning also in the sense of mentality. To pay even more attention to mentality. To pay even more attention to the fact that our values, our identity, this absolute willingness to invest more, that this is really lived on a daily basis. I think that is one of the main points.

Tim: Has that actually been a difference between the men's and the youth sector? You said that too much content is not beneficial. Is it different in the youth sector? Can you bring more content into it?

Timo: Yes. Because of course you don't have anything to do with topics like preparing opponents and so on, it's really all about developing the lads. It's about working on the content. It's about keeping the lads focused and on their toes. In the men's sector, many players are simply already a bit finished. Not in the sense of "they don't learn anything anymore", but as a rule, you shouldn't have to teach a centre-back a volley at the professional level. And they should be able to handle the chain in the sense of pushing through. It's just a matter of everyone doing the same thing and maybe not even working on the positional details. And I think we really needed a bit of time to get used to each other as a coaching team and as a team and to be able to work together in a targeted way.

Tim: Were there also things that you underestimated?

Timo: Underestimated? No, I wouldn't say underestimated at all. I knew exactly what to expect. And for the most part, that's what happened. But if you look back at the first half of the season, where we really had problems, it's obvious that many players still had a lot in their bones from last year. I don't just mean physically, in terms of

fitness, where we really weren't at a good level at the beginning of the preparation, but also mentally. Especially when there were setbacks or something, that always threw us off track very quickly and we really had to work a lot.

Tim: You've certainly had conversations with all the players in Herzlake and given them feedback on their season. How and where do you actually get feedback for your work?

Timo: ((laughs)) Yes, that's funny, because I give my co-trainers detailed feedback once or twice a year and I asked them to give me some. So we've already - we've been in a very good exchange now, then of course you also get feedback from the lads, rather from older players than from younger ones. And of course, at the end of the season, you have another exchange with Andreas Bornemann, maybe even a little bit with Oke, and you also have a quiet talk with the press department about what you can maybe do differently. So the ultimate feedback doesn't exist, but you try to get information from everywhere, to sum up, maybe also together, what went well, what can perhaps be changed. So you have to be alert so that you don't fall into such a rut, into such a routine. Not even as a coach.

Tim: Part of the feedback talks have now also come to an end with the fact that the time for some players at FC Sankt Pauli is not going to continue. Yesterday, the club announced on its website that it was saying goodbye to seven players, including a few on loan, of course, and it's not quite clear yet whether they will really be gone permanently or perhaps come back again. But with Daniel Buballa, Ryō Miyaichi and Svend Brodersen, two players will definitely leave the club, and Tore Reginiussen will end his career. That's pretty neat. Is there going to be a radical upheaval like last season with you now in the summer?

Timo: Well, I think last season there were, if I'm not mistaken, more than twice as many departures. So I don't think the number of seven is particularly high. We still have to see what happens with all the test players, I think there are still a few things open, and on the other hand it's simply the case that we still have a very, very large squad from the 2019/2020 season, even though we've already reduced it, and of course we have to look at where we can perhaps make ourselves a little narrower due to Corona. Ultimately, as a coach, you have to say at some point that you don't need the backup of the backup, but then you have to be able to tinker with it somehow. So we try to put the squad together in the best possible way, but of course, departures usually mean additions, 'ne and they will also come.

Tim: I imagine that's a brutal conversation, telling someone like Ryō Miyaichi that his contract won't be renewed?

Timo: Yes and no. That is part of the professional business. I don't think most of the lads are 19 or 20 and experiencing the situation for the first time, but as a professional footballer you sign a contract that is valid for a year or two or three and if you don't get any signals, three quarters of a year before, half a year before and we also have talks and say we're not sure yet, we have to wait and see how the sporting situation and the financial situation develop. I believe that every player then comes to terms with the fact that it might not go any further, because the signals from the club are there. And these final talks, of course they're no fun, but it's not as

if the players are somehow shocked out of their socks, because of course they've already looked around for alternatives with their advisors, and so I think it was actually quite well prepared, and it has already affected me as a player, and it will also affect me as a coach at some point. That's "part of the game", so, stupid as it sounds, and then life goes on somewhere else.

Timo: Timo, this is the last recording we're doing here and I announced at the time that we'd come back to the very, very first question I asked you about this podcast project and that's about the concept with which you started at FC Sankt Pauli. In response, you told me that you always want to be brave, you don't want or you don't expect any long ball sequences and you focus on switching moments, you are strong in one-on-one situations, you assume, but, as you said just now, you are not quite physically up to scratch yet. Your concept with the focus on switching moments, with the not-long ball sequences, always being brave, did that work?

Timo: ((laughs)) Haha. If I now take the games in the second half of the season against Würzburg, Aue and Osnabrück, then I have to say we failed! Hahaha! Because we had a lot of ball possession. But you always have to weigh it up, it's the same with us, sometimes we want the opponent to stand high and have a lot of possession, because we know that we can maybe break them down in a moment of transition than if they can defend in an organised way. So, it's always a give and take, it's also a bit of tactics, I think what has really distinguished us is that we have a lot of dribblers, that we have a lot of guys who can go one on one. That we have always, even in the phase before the winter when things were not going so well, always tried to play courageously forward. So, the statistics there too, where we were really still in the top 3 in the winter in terms of shots and so. I do believe that we have implemented many of the things that we set out to do, also implemented them in the long term. That is also one of the reasons why we were successful in the end. On the other hand, it has to be said that the analysis in the winter: we need more defensive stability, that we haven't really found the key yet, that we as a team haven't managed to set ourselves up in such a way that we can really say that we'll defend a 0:0 until the 70th minute and then we'll see what the dynamics of the game are like. We have to work on ourselves and that is certainly one of the core tasks in the squad analysis and squad composition, that we need much more strength in tackling and much more strength in heading.

Tim: And if you now take the credo "Always be brave", have you really always been brave at the end of 2020?

Timo: Yes ... courage comes with confidence and I think the self-confidence just in December from game to game, of course that has become less and less, which is also completely normal, anything else would be inhumane. Nevertheless, I still see the games against Osnabrück and Aue, where we were clearly better and had 21 to 6 shots on goal, so we also played forward and tried to create something. So I think that's been in us somewhere, but of course it looks clear in the second half of the season, when you win four or five games in a row, it suddenly looks much better. That can't be dismissed out of hand, but that's the way it is in the bad phases. Being brave is the wrong approach. You first have to find trust in yourself again, focus on things you can influence before you try to celebrate football somehow.

Tim: Looking back, would you make all the decisions that were made during the season the same way again, even with the knowledge you have today?

Timo: I think that when I think back to that time, yes. I was actually always convinced of my decisions and also afterwards - I never woke up in the morning and said: oh what did you do yesterday? You should have solved that in a different way. Of course, when you look back at the big picture, you say, as I mentioned earlier, maybe I made one compromise too many or waited too long to make a decision, I could have been more consistent. But I think that's perfectly normal, it happens to every coach, it happens to every person in charge, it happens to every player on the pitch or in training. I think that we've taken the path we've taken, and they always say that at the beginning of the season you enter a destination into the navigation system, so that if you get off track, if you take a wrong turn somewhere, you still know where your destination is and the navigation system guides you back on track. I think we've managed that quite well, but I don't want to deny that maybe we've lost our way a bit now and then. ((laughs))

Tim: Would you say that your expectations, your personal expectations of being the head coach at FC Sankt Pauli, were they somehow fulfilled? Or was there something more or less that you thought - I mean, you already knew that from your time as co-coach, but maybe that changed a bit over time?

Timo: Yes and no. The biggest topic that I really underestimated or misjudged was Corona! Because it simply makes so many things completely different. For example, teambuilding is not possible! So you had to somehow shift it to the training and see how I could somehow get the group a bit closer together? Daily routines, of course I had planned a lot for before and after training and suddenly you have the lads sitting not in one but in four cabins. Eating wasn't possible, and if it was, it was only in pre-packaged portions, and there were just so many topics that were completely influenced by this Corona thing, and yes, getting to grips with that was actually the biggest task, because training schedules and such, everything was actually in place. That was already in place before I became head coach. But that influences a lot of things. But it also has advantages. For me, in concrete terms, there were no evening appointments with the press or anything else. So when I finished work here at Kollau, that was it. So I - yes, that's actually the biggest issue, dealing with the players, I think, doesn't differ that much. If you have a clear concept and are clear about what I want and what I don't want, then it works almost the same as in the U19s, although it's also clear that you deal differently with a 30-year-old than with a 17-year-old.

Tim: Sure! Timo! That was it! That were 22 conversations we recorded, since the beginning of the season!

Timo: 22?

Tim: 22! I enjoyed it very much, I hope you did too?

Timo. Yes, I'm looking forward to seeing what you come up with for next year.

Tim: ((laughs)) Hahaha!

Timo: Hahahaha!

Tim: Well, I can only really thank you and I especially liked how openly and honestly we were able to talk to each other, especially during the difficult sporting time, and that I was still able to call you every fortnight on average, even though the wind had somehow really increased. Tell me honestly: Did you ever put down your mobile phone when you saw a message from me that I would like to record?

Timo: No, not at all, because, I mean, I noticed it again at the press conference, you are someone who deals with football, not necessarily on a tabloid level, but somehow in terms of content and such conversations are always fun when you notice that someone is dealing with the topic, someone wants to move forward in terms of content or understand something or influence something and I prefer that a thousand times more than any superficial questions that are actually only aimed at finding something negative somewhere or somehow looking for the fly in the ointment. I always enjoy constructive conversations and I enjoyed them at least as much as you did, so I don't think there will be a continuation of this podcast, but I think we will definitely stay in touch and somehow pull one or two things out of the hat!

Tim: Yes, I'll keep bugging you at least at the press conferences with tactical questions, ((laughs)) you can always be sure of that!

Timo: Hahaha!

Tim: Let's take a look at the next season for the very last, really very, very, very last time. What would be the best thing that could happen next season for FC Sankt Pauli and also for you personally?

Timo: That there are spectators in the stadium!

Tim: Once a full house, Friday night floodlights, right?

Timo: Yes, that's easy - when I think about the players like Omar and Rodrigo, they've never really experienced a full house here, I think Heidenheim once had two and a half thousand in. My co-trainers don't know how it feels when the Millerntor Roar really goes off and I think that's simply what counts. The composition of the division, what our squad looks like, these are all topics that are immensely important for me as a coach later on, what kind of players I can and can't work with and so on, but without fans - that's just nothing! So this year was a year to forget as far as the atmosphere was concerned, as far as the tingling feeling was concerned, as far as that special touch of football was concerned. That has to be said in all clarity. So, as nice as it was for me to be allowed to do a whole season as a professional coach, that's nothing, neither for us coaches nor for the players, nor for the fans anyway.

[Fan chant: Oh Sankt Pauli we follow you no matter where!]

Tim: Your wish is my wish, Timo! Finally, a full Millerntor under the floodlights again, that's what I wish for all of us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Timo Schultz for all the conversations I had with him. During this time I got to know him as a very authentic, likeable and self-confident person who does not take himself and his role too seriously. I hoped so, of course, but never thought we would get such a deep insight into his work. And I personally could have understood it if I hadn't been able to talk to him for a longer period of time during the winter. Instead, we were allowed to take full advantage of the sporting crisis. To be honest, I personally suffered quite a bit from this crisis. Also because I was able to see more intensively how a coach tries to find ways out of such a crisis. But before better times came, the pressure increased bit by bit. That put a lot of pressure on me, too, even though I was only on the other end of the phone line and I don't even want to know how that felt for Timo Schultz. In any case, I am glad that this story ended as well as it did in the end. Oh, speaking of phones: I sent the following message to Maik on that balmy summer night I talked about in episode 1:

"Maik, I have a world idea: Record 10 minutes of podcast with Timo Schultz every week and publish it at the end of the season as "Being Timo Schultz". That would be mega. I'll ask the club. The chances are zero. It doesn't matter. I'll try it anyway.

End of message.

[Fan chant: The Heart of St. Pauli]

Debbie: Besides the endless thanks to Timo Schultz, there are quite a few other people we would like to thank.

The fact that we were able to present the season so vividly here was due to the feeds from AFM Radio, also known as Blind and Visually Impaired Reportage. Many thanks to Wolf, Knut, Georg, Til, Bobby and Leif, who all shouted, cheered or mobbed into the mic at some point in these four episodes.

At the very end you will hear Thees Uhlmann again, who wishes that Timo Schultz will be his last coach of FC St. Pauli. Thees, endless thanks for your song and for performing it for the first time in the world in our end-of-season show and recording the chorus exclusively for this podcast in the studio with your band. You wouldn't believe how often we've heard "I've got an earworm from your intro!" in the last few days. I also had an earworm from this intro several times. What is it you always say? Brilliant!

We also thank the club and the media department for agreeing to this project last summer.

I am Debbie and I have guided you through this rollercoaster season. Maik has put together the countless files into a whole and learned a lot about audio editing in the process. Arne did a masterpiece of transcription and made these episodes available in both German and English, insane! Michael put the episodes on YouTube and produced these wonderful little audio trailers for social media. And then there's Tim, who has been on the phone with Timo Schultz since last summer and is happier than anyone that the season has been so relaxed since January.

Maik, Tim and I created the script for these episodes.

[Fan chant: Hamburg is BRAUN-WEISS]

Debbie: That was it.

That was "Being Timo Schultz" - we hope you had as much fun listening to it as we had producing it. This was definitely the biggest project we've ever tackled at MillernTon. We are incredibly proud of it and thrilled that so many of you enjoyed it. We hope that we can continue to do exciting podcast projects in the future. But we hope even more that we can all see each other again soon in the stadium. Until then: Forza St. Pauli!

[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!]

// Transcript and translation by Arne