



Kurt Palm

THE HOT BATTLE OF LAUSANNE

Austria : Switzerland 1954

With b/w photographs

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Das Wunder von Bern? Deutschland, ein Sommermärchen? Die Hitzeschlacht von Lausanne stellt alles in den Schatten. Kurt Palm erzählt.

The miracle of Bern? Germany, a summer fairy tale? The hot battle of Lausanne outshines everything. Kurt Palm recounts. Lausanne, June 26th, 1954: At 40 degrees Celsius in the shade, the teams of Austria and Switzerland meet in the final of the World Cup 1954. Austria is considered as the favourite, 32.000 Swiss fans heat up the spirits. Kurt Schmied, the Austrian goalkeeper, has a sunstroke but is not allowed to be substituted and wobbles between the posts. What happened then is legendary: One wouldn't believe it if it hasn't been historical for long. The game ended 7:5. Today it doesn't matter for whom: both teams made history with it. It's the game that preceded the miracle of Bern and at the same time outshades it: 5 goals in 10 minutes, 12 goals in total – there have never been more...

KURT PALM

born 1955 in Vöcklabruck, Upper Austria, completed his studies of German Philology and Journalism in Salzburg with a PhD. Since 1983, Palm has been working as a film director and author. He has written books on Bertolt Brecht, Adalbert Stifter, James Joyce, Mozart, soccer and Palm Saturdays. Shot a few films and staged numerous opera and theater productions in Austria and abroad. When Kurt Palm is not traveling, he lives in Vienna and in Litzlbürg am Attersee, Upper Austria.