

## Westphalian Ufo. The 1972 Olympische Basketballhalle as a Stage

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### Ufos: Multiplied stages for sports

In 1961 the Austrian engineer Kurt Koss finishes his PhD thesis at the TH Graz on a hanging conical roof<sup>1</sup> which is followed by a patent application in collaboration with the firm Binder & Co (Gleisdorf/AT) and a first prototype hall<sup>2</sup>.

The firm Fröhlich&Dörken from Gevelsberg (Westphalia/D) continues developing the hall together with the architect Georg Flinkerbusch (Hagen/ Westphalia) to a standard design (Typenbau) for sports facilities as round sports halls. The thickness of the steely roof shell measures only 4 mm. This minimal construction is cheap and fast to build partly through prefabrication. From the end of the 1960s to the 1980s, over 30 ›Ufos‹ alight in German and Austrian cities. In 1972 a specially enlarged one lands as ›Olympische Basketballhalle‹ in Munich.

### Olympic Games: A stage for Cold War

In 1972 the ›Olympische Basketballhalle‹ finally becomes a stage for some kind of ›proxy war‹ between archenemies: The USA and USSR clash at the men's Olympic basketball final. A still ongoing affair starts after an unjustified three-second extra time is given one second before the game ends: The leading US-Team now loses and rejects the silver medal.<sup>3</sup>

### Not for sale: A stage for honor

In 1974, the Olympische Basketballhalle is renamed ›Rudi Sedlmayer Sporthalle‹ to honor the late Rudolf Sedlmayer (1905–1974), member of the Munich Olympic Organization Committee.

### Rollerball: A stage for a bloody game

In the summer of 1974, a film company is looking for background actors for a filming in the Olympische Basketballhalle on 3th August 1974. The film ›Rollerball‹<sup>4</sup> is set in our current past of 2018 and based on William Harrison's (1933–2013) short story ›Roller Ball Murder‹<sup>5</sup>. It deals with the brutality of sports and the shift from state society to corporate society, which means that states are replaced by corporates. The global enjoyment is watching the bloody and even deadly game ›Rollerball‹. Two teams on roller-skates compete in a kind of large roulette while hunting for



Fig. 1 ›Image Ufo‹ from the past: Greetings from Cuxhaven.

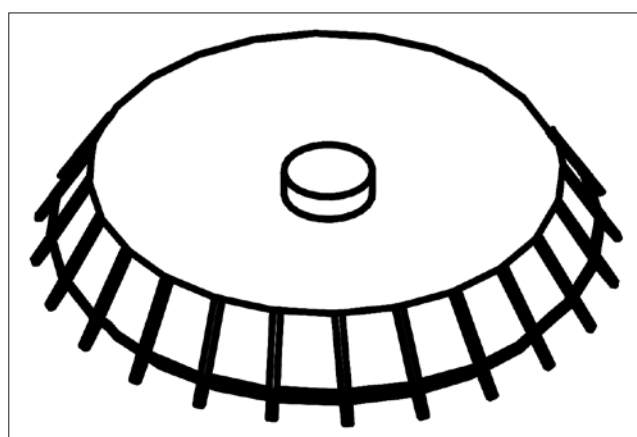


Fig. 2 Pictogram: Mathias Horstmann.

a ball. The stage is designed by the scenery designer John Box (1920–2005).<sup>6</sup> It comprises a special round wooden cycling track constructed by the famous cycle track architect Herbert Schürmann (1925–1994) from Münster/Westphalia. Through some changes in decoration, the hall is ›translocated‹ from Munich to Tokyo, Madrid, New York and Houston.

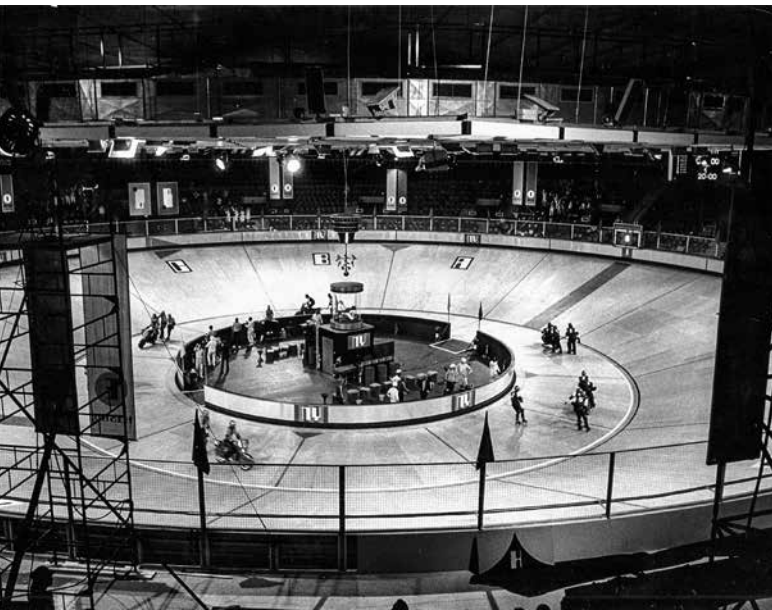


Fig. 3 A look behind the scenery of Rollerball, 1974.  
Photo: David Crawley (private property)

### Do sports kill you? A stage for Flyingfibres

In 1981 the »Umweltbundesamt« (Federal Agency for Environmental Affairs) publishes a report on the danger of asbestos. It is followed by the »sporthalls affair«<sup>7</sup> which is focused on round sporthalls due to their popularity. The inner shell of the roof is coated with sprayed asbestos ...

### A stage for a corporate: The sold ring

In 2003 the hall closes due to bankruptcy of the hall's operator. In 2011 it is renovated and renamed »Audi Dome«,

after the corporate that sponsors the basketball team which starts using that hall. As a part of a corporate identity the hall exemplifies the capitalistic shift in sports that already »Rollerball« dealt with 40 years ago. The Game is sold.

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<sup>1</sup> Koss 1961.

<sup>2</sup> Binder 1962/1972.

<sup>3</sup> Sweet 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Newison 1974.

<sup>5</sup> Harrison 1973.

<sup>6</sup> Christie 2009.

<sup>7</sup> Bossenmayer 1985.