

## Germany Football Coach Caught Up In 70s And 80s Doping Scandal

[Joachim Löw](#), the current manager of the German national football team who led the German team to victory at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil against Argentina, has distanced himself from doping allegations.

An evaluation commission from Freiburg's sport medicine clinic recently claimed that [anabolic steroids](#) were used at VfB Stuttgart and SC Freiburg, Bundesliga clubs during the late 1970s and early 1980s. The present Germany's World Cup-winning coach was a part of both these clubs. Löw played in midfield for Freiburg from 1978-80 and from 1982-84 and spent the 1980/81 season at Stuttgart, whom he later coached.

The former football midfielder said doping has no place in sport and he completely disapproves of it and that is as true for him as a player as it still is today as the national coach.

Stuttgart, who is currently bottom of the table, said they will cooperate fully with the investigation but asked for a full copy of the commission's report to retrace the evidence. Stuttgart's director of sport Robin Dutt told Sky Sports said it is hard for us to give out any information because we don't have any facts at hand and it happened well before our time. Dutt added nevertheless, we want to give a water-tight explanation, because we are interested in clean sport and also remarked there is regular [drug testing in professional football](#) and it appears there are no irregular findings.

Freiburg said they will also support an investigation and remarked they are also waiting to see "detailed results or a full report". The club spoke strongly against the use of performance enhancing drugs.

Ottmar Hitzfeld, the former Bayern Munich and Switzerland coach who played for Stuttgart from 1975-78, said he is totally surprised by these reports and added he can't imagine that one of his teammates knowingly doped.

Wilhelm Schänzer, the director of the prestigious Cologne Institute of Biochemistry, said football does not currently have a doping problem like other sports which are constantly caught up in cases involving the use of banned substances. Schänzer added there is absolutely nothing that points to it being a problem in German football while referring to the accusations about the use of anabolic steroids by Freiburg and Stuttgart during the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Hans-Jurgen Sundermann, Stuttgart's coach from 1976-79 and 1980-82, said findings of the report are absurd and he cannot imagine that happening and can entirely rule it out. Rainer Koch, chairman of the German Football Association's (DFB) anti-doping commission, said he was concerned that the commission had not been informed beforehand. Koch remarked there

have been serious allegations made which obviously must be completely cleared up and went on to add that it is strange however that the anti-doping commission has not previously been informed. He also said the commission's findings are new to us and we have seen neither the results nor the report, therefore we can't comment and also remarked that we must see a detailed report in order to assess the matter seriously.