

In the biblical story David vs. Goliath, the undersized David defeats the much larger Goliath against all odds. This episode has become a metaphor for the underdog & the moral to triumph over larger, immoral forces.

However, deeper analysis might serve SBSF well. David was nimble and agile; his opponent was heavy and slow with armour. David likewise chose the sling – deadly and quickly deployed; his opponent wielded a heavy slowly moving sword.

SBSF is the David in the sporting world of Switzerland. We face competition for athletic young players from every other sport. We face competition for funds given by SOC (Swiss Olympic Committee). And lastly we face competition from within, when personal desires become more important than serving the mission we are bound to serve.

As a member of the board with the Breitensport mandate, my challenge is clear:

- 1) Increase participation in youth baseball throughout Switzerland
- 2) Demonstrate to the Olympic Committee SBSF's unwavering commitment to youth, to ethics and to the sport of baseball. In doing so, funding by the OC to our sport should be secured and enlarged.

How do we meet challenge 1 listed above?

Baseball is an unknown sport in Switzerland. We need to showcase at the local level how beautiful & technical the sport is. We need to stir excitement in the athletic 12 year old – so that he dreams of being Otani rather than Messi!

One simple idea is for the local coaches to contact the local school (either public or international) and arrange for a 15-30 minute presentation & practice at the school. Imagine this:

Adrian Kampfer in uniform hits easy fungo (in the gym or outside) to several U18 local players in the infield. Fielding is exact, throws are crisp. Next these same players each take a few swings on side toss into a net. The crack of the bat pierces the air. The 10-14 year olds watching the demonstration are

mesmerized. It takes no money, no additional equipment, yet the imaginations have been set free. This is how you start to increase local participation.

How do we meet challenge 2 listed above?

In order to maintain and grow our funding we need to highlight our strengths to the committee. In my view here are some of the items that need to be well published -

- a) In 2025 our national team came in 11th in European Championship; likewise our Women's Softball team came in 12th in the same tournament. This kind of improvement is well-received by the OC. How do we continue this – might we subsidize more Americans to play for both Swiss teams at least for a few years until the Olympics?
- b) Growing numbers of players across Switzerland – over last 5 years I believe we have grown from about 500 to 1200 youth players. The Olympic committee needs to see growing not shrinking participation. Ladies & Gentlemen – we have a magic bullet: SBSF is open to both boys & girls, men & women. **That girls can join our boys in the same game is a HUGE advantage - it plays beautifully to the allocators in the Olympic committee and separates baseball from every other sport.**
- c) Participation by youth teams in more international tournaments of consequence. In 2025 alone, thanks to Geneva involvement, Swiss players participated in 3 Europe-wide tournaments in Spain, Italy and Holland, up from 0 in 2024. This alone serves as the capstone of growing involvement and quality coaching in our sport.

Concluding Remarks

If we deploy our agility strategically, communicate our strengths clearly, and maintain a consistent focus on youth development, ethics, and sporting

excellence, the SBSF can sustainably strengthen and expand its position within Switzerland's sporting environment.