

Departure to Japan

Go-Players from Erding visit Tournament of Professionals in Tokyo

Erding ■ On Tuesday it is finally so far: Four Erdingers are going to fly to Japan for one week – without paying anything. Korbinian Riepl, Maximilian Dreyer and Matthias Qian deserved this with their title of the German Go Champion, their teacher Karl Scheitler is also allowed to go with them as a team leader.

In Japan, there will take place a great Tournament of Professionals and the Erdingers are allowed to look at the final, too. Because the Japanese Go Association wants to spread the 4000-years-old game of strategy in the western world, too, it invited a German group to Japan. The team from Erding was chosen because “we are the German Champion and because they want to reward my youth work”, says Karl Scheitler who leads a Go Club at the Anne-Frank-Gymnasium (high school).

It’s a great adventure for all of them, says Scheitler. He has never been to Japan either and is glad that his dream comes true now. The trip leads directly to the Mekka of Go, to the headquarters of the Go Association. The Erdingers will have to prove to be worthwhile at the outline programme of the Final of the Professionals, but they will also meet some classes from schools and will play against them. That’s why Scheitler intensified the training a bit. However, the main point was for him to prepare the youth for Japanese manners. “The Japanese put more worth on manners than we do”, he said. The youth already know how to eat with chopsticks. Doubtful is how they will deal with the Japanese food. Scheitler said that he is not a very good friend of fish. He has already taught the game to more than 1500 children in the whole district. “I want to pass the game to the youth.” He has made Erding to a city with very many Go-Players like this: “There is not such a lively Go-scene everywhere.”

Subtitle of the picture: They have prepared this trip for weeks, finally it is so far: With their team leader Karl Scheitler, the Champion Team with Korbinian Riepl, Matthias Qian and Maximilian Dreyer (from the left) flies to Japan.

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