



**Interview with Hanspeter Latour,  
Team Coach, FC Thun 1898 (22-7-2004)**

First of all, congratulations for the excellent performance in the UEFA Intertoto Cup (UIC) 2004 and for reaching at least the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round.

EFP

What does a participation in the UIC mean to you and your team?

HP Latour

Most importantly, it gives us the possibility to gain international experience at a high competitive level. But it also fills us with pride to represent Switzerland in this European Tournament and last but not least, our participation will create interest and recognition for our players and for a whole region.

EFP

What effect will these matches have on your performance in the Swiss Axpo Super League?

HP Latour

I am convinced that especially for the first part of the season, the participation in the UEFA Intertoto Cup will allow us to perform at a much higher level than some of our opponents in the league. It will certainly be an advantage that we have been playing now against all these top teams and it has shown that these big teams like Hamburger SV and Villarreal, just to mention two, are taking it very seriously and it enables us to reach a certain kind of international level. It is said, however, that a team, especially smaller ones like us, will have to work very hard on the regeneration of the players during the season.

EFP

Are you aware that the UIC is a cooperation between UEFA and the European State Sports Betting Companies and that the tournament to a major extent is made possible by them, including the Swiss Number 1 Sports Supporter *sporttip*?

HP Latour

Yes, of course. I also often visit our local Kiosk (POS) for information on the matches and the different teams taken out of the company's Info-sheet "Infoblatt". I must say that I was proud to see so many white boxes for good performance next to our name. (A white box or a white circle means home or away victories).

EFP

FC Thun 1898 qualified for the UEFA Intertoto Cup as a third runner up, coming 6<sup>th</sup> behind FCZ and St. Gallen last season, who both decided not to participate. How do you feel now about those two teams or the others who had earlier in the year already signalled not to participate after these great matches against very good opponents?

HP Latour

Of course it filled us with lots of joy and happiness and their negative attitude towards this tournament was our luck. But it needs saying that an international participation in any competition will help Swiss Football in general and the various teams in particular and I personally hope that our performances will provoke these teams to rethink and change their attitudes. For us, the participation did generate a lot of media interest especially in German papers and thus also generates money for the whole region.

These are all reasons for my unconditional support and recommendation for the UIC.

EFP

Finally, who will win the UEFA Intertoto Cup and thus win a berth in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round of the UEFA Cup 2004/2005?

HP Latour

I would like to take our route into the final as one of the strongest and I believe that if we also overcome Hamburger SV, FC Thun will qualify! The Greek team has shown in the EURO 2004 what can be possible, and why should we not be able to do the same!

EFP

Mr. Latour, I thank you very much for your time and wish you all the best luck in Saturday's match against Hamburger SV and for the rest of the still very young season.

Interview and contact:  
Thomas Büchler-De La Cruz  
Secretary General  
European Football Pool  
4002 Basel  
Phone: +41 61 284 1301  
E-Mail: [tb@world-lotteries.org](mailto:tb@world-lotteries.org)  
<http://www.intertoto-cup.org>