

# MAGDALENA NEUNER

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## Magdalena and yarn

*What brought you to knitting, who taught you?*

I remember that we had to crochet a cat in elementary school. That was definitely my first experience with yarn. My mother taught me how to knit when I was 8 years old.

*Do you remember your first knitting project?*

I think it was a green scarf.

*What was the last thing you finished? Or started?*

Something green again - a Trachten vest.

*Is there a knitting technique you've never tried and would like to?*

Men in our region wear handknit socks with their Lederhosen. Each region has its own colors and patterns. I haven't had the courage to knit socks. To knit a pair of socks is difficult and requires a lot of patience.

*With all your sports activities, do you have time to knit?*

I do most of my knitting when I'm at training camp in the fall. It gets dark very soon during that time in Scandinavia. And with a blazing fire in the fireplace, that's the perfect time for knitting.

*Do you knit by yourself or together with friends? Do you know other athletes who share your hobby? Do you know any celebrities who knit?*

Until recently almost everyone on our team was knitting - Uschi Disl, Katrin Apel, Kathrin Hitzer und Kati Wilhelm. This year we have very young team members. We'll see if the younger generation will continue the trend. But I can see us all sitting around the table again with our knitting.

*What do you get from knitting (relaxation, zoning out, a sense of achievement)? Knitting is a tactile experience; is there a connection to your closeness with nature?*

Knitting is really very relaxing and engrossing. I like to multi-task, so I do most of my knitting when I watch TV. Just sitting and knitting is too boring for me.



*What do you enjoy more: the knitting process or the finished product?*

I'm motivated by the finished product. I love that I have something handmade to show for after many hours of knitting.

*Do you have a favorite color you like to knit with?*

It depends on the project. Purple and blackberry are colors I like; for Trachten projects I usually choose traditional colors like brown, grey or green.

*Are you knitting as fast as you're skiing?*

No, I'm definitely a faster skier, but I train for it every day. I don't have as much time for knitting as I would like to.

*Do you give your finished projects away or keep them?*

I love knitting for friends and family. My best friend as a little daughter; knitting things for her is a lot of fun.

*Do you consider knitting an outsider's hobby or something trendy? How do people react when they find out about your passion?*

I think knitting and crafts in general are always "in". I find it great that you can create something by hand and wear it or give it away. I know lots of women my age who are passionate about crafts. And there are such beautiful knitwear designs.

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*Do you have any plans to publish a pattern book of your own?*

I think my collaboration with Lana Grossa will remain for a long time and we will continue to create new and exciting things together.

*What do you like to wear when you're not working?*

I like comfortable and casual clothes when I'm at home. But I also like to dress up when I'm going out with friends or to an event.

*Magdalena is a very traditional first name. Is there a special reason behind the name?*

I don't think there were a lot of Magdalenas when I was born. My parents chose the name because it was less common.

*Besides physical fitness, what else do you do for your appearance?*

Of course I train 5 to 6 hours every day and I try to eat healthy.

*Training, competitions - where do you get the energy for it all?*

I think I was born with it. My parents are also very active. Fortunately I very rarely have to force myself to train. I think when I reach that point it might be time to quit.

*You accomplish extraordinary achievements in sport and live a healthy lifestyle. Do you ever transgress? What is hard for you to resist (chocolate, ice cream)?*

I love chocolate and I like to eat ice cream every once in a while, but I basically live a very healthy lifestyle.

*What are your goals and plans for the future, both professional and private?*

I don't have a to-do list that I check off. Professionally I really want to win every event, whether it's the world cup, a world championship or a training run. And of course I have dreams for my personal life. But I'm keeping those to myself.

*What do your friends value most in you?*

That's difficult for me to answer. You'd have to ask my friends. But I hope most of them would say that I'm honest and try to be there for others, even though I'm often travelling.

*Do you have a life motto?*

I'd like to give a clever answer, but no, I don't really have a life motto. I try and always be myself. That seems to work best for me.

*Do you have a lucky charm?*

No, I'm not superstitious.