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Lip readers at the World Cup: Shut up

From *Rainer Leurs*



You will have had to talk about important, Mr Neymar and Alex Song. After the final whistle of the World Cup match between Brazil against Cameroon the bleached superstar took his team-mates from FC Barcelona aside - perhaps to console him after the 4-1 pack, which had just set . A commercial situation ie after the end of an international match - only that the professionals their conversation led like two 13 year olds who are ashamed of their teeth braces: completely off the record.

For the new secrecy in the World Cup stadiums Neymar is certainly an extreme example. Hardly ever makes the Brazilians on the mouth without letting him carefully before disappearing behind the half-open fist. The same, however, was observed during the first round even at other World Cup

participants, by the British to Wayne Rooney up to the German national team. The reason for the obfuscation are professional lip readers

who look very thoroughly at the World Cup - on behalf of various newspapers and television stations, but also on their own, with live output at Twitter.

Zum Test-Angebot

SPIEGEL-Leser wissen mehr.



Completely new, this development is not - already in 2006 tried lip readers to reveal what Marco Materazzi before the legendary Zidane Headbutt might have said to his opponent . And in 2012, told SPIEGEL ONLINE about the deaf blogger Julia Probst, who was reading in the European Championship from the lips of the German national team and should even hire an expert in the pay-TV broadcaster Sky later.

While the phenomenon rather was still an interesting side issue, the kicking staff has now clearly understood, which means continuous observation in conjunction with media such as Twitter for world football - and for choosing appropriate countermeasures. Conspiratorial Genuschel with concealed lips has since become a true mass phenomenon - to talk times in the hollow of his hand.



Julia Probst

@EinAugenschmaus




The answer to why # **Messi** constantly holding her hand to her mouth: lip readers Working in Spain while watching TV. :-D # **NGAARG**

5:55 PM - June 25, 2014

"We observed this trend more and more frequently," lip reader Probst confirmed in an e-mail to SPIEGEL ONLINE. Above all, professionals who earn their money in Spain would cover regularly their lips when speaking. Mesut Ozil and Bastian Schweinsteiger they have also been caught with his hand in front of the mouth.

For Probst that is annoying, because on their [Twitter account @EinAugenschmaus](#) they are also in the 2014 World Cup live to around 25,000 followers on what they think of the lips of professionals reads (hashtag: # meter reading). Thanks to her, we know about what Toni Kroos before free kicks as his team mates over whispers ("But that's hard. A little further ...") or what Thomas Müller gave the Portuguese Pepe to the head before the Portuguese lost his temper and a caught red card.






Julia Probst
@ EinAugenschmaus

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Finally have time to set the scene [# miller](#) -vs. [# Pepe](#) to look at. Müller said: "WHAT DO YOU WANT?" Last 3 words unintelligible. [# meter reading](#)

2:56 PM - June 17, 2014

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Also Lannin confirmed that it is increasingly difficult to get a clear view of the mouth of players and coaches. "You becomes increasingly clear that they are carefully observed," writes the British in an e-mail to SPIEGEL ONLINE. Lannin should know: 121captions has years of experience in lip reading at major events, from meetings of the English Premier League up to the wedding of Prince William and Duchess Catherine. "Two years ago it was quite easy to read at Wimbledon or at football matches of the lips," Lannin was recently quoted in the "Times". "Meanwhile, we notice that people increasingly take the hand over her mouth."

What remains are those situations in which self-nosed Premier League Leatherneck no longer think that they look expert on the mouth. Approximately one in which Daniel Sturridge of compensation for temporarily succeeded against Italy 1:1: "Jesus Christ I love you", the striker from FC Liverpool shouted loudly 121captions after his hit.

Other World Cup stars are annoyed by as much transparency only. "Everyone is trying mitzukriegen what we're talking, it's terrible," grumbled loudly "Süddeutsche Zeitung" Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari after the Cameroon game if the lip readers who would now used by TV stations. "We can no longer talk to each other soon."

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In any case, was lip-reading during the live broadcasts not easy, says Probst. "Reading at such a high level, and over such a long period requires extremely high concentration," she writes. "Often I'm so behind Ko, that I want to do is sleep." They comforted by the fact that she could sensitize people with their meter reading for accessibility and inclusion.

Commercially minded and with the support of some employees is the Briton Tina Lannin the mission lipreading to. In London, offers the entrepreneur and her company 121captions communication aids for the hearing impaired; during the World Cup team translated their curses, exclamations, blasphemous estates and lamentations [of the English national team live](#) - also via Twitter.



Quite that far but then it is not - especially as estimated by Tina Lannin anyway, only 40 percent of what is said is actually read from the lips. "The context helps tremendously, as well as the facial expression and accurate knowledge of the language is spoken in the." Lip-reading is just an art - and not a science.