

Jorge Ramos, the Andalusian junior table tennis champion having overcoming a rare illness

LOCATION: Lebrija (Seville)

DURATION: 1'40"

SUMMARY: Jorge Ramos, Lebrija, has just become Andalusian Table Tennis junior champion. At barely 2 years old, he showed the first symptoms of an illness that caused necrosis from the top of both femurs. Then the diagnosis came in: Perthes disorder, a rare disease which affects one in 10,000 children. He went through various doctors, he had to spend prolonged periods of time completely resting and give up what he liked the most: playing football. However, thanks to that, he found table tennis, a sport in which he has emerged with great promise.

VTR:

Jorge Ramos, 8 years old, from Lebrija, is a bright young table tennis prospect. He has just won the Andalusian junior championships. And he did it having overcome a serious illness.

JORGE RAMOS
Table Tennis player

"I had it in my hip bone, it was like chewing gum, it was smashed."

ROCÍO RODRÍGUEZ
Jorge's mother

"It simply affects the ossification at the top of the femur, which, seemingly with no apparent cause, starts to damage the bone, it limits the blood flow and damages the bone."

BACKGROUND: "The peak or the summit, the bottom..."

Jorge suffered from Perthes Syndrome, an illness that from an early age affects the life of one in 10,000 children. In his case, from the age of two years, in both hips.

JORGE RAMOS
Table tennis player

"And I couldn't do jumping exercises or run much."

That meant he couldn't play football, or use his toboggan, due to the risk of suffering a blow that would lead to injuries or deformities. Therefore, he opted for a less risky sport: table tennis. He has played since he was 6, and has now won various trophies. Today, he is training.

ROCÍO RODRÍGUEZ
Jorge's mother

"Gustavo sees quality in him, he sees his qualities."

GUSTAVO CABILLAS
Jorge's coach

"He has great agility; he is very fast. In a few years he could be Spanish Junior Champion, and who knows what he could do in the future."

Jorge plays with his club, el Guadalsem of Lebrija. He has overcome his illness. Following, an ordeal in hospitals, he only has to make one check-up annually. His hip bones are no longer like chewing gum. And he is the champion of Andalusia in his category. He lacks discipline, says his coach. But he makes up for it with his determination.

JORGE RAMOS
Table Tennis player

"I don't want to stop playing."