

Semi-Professional Swiss Surfer: Rivan Rosskopf

Rivan Rosskopf is a competitive Surfer for Switzerland. He has already won multiple Swiss Championships and has earned first place in the men and junior division of the Edelweiss Surf Tour. Growing up competing in Hawaii with some of the worlds best juniors gave him a competitive edge in the surfing world. He competes in International Competitions on a regular basis and is constantly working towards better results and performances.

2006 to 2013

Rivan Rock Rosskopf (2 April 2006) was born in a landlocked country so he had a delayed start to surfing. At the age of 7, his parents decided to move to the North Shore of Oahu, Hawaii, where his dad (Jacob Rosskopf) was born and raised.

2014 to 2018

Rivan and his brothers (Gian Dean & Kilian Rosskopf) went to Sunset Beach Elementary School. Rivan was influenced from young surfers like Paumalu Malone and Isaiah Briley. He then started to make the transition from sand sliding on his boogie board to catching waves and standing up on it. On his 8th birthday he received his first Surfboard and from then on surfed daily after school. Being surrounded from the best surfers in the world, competition quickly came to mind.

In 2016 he competed in his first contest ever (T&C Grom Contest). 2 years later he won it. Rivan also became runner up in the Rell Sun Makaha Menehune Championships and 5th in the Menehune Surf Contest Haleiwa. Due to his good performances, he earned his first sponsorship "Luma Delikatessen" in 2018 at just 12 years old.

2019 to 2021

In the summer of 2019, what was meant to be a vacation turned into being recognized as an upcoming Swiss surfer. Rivan and his brothers were surfing a river wave in Bremgarten and the crowd was surprised by how well they surfed. Local surfer Martin Suter told Rivan there was an upcoming contest in Zurich. Rivan's parents signed him up for the City Wave Pro World Tour Stop in Zurich without him ever surfing a wave pool. With every round he surfed he got better and better, managing to stick 2 backside air reverses in the final. 13 year old Rivan placed 2nd in the U16 division.

With a little name in Switzerland, Rivan was motivated to keep it going. A short while later in Hawaii, he won the HSA Maili Contest and then placed 3rd in the Haleiwa International Open.

Once Covid hit, competition took a complete halt and tourism did too which meant empty lineups to practice in. Rivan and his friends (Luke Tema, Nalu Deodato, etc.) took full advantage of this and started surfing bigger and more dangerous waves like Pipeline. With less people in the water, it was easier and safer to learn how to get barreled.

2021 to 2022

In the summer of 2021, instead of just visiting Switzerland, Rivan's parents decided to move there permanently because of financial reasons. Rivan wasn't looking forward to being so far away from the ocean and his parents couldn't tell him when he could go back to Hawaii. To 15 year old Rivan, leaving everything and everyone behind was seemingly as heart breaking as it could get.

Rivan spent months without standing on a surfboard and was buckled down in school (Bezirksschule Engerfeld, Rheinfelden). During school breaks, short visits to the Atlantic Ocean were common but nothing compared to daily surfs in Hawaii. Over the winter, he had a 6 month period without even seeing the ocean. It was a rough year for Rivan, his surfing didn't improve but his Swiss German sure did.

2022 to 2023

In the summer of 2022 Swiss Surfing Association announced the Edelweiss Surf Tour covering 5 of Switzerland's best waves (Oana, Bremgarten, Urbansurf, Thun and Alaia Bay). Rivan took the overall Junior Tour win with a major lead and placed second in the overall men. After a dominating performance "Dakine Europe" offered him a sponsorship deal. Shortly afterwards Rivan and his little brother Kilian got a five minute segment of them surfing in the national sports television (SRF 2 Sport Panorama). Rivan's surf career was now somehow rolling smoothly in a landlocked country.

In November 2022, the long-awaited return ticket turned into reality. After a year and 4 months away from the North Shore, Rivan finally got to head back. He was now attending an online High School program which helped him flexibly study from wherever he was.

Rivan was now back with his longtime friends Luke Tema and Nalu Deodato who had been dominating the rankings in Hawaii. Even though Rivan was a bit rusty after so much time off it quickly came back to him. Rivan worked out a sponsorship deal with Schaper Hawaii (Surfboard Shaper) and at the end of his 4 months stay he was able to win the HSA 16-17 Sandy's Contest with a perfect 10 in the final.

The best way to figure out what else Rivan is up to is via his Social Media Channels Instagram and YouTube.