

7/12/09

Hi my name is Rick troutman. I AM one of the parents on the eclipse trip to europe this summer. I am hoping to send daily summaries if I can master my new blackberry. We left Charlotte today at 11am. We have a layover in Newark NJ. We leave for Hamburg, Germany at 5:30. During the layover we are staying at the young travelers lounge. We have 16 girls. Two more will join us in europe. Four of the girls are from the 93 team and fourteen are from the 94 team. The age groups are according birth year not school year. The team is going to play in two tournaments and a number of friendlies. The first tournament is the LIons cup and next week the Dana cup. Last year the 92 team made this same trip. Hopefully next year another team will go. The girls will play a lot of soccer but they will also experience place where soccer is all of our major sports in one. More later.....Rick

7/13/09

Today (Monday) has been a blur. We flew out of Newark @ 4:30 pm and arrived to sunny skies in Hamburg @ 7:30 am local time. The flight was about 7 hours and with the excitement, most of the girls slept only an hour or two.

To deal with the jet lag Bob and Chad wanted us to stay awake until 8 or 9 pm. Girls and parents were nodding off all day and had to be kept awake. It seems to have worked but it was hard to stay awake. We arrived in Hamburg which is the second largest city in Germany. We drove to Ratzeburg which is a city of about 13K. Chad had the girls practice to keep them awake. We had lunch and the parents went to a museum at the old east/west Germany wall. It was in a small town that was divided for 40 or so years. Families were separated. The West side prospered and the East side of town was controlled by the Russians. They lived frozen in time in the 1940's. The girls met a team of Israelis. The girls were older and we think Palestinians. Hanna caused a lot of excitement. She thought they had her confused with Hanna Montana. Many pictures were taken. We had hoped to scrimmage the israelis but they were tired from traveling. At the restaurant girls and parents were fighting to stay awake. The girls met the host families. Most of these are the parents of Bob's U18 team. Bob is Chad's dad. All of these families speak english. So after staying mostly awake for 33 hours sleep was very welcome.

Tuesday- Chad has been making the girls drink a lot of water, which they are not very fond of the taste. They trained bright and early this morning then when on a sightseeing trip and shopping in Luneburg. They have been eating the local food and the results have been mixed. At lunch Maddy and Bailey ordered what Bailey thought sounded like a hamburger, a "ludenburger"(not sure on the spelling), however it turned out to be liver patte! I am fairly confident that they will not make that mistake again. This evening they played a friendly against Bobs team from Ratzburg. The team ranged in ages from 18-27yrs old. Our girls won 2-0! With goals from Lindsey and Lydia. During the day the parents had a chance to visit a Museum which was located at the old "Wall" dividing east and west Germany. From un-named sources we understand the beer is very good in Germany.

Tomorrow they will once again train early then have a chance to visit a WWII concentration camp. The girls are all exhausted due to jet lag and lack of sleep adjustment. They will have the chance to sleep well tonight.

7/15/09

All:

The girls were up early and training this morning at 8:00am. Apparently Chad is very serious about having the girls ready for the Dana Cup next week and is working them as hard as he would here at home. At 9:30 the parents met the girls and they traveled to a WWII Concentration Camp. Prior to going to the concentration camp, Chad talked to girls about the seriousness of the events that took place at the camp. He basically gave them a history lesson so they would better understand what they were going to see and what happened there and the significance in history of the events. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed the excursion. They ate at an Italian food restaurant where the girls had Pizza. I don't think they are taking to the local fare to much so they are sticking with whats familiar. When I talked to Kristin last they were getting ready to start their next game this evening in a town which was about a 2 hour drive from Guster/Ratzburg.

I will update everyone once I get the play by play from the game.

Bill

7/15/09

Katie called me and said the concentration camp was "really cool" and she liked the pizza. She confirmed the water was gross but they have been getting some better water. She said they got better rest last night and Chad has them up really really early (before lunch). She sounds happy and like she is having a great time. She said they had lots of shots on goal yesterday but the keeper was good (and the keeper is katie,caitlyn and ciaras host family). If I hear anything else will let you know.

Thank You,
Angie Huggins

7/15/09

All:

After a two-hour drive from Ratzburg the girls played a tough game today and came out with a 1-2 loss against another team of older girls from a nearby town club. It was unusually warm at 90 degrees. According to the game report the girls were very tired in the first half then came back to life in the second half and had numerous shots on goal unfortunately only able to connect on one. Now the more exciting part. According to the team just about the whole town came out to see the match with the Americans. There were entire families at the game all dressed up to see our girls. After the game the host

team had prepared a bar-b-q which the girls thoroughly enjoyed. The towns people and players from the other team took several pictures of our girls. They said they were made to feel like celebrities. Chad is letting them sleep in in the morning until 9:00am! Then its back to training. I was asked to relay to the parents that all of the girls are having fun and have every intention of emailing their parents as soon as they get a chance.

Bill

7/16/09

The girls played two games this evening in Germany. The first game was against a team from Isreal and we won 3-0 with one goal from Jane and Two from Katie. According to the spectators we played a much better game than yesterday. I guess an extra hour to sleep in did them well. Tonight they play the home team from Hagegen (sp?). I will keep you posted. So far 2wins 1 loss all against older teams.

Bill

Please pass along to your teams:

Today Thursday, started like the others with the girls practicing early and the parents meeting them mid-morning. We met at the Rathaus which is city hall. We met with a German-American man who is 74 he told us his story. He was a Jew who survived the ghetto and camps. Most of the people his age were killed outright because they were too young to be productive ask how he survived. It took the camp visit from yesterday to reality and put a human face on history. I doubt the girls will forget this talk.

Afterward the girls went shopping in Ratzburg and ate. This is the small town that the parents hotel is in. The town is an island. While Germany is only several hundred years old. Ratzburg is a city much older. We had a tour of the oldest church 1100 ad. We saw furniture made before Columbus and Martin Luther. The church is impressive even by todays standards. It even has cannon balls stuck in the sides. It survived many attacks including Viking.

In the evening we traveled to Haben which lies inside of the former East Germany. The conditions of the club are less prosperous. And many of the building suffer from long term neglect that is slowly being corrected. Our first game was against the Israeli girls U18-20 that we met on Monday. The girls played amazing winning 3-0. Next we watched a Nigerian team boys team play the hosts. They taught us an insult which literally means (we think) get your hair out of this place. But it sounds cool in Urdu the dialect they speak. then we played a German girls team. The girls really started to attack. they won 4-0. when we finished it was 10 pm and the sun had just set. We broke a Bob rule and stopped at Mc Donald's because it was fast.

The girls are having a lot of fun. They are kept constantly busy. Every minute they are practicing, learning, getting to know each other and playing. This trip is opening worlds that they have not imagined. The German families are wonderful. With Bob we have the chance to see the country in ways that visitors rarely have.



Lion's Club Opening Ceremonies

July 17th

After the girls did so well in Hannu (sp). Chad gave the morning off. The parents went to Gusted to visit the coffee shop/store owned by one of the families hosting girls. The Lions Cup started today but the schedule changed all day. At 4:00 they held the opening ceremonies. The teams paraded in lead by a small marching band. The teams from other countries were at the front. They were Nigeria, USA, Russia, Israel, and Brazil, followed by the German teams. The dignitaries were introduced and speeches were made by the Bugermeister and the club president. All was in German. It was cool none the less.

In Europe they do not allow unlimited substitution like we do. There are three subs per game. Chad had a neat idea. We can play in both the 94/93 age group and the 92/91 age group.

Courtney arrived today so we have 18. The 94/93 age group is 7v7 and the 92/91age group is 11v11

First game 7v7 won 11-0
Lindsay Mc Donald scored 3
Jane Cline 3
Lindsey Byrne 1
Katie Huggins 1
Morgan Byrne 2
Caitlyn Rodriguez 1
Goalie EJ

7v7. Eclipse 5 Harkebruggen 0
Lindsey McDonald 1
Lindsey Byrne 1
Morgan Byrne 2
Lydia 1
Goalie Erika

11v11 Eclipse 1 Ardeqatt-goldbeck-0
Bailey 1
Goalie EJ

The girls are not very happy with the last game and the second needs adjustments as well but everyone knows what to do. They are talking on the field and anticipating each others moves.

They are developing a following, boys, sometimes coaches. The German boys teams have been to several of the games. Each time Eclipse scores a goal they remove their shirts wave them in the air and chant/yell Americans, Americans! The girls are like rock stars over here!

With eleven games tomorrow we won't be able to go into such detail tomorrow.

7/18/09

All:

Below is a link to the Lion's Cup website. If you click on the word "opening" below the picture on the main page it will take you to a slide show of the first day. There are several pictures of our girls. Enjoy!

http://www.lionscup.de/index_engl.html

Bill

7/18/09

Today is Saturday... pouring rain supposed to stop soon.... girls won all 3 games..the first 7 v 7 was a game of keep away and shoot- don't think that the other team had control once...the 11 v 11 was lackluster but they won- the other 7v 7 they won also.... our girls are a riot- they have been attracting ALOT of attention from everyone especially the boys teams..... don't worry, we are watching them. It is busy... but awesome..opening ceremonies were cool they paraded in with a band and the nigerian boys made sure that they were next to our girls.....our style of play is so different from the girls here.... our girls are stringing together passes and the other team just kicks it.....The logistics arrangements that Bob and Dawn have worked so hard on are pretty impressive.

sorry about the punctuation- the position of many of the letters are changed and so is the punctuation. The adults debrief with chad and beer, apps and or dessert every night- there are 5000 beers and Kristen, Chad and I are working on them.....I think that we are up to 10..we might have to extend our stay!The z and the y have been reversed so I have to go correct every time I tpe a word with a y in it.....

Have a great day

The girls are in good shape and working hard but seem to be having a great time!!!

'Chuus!

(Good Bye???? maybe? everyone says it when they leave) Kate Ich liebe Germany!!!!

7/19/09

Our reporters are slacking a little. Here is what they sent me:

Today was full of soccer

7v7 games

Win 6-0

Win 10-0

Win 1-0

Forfeit win

Tie 1-1

11v11

Win 2-0

Win 4-1

Win 4-0

22-2 is the total goals.

Both divisions we are in first place.

Play starts at 9:30 tomorrow.

looks like good weather for today. 7v7 will play a 4 game round robin today. Points restart today and don't carry over from yesterday. 11v11 have their next game vs. Israel.

7/19/09

All:

Just received an update. The Eclipse Won the Championship in the 7v7 division. The game was a hard fought match against an older team from Israel. It ended in a 0-0 tie then went into PK's where we won on the last PK. Obviously, EJ did an outstanding job!

Now the 11v11 team plays for the championship!

Bill

7/19/09

Finals of 7v7

It was a hard fought game with the u17plus Israel girls. We had already beaten and tied them. They were very physical. Lots of slide tackles many from behind. We were better technically but they were stronger And much rougher. There was no score. In the last minute the put in a keeper that looked 20 to 22. There was no over time they go straight to pks . EJ was in goal. She stopped the first one. Lindsay made the first one. They shot over the top. Morgan hit the second one. Their keeper scored first for Israel. We were stopped by their keeper. They missed the next one. Jane made hers so we are up 3-2. They missed. Bailey did not have to shoot. We win the U15 beating a U17 plus team. Next up in an hour the U17 finals. The Israelis did not enter this. More later.....Rick

7/19/09

All:

So we ended up winning our age group and placing second in the age group above. The games were not full length. The younger age group played one 25 minute period and the older group played two 15 minute period. We won 14 games and lost 2 and tied 1. We scored 46 goals to 2. In the final game we scored a beautiful goal that was called back on a very close off-sides call. We dominated play but they won. That's sometimes soccer. Several teams were especially fascinated by the eclipse team. Our girls loved to watch the Nigerian U17 boys team. These guys played with some amazing athletic ability and even more enthusiasm. We tried to make their games and they tried to make ours. These young men were very respectful and seemed to treat the girls as little sisters. When the temperature got into the 70's with some rain the boys were wearing gloves and ski hats. The Israeli girls team was also very friendly after almost beating us. There were a number of German boys who always managed to be at our games. We had our own fan club. We were the only club as far as I know willing to play in two age groups but this way everyone got playing time. It was a great idea.... Rick

The Team leaves Ratzeburg at 7am tomorrow heading to Denmark for the Dana Cup!

7/20/09

All:

We left Ratzeburg early this morning at 7:30 on a bus. Many of the host families were there to see us off. It was sad to say goodbye but we are off to a new country with a new culture and different food. The bus ride was about seven hours from northern Germany to the northern most part of Denmark. It is interstate all the way. The country side is green and generally flat. The further north we go the shorter the trees get. There are lots of windmills here. They get about 15 per cent of their energy from wind. The girls are singing in the back of the bus. We are due to arrive at the hotel at 2:30. Once we get checked in the girls will get ready for the Parade. You might be able to see it on the dana cup website. I need to clarify several things about Lions cup. We were 13-1-1. With the only loss coming on pks. Overall including friendlies we are 16-2-1.

One other thing at the awards ceremony I was clueless about this but apparently the burgermeister which is the mayor had been reading the messages that we were sending back to you on a facebook site somewhere. He announced that we appreciated their food and drinks. After the ceremony the mayor found me and showed me a honorary police badge from Lincolnton, NC which is not far from Mooresville. That was a surprise. Germany was wonderful. As Bob told us early on most people visit a country and go to the major cities. We were able to visit with native Germans and they taught us about their culture and language. We were in smaller towns similar to Statesville. It was great.....rick

7/20/09

I wanted to let you guys know as well on the Lions Cup web site, there are pictures of our girls on opening day....and now on the final day. Lots of pictures!!!! Make sure you go to the bottom of the web page to see the information.

I think I may be guilty on the facebook information. For anyone that doesn't know....there is a "fans of eclipse soccer" facebook page. We are up to almost 60 members now!!

http://www.lionscup.de/index_engl.html

For all the parents giving updates...thank you so much! It's the next best thing to being there.

~~~~~  
*Angie Huggins*

7/20/09

All:

I just talked to Maddy and Kristin, as well as Jeff Cline who could not believe I was not there. At any rate, the girls had a great time at the Opening Ceremony. Kristin told me that it should be up on line later this evening or in the am. The girls all painted their faces and had a great time. When they arrived in Denmark, Chad made them all get into the water. Not just any water, The North Sea!

Maddy told me that they all wished I was there which made me feel even worse as I sit here in my office. She also said that they are very pumped up and really want to win the whole thing.

Bill

7/20/09

All:

We arrived at Hotel Fyrklit. It is on the northern coast of Denmark. Our local guide is Sven-Erik. He gave us an orientation talk. He explained that the town of Hirtshals which in remoteness would compare to North Dakota in the US. But it is second only to Copenhagen as a tourist spot in Denmark. He explained how the tournament is set up and what we would do tonight at the opening. After the meeting Chad told the girls it was time for their traditional swim in the Baltic Sea. They ran in, got wet and ran out very fast. Interesting soccer tans some of the girls have. We ate and left for the city of Hjørring. We dropped off the girls to line up in the parades and we went to the stadium. The girls painted their faces in red, white and blue. Many put flags in their hair and wore their red, white and blue tie dyed tee shirts. The parade wound through the town of Hjørring for the locals and into the stadium. The parents were positioned just as everyone came in. We cheered for all the countries. Many of the boys and girls from other countries would get very excited when they saw the americans chanting the name of their country as they came in. Of course we had to cheer the loudest when the USA and our girls came into the stadium. The smiles on their faces were worth the price of the trip. Some of the girls were smiling so much they were risking facial injury. They marched around the stadium and onto the field. There were teams from UK, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Canada, Mexico, Russia, Peru, Haiti, Spain, Romania, France, Kenya, Philippines, Scotland, Nepal, South Africa, Jordan, Uganda, Uruguay, Iceland and few counties I could not figure out from the Danish spelling. As you can tell this is a big deal. The teams were meeting each other and having their pictures taken with people from across the world. They were so happy. Tomorrow we play at 8:30 so up at 5:00.....Rick

7/21/09

[believe the results tracker show the girls beating Sweeden this morning 4 to 0.](#)

~~~~~  
Angie Huggins

7/21/09

Hi all! I am borrowing Bob Metzler's laptop and want to confirm that our girls did win 4-0, but will leave the play by play to the more professional among us. They looked great and are now resting and gearing up for the next game at 5:30. The parade last night was awesome and often the girls had other teams cheering them on and saying "Go USA", and even when the parents were cheering for the athletes they frequently responded with more cheers to us than we were offering them (and we were definitely loud). It was tough to miss our crew as were well decorated with flags, tie-dye red, white, and blue shirts and the girls had some truly creative face paint going on.

Today our girls had a picture on the front page of the local newspaper. Courtney, Maddy, and half of Jane appeared. With any luck we might be able to get a few copies to bring home.

Go Eclipse!.....Bonita

7/21/09

All:

This morning we were up early. Bus left at 7am. As I emailed earlier we won 4-0. We controlled the ball against the Swedish team most of the game. We had many corner kicks and shots on goal. It was a pretty solid win. Chad was mostly happy but said we need to be better in front of the net.

You can follow the results on the Dana Cup website Results Ticker.

Bill

7/21/09

I figured you guys should hear this from me first, Katie has broke her clavicle (collar bone) on a break away where the defender collided with her. She is at the hospital now with Kate Younger and Bob. After her mom had a heart attack, I spoke with her and she is adamant she is not coming home and she feels fine. Right now it doesn't look like they will cast anything and she will probably be in a sling for a few weeks. She is playing some kind of video game and hanging out with Bob and Kate right now. She also said they won 3 to 0 and it would have been 4 to 0 if the girl hadn't stopped her.

My tremendous thanks to Bob and Kate for being with my baby girl.

~~~~~  
*Angie Huggins*

7/21/09

All:

Today was the first full day of competition. Our day began early with breakfast at 6am. The girls were on the field at 7:30 and the game at 8:30. First we played Laxis from Sweden. We controlled the ball most of the game and ended up 4-0. The girls had pictures with the other team. After the game we went over to the main complex to eat and shop. The team bought Dana cup hoodies and tee shirts and other stuff. We went back to the hotel to rest. The next game was at 5:30 against FC Vidal from Norway. They were a much better team but they play long ball. We were playing well and ended up winning 3-0. The game ended on a down note when Katie who was making a nice run with the ball up the right side fell around the 18 on her right shoulder. Katie has a greenstick fracture of her right clavicle or a crack in her collarbone. She is in a sling for two weeks and hopefully will heal quickly. We will be carrying her luggage for her. We have had several other much smaller injuries with Cassidy a pulled quad. The trainers here did a deep massage which has apparently helped quite a bit. Erika had a sore knee and EJ has swollen ankle. Those three are still able to play but needed to take a few games off. EJ has been able to play with the ankle problem. Tomorrow we play the last game in our pool. The top two teams advance to the A final round. After this point it is the knockout phase of the tournament. In other words if you lose you are done. There are 58 teams in our bracket. Only 28 teams advance to the A final round. So we are looking good so far. Game tomorrow at 12:30 or 6:30 your time.....Rick

7/22/09

All:

Our Girls played Holmstrand today and won 9-0. I don't have any more specifics but probably will later. The team and parents are now off for the rest of the day. They are heading out exploring and shopping. Time to have some fun off the pitch.

A note of clarification regarding Katie's injury yesterday. Her collar bone has a small fracture which the drs did not deem as serious. She will take a couple of weeks off and then be ready to take the field again. The drs said 14-15 days of rest but knowing Katie she will back out sooner than that.

Bill

She said this morning the bad part was hearing her "bones rub together."  
Thanks everyone for your emails, calls and concerns. I appreciate it and  
Katie does too.

~~~~~  
Angie Huggins

All:

Today we finished pool play with a solid win against another Norwegian team named
Holmstrand. The final score was 9-0 with many girls making goals. We went into
Hjørring for lunch and shopping. We are back at the hotel waiting for a team meeting
between Chad and the team. Chad talked to the parents earlier. We started the tournament
with 55-60 teams. At this point half of those teams have been eliminate from pool A.
They will compete in a B team division tournament. Tomorrow we play at 11:00. The
winner plays at 6pm and the loser is finished with competition. Chad compared the
tournament to March Madness in basketball. You have to be good to have a chance but
you also need to be a bit lucky. Chad and Bob are working to prepare the team for the
weeks competition.....Rick

7/23/09

All:

First game in the A finals round of sixteen. Raining off and on. We win. Our opponents
are from Oslo, Norway. Skedsmo. 0. Eclipse 6

The girls will be on tv internet feed I think after 2 pm your time, Tv2Nord.DK.

Bill

We Won!!!!!!!!!!

We beat one of the two teams to play in the final game last year in our age group!!!!

The twins, Bailey, Jane and Caitlyn all made their PK's. EJ stopped the other teams last
one....and so off we go the the round of 8...

All:

This morning we were on the bus early and off to the field. It was raining
off and on throughout the morning. The team we played was better than
some of the previous teams. They were from Oslo, Norway. The girls played
well. We were up 2 or 3 to nothing at the end of the half. At the end of the

game we led 6-0. The girls really want this tournament. After the game on this nasty rainy day we had to get team photos. We will see how that turns out. After the pictures several of the girls were interviewed by the local TV station for their 7pm news.

Our next opponent is also from Norway. Their name is Trauma IF. They live on an island in Norway and they had already beaten one of the favorites. I don't know how their name translates into english but hopefully it doesn't mean what it sounds like. At game time 6pm it was raining steadily. Here they play in almost any conditions. The field was wet, muddy and slippery. Our normal possession game is limited in these conditions so we had to adapt. Our opponents were bigger and stronger and if the other Norwegian teams were any indicator they generally play long ball. The game was hard fought and physical. Trauma scored in the first half. For the rest of the half and early second half they were content to slow the game down. We were constantly attacking and finally in a flurry in their box we scored to tie at 1-1. We continued to attack but were unable to score. These games are shortened to 25-30 minute halves. There is no overtime we go straight to pks. EJ was in goal. The girls chose the 5 shooters. We won the Kroner toss. (coin toss) After some communication problems we got to shoot second. They hit their first. Lindsay B hit her first shot. They hit their second shot. Morgan hit hers. They hit their third shot. Jane hit hers. They hit their fourth shot. Bailey hit hers. On their fifth shot EJ stopped them. Caitlyn hit hers we win 5-4. Between the two teams they were 9 of 10 on pks. Oh, I forgot to mention this team was a finalist last year. They also brought a lot of fans. At least 5 times as many as us. And any questionable call they booed loudly. They were loud and a bit rowdy. It was a very intense and highly competitive atmosphere. This was why we came to experience this type of soccer. We were again better fundamentally but they know the game better. We are down to the final 8 with two more games tomorrow.(if we win) It is all soccer now. The girls are all about winning the tournament. One girl was asked today if she was nervous or scared about the tournament. If I heard her right she said No this is just like any other tournament just bigger and we just want to win it.....Rick

7/24/09

All:

We won our match this am against Fossum 6-0. We are on to the semi-finals where we play a team from Sweden, Våmbs IF.


~~~~~

*Angie Huggins*

I just talked to Amy Reilly who is over there and was with the 92's last year on the trip. They are playing the team from Sweden at 10:00 AM their time. Apparently Chad is scheduled to do some kind of a rap for the girls tomorrow - part of his deal if they won. :) She said that Chad was very emotional after the win.

In addition to them taking the goal back after the corner kick, our girls scored one as well but they took it back - said it was off sides.

Not sure if you all realize what a HUGE affair the finals are - we went last year and our girls were amazed and so sad that they didn't make it. (Ironically they got knocked out on PK's after a 0-0 game when there were 16 teams left). But it is in the huge stadium, which is packed, and there are a lot of Danish customs that are integrated into it, it reminded us a lot of the Olympics. I believe that they are brought to the field house in a special charter bus, and their uniforms are all laid out of them just like the pros, and they play the national anthem of both countries that are playing. It is truly a once in a life time experience for them.

The 92's wish them nothing but luck tomorrow!

Lisa M. Nesbitt, CPM

FYI,

Chad has never won the Dana Cup and is more nervous with each game-and I am sure more so than the girls are. He has been in the finals. Kristin

GUYS!!!!

I have had no access to my email since heading to Denark but this is absolutely amazing. Our girls have all stepped up to the challenge and I am so impressed with their ability and their determination..... We are in the finals but hats off to all of our team but EJ and the girls that had to do the penalty kicks had so much pressure each and every time and were just awesome-we played this morning against a team that had a member of the Norway National team and we shut her down.....Katie's broken collarbone has been pretty traumatic to all but she has been a trooper...Maria hurt her ankle in the quarter finals :( but she is ok!!!!  
Chad is amazingly calm and hiding just a tad of nervousness-Hannah was very glad to see a tear in his eye when we beat that team in PK's.....

Just awesome!!

My voice is gone but I have perfected good luck in seal!!!

Love to all Kate

All:

We are in the stadium trying to keep dry waiting for the semifinals in our division. We had about 5 hours between games. Today at 10:10 am we played another Norwegian team from a town near Oslo. Their name was Fossum. They have a few fans but nothing like Trauma that

we played yesterday. We scored less than two minutes into the game. Fossum started playing better and held us scoreless for the rest of the half. We were dominate as far as controlling the ball. The Fossum coach was pleased that the score was so close. He told us Trauma that we beat yesterday was one of the best teams in Norway. Minutes into the second half we scored again and again and again. By the time it was over we won 6-0.

Finally the time came to play the Swedish team Akelius. It started raining right after our first game. In the first game we were able to play our possession game but with the rain we have to play more direct. The game was a battle. It was very physical with neither team able to get much advantage. At one point we scored on a nice corner kick but it was disallowed. Apparently the kick was made prior to the whistle. I think our girl heard a whistle on another field. After regulation time we went into overtime of two 5 minute periods. Again our girls were attacking but we could not score. We were going to pks again. A lot of fans had accumulated: A boys team from Bergen county, NJ, the Norwegian team we beat this morning, a German team the Bergen boys recruited and a number of others. It was so crowded in the pk area that it was hard for some of the parents to see. Again EJ was in goal. The Swedes shot first and hit it. Morgan or Lindsay hit the first for us. They hit theirs. The other twin made hers. Our opponents hit theirs. Jane nailed hers. So far no pks have been missed. Then both teams started missing. The next five pks were missed. And Kiara hit the next one to give us the win. There was a big celebration. The girls, parents, coaches and fans were so excited. Tomorrow we play in the stadium in front of more people than ever. From what Bob has told us unlike our tournaments where people go home when they lose, here most teams stay to watch the finals. The teams that are out go shopping, there is a carnival with rides they even have an automatic bull riding thing and a disco. So after two weeks of soccer we are 26-2-1. Tomorrow is our 30th game. The girls have really bonded as a team. They have come to know each other better on the field and off. There is just one Swedish team in their path. Apparently all of Norway is pulling for us. Pray for a dry field.....Rick

How do we get the live feed?????

Barb, Bonita said the 92's all planned to watch...do they know the secret?

I looked and can't figure it out either - last year it was right on the home page. I did e-mail Dawn in the off chance that she may see her e-mail before the game and she can ask Bob. If I find anything out - I will send it on. I know several of the 92 girls were planning on staying up to watch. hopefully we can figure it out before then.....

Lisa

I should have figured they would "stay up " to watch it while I was considering "getting up" to watch it...

All,

I e-mailed the dana cup folks asking for help. If I get any help, I will let you know at 4 in the morning-Kristin M

7/25

All:

I just got off the phone with Kristin. They are at the stadium and the game before them is running behind. After that game they have the awards ceremony. They estimate that it may be up to an hour before they start our game. I will keep those other of you who are patiently waiting for updates updated as I get them.

On a side note, it's awfully quite at 4:00am, kind of neat actually. I should try this more often.

Bill

Quiet and really dark. Too bad on the feed. I wonder if they are video taping the game at all?

Thank You,

All:

WE WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! 2-0!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bill

Wooohoooo!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank You,  
Angie Huggins

CONGRATULATIONS ECLIPSE ..... CONGRATULATIONS CHAD ~~~~~!!!!!!!!!!!!

Trish Murphy

the kids and I will be at the airport. The guys Chad grew up playing soccer with will be soooo jealous. I have already e-mailed them about it and promised a viewing of the rap!  
Kristin M

Below is a comment from one of Chad's best friends, I thought you might want to see it. and yes, I got on him about the boys comment Kristin M

I have played in the Dana Cup and coached with Chad at the Dana Cup. This is an absolutely huge accomplishment. For a coach, the only other accomplishments that would be bigger are:

Win the Dana Cup with a boys team, win a college level national championship, coach an Olympic or World Cup team. The Dana Cup is a virtual Junior Olympics. There are teams from 45 countries. I think it has been 16 years for me since I played there. The memories are still so vivid. Those are memories that will stick with me forever and have helped shape the person I am today. I am so proud of Chad. I hope Bob was there and I would of loved to see his reaction. It probably would of made me cry.

7/26/09

To all the Eclipse Parents:

What these girls achieved over in Denmark is incredible!!!

To take on the WORLDS best U15 teams and win it all is a HUGE accomplishment.

I was fortunate to go on the trip last year and witnessed how tough this tournament really is, it makes a tournament here look like a cake walk-the pressure that these young players must have been under in the semi's with all those PK's and our goalie's what a fantastic job they did- my hat off to them!!!!

I'm sure the stadium was electric during the game and the celebration must have been really special...

Chad has to be very proud of this achievement- it puts LNSC on the map. That DANA Cup trophy is a very covenant trophy that any club, coach or player would want in their trophy case.

I believe this is the first time a NC soccer team has won it!?

Unbelievable.....

I want to thank Bob, Dawn and Chad for having the for thought to take American teams over there for such an incredible experience and education- the trip is just awesome the girls will cherish those memories for a lifetime.

The pictures on the website are great- those smiles on our girls faces say it all!!!

I can't be happier for everyone of them- they worked their tail off for this.

Rick and Bill all the updates- they were awesome, I looked forward to every one.

Thank You to all the Parents for letting the girls attend- be proud of those young ladies- this is equal to winning a gold medal in the Olympics for their age.

See everyone at the airport for the big party!!!!!!!!!!

Congrats,

--

Matt Reilly

I second all that Matt said.

I also want to thank Bill, Rick Troutman, Kristin, and Sue Byrne's (before she left) for keeping us all up to date. Scott and I both wish we could have been there, but all the emails from Europe made it a little easier and also made us feel a part of the action even though we were an ocean away.

Congrats to Chad for all his hard work and thank you Bob for making this trip possible. Beside the fact that the girls played awesome and brought trophies home from both Germany and Denmark, it was the whole experience.

So thank you to the entire Metzler family for organizing and planning such an incredible trip. I know for Lindsay it was more than she could have ever imagined.

See you at the airport!  
Beth

Remarkable! Congratulations to the team, Chad, and thank you to Bob and all the others who supported our efforts in achieving this monumental success plus the quick daily updates and synopsis at the end of the day.

My question to Chad is this rap career the new technique to motivating the team?

Ken

7/27/09

Where is the big meeting place and welcoming committee?

Ken Younger

Usually you have to come downstairs to the baggage claim area. We can coordinate down there and find which set of escalators they are coming down.

~~~~~  
Angie Huggins

They are on the same flight I came in. If you are facing the terminal, coming in from the parking deck, they'll come in on the far right. The first few people can check with Continental to confirm then we can congregate in that area of Baggage Claim.

Ken Younger

Ken

You are correct....far right of airport by Door A... when you enter hourly parking go in the upper car age and go straight and park there...you will be right outside of baggage claim at door A

.I spend way too much time there.....see you all there..

Their flight was 50 minutes late out of Copenhagen but shouldn't have a problem making connection in Newark

7/28/09

All:

Hi, Sorry I got slack for the last few days of the trip. The winning of the Dana cup was of course the highlight of the trip but the fun didn't stop there. The girls were still high from winning all the way home. After winning the tournament that evening we had a cookout and the girls put on skits after we ate. Most of the skits were poking fun at the parents and coaches and each other about things that happened. It was like a highlight reel of less important but very funny things that make the trip so much fun. The team got to know each other as friends and teammates. The parents got to know each other as well.

The next day Sunday we were up early to check out. We had a 4-5 hour train ride through the Danish countryside from Hjørring to Copenhagen. We were check into a very nice hotel and went on a water taxi for a very nice ride around this port city and a water tour to see the royalties homes complete with fancy guards. The girls then spent the rest of the night at Tivoli which is one of the world's original amusement parks. This is the park that inspired Walt Disney to create Disneyland in California which in turn inspired all the other amusement parks. Tivoli was more of a garden park with rides and restaurants than like carowinds which is far more about the rides. It was started before our civil war in the mid 1850's. It is unique and was a great ending to the trip.

Yesterday was all travel. Getting the trophies through all the airports was a story in itself. Everyone was tired but happy . The girls were very patient and cooperative throughout the trip. We could not have traveled with a better group. We arrived in Charlotte around 4:45 where we were met by parents and other people in the Eclipse program with signs, posters and noise. In a few days I will be sending some final thoughts about the trip and what it means to the girls and the Eclipse program.....Rick

All:

Just some final thoughts and stats on the trip:

Our final record was 27-2-1 (this includes freindly matches)

We scored 91 goals. Allowed 3.

This includes friendlies, does not include penalties.

We played in four matches that went to penalties. We won three, lost one. Overall, we scored 18 out of 23 penalty shots.

The trip's leading scorers were:

Morgan Byrne (19)

Jane Cline (10)

Lindsey Byrne (7)

Every player, except for EJ (our goal keeper) scored at least once on the trip.

4 players recorded hattricks during the trip. Morgan had two.

We are the first NC team to win the Dana Cup. We were the only American team to win a final this year (there were 18 teams from the US in this year's tournament).

Dana Cup featured 811 teams from 47 nations. Our age group contained 58 teams.

Other finalists of note included:

Pequininos de Jockey (Brazil)

Chivas Guadalajara (Mexico)

Fortuna (Denmark)

Ipswich Town (England)

Cruz Azul (Mexico)

Cantolao (Peru)

SEFA Abijan (Ivory Coast)

Vejle FA (Nigeria)

This is some pretty good company to keep!

I know that this is a lot of bragging, and after this email, I will not do it anymore. But above all, I am very, very proud of the girls. They were completely dedicated to this, and I think that they learned a ton, both on and off the field. I think the girls have gained a new level of understanding, confidence and appreciation of the game.

Whether playing in Hjorring stadium in front of 3,000 fans, being treated like rock stars in Germany, teaching a German friend to play Uno, or sitting and listening to a Holocaust survivor recount his experience, I hope in some small way this trip was life changing.

Thanks for a great two weeks!

Chad

