

My memorable moments from NSA Eurotour 2009



My first most memorable thing about the trip was the food. The ice cream, meatballs, pancakes, and French fries were all amazingly good and I very much enjoyed the food. The homemade meal at Elsa's house was one of the best meals that I had on the trip and contained most of the food I just mentioned.

Another memorable thing about the trip to Sweden and Denmark was the people that I met. It didn't matter if they were from NSA, Brazil, Sweden or Denmark, the people that I met I will always remember for years to come and I hope to see many of them throughout my life.

One final memorable thing about the trip was the soccer. The level and speed of play was so much greater than what I am used to in Hawaii. Everyone was so enthusiastic about playing and the love of the game and seriousness of it was a lot higher. The game was a lot more physical and also a lot more fun and interesting when played in Europe so overall I liked the trip very much.

Derek Fisher

I am so thankful I was able to go and support our team on the Eurotour09!!

I enjoyed the parents so much. I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to travel with. The memories will stay with me forever, as I hope the friendships I made there will. The kids played outstanding soccer! We could not be more proud of all of you! Robert and Mai and their family were so fun. Allan, Ellen, and their family, where would have we been without you? Ken and Vicky took so many wonderful pictures. Tammy was a big help with our injuries. Last but not least, Lydia Hooser, A.K.A. the best room-mate you could ask for, they say great minds think alike! I thank all of you! A note to future travelers...Don't chew the vitamin C, LOL! Parents you know what I mean. Take care and the best of luck in all your futures.

Kristine Foscalina

My most memorable moments was first the food! It was incredible, from the home made food at Elsa's house to the nasty tournament food at Gothia Cup. I know that i did get a big variety of food there in Sweden and Denmark.

Second, was the soccer. The level of speed and aggressiveness was incredible.

Thirdly, was with all the trouble everybody got in. I swear Coach Kevin scared everybody during the trip!



I also remember when everybody thought it would be funny to play a joke on me! It was so scary but also fun! i miss all of you guys and i hope we all have a big re-union!!!! I miss you guys! :(

Tiffany Chole



1. I will never forget how much the americans eat. I have never in my whole life been eating that much as I did those 2 weeks, ha ha. All the Cocio, chocolate, chips, popcorn, pizza, icecream...

2. I loved to play soccer with all the american girls, because they play a bit different than in Sweden and I like how they play. I also loved having Laura as our coach, she was so good!

3. And something I'll never forget is when I, Alex, Megan, Vanessa and McKenzie played cards, and Kenz lost and started to scream and swear (I will not tell you what she said, haha) and suddenly coach Kevin stands in the doorway and hear all this and Kenzie didn't see him. But then she saw Kevin, you should see her face, haha. We laughed so much, I almost started to cry. HAHA

And of course I will always remember all the people that I've got to know and all the bad words, haha.
Renée Peterson, (SWEDEN)

I have many memorable moments but here's what I've come up with:

- 1) Winning the Dana Cup Championship game against Brazil in the B division, B15
- 2) Meeting players from different countries
- 3) Eating different kinds of foods I'm not use to

Mason Vegas

Even though I wasn't there the whole time I have lots of good memories from the time I spend with all of you. My three most memorable moments were:

1. The first day at the "practiceweek". I met so many nice and kind people.
2. When I watched the girls play in the Gothia Cup. The playd really good and fought hard.
3. When Sofia, Victoria and I made pancakes!

Emma Wibel

It's hard for me to choose just three moments from this trip that I thought were the most memorable. The entire trip was one of the most exciting experiences in my life.

The most memorable moment for me on this trip had to be winning the Dana cup. The fact that is named the Dana is a little weird for me because my dad's name happens to be Dana (he has reminded me of this coincidence on more than one occasion). I remember watching the game when we won watching Malte score goal, after goal, after goal, I also remember being so nervous when Brazil would score a goal always wondering if they could maybe pull ahead. But in the end our team held out I remember as I was getting my shin guards off to go collect the trophy Brad said "let's go collect some hardware" so off we walked to the podium the excitement getting thicker waiting as the Brazilians got there 2nd place medals was excruciating than finally our turn and when that medal finally got placed around my neck I knew it was real. After nearly three years of raising money for this trip I finally felt it happening and I knew it was worth it.

The next most memorable moment was the Gothia Cup opening ceremony, it was amazing 40,000 spectators sitting in the stadium you could feel that there was enough energy to power all of Gothenburg. You could tell that so many people had worked so hard to get here and now it had finally become a reality. It was much like the feeling back at the Dana cup except this time it was being shared by everyone in the stadium was watching on as teams representing every country came onto the field, my home country USA, the country of my ancestors, Scotland, and every other country from around the world getting along for one night. It helped me realize how powerful love for this game can be and how when we share it everything is possible how even though we would be competing against each other we could still all be friends.

Finally one of my last memorable moments would be meeting so many friends and keeping the old ones, meeting the players from other countries as well as the ones from the good old USA we had lots of fun times together playing soccer, winning, losing, touring Europe, talking with pirate accents aaarrggg, being race car drivers on the bus, bowling, and even a little dodge ball. I learned a lot of things like that Jan will one day work in the male model business and the Jeff is one of the best friends I could have asked for or that Alex likes to write on my back with permanent marker while I'm sleeping and Danny Jackie and Tasha are the weirdest "package" in the world. All good times I just hope everyone else thought of me as much of a friend as I thought they were to me.

Kyle Snyder



Eurotour 2009 My three most memorable moments

1. Winning the Dana Cup - Winning the Dana Cup couldn't have felt any better. The first week of practice was tough as we practiced our butts off. For the Boys 15 team to win the Cup because of our hard work, it was AWESOME when we won!! We were lucky to have some Swedish and Danish players on our team which helped win the championship title easier. I feel and I hope everyone else feels that this is a great accomplishment as we were competing against some of the best players in the world. This memory will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

2. Meeting New People - Over the three weeks in Europe all the boys and girls that were involved in NSA met new friends. We all enjoyed eachothers company and got to play on one team. I am keeping in touch with most of my new friends and am glad to hear from them now and then. I am sure we will always remember our experience in Europe and we will keep the new friends made. This was only possible by playing with the NSA team. I am thankful for the opportunity to play for NSA.

3. The Coaches - I know all of the players that were on this trip will remember the great coaches. The coaches not only taught us as players, they were like family. On and off the field they took care of us whether you were sick, didn't have enough money, or just wanted to have a

laugh. We've had some good and bad times, but we made up and we all enjoyed each other. The coaches helped us throughout the entire trip and that's why I wanted to say, "THANK YOU COACHES FOR EVERYTHING!"

Stuart Pereira

1. My first memorable event is being able to play with the U12 Swedish girls because I just had a really fun time with them. While playing with them I also thought that it was really fun how all of the Swedish girls were trying to teach Maya and I some Swedish words and sometimes we would try to say them and not be able to or sometimes they would say a word and we would have to guess what it meant. Of course I was wrong almost everytime, and I could not say that many words in Swedish. They were also hard-working soccer players and they were very enjoyable to be around because they included us in almost everything, even if they started talking in Swedish and then had to translate it for us in English. I also liked the Swedish coaches we worked with because they were really nice people and knew soccer very well. Sometimes it was really funny because the coaches would be talking to the other girls in Swedish and then come over to Maya and I and sometimes start speaking Swedish and we would have no idea what they was saying.

2. The best part was meeting people from Sweden, Denmark, and all over the US (California, Colorado, Hawaii, and Nevada). It has been fun keeping in touch with them already. I remember when a lot of these people, guys and girls, would always go out on the table in our hallway for the Gothia Cup and play cards. And I also remember staying up late and talking with the girls on our air mattresses- just thinking about stuff or talking about how our day went. I also remember Lucas coming to our room and telling us about how when they went into the showers they saw blood and when they came out of the showers on the mirror was written help. Then Mats was messing around and wrote help, but then they all turned around to change and when they turned back around and looked on the mirror it said get out. So all of the girls in my room thought it was all a joke except for Tiffani so we messed around with her. We threw a pen at the wall to make a noise and then in eyeliner we wrote "I thought I told you to get out" Tiffani freaked out and then slept closer to the rest of the girls and could not go to bed until we told her it was a joke. So just remember Tiff, " I thought I told you to get out!!!!" HAHAHA! Also, almost every single night we would go over to the pizza place in Sweden and get multiple different pizzas for different nights. We would usually get the pizza because the food at the school was just OK and Coke and Fanta were very popular drinks. And Fred no more Fanta bottles!

3. My last memorable experience is having to do with Kim, Maya, and myself. This was a crazy moment! Well, we were leaving to go and watch the U17s game in the Gothia Cup and when we got there the teams were warming up. We all knew that after this game we would have to go to our own U14s game so while we watched we knew we had to leave soon. Two players from our U14 team, Dani and Jackie, were playing for the U17 team too so at halftime we went to Coach Brad and said that we would need Dani and Jackie, but he told us to wait 10 minutes so we did. Ten minutes later we went to the other side to get them but they said, "You guys just go." So Maya, Kim, and I left and when we got on the street, the bus had just left and it wouldnt be coming back for 30 minutes, but we didnt know that, so we waited for about 15 minutes for the bus to arrive but it didnt show up so we asked this man on a bike coming our way how to get to the tram station and he says oh it is only about half a mile. We then walked half a mile down a very busy road, (here in California we call it a freeway) and finally spot the tram station. We

crossed the street when no cars were coming. Then we had to wait about another 10 minutes for the tram to come and by now our NSA team had already started warming up. And then after about three stops we got to where the fields were but then we had to walk like another half a mile, so when we were halfway to our field Kim told us to drop our bags, get our water, and sprint to the fields because it was only five minutes to the start of the game. Our parents were panicking and we were getting calls from Kim's daughter, Emily, saying where are you guys. So we finally got to the fields with Kim behind us carrying our bags. Maya and I got there right as the teams were shaking hands to start the game. The game started and Maya and I got to sit out first, because of running there, but I was put in the game after five minutes. Kim repaid me by giving me a Gu to give me my energy back. Thanks, Kim.

Jessica Raybe

It was great watching all the groups from different areas form one big group. When we first got to Sweden, everyone was in their own groups. California, Colorado and Hawaii groups all stuck together, but, by the 2nd week everyone started mixing together, that's when I had the most fun!

The ferry rides were so much fun. There were 10 levels that we could run up and down the stairs...that was a blast!

The best part of the trip was playing soccer. We played something like 21 games in two weeks! There were so many different countries playing at both the Dana cup and the Gothia cup...way wild and fun!

I can't wait until next year to play soccer with my new friends and meeting new friends.

Maya Takeuchi

Here are some of my memorable moments:

1. Meeting and becoming friends with the Danish and Swedish players. They all were so much fun. We went to Marcus's town and spent time with his family, I really enjoyed getting to learn about their lifestyle.

2. The fun we had in the school's we stayed in. Dodgeball in the dark was hilarious!!

3. When the 15 year olds won the Dana Cup!! It was exciting to see one of our teams do so well against Brazil. Brazil had it coming!! Go NSA!!

From, Lane Foscalina

1. My favorite memory of eurotour 2009 was when the boys15 played the brazilian team. It was a very close game and very entertaining. I thought it was ironic how we played when we first saw them at the school and tied 1-1 and at the last day we played them in the finals and won 3-2.

2. My next favorite thing was meeting so many new people. When we were in the airport nobody really talked to each other but by the end of the trip everyone was mingling with each other. It was also very cool meeting all my new swedish and danish friends. I sure have learned that danish boys are very crazy.

3. My third favorite thing was how much different the playing style is in europe. You have to play much faster and you have to always be thinking two or three steps ahead of what you have to do. Also how much more physical it is in europe. You must always be ready to be hit or to hit someone.

Thank you for having me come on the eurotour and i will hope to again next year.

Mats Rosen

The best moment I had was winning the Dana Cup Boys 15 for Pool B. We won against the Russian team and then we had to face the Brazil team for the finals. It was great going to foreign countries and meeting new people and hearing different languages.

Blake Hooser

The memorable moments were meeting new friends on the trip. It was great hanging out with Alane, Ellen, and Nicky Chun, Christine Foscalina, and Robert, Mae, and Alyssa Medeiros. We became a second family on the trip. We enjoyed the food, culture and especially the games. The best thing about the trip was watching the boys step up their level of play during the games and Nicky bringing along his Harvard lobster. Also, congratulations to the NSA girls for being great NSA players and supporters!

Lydia Hooser

1. Danish trio, hawaii kids, colorado and swedish kids

2. Midnight dodgeball

3. Trophy from dana cup

Jeff Werner

My 3 most memorable moments consist more like the adventures and crazy things that me Sam kenz and tay tay experienced together but if I had to narrow this down even further...my first most memorable moment started at hovas bildal where all the crazy adventures began in the girls room. wether it was kenz yelling at lauren thinking it was me when she was eating a chocolate cookie or sam yelling at someone for no reason because they are gone for too long and the one none of us can forget was kenz keeping everyone up all night trying to start games or convos.

my second most memorable memory is at Dana cup when we played in the Dana cup stadium with the U-17 team along with all the delicious cocios and toast we feasted upon at the school that we stayed at.

my final memory was at the gothia cup opening ceremony with such an amazing thing to get to watch and participate in the actual tournament as well.

Jackie Argueta,

Eurotour 2009 Reflections of a 1st time Coach by Wayne Smith, Glenwood Springs Soccer Club

I have coached at the 2008 and 2009 NSA camps in Colorado and currently I am coaching u18 girls in Glenwood Springs. The NSA style is something that I attempt to teach and implement for all my teams. I first began thinking about participating in Eurotour last summer. When I began the tour I was curious to see how kids from all over the U.S. could be brought together to play against European teams with just one week of training. I had the preconception the European players, particularly the boys would be heads and shoulders above the U.S. players, at least in terms of their technical ability. What I wanted to come away with was a picture of how the NSA method could be instilled in such a diverse group of players and translated into the type of tournament success that NSA has enjoyed in the past.

My tour began in Denver and included several Colorado players that I have coached. I was delighted to arrive at the Billdal Hovas club outside of Gothenberg. American youth coaches can only dream of having such a facility at their disposal. Training and playing pitches, a dining facility, rec rooms, offices, board room, locker rooms all surrounded by beautiful countryside-unbelievable! The Billdal Hovas staff Kent and Bjorn in particular worked non-stop to make us welcome and comfortable. The Swedish cookout at Bjorn's home was definitely a highlight of the week, as was a trip to the beach.

During that first week of training the most valuable aspect of the tour began to take shape. The American kids began to bond with the Danish and Swedish kids on and off the field. I was impressed with the maturity and helpfulness of some of the Swedish girls in showing us around and preparing a pancake lunch for 60 plus people. Teams began to shape up, and in scrimmages against local teams the NSA players started to play the style-passing the ball around, patience in the attack and putting numbers behind the ball defensively. The European kids were receptive to coaching and learning not to immediately go long in attack, the American kids were getting used to a more contact game that they would be playing in the tournaments.

At the end of the week we took the ferry to Denmark. By this time several of the Swedish kids were integrated into the group. I finally got to see some of Gothenburg on the trip out of the Harbor. It was a beautiful sunny day and everyone enjoyed the amenities on board and the views of the city and archipelago. We arrived in Fredrikshavn and set up housekeeping in a school with the help of Danish Coach Soren Jensen. Soren's Danish players would prove instrumental in the success of the Boys U15 team in the Dana Cup. Soren took care of us in Denmark, getting us good rooms and cooking facilities. He also arranged a bowling night with an outdoor barbecue for all the kids coaches and parents. Other nights were spent hanging out at the school or in Fredrikshavn. I also had the dubious privilege of escorting the older boys to the Dana Cup Disco.

The first day we arrived in Denmark we met up with a boys team from Sao Paulo Brazil. A friendly was immediately arranged and our boys looked a little slow against the flamboyant Brazilians-would we really be able to compete in this tournament? The opening ceremony was brilliant with all the teams marching into the stadium with their countries flag and colors. The NSA Hawaii Haka performance at the end wowed the assembled crowd. Everything changed once the games began. I expected the girls teams to do well, but after entering the knockout round the boys 15 continued to win-a very physical

semifinal match against a Russian side in cold rainy conditions placed them in a final against the Brazilians from Sao Paulo.

The final was a dramatic affair, the Brazilians dove, gesticulated, and swore, but the outcome was inevitable- with all NSA goals scored in dead ball situations the result stood-NSA won a cup and gold medals all around. I also witnessed the girls 16 semi, a fine performance which could easily have resulted in them going through to the final as well. The Dana cup was an intimate and fun week for all of the players and coaches and by the end the experiment paid off. We were now confident of our abilities to play at this level.

The final week of the tour saw us back on the ferry to Gothenburg and our new home in another school. The setting was more urban with groceries, convenience stores and restaurants nearby. Most importantly there was Italiano Pizza unofficial NSA headquarters whose middle eastern owners proudly displayed an NSA banner behind the cash register. NSA players found this pizza joint to be an almost daily diversion during our stay with the proprietors staying open late every night due to the insatiable demand for their product. Our school was occupied almost exclusively by big Swedish Club AIK from Stockholm but we had the 4th floor and two toilets for 40 people all to ourselves.

A hectic evening of registering more Swedish players readied our rosters for the Gothia Cup. Transportation in Gothia Cup proved a little more challenging with bus and tram rides and early morning games at diverse locations around and outside of the city. By the second day everyone settled into it, though. Gothia is a huge tournament-the opening ceremony at the Ullevi stadium was spectacular. Seeing the the size of the tournament and the organization that went into it was amazing to experience. The competition was also stiff. It became clear to me that two of the girls teams had the best chance of advancement after a couple of days. Swedish players played a large role on the u14 and u12 girls teams at Gothia-as for the u17 girls the Swedish girls Rene and Erica were now staying with the kids at the school and had become part of the kids everyday lives. This was also true of the boys u14 and 15 teams. They became close to the Swedish players Alex, Simon, Marcus and Victor who were now living and hanging out with them. Our Swedish opponents were sometimes surprised to find out about the presence of these players on our teams-but it kept them from talking about us too much!

The knockout stages of the tournament were tough. The 20 minute halves made for fast low scoring close games with many matches ending in penalty shootouts which proved the undoing of many NSA teams. The older boys and I went to see an exhibition match between Hammarby and Hacken at the Ullevi. The majority of the time I was with the U14 girls. The girls really improved in their individual efforts and performances during the tournaments and I saw good progress all around. The final day of the tournament for us saw three games from early morning through evening-at the end of the day we were not outplayed-just out of gas and a bit unlucky.

Having been eliminated from Gothia Cup we had a free day to enjoy Gothenburg. Most kids opted for shopping at Nordstan mall and a few headed to the Liseberg amusement park. I was able to do both and in addition travel a little around the central part of the city including the city Museum and IFK store to pick up a few souvenirs. A big cleanup at the school and an early morning wake up for the bus ride to

Stockholm heralded our departure from Gothenburg. A few teary goodbyes to our new Swedish friends and teammates were also in evidence.

A long wet and rainy bus ride started our final Sunday of the tour. Confusion on the part of the bus company saw us missing our first scheduled rest stop, but we arrived in Stockholm in time for some sightseeing. We stopped first at the Stadthuset (City hall) for some great views of the city across the water. Next it was on to the Royal Palace and State Cathedral and a short walk around Gamla Stad (old town). Finally we had adequate time at the Wasa Museum (and the kids for an ice cream break). Our new articulate bus driver gave us a driving tour of the city before heading to our Airport Hotel. Upon our arrival I immediately fled to the room, took a hot shower and collapsed on a duvet covered bed, all firsts given the preceding three weeks. Finally our arrival in the U.S. saw the parting of all of our American teammates to return to their respective states.

Eurotour 2009 answered my questions and changed my preconceptions about a tour of this kind. The training methods employed did result in very successful performances by the NSA teams. From my perspective, though, the most valuable part of the trip for our American players was the interaction with the Swedish and Danish kids they played and lived with. Participating in the soccer culture at all the venues was something that could never be experienced in the United States at the present time. I think the experience brought the best out of a lot of our players. As a coach I learned a lot that can be incorporated into the way I teach and train players in my club teams and on future European tours. Thanks for the experience NSA!