

The 2017 NSA EURO trip was such an incredible experience for both me and my twins, Gabriel and Ian. It was truly everything I had hoped for in an adventure such as this, with a great mix of soccer and tourism. One moment that stood out was the incredible atmosphere surrounding the Opening Ceremony for the Gothia Cup. The excitement for the upcoming tournament could be felt in the air. Watching the pride in all the kids being able to represent their team and country was really fun, and sharing in the banter between nations as everyone was entering or leaving the Ullevi Stadium was such a rare moment to experience and cherish. I will never forget the moment Ian just ran up to a girls German team as we were leaving the Stadium and starting chanting "Deutschland, Deutschland, Deutschland". The German gals joined in the chant with glee - shocked to see an American kid so enthusiastic about their homeland. To me, that moment truly defines what it means to "live in the moment" as experiences such as this are so rare in life – can't let them pass you by without participating in them to the fullest.

One of the funniest moments on the trip was the trampoline adventure in Demark at the Fyrklit Resort. The creativity and spontaneity of the kids with their new found "toy" was priceless. I don't think I will ever forget the moment they launched Brett into the air on the trampoline in a well-orchestrated moment of excellent team work and creativity, and the ensuing roar of laughter that followed from everyone involved. The crazy silly moments in life that appear out of nowhere can be some of the best and most memorable.

One of the most heart-warming experiences is when Gabe sat down next to me on the short bus ride from the ferry in Fredrikshavn to the school in Hjørring, Denmark telling me of his adventures at the Gothia Cup in Sweden – the friendships he was making with his new teammates; the conversations he had with kids from different countries while staying at the school - talking about politics, religion, school systems, their beliefs, their favorite soccer teams and players, etc.; and just how much fun he was having. Because for our family, it wasn't just about going over to play soccer, it was about the whole experience of being in Europe, hanging out with people from different parts of the world, and the friendships you can make in life in rare places...so it was wonderful to see him enjoying the whole experience and making the most of the opportunity.

Thanks for all who contributed to making this trip so fantastic! Our family will always cherish it....

Laura Barraza

My first memory was getting to play the greatest sport in a different country. I've always wanted to play internationally, I am truly grateful for the opportunity to play games and train in different countries. My second memory was both opening ceremonies. Both the Gothia and Dana cup opening ceremonies were great! Especially getting to represent my country in the parade.

My last and best memory was meeting the great people on this trip. I think I will miss these people more than anything else. Thank you for the great experience! I wouldn't have rather done it with anyone else.  
My Best Memories  
Ian Schaefer

My first favorite memory about NSA was scrimmaging the Somalian's in futsal in Gothenburg the day before our first game. We played them about four times and only won once but it was fun anyway. My second memory was beating a norwegian team 5-0 in Dana Cup. This game was so special because we hadn't won a game until that day. And it's not everyday you can say you beat a european team by 5 goals. My next favorite memory was crawling into the ww2 bunkers by the beach in Denmark. It was one of the last days that we spent together as a team and one of our last days in Denmark. I thought is was well spent while crawling down into concrete bunkers and seeing a Danish beach.  
Gabriel Schaefer

Bella, hunter and I loved all the cool stuff we saw. Traveling to 4 countries in less than 3 weeks was awesome. Seeing everything from castles, to waterfalls to "oldest" amusement parks was incredible. The cinnamon rolls at Kongor were our favorite breakfast in Hirtshals!

Mason loved all the "guy" time, the soccer games in Europe and the independence the experience gave him!

**Laurinda Reese**

Madison's most memorable moments

1. Getting to know players from other countries as well as the ones from other states.
2. Playing paranoia on the ferry to Swedish Island (you will need to fill in name)
3. Playing with the boys team as they play differently than girls.

Diana Erwin

My three most memorable parts about this euro tour was probably 1. Are first games in the gothia cup and Dana cup because it was the beginning of a new tournament and to me it was an important game cause it's like your boost for all the other games 2. Meeting new people at the schools and fields/train/busses it was really nice meeting new people especially cause they were from all over the world and we learned a lot from all different cultures and places 3. Last but not least the third most memorable part about this trip was the traveling and site seeing itself, because well it's something I've never done and seen before and it was a once in a life time experience and I wish I could do it all over again . Kekai









