

Friday & Saturday December 29-30
Day 4-5 – Alkmaar
By: Lauren Woodford & Sophia Andersen
Northern Lights 16-1

Yesterday we had breakfast at the King's Inn very early in the morning. Then we walked a new route to the gym to start our final day of the tournament. We played three teams in pool play, including the 16-2s who we split sets with. After pool play we had lunch which was chicken noodle soup and sandwiches. Then we taught the other teams a fun hand game and we all played that together before the finals. We advanced to the finals and played Groningen who we lost to in 3 sets. The 16-2s took 4th place and lost to the local Alkmaar team, Dinto. Our championship was very fun because of the music and the cheering and support from the other teams. The Belgian team played drums for us and the 16-2s made lots of cheers. We ended up getting a nice trophy and delicious cheese for our 2nd place finish.

After the finals we showered and ate a really nice final meal with the other tournament team. The meal was delicious. We had bread, salmon, cheesy potatoes, salad, and caprese salad followed by an ice cream and cake dessert. Our new friends Guido, Robin, and Colin ate with us at all of our meals.

Then the party started. It was lit. The entire room was decorated and they had a DJ and tons of lights and smoke machines set up. We were joined by all of the players in the tournament as well as Guido, Colin, and Robin and we danced for 2.5 hours. We had fun with all of the other players and made lots of new friends, our favorites were the girls from the Be Better Team. The best songs we played were "Party in the USA" and some new Dutch rap music like the song "Vroom." We had to say goodbye to all of our new friends but we are able to keep in touch through social media. We left at about 10:30 and walked home.

Curt was gracious the next day and allowed us to sleep in until 8:50 for our 9:00 breakfast. After eating we got ready for our surprise activity. We were fortunate that it was a Saturday and that all of the markets around Alkmaar were open. So, Curt's surprise for us was letting us go shopping for 3 hours. Lauren and Sophia bought lamb wool socks, clothing, and some souvenirs. We stopped at a Café for lunches where we had sandwiches, soup, and coffee.

Next we went to the Windmill village and got to walk through all of the gift shops and look at all of the windmills. We took picture pictures with wooden clogs and ate giant Stroop Waffles. Lauren was chased by a guy that asked to take a picture with her because he thought she was really pretty, but he was creepy so she ran away.

After the Windmill village, we went out to eat at an Italian restaurant called Portofino. Most of us got giant personal pizzas or some yummy pasta. Shout out to Curt for buying us dinner. After dinner, we went back to the hotel and Curt got us some ice cream bars for dessert. Thanks Curt! For the rest of the night, we are packing our suitcases, playing cards, and sleeping.

Side story, keep reading if you want to know about Sophia and Lauren's crash into a wall. First note, Sophia was just chilling, lying on the floor in the hallway. Then, Lauren decides to come down the stairs and step over her. Sophia tried to get up while Lauren was stepping over her so Lauren tripped on Sophia. At the same time, Lauren tried to catch herself on a room door that was not shut, so she fell through the door into the room. While Lauren was falling, Sophia's head came crashing into the corner of the wall, her headphones got ripped out of her ears, and

Lauren was on falling on top of me. So after the crash, we laid there in immense pain from our crash into a wall.

See you in a couple weeks fam!! <3