

Thursday January 2
Friday January 3
Day 8 & 79–Innsbruck
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Northern Lights 16-2

On Thursday, we woke up around 8:00 ready to play some volleyball after a couple of travel and sight-seeing. We got almost 11 hours of sleep that night because we were out late on New Years Innsbruck. That morning we woke up and had breakfast at the hotel. In Europe there is a lot of bread, not even kidding (more than 10 options), so our breakfast consists of mostly that. Also, with the amounts of bread we have small juice glasses, almost the size of a shot glasses, which is extremely different because of how big are glasses are in America.

After we had breakfast, we than started are walk to the volleyball tournament. It is a 20-minute walk, that consists of beautiful scenery and on the way, we get closer to the extravagant mountains. On are way we also see goats, people walking with their dogs, a parkour park and amazing graffiti. When we get to the tournament there is 3 courts in one gym, and 2 other courts in the other building. The location is an International school, which also has chickens, and is a cool place to experience.

When we got here, the first thing we did was eat lunch. At tournaments in Europe, they provide us with lunch and dinner. The food here better and there is more variety then Apeldoorn. We had soup, salad, and spaghetti. The soup had weird bread pieces in it and it tasted like cheese soup. A lot of the food they serve is very salty (or at least according to Abby S.). After we ate, we played right away. We forgot who we played, but it was not that good of competition. The floors were super slippery, and we couldn't move our feet, but we eventually got used to it. Then, we had a break and watched the ones crush another team. Later that day, we played our second match in the other building where we eat our lunch and dinner. We played a team that had only 6 players, no coach and weren't very disciplined without one. After we took another fat dub, we ref-ed. At this tournament, you have to up-ref, down-ref, score and do a score sheet that is in German (don't worry we google translated it). It was a very long boring game but after that we got to eat dinner. For dinner, we had Wiener Schnitzel, pumpkin soup, salad, and rice with peas. With the Wiener Schnitzel, it is popular to use cranberry sauce, it was very different to eat a sweet sauce with meat. After we ate, the ones had to stay and ref the last match while we took another scenic walk back to our hotel. We hung out for a while before we had to turn our phones in and go to sleep.

The next morning, we had to wake up 30 minutes earlier because both teams had to ref at 10:10. After we woke up, we went and had breakfast like usual. We got ready to play, and then made our way to the tournament, walking another 20 minutes to get there. Both teams ref-ed, and after that our coaches took us to a grocery store where we got lots of foreign candy for us and our families. Lots of us got Milka chocolate, Bailey got some CurlyWurlys and we all got lots of vanilla and lemon wafers. After the store, we walked back to the playing site and ate lunch. For lunch there was sandwiches or paninis, with a salty red sausage soup (at least according to Abby S. again). After we ate, once again, we played right away. Our stomachs were not happy! Our first game, we played a Swiss team that was okay. We won in two sets, and later watched

the ones play. They also won their game. After our break, we played a team called VBC Hochst (which means maximum in German, and yes, we did google translate it). This was one of the more competitive teams we played, it was very tight the first set, but we won, and then the second was 25-7. We were now off to the semis! We ref-ed after and waited for our team to be done so we could eat. It was another very long game to ref because of the competition. We then made our way over to the hall where we had a rice and liquid vegetable sauce, with a chicken broth soup with a weird rice bread ball.

Tonight, was the player party, so after we walked back to the hotel and showered, we walked back to the playing site without the coaches. When we got there, we met up with the ones and went into the building with the 2 courts and had the dance party in the first gym. In there everyone had their own separate groups, so it wasn't as exciting at first. The music was very quiet, kept pausing, and the music was not very good. Us girls requested music to the DJ, and eventually after asking several times we got the songs we wanted. Everyone started to then come together and dance. After a while, two boys from the tournament came in and started dancing like crazy. They were really good and jaw dropping. The players in the gym surrounded them and were hyping them up. Some of us girls got to dance with them and asked them if they were professional dancers. We found out that they dance together professionally. This was a very cool experience, and when all the fun was done, we made our way back to the hotel and went to bed.

From your dearest,
Addy Bzoskie and Abby Stanwood