

NL 18-1 travels to Italy

The Northern Lights 18-1 team will be traveling and competing in Italy from April 5-14, 2009. They will be spending the first few days sightseeing in Rome, Florence, and Venice. After that they will be competing in a high level tournament in Pordenone Italy with Junior teams from around the world.

Tournament Link=<http://www.memorial-cornacchia.com/public/eng/storia.php>

April 7, 2009 - Arrival to Rome
By Shannon & Chelsea

Sunday afternoon we arrived at the MSP airport excited and ready to rock. After four hours our mindset changed a bit as nine slap-happy and uncomfortable eighteen year olds were definitely ready to land. We got to the Amsterdam airport and the confusion of Holland set in. At about 6am Amsterdam time we were going on thirty six hours with little shut-eye. The next flight (to Rome) was surprisingly short and we were all very thankful for that. After a quick description of the trains, Tim, our tall tour guide, left the rest up to us (mistakenly trusting eighteen year old American girls). We got off the metro on the 'Spagna' stop (the Spanish Steps), and visited the Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain. After roaming in Rome a bit, we were offered flowers by some guys that fooled us to think we were getting a gift. Shortly after, we were chased down hearing "2 Euros!" We learned quickly that nothing is free in Italy! The architecture was like nothing we've ever seen before and it will only get better. Can't wait for tomorrow to continue our search for a moped ride with an Italian Stallion...

April 8, 2009 - Vatican City
By Grace and Maddie

Today our morning started early. We got up at 6:30 and headed to the Vatican. The line had about 15 people in it. The Vatican Museum didn't open until 9:00am and by the time 9:00 came around, the line was backed up about a mile.. We entered through security smoothly and began our historical journey. As we walked in to the first hallway our jaws dropped. The paintings and artwork were beyond anything that we could ever imagined. The first room was beyond amazing and each room after that kept exceeding our expectations. Our last stop in that building was the Sistine Chapel. We were unable to capture the artwork in pictures (b/c cameras were not allowed) but the artwork will forever be in our memories. The detail and 3D nature was so cool and pretty.

After this experience we toured around Vatican City and went to St. Peter's Square. St. Peter's was pretty full and we took a bunch of team pictures. All of this sight seeing had made us hungry so we found a cafe and ordered plates of spaghetti. The food was very authentic. At 2:00pm we met back at the hotel and went to the Coliseum and walked around the Ancient World Wonder. After, we headed to the Roman Forum (Ancient Rome, where it all began). Many pictures were taken and our feet started to hurt. We all decided that we needed some gelato - so we got some. Next, we split up into groups of three and went our separate ways. At 8:00pm we all met back at the hotel for dinner, enjoying some caprese salad (mozzarella!), pizza, pasta, and bread. We had a









April 8 - Rome to Florence to Pordenone
By: Greta and Taylor ;)

Today we woke up, packed up our bags, and started a long day of traveling. We left the hotel Assisi in Rome and ended up with all our bags in Florence. We piled all our belongings at the train station where Tim grabbed McDonalds and popped a squat on top of our bags. The rest of us met up with Sean's former player, Laura Richert, and went to tour the beautiful city of Florence. We first stopped at the Duomo. It was the hugest church in the world. We continued to walk towards a bridge that overlooked the city of Florence. After many pictures later, we sat down for lunch and enjoyed some refreshing Coca Cola drinks and lasagna. It may have just been because of how thirsty we were but their Coke's were amazing. Once we finished lunch we were let loose to travel around the city. One group tried to visit the Statue of David, but the line was too long and they didn't have enough time. The second group went shopping for not just themselves but also their family at home. : After four hours in Florence it was time to move on to a home for the rest of the trip in Pordenone. We took our bags and hopped back on a train for a really long ride. The other passengers of the train probably thought that Americans can be loud and annoying, thanks to our various videos and obnoxious stories. We thought that we would have to sprint to get onto our next train ride, but when we arrived to pick up our new tour guide, Coreeeeey aka Crisco, gave us great news that our next train was right across the sidewalk. Through all the excitement Lynne, accidently left her daughters new purse that she had bought in Florence, on the train. We walked like ducklings in a row with our suitcases to our new hotel in Pordenone, but we were really happy that our suitcases had wheels. : We cleaned up and finished off the night with a delicious buffet meal at Woody's. That night we crashed on our beds thanks to the countless hours on the train.

April 9 – Venice
By: Bri and Maggs ;-)

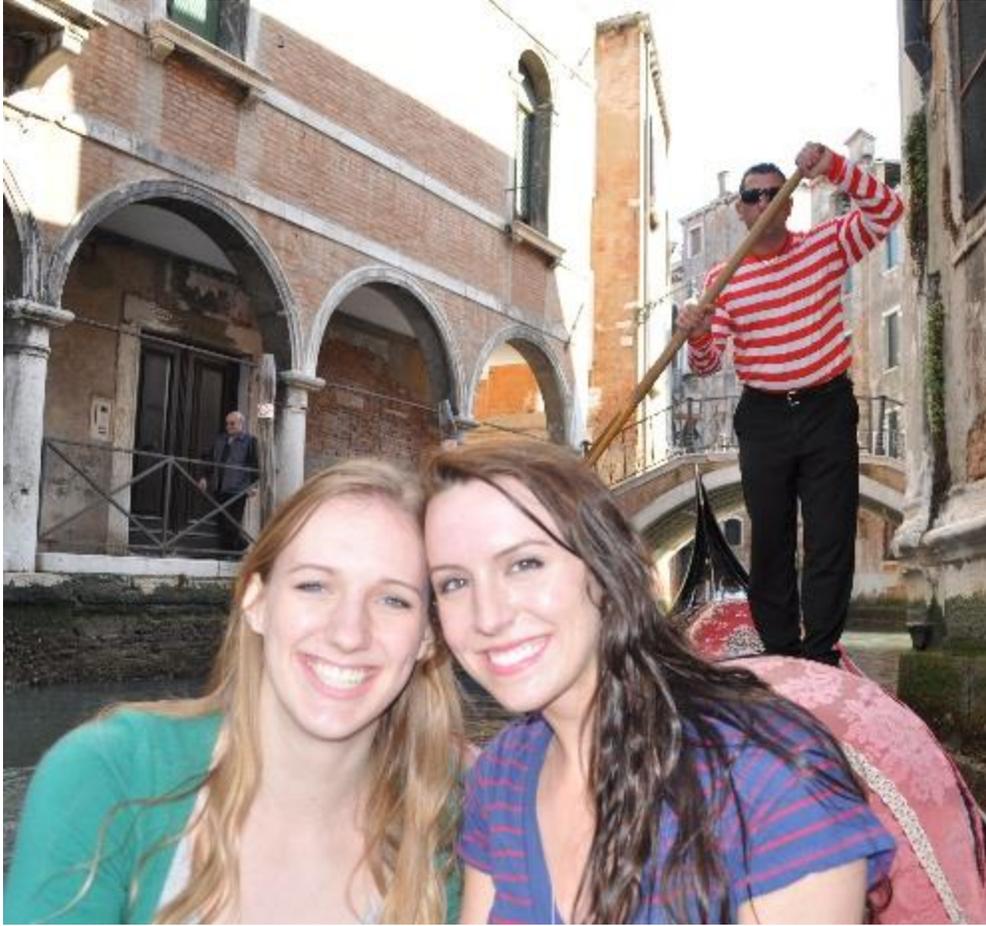
Today was the first day we got to sleep in...thank god. We left the hotel Santini hotel in Pordenone and took the local train to visit Venice for the day. We arrived about 12:00 and split off into groups, because the streets were so narrow and it was crowded. Our first impression was pretty accurate...its exactly what you would picture when you think of Venice; small alley ways, laundry hanging over head, and gondola's rowing down the canals. We have been so lucky all trip to have B-E-A-U-tiful weather. To us it seems like summer and when we wear sandals, dresses and shorts people look at us and laugh. Around lunch time we had more pizza, pasta and paninis to eat. After our delicious lunch we quickly found ourselves running frantically around the island of Venice trying to barter a decent price for a gondola ride. Eventually we had to split into two groups because 9 people became to much for one boat. The gondola man showed us the buildings that many famous people such as, James Bond, Madonna and the supposed Marco Polo were at. Although we started which facts were true and make believe. : The day soon flew by after all of the day's activities. (shopping, getting lost, eating and laughing too hard) Before we ended our adventure in Venice we decided to have one last gelato and coke...our most favorite snack ever! We took the train back to Pordenone and closed the night with a fabulous dinner at Woody's with live music and some good sleep.

Pictures in Venice











April 10 :

Pordenone to Bibione
By: Shannon & Chels

After getting in trouble for yelling out our hotel window at Italian boys, and a great night's sleep we headed off to another new destination. Shorter bus ride than normal, but we were still rushed

for time to eat and find our way to the friendly match with the Slovenian team. After a slow adjustment to the different sizes and feelings of the volleyballs and the short wide court, we lost the first game but bounced back to pull the next two off. Our pregame was a little weary as we had to squat over a hole to go to the bathroom, but we made it and shortly found a toilet one door down!!! We attempted to look beautiful for the cute boys at the opening ceremony, but that plan quickly fell through after viewing the showers. Let's just say...it's not like home :D At the opening ceremony the "American Girls" were the center of attention, receiving many stares from essentially all over the world. The language barrier didn't hide the common phrase "American Girls!!!" The parade was like nothing we've ever experienced with over thirty countries represented all walking the streets of Pordenone together. We felt like celebrities when most teams asked to take a picture with our team. The most meaningful picture though, was with the Iranian men's soccer team. Each team went out stage and got their picture taken. We finished our day with a delicious meal with other teams consisting of pasta, chicken & potatoes. Our cultural day is coming to an end and we're all ready to hit the hay. We have a big day tomorrow and intend to win all three matches.

Pictures from Opening Ceremonies









April 11 –

Pordenone

By: Cory - via phone voice mail

It's been a long day, we are all tired. The team won all 3 matches today. They will be in the Quarter finals on Sunday against either Slovenia or Germany. That's all I have to say. I'm going to bed. The girls will write more on Sunday. Results from Day One of the 27th annual Torneo Internazionale di volley Memorial Ferruccio Cornacchia

Pool A:

1st National Junior team Croatia
2nd: Beijing High School, China
3rd: Domovip Porcia, Italy
4th: Nazionale Tunisia

Pool B:

1st: Top Team Belluno, Italy
2nd: Slovenia Youth National Team, Slovenia
3rd: Bayer Leverkusen, Germany
4th: Zhuang City, China

Pool C:

1st: Switzerland Junior National Team
2nd: Baden-Wurtenmberg, Germany
3rd: Israel Youth National Team
4th: Gimnazia Po Turizam Varna, Italy

Pool D:

1st: Northern Lights USA
2nd: Novi Sad, Serbia
3rd: Sant Cugat, Spain
4th Luxembourg Youth National Team

Day Two Championship Bracket:

Quarter Finals:

Northern Lights vs Slovenian Youth National Team
Top Team Belluno vs Novi Sad
Croatia Junior National Team vs Baden-Wurtenmberg
Switzerland Junior National team vs. Beijing High School, China

After the Quarter Finals the Semi Finals will be this evening. If Northern Lights beats Slovenia, they will play the winner of Switzerland and Beijing High School, Wish the girls luck.

April 12 – Easter

Northern Lights Reaches the Finals!

Quarterfinal Results:

Northern Lights 3-2 vs. Slovenian Youth National Team
Croatia Youth National Team 3-2 over Bad Wurtemberg, Germany
Top Team Belluno, Italy 3-0 over Novi Sad, Serbia
Switzerland Youth Nation Team 3-0 over Beijing, China

Northern Lights was behind 2-0 and came back to win the next 3 sets and the match. Semi-Final Results:

Northern Lights 3-1 over Switzerland Youth National Team

Top Team Belluno Italy 3-1 over Croatia Youth National Team. Finals: Scheduled for Monday 2pm

Northern Lights, USA vs Top Team Belluno Italy

Sunday evening is the player party.

Monday April 13

Northern Lights places 2nd

The 181 team played Top Team Belluno from Italy in the finals of the tournament. This team from Italy is a very good club/proffesional team and we lost the match 3-0. However this was a great finish for Northern Lights. Its the first time the club has been in the Finals of this very difficult tournament. The team leaves Italy on Tuesday morning and will arrive back in Minneapolis Tuesday afternoon. They have 3 days to recover and then they play in the Northern Lights Qualifier on Friday.



The Beach in April????



Doing what the players do best....eating! Final Results for the Tournament:

- 1: Top Team Belluno, Italy
- 2: Northern Lights, USA
- 3: Switzerland Youth National Team
- 4: Croatian Youth National Team
- 5: Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany
- 6: Slovenia Youth National Team
- 7: Novi Sad, Serbia
- 8: Beijing High School, China

Chelsa Fogarty was named top attacker for the tournament.

Maddie Haben was named top setter of the tournament.

This was the highest finish ever by a Northern Lights team in the tournament.



Chelsa Fogarty



Maddie Haben



2nd Place