

Tuesday December 16 – Wednesday Dec 17

Day 1 – USA to Amsterdam

By Lucy Ley & Anna Eaton

Northern Lights 16-2

Hi everyone,

We got on the airplane and it was a tight squeeze, but on the bright side there were many new movies to watch. After eight hours of being on the plane and many with no sleep we arrived safely in Amsterdam! We went to the train station so we could get to our hotel located near Dam Square.

Around 11 am we were settled into our rooms and toured the Anne Frank House. Sadly we weren't allowed to take any pictures inside the house, but we did take many on our way there. Alivia had taken over 300 photos by the end of our first day there! Due to our lack of sleep (some of us running on 30 hours of being awake) many of us almost crashed in the movie at the end of the tour.

After the tour we went back to the hotel and got some downtime before going to dinner. We ate at a pancake house. The pancakes were bigger than the plates and most of our stomachs. Ranging from sweet to salty, ice cream to whipped cream, and pancakes to omelets, we all couldn't finish besides Anna. After we created food babies we headed back to the hotel and crashed.

Kisses from Amsterdam,

Lucy and Anna

Thursday December 18

Day 2- Amsterdam

By Julia Deyak and Camryn Keyeski

Northern Lights 16-2

Hello Everybody!

Today we were the real tourists of Amsterdam. We explored many places in the city. After getting some sleep from our long plane ride here, we woke up feeling refreshed and had a great breakfast at our hotel.

To start our day, we took a train to the Windmill Village. At the village, we explored the cheese market and the clog factory, where they make their famous wooden shoes. We took many pictures, including some selfies with some photogenic goats and chickens. We tested a lot of the food and saw how the cheese was made at the cheese market.

After returning from the Windmill Village, we grabbed some sandwiches to eat near our hotel. We then hung out at our hotel for a little while before leaving to go to the flower market. From the flower market, we then walked to a local flee market to do some shopping.

We came back to the hotel to prepare for our friendly match. We traveled on a Metro to meet our opponents at a nice gym. We were very surprised to see that the girls we were going to be playing against were anywhere from 16-30 years old. We played a 5 set game that was very close. We tried many new lineups to get prepared for our tournament coming up on Saturday.

All of us players were hungry from the long day, so we stopped at a nice steakhouse that served some great pasta, chicken, and pizza. We then walked back to our hotel to get ready for bed. Tomorrow we will be traveling to Alkmaar and staying in a bed and breakfast. All in all it was a very fun day!

Friday December 19
Day 3- Amsterdam to Alkmaar
By Eliza Dahly & Katie Lienemann
Northern Lights 16-2

Today, we left Amsterdam for Alkmaar. It was a 45 minute train ride with a beautiful blue sky. When we got to Alkmaar, we walked to our Bed & Breakfast.

Curt, Rachel, Julia, and Anna stayed in a separate housing then the rest of us. The rest of us stayed in the Bed & Breakfast inside campground. It basically is just a huge room with turf, 3 campers, 1 tent, an outside seating area, 3 showers, 2 toilets, and a kitchen.

Then once we got settled into our rooms, we decided to walk around the city of Alkmaar. We went to the center of the city and ate lunch. Curt also took us to a bakery and we went shopping. We also took many pictures of the gorgeous buildings and canals.

Afterwards, we went back to our rooms and waited for our guide to come pick us up and take us to the school so we could practice. Our guide's name is Koon. He is 15 and is very cute.

We practiced for 1 hour and then went back to the Bed & Breakfast. Curt made us spaghetti with salad and beans and it was delicious. Koon also decided to join us and after dinner, we interrogated him with a bunch of questions for about 20 minutes.

Then, the drivers came and picked us up and drove us to a school where the Opening Ceremony was held. All of the teams were there, and went up one at a time onto a podium and received gifts and took pictures.

After that, we went home went to bed. Tomorrow we start our first day of play. See you in 4 days!

Love,
Katie and Eliza

Saturday December 20
Day 3- Alkmaar
By Payton Nutter & Taylor Wolf
Northern Lights 16-2

Today we woke up at 7:00 and we got ready to play our first matches at the Alkmaar Gym. We arrived to the gym at 9:00 and played our first game against Zwolle and beat them. Then at 11:00 we played our second game against Groningen 2 and also beat them. The third match of the day who we also beat was against Alkmaar 3. Our fourth match of the day was against a very good team called Alkmaar 1 who we beat with high intensity.

After all the play we ate our dinner at the gym which included sandwiches, donuts, and Dutch candy. Once we finished, we went to the local swimming pool which had a wave pool, hot tub, slides, and lots of floaties. While swimming we met many girls and boys from different teams around the Netherlands and made friends with them which was really neat. With our friends we received slushies, a popular Dutch food called croquet, and we ate some delicious thick french fries. The food was delicious and it was interesting and fun to try.

After eating we drove back to the Bed and Breakfast and we all rotated on taking showers. However, the showers never seemed to stay warm. After the chilly

showers, we tried to turn on the space heaters to warm the room up and all of a sudden “BAM!” The lights turned off and the entire room went dark. The space heaters made the power go out and we needed to call Edmin the owner. While waiting for the power we face timed Andy and told him how the trip was going. Then, Katie said, “How’s your fiancé?” We all congratulated him and celebrated with great cheer. By the end of the call the power turned back on and we all snuggled in our campers and fell asleep with good nights.

We'll see you soon!

Love You!

Payton & Taylor

Sunday December 21

Day 5- Alkmaar

By Alivia Garbe & Olivia Jensen

Northern Lights 16-2

Hello everyone, today we first played Germany and lost in three. It was a really good game but they are a very good team. Then we played Alkmaar 2 and won. Then finally we played Spain and won again. Those games were not as challenging, especially Spain because they were very short and there was no block... After playing we went bowling with all the other teams. That was a lot of fun. After bowling we took many pictures with the players from other teams and some other people from Alkmaar. Then we went back to the bed and breakfast and went to bed!

Bye!

Monday December 22

Day 6- Alkmaar

By Katie Lienemann & Anna Eaton

Northern Lights 16-2

Hello Everyone!

This morning we won our first match against Groningen 1, they are now in the championship match against Germany. Germany was our second match of the day. We lost to them in the Semi-finals. It's okay though because we beat Groningen 2 and finished 3rd.

After the award ceremony, we are going back to the Bed and Breakfast to pack and also go out to eat. Then we are going to a party with the rest of the teams. We are not quite sure what the party will be like, we just know there is music and probably dancing. Eliza will be the star of the dance floor with her sick moves. The party goes until 2 am but we probably aren't staying that late since we need to get some sleep.

Tomorrow morning we are taking a bus to the train station. We are all excited to see you!

Love,
Katie and Anna