

Saturday December 28

Day 3

By: Lily Bertsch & Emma Slusser

Northern Lights 16-2

We began our day with some croissants and yogurt for breakfast, which were amazing. We soon headed to the playing site to have our first game at 10am. We played SV Dynamo, which we beat the first day, the first set we lost 20-25 and the second we won 25-19, which implies we won the entire match. After the game we had a 3 hour break, where we ate lunch and bonded as a team. For lunch we had sandwiches, fruit, yogurt, and juice, like every day before. After lunch we headed over to the other building to play our next game against the Russians.

The Russians are very intense! The parents during the first set began yelling at us about the score being wrong (it was right). They were so crazy, the Ref finally blew his whistle and yelled at them to stop. Then the coach came over to the score board and flipped the point for our teammate, who was keeping score (although our teammate was correct). The first set of this intense game score was 14-25. The second set was 22-25.

After the interesting game Curt surprised us with a trip to Burger King and bought us all fries. We soon headed back to the main gym to wait another 3 hours until our final match of the day. This was against the Dros Alterno. The first set of this game was 25-11. The second set score was 25-18.

Later that day we had a player party where all the team would get together and get to know each other. Most of the team was exhausted and didn't want to go to the party, until we found out it was a dance party (Emma!). At the start of the dance, every player our age was standing around with a beer in their hand, which was really weird to see. The DJ was playing EDM music in a different language but we still danced along and had a good time. Weirdly, we were the only group of people dancing in the entire room. The party really started to get fun when we requested the song Crank That by Soulja Boy. A team from the Netherlands, that was playing in the tournament, knew the song and started singing and dancing along with us. We all started dancing together and more and more teams and players joined in and it eventually formed a mosh pit. We were in the middle of the group and we were all dripping in sweat, this isn't an exaggeration. One moment we will never forget was when we all backed up to form an empty circle and waited for the beat to drop. When it did everyone jumped into the middle and everyone was getting pushed and trampled on, but everybody agrees that we have no regrets forming the circle. Eventually our bus arrived, and we all said goodbye to our dancing buddies.

On the ride home, a boys Canadian team, who joined us in the mosh pit, rode the bus with us. We ended up talking a lot about politics, they were really big Bernie Sanders supporters. We were the first stop, so we said goodbye to our politic buddies and headed to bed. We didn't get home until past midnight and we had to play at 9am the next day and had to wake up at 6:30 to get ready. But in the end we all agreed it was worth it and everyone had a great time. We had a great night and we all believe that we left a very positive American footprint on all the people we had met.

Your Pals, Lily and Emma