

Tuesday December 27

Day 2

By: Olivia Wagner and Natalie Ptacek

Northern Lights 16-2

This morning, we woke up and headed up to the breakfast restaurant. We ate salami, tons of bread, including croissants, pancakes, and delicious Nutella. It tasted like melted hot chocolate mixed with orange. We also had yogurt. It wasn't vanilla though; it was plain Greek yogurt. We learned that it was rude to leave food on our plate, so we drowned out the sourness with excessive amounts of granola and ate it.

We headed to the Apeldoorn volleyball center and played our first team. They were from the Netherlands and wore cool black and red jerseys. For warm-ups, our balls were stored in shopping carts!

After our first game, we sat in the bleachers and watched the boy's tournament that was going on. We had lunch and learned that "normal cheese" in Apeldoorn is gouda. Curt took us on an adventure to get deep fried Oliebollen, a donut-ish thingy, and we went inside a Christmas store to look around. We found out that Europe has moving ramps, like an escalator, but flat. We saw lots of little train villages with fairy garden style houses and characters. We also walked through a greenhouse filled with succulents and ferns.

We went back to the stands in the volleyball center and talked with the team we met last night during dinner from Belgium. We watched two more games and then played another team from the Netherlands. Some fans of both teams we played brought a drum and had very coordinated cheers. Clapping, chanting, and cheering are very popular.

To finish up the night, we enjoyed a nice dinner with the team while waiting for our last game. Our dinner consisted of a delicious pasta and fresh bread. The bread here is a lot crunchier compared to the United States.

After dinner, we played our last game against another Netherland team. Overall, our team went 3-0 today and we all had a lot of fun. We finished up the night watching Northern Lights 16-1 who fought hard and won. Altogether, it was a successful second day in Europe.