

Day One

Landed in Amsterdam and then proceeded to take the train from Amsterdam to Nijmegen. Harry (coach from CBC Dutch touch Camp) picked me and took me to the hotel.

Day Two

Ajax Cape Town arrives. I meet the team and we have dinner together.

Day Three

First day of training. We trained at complex of a local amateur team. We started practice with a basic warm-up without balls then went into working on passing patterns. The level of soccer was high and passes were struck with pace and exactly where they needed to be, players were receiving balls the proper way. This is something that is not strictly enforced in America. From there we played a big game of keep away. The focus was getting the ball forward quickly and efficiently. It was a game that I had not ever played but it was something that could benefit us with the upcoming tournament. We finished training with a seven v. seven game to goal with neutral players on the outside. Training lasted for an hour and a half.

Day Four

We leave our hotel for the first day of the tournament. The first game of the tournament we played FAA Gent from Belgium. Gent started very strong and finished the match with a 3-1 win over us. The level of play is very high and much faster than anything I was used to. The matches were only forty minutes long, we played two twenty minute halves. Therefore, we had to play another game in an hour. This match we played FC Den Bosch. They were very good as well, their center midfield was quality. We were shut-out and lost 2-0. The last match of the day we faced FC Utrecht from Holland. We played very well this game and missed many quality scoring chances. They scored in the closing minutes on the match and we lost 1-0.

Day Five

Today got better, result wise. We played Vitesse from Holland. This team ended up playing Gent in the final and won 1-0. We lost our match to them 2-1. We scored our goal in under ten seconds into the match. We played well but in the end Vitesse was the better team. The second match of day we saw Djurgårdens IF. We finally were able to secure our first win of the tournament. We won 2-0 and played extremely well putting everything we learned in training into the game. The final match of the tournament was against FC Emmen. The result got better, we won this one 5-0. It was a good way to finish the tournament.

Day Six

We went to Amsterdam to tour Ajax Amsterdam stadium and to play one of their youth teams. We were allowed out on the pitch at the stadium which was something no one else on the tours were

allowed to do. We then went to the training ground to prepare for our match against the U-18 Ajax Amsterdam team. We scored just after half to go up 1-0. The game finished 1-0 and this squad from Amsterdam was one of the best teams I have ever played against. The individual talent of each player was unbelievable to see.

Day Seven

We played another friendly against a German side. This team was just an amateur team and it showed. We won 6-1. This was the best we played since arriving in Holland. We scored some first class goals here and played great defensively. This was my first game at left back, which is the position I am most comfortable with, this is the best I had played but the competition was not that high. After the game we left for the next tournament in Ruurlo, Holland. We stayed with host families which had many of the boys scared on what to expect.

Day Eight

We had our hands full with this tournament, we had a very tough group. First match we played FAA Gent, the runner up from the first tournament. We fared much better this time around and tied 0-0. Next we faced Tennis Borussia Berlin. They were a very strong side and ultimately won the entire tournament. We lost 4-0 but the score does not reflect on how the match actually went. We had many scoring chances just could not finish, and obviously they did. The third match of the day we played MSPN Gornik from Poland. Their soccer was very attacking oriented and very dirty. We tied them 1-1. This game was not pretty, but not all games are.

Day Nine

This morning we faced the champions from last year's tournament. IF Elfsborg were very good, we tied 0-0. Their left back was the best player I have ever played against, he won the award for the best player in the tournament. Next we played Ruurlo. They were an amateur team from Holland and were a decent side. We won 2-0 and moved the ball very well and scored some first-class goals in the match. The last match we played was against the Polish side. This time we came out on top, we won 2-1 in another physical match. It was a great tournament and yet we did not win many matches we all learned a lot from the European football.