

Women's soccer enjoys successful trip overseas for Spring Break

This week, I hand the blog over to Head Coach Tom Natalie of the RIT women's soccer team. Over Spring Break, he and his team went overseas to play a handful of games against some of the best women's teams in France and Spain. In addition, the team found time to enjoy some of the finer sights of each country. Natalie put together an excellent synopsis of the trip overseas, complete with [pictures which you can see here](#). Check this out, it is a fun and informative recap of the trip, with several photos documenting the week overseas.

I just want to know how any of the girls made it to the first day of classes after spending the better part of two days traveling and stuck on an airplane. Natalie said the team arrived in Rochester at 11:59 p.m. Sunday, March 8, with 8 a.m. classes looming the following morning. Yikes. I am sure it took everyone on that trip at least three or four days just to get back to a normal routine.

Saturday February 28th Day 1 - Well the trip started with a huge surprise... we were on two flights to New York City and the one with 18 of our 34 travelers was cancelled!!!! Yikes, thankfully with a credit card and some help from Jet Blue we were off! (Still waiting for my refund)

No issues to Paris other than very little sleep. Obviously some lucky player was going to get the "Golden Ticket" and get to sit next to coach for the 7 hour flight!



We landed in Paris and it was a day of sight seeing on and off the bus. *Trying to soak in the culture without falling asleep.*



Then off to the Castle de Versailles



Long day for sure.....



Day 3 brings us to the Eiffel Tower. Many guys trying to sell you 5 key chains for 1 Euro!!! Our assistant coach, Ed Sherman, got 14 for 2 Euros.... Way to go coach!



Then a pregame meal at FLUNCH!!! Definitely a team favorite (not!).



Game 1 vs. Juvisy sur Orge, who is one of the top-10 women's team in Europe. They beat North Carolina 5-1 the previous spring...yikes! Tigers took an early lead and then with incredible speed from their top striker it was tied up. Then of course, a weak penalty call on us led to their go ahead goal. We were down 2-1 at the half, but battled to a scoreless second half. Not bad for a very tired bunch! Great game Ladies!



Day 4 had us traveling through Madrid. To Gran Canaria (Las Palmas). A little shopping in Madrid.....



And of course a three hour delay at the airport before we can get to the sunny beaches of Gran Canaria :0(. So what to do? Hang out and of course SHOP!



Day 5, we wake up on the beach with the surf roaring and a breath taking view.... A little breakfast and walk on a six-mile beach before our next adventure begins.





Can anyone say Camel Safari???



Jan our Tour Guide



Tigers have their game face on!



Then be aware of kissing Camels or in my case a face eating camel!!!



Then a scenic stop before we get ready for our first game against a First Division Spanish team Universidad of Las Palmas soccer club. I watched them take first place in the division two days later at a crucial league match.



The player below scored two for a 3-1 win. She played on the Spanish National team. The Spaniard's skill and ability to pull the ball out of the air was tremendous.



Day six had us relaxing pool side, shopping at the many beach shops and getting ready for our final game vs. the second largest club on the Island, Union Viera. We were interviewed by two television stations (Emily Traversi did her interview in Spanish). We also were interviewed by the Island's local magazine. We were the first U.S. women's team to compete on the Island. The ladies were constantly being recognized as "The American Team"



We lost 1-0 in a great battle. Ashley Valenti, our goalkeeper, got rave reviews from the Spaniards. I guess we'll have to make sure we have TV cameras at all our games next year!

Day 7 - To the 700 year old market at a fishing village that Columbus used to frequent, Mogan. Many “wonderful” fake watches, bags, wallets from companies like “Nyke, Gucki, Louis Valetin” ... you had to appreciate the effort on the fake merchandise! Of course I have a watch... still running too ;0)



CHARGE!!!!!!



Then back to the beach for a one-hour sand storm that many of the team got stuck in. Brushing sand out of your teeth... mmm, mmm good!



Day 8 – We enjoyed another day of lounging around before our farewell dinner. Next morning it's up at 3:30 a.m. to start our four-flight, 27 hour journey home. Arrived in Rochester at 11:59 p.m. Sunday... Classes start Monday 8am... OUCH!

As you can tell from the photo below of our seniors at the farewell dinner, life is good when you share experiences with friends, teammates and even coaches!

