



# Amsterdam!

In December, BCI Edge participated in the Haarlem Basketball Tournament outside Amsterdam. From December 24 to 30, we played against and alongside professional teams from The Netherlands, Argentina, Israel, and Mexico. We also held two basketball clinics – one at De Doggershoek, a Dutch juvenile justice centre, and one for The Amsterdam Basketball College, Christmas Camp – and prayed for a comatose teen who had been scheduled to attend the camp.

## **A Rocky (Mountain) Start**

BCI Edge arrived in Denver to practice on December 16, scheduled to depart for Amsterdam on December 20. Unfortunately, the blizzard forced the entire team to spend that night on the airport floor. While we were able to find hotel accommodations for the next night, we also suffered an unfortunate event when one of our best outside shooters, Troy DeVries, contracted a serious viral infection (possibly due to crowded airport conditions) and quickly lost 14 pounds during the trip. Our games were postponed by Tournament officials, to wait for us, as Dutch basketball fans tuned in to updates about our travel progress. Our team was also interviewed at DIA, appearing on Dutch news programs! We all arrived in Amsterdam on December 24 (without Kathy's luggage, which got lost in Austin) and played our first game four hours after landing.

## **The Games**

In spite of the rocky start, we were competitive. We lost the first game by only one point – against Soles de Mexicali. The other games were against Omniworld Almere – Netherlands and the Demon Astronauts of Amsterdam. Troy was able to play, but not close to full strength. Reed Rawlings, of BCI Edge, was selected to the All-Tournament Team and was the top scorer in the Tournament.

## **Two Camps, Many Hearts**

On Christmas Day, the entire BCI Edge team visited De Doggershoek a Dutch juvenile justice centre located outside Haarlem and Amsterdam. There, we held a 90-minute clinic for kids who were mostly unaccustomed to visitors from “the outside.” Of course, the kids had a great time hanging out with real American basketball players! Sharm connected with a 13-year-old boy named Sam, who said that he doesn't know what love is because no one had ever loved him. Sam left home because of drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and physical abuse. Sharm and the BCI Edge players plan to keep in contact with Sam and other children from the facility via email communication with the facility's headmaster.

Through the State Department, the U.S. Embassy arranged for BCI to hold a 90-minute clinic at The Amsterdam Basketball College, Christmas Camp. BCI Edge arrived at the clinic held at Apollo Hall on a canal boat arranged by our hosts. Eighty kids attended. We



received word from the Program Coordinator at the U.S. Embassy in The Hague that kids were saying, “What a pity it is over already!” and “Vet, cool those Americans, man!” (“Vet, cool” is apparently the highest praise a Dutch kid will offer!)

### **Joris**

On December 26, we heard about a young man named Joris, who was supposed to attend The Christmas Basketball Camp but instead lay comatose due to a car accident. Joris’s parents heard that BCI Edge took time to visit the correctional facility on Christmas, and asked if we could sign a jersey and pray for their son. We signed both a jersey and a basketball, which are now in Joris’s room. We received a thoughtful letter of thanks from his family. We hope that Joris will be able to watch the Haarlem Basketball Tournament (one of his favorite events) next year. We’ll be looking for him!

### **Feedback from the Organizers**

The President of the Haarlem Basketball Tournament, Mr. Frank Voskuilen and his wife visited us at our hotel during dinner. They told us that we are “quite different from any other basketball team” to play there, and that they were “so impressed by BCI Edge’s off-court activities.” Also, the organizers of The Christmas Camp (associated with Amsterdam Basketball College) sent us a letter to say that the camp was “a big hit and an unforgettable experience for all, due in part to your participation.”

And, from the U.S. Embassy: “The young people... were clearly thrilled to interact with such an energetic and upbeat group of Americans. The team served as positive role models and represented the United States of America with distinction... We deeply appreciate your willingness to volunteer your time for the clinic, which helped to foster mutual understanding between our countries and build character in young people.”

### **Last Word**

We had a great time playing, inspiring, and connecting. We won a lot of hearts. Kathy’s luggage finally showed up, Troy is feeling better, and we’re all looking forward to another successful year for BCI Edge! We want to thank our sponsors, The Region of North-Holland, and everyone who was involved in making this an eventful trip.

## **BCI Fundraisers**

Basketball Club International, Inc. is pleased to announce the formation of a new Funding and Development Department! BCI has secured the talents of Dr. Gene Selander and Mr. Stephen Bergstrom to work closely with our Finance Council as they coordinate current and future activities. Gene and Steve will serve as Co-directors of the department.

First order of business? Secure funding for BCI’s new, expanded annual budget through a series of private fundraising events! To inaugurate the campaign, Gene and Steve held an



upscale luncheon for supporters at Denver's Pepsi Center on December 14. Jerry Colangelo, Chairman and CEO of the Phoenix Suns, was the keynote speaker at this successful event – entitled, "Team up with Jerry!"

Working with our Board and Finance Council members, Gene and Steve will host similar events in Phoenix, Orlando, Dallas, and Southern California during the first quarter of 2007. If you would like to be a part of one of these events please email us at [info@bciedge.org](mailto:info@bciedge.org)

## Happy 2007!

In addition to our participation in the 2nd Annual Roger Powell Camp (August) and China Tour (September), BCI Edge is planning many new events. Stay tuned for more information! Tentatively, our schedule could include:

June 2007: Rio de Janeiro International Tournament

July 2007: Mexico International Tournament

Summer 2007: Sudan (one of the "Lost Boys of Sudan," James Deng has asked us to assist him in basketball camps in the Sudan)

Summer 2007: Camps in conjunction with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Fall 2007: Possible basketball games in the U.S.

In the News

In their January/February issue, Sports Spectrum, one of the most well-respected Christian sports magazines published an article about BCI Edge called "Playing on the Edge". The article, by Joshua Cooley, offered great coverage of our mission!