



Resolutions 2008: Inspire, Influence, Ignite!

BCI continues to grab the attention of new fans and new supporters. Now more than ever, we see how BCI Edge basketball can inspire goodwill and excitement at the same time through a strong sphere of influence around the globe.

Celebrating the New Year reminds us to look backwards and forwards for understanding and renewed commitment. We are here because basketball, played with integrity, is the best game in the world. We are here because the world is watching, listening, and cheering us on to great heights.

Since our beginning, BCI's "sphere of influence" has grown quickly, from player to player, from player to fan, from organization to organization, and from organizations to seats of national leadership! Professional sports athletes are among the most influential of public figures, and that influence compounds naturally through every human connection. BCI Edge players are uniquely committed to playing an A-game on and off the court. Our commitment, too, seems to spread through every new connection we make as an organization, as a team, and as individual players.

In 2008, BCI Edge will inspire, influence, and ignite excitement in the sports world and beyond – and we'll do it with more enthusiasm, talent, and energy than ever before. Leading by example, BCI Edge will continue to inspire and influence the entire professional basketball community. We will demonstrate, with every game and special event, just how exhilarating and influential basketball can be when winners are on the court.

Back to Amsterdam!

Once again, BCI Edge spent the Christmas holiday in Amsterdam for the Haarlem Basketball Tournament. With a 1-2 record, we were nevertheless successful in our defeat of last year's tournament champion, Amsterdam's own Eiffel Towers. Another highlight: Glen Whisby, who has played professionally overseas for ten years, and previously played for Southern Mississippi, had 24 rebounds for BCI Edge in our winning game, just one rebound shy of the 30-year tournament record!

New Friends

The Haarlem Basketball Tournament gave us a great opportunity to spend time with Conti Asiss, a top club team from Brazil. BCI Edge and Conti Asiss participated in a powerful joint fellowship meeting and we are now talking about meeting again for a tournament, youth camp, or both in Brazil!



Raised Spirits

BCI Edge spent Christmas Day at Doggershoek, a youth prison in Den Helder in the Northern part of Holland, The same facility we visited last Christmas. When we arrived for our mini clinic, the kids sat with crossed arms and stoic expressions. Within a half-hour of starting demonstrations and drills, every young man was engaged and active – even showing off their soccer skills, with pride and with our basketballs! With the barriers broken, the kids listened with interest to Christian Moody as he explained our organization and how we hope to inspire their lives. Our visit to Doggershoek seemed to have a significant impact on the self-esteem of these young, often disheartened, prisoners who do not usually come from nurturing family environments.

Around Town on the 27th

BCI Edge started the day on an interesting two-hour boat tour through the canals of Amsterdam before attending the Christmas Basketball Camp. After the tour, Consul General Marjorie Ames hosted us at the U.S. Consulate. Ellen Dankelman, a representative from the U.S. Embassy at The Hague, joined us as well. We owe much to the excellent reception we receive from these offices and to the opportunities they have presented to our organization, including the clinics we have held there.

We met up with members of the Amsterdam Basketball Academy again for lunch before wrapping up the day with a 2.5-hour basketball skills clinic at the Apollo Hal. It was our second time visiting with these great kids, who still think we're pretty "vet, cool" too. We were so glad to spend time with this group again, sharing our game and our story.

Joris in the House

BCI Edge newsletter readers will remember Joris, the young basketball player who was not able to attend last year's Christmas Tournament because of a devastating car accident which left him comatose. BCI Edge had visited with Joris and his family, signing a jersey and basketball for Joris and praying for him with his family. This year, we were excited to see Joris – who is now awake and slowly recovering from his injuries – and his family in the stands at our big game against the Eiffel Towers and at our game against Conti Asiss. The Haarlem Tournament is Joris's favorite basketball event! After the game with Conti Asiss, our new friends from Brazil joined us courtside to pray with the family for Joris's continued recovery. We will continue to think of him often.

Old Friends

Dan McClintock, a BCI Edge Auxiliary Player, came from Germany with his wife Alisha to spend Christmas with our team. Dan plays in Germany professionally. We were very happy to share the blessed day with Dan and Alisha, so far from home.

Last Word



In an article posted on the U.S. Consulate web site <http://amsterdam.usconsulate.gov>, Consul General Marjorie Ames said, "BCI Edge, who were also in the Netherlands last year, again proved to be great goodwill Ambassadors for the U.S. and for their sport." She told us that she'd like to attend the clinic next time, and we'd love it if she did! Thanks to everyone who helped make these events possible. We had a great time playing basketball, connecting with old and new friends, and learning more about what makes our players strong in both intention and action.

Happy 2008!

BCI schedule forecast: Busy! Stay tuned as dates are confirmed for upcoming tournaments, camps and clinics, and appearances.