



BCI in China: September 12-28, 2007

BCI Edge is back in the States after winning a four-team tournament and five other games in China for an overall record of 7-2. We were also able to promote goodwill, sportsmanship, and values at three Chinese middle schools. In partnership with Sports Ambassadors, BCI is once again thrilled that our efforts to present an internationally competitive team with integrity- and faith-driven players has given us access to such a wide and attentive international audience.

Shanghai Tournament

For our fourth annual trip to China, BCI Edge was once again hosted by the Shanghai Sharks (Yao Ming's former team) for a Shanghai Basketball Tournament. In highly competitive games, we defeated top pro teams from Croatia and Russia to win the overall tournament. Our Shanghai hostess, Grace, shared kind words with us regarding our time in Shanghai: "You and your team members are good people...all of you are not only good at playing basketball, but also do well in your life and work here. You are [also] concerned about everyone in your team: During the champion final game, one of the players of your team [was] wounded and he said he could stay at the stadium and continue to play the game. But you sent him to the hospital immediately. You and your team impressed me deeply..."

Yangquan Tournament

We began our second tournament with a very special honor. Our game against the Croatian team was the first ever played in the new arena in Yangquan and so we were part of the dedication ceremony for the new arena. With almost seven thousand fans in attendance, it was a competitive, exciting event - and BCI Edge won the game 82-80.

Later, during the championship game, officials began to play music at halftime that they considered to be "American." Our players were surprised and delighted to hear, out of the blue, the Christian hymn "Amazing Grace," sung in English. It touched us deeply, although we don't know if the officials intended it to. What a great trip for our increasingly competitive team!

Off the Court, with the Kids

The BCI Edge team spent time with kids at three schools during this trip: Baoshan Middle School (an 80-year-old school in Shanghai), Chengxianjie Primary School (in Nanjing), and Funing Middle School (founded 1923 in Jiangsu). The largest clinic and appearance was at Funing Middle School, where 2000 students out of 2300 gathered in a gigantic courtyard to play a little basketball and mingle with BCI Edge. To keep things organized, the kids were split up into groups of 70 - but between our players, the official BCI Edge decals, and the excitement of meeting a professional-level basketball team from the U.S.A., the kids were hard to keep organized! At Baoshan Middle School, we were able focus on basketball skills with a smaller group. Their school basketball team, composed of 15- to 18-year-olds, participated in a clinic with BCI Edge players while more than 200 other students watched and cheered. One of our players, on his first trip to China with BCI, reflected that this trip was "a life changing



experience" that has helped him grow deeper in his faith and more knowledgeable in his ability to teach others.

Next China Trip: May 2008

Our reputation and performance has earned us a new invitation and contract. In 2008, we will return for games in May, instead of in the fall as we have before. Chinese officials want BCI Edge to help attract attention to their country's basketball program and create buzz around the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. With this BCI and BCI Edge, in partnership with Sports Ambassadors, will become a stable force in Chinese tournaments for years to come, ensuring our ability to open doors and hearts, and to communicate goodwill throughout the country.