



## QSC EUROPE 2019 SPAIN & FRANCE NEWSLETTER

Our 2019 trip, two years in the making was the 4<sup>th</sup> QSC trip to Europe as part of our International Travel Program. What follows is a synopsis of the trip and we hope you enjoy.

### Day 1 – Thursday, June 20

Departed from QSC @ 6:30pm with final pictures of the teams and we are off. With a little delay at the airport, we boarded Norwegian Air for a direct flight to Barcelona, Spain in the heart of Catalonia.



### Day 2 – Friday, June 21

At our arrival in Barcelona we were greeted by Barry Walmsley, the operator of Travel & Play, our trip travel agency, along with his 'sidekick' Eve Burton. We had a 90 minute transfer to the beautiful beach town Platja d'Aro (sounds like Ply-A-D-Arrow) and checked on the Hotel Santa Jordi, an apartment-style hotel just above cliffs and beaches on the Mediterranean Sea. Here we also met David Oertli, part of Travel N' Play and the families enjoyed some well-deserved time to themselves, some checking out the beach and some just relaxing by the nice pool. Dinner was our first in Spain and the famished travelers enjoyed local fare at our hotel. A few guests also skipped the buffet at the hotel and headed into the downtown area for a private meal. One of the many features of traveling abroad is trying new types of food and preparations but also the ambience of the local community. Since it was Friday night, the hotel had a local solo musician with a variety of electronic musical support and some fun line dancing by some of the other hotel guests. Many of our players pulled out some of the soccer balls for the trip and started juggling and a few had little 'pickup' games with some Spanish children. Curfew was 10pm for the players as we were off to our first games on Saturday.

### Day 3 – Saturday, June 22

Our first breakfast at Hotel included Eggs, local sausage and bacon. Plenty of pan (Spanish for bread), croissants and a local bread standard which involves rubbing a fresh tomato and fresh garlic on piece of crusty bread. You finish it off with a little drizzle of olive oil and some coarse salt. Tasty for sure. Saturday was our first game day so the girl's teams set out early for 10am (Force) and 11:30am (Strikers Strong) games. The boys arrived by Noon for their 1pm game. Our hosts were the Santa Susanna FC which has more girls than boys teams, something unusual in Europe.



The Force started out strong but struggled to find the net, losing 8-0. Emma Geiser and Hannah LaBonge were in goal against a very organized Spanish side.

Game 2 had the Strikers matched up with a U15 team and they scored twice in the first half by Paige Russell and Jordana Law but Santa Susanna scored 3 times to lead 3-2 at the half. Kara Kreuz and Natalie Reilly were credited with assists as on the QSC goals. In 2H Santa Susanna took control and closed out a 7-2 victory, our girls putting some nice pressure on goal but couldn't get one past their keeper. Goalkeepers for the Strikers were Angelina Becker and Morgan Sipprell.



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The boys game was much closer, losing 3-1 with Chris Evans scoring in the first half. Riley Gaj was exceptional in goal and boys played very well, creating some nice counterattacks throughout the game. All the QSC teams played with respect and class that we expect from our teams internationally and at home.

Post-game we provided all our opposition with pins for the players, gift bags for the coaches and pennants for the club. One unique aspect of Santa Susanna FC was their "Snack Stand", very European, serving beer and wine for the adults, and sandwiches, snacks and other treats for all. Our players and parents really enjoyed the experience as they

could enjoy the Spanish hospitality while supporting our players. This is one of the truly great benefits of traveling to Europe and playing in highly soccer-oriented cultures so close together.

For the remainder of the day, travelers spent time at the hotel pool, swimming in the Mediterranean Sea, hiking, shopping in town or dining out. There was a DJ and dancing until Midnight.

### Day 4 – Sunday, June 23

Sunday had an early breakfast until 9:30 and a day of sightseeing in Barcelona. We were able to get to Camp Nou, Barcelona FC's famous stadium a lot easier it was a Sunday and Monday was a holiday in Catalonia, the Feast of St. John the Baptist. We appreciated the light traffic on a Sunday as well.

Camp Nou (sounds like 'no') actually means 'new field' is a popular destination for visitors as it combines a mixture of museum, stadium vistas for photos and naturally, shopping for team gear. After two seemingly quick hours at Camp Nou, we set off for a visit to the Plaza Catalonia and the Gothic Quarter of Barcelona with time for lunch, shopping and pictures. Like many European cities there is a mix of cultures over time from different influences. The Gothic Quarter is a series of narrow alleys among buildings which creates a canyon effect, away from the heat. There are many places to eat and chat. This is a precursor to the Latin Quarter of Paris, which we will visit on Friday.

Our last 'stop' for the day was the very famous and beautiful, Sagrada Familia. This building, originally designed only in the mind of Antoni Gaudi has been under construction since the late 1800s. This is one of the more interesting structures not only among all the cathedrals worldwide, but buildings in general. After many more pictures and Facebook postings, we headed back to our hotel for our last night in Spain. There were fireworks in celebration of the holiday and a large viewing party among our guests, watching host France defeat a game Brazil side 2-1 in extra time.



### Day 5 – Monday, June 24

After Breakfast at the Hotel and loading the busses (no one's favorite activity), we ventured off for one last quest in Spain, a quaint medieval village on northeastern Spain named Besalu. This ancient village had many Romanesque components on a piece of landed bordered by a river and a large bridge. Many ventured into the village and could find a number of artifacts such as Spanish Pottery for sale. Locally made and sold, the pottery are the color that complements the often tan and neutral colors of the buildings, indicative of rural Spanish



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building. The remainder of the Spanish side of the journey was through the eastern edge of the Pyrenees, where off in distance one could see snow on the very highest points.

After a stop a nice rest stop for some good food, we made it up to Fos Sur Mer for the 6pm start of the US v Spain soccer game. Our meeting room was filled to cheer our ladies to a 2-1 win, a bit heart stopping at times as our US team seemed a little tentative against an up and coming Spanish program. Dinner concluded the evening as the group settled into their new digs after a busy travel day.

### Day 6 – Tuesday, June 25

Tuesday morning offered us a little 'French Breakfast' at the hotel. A basket of fresh croissants, along with a tray of meats, dried fruits, jams and the ubiquitous baguette are a welcome site in France as they usual aren't big breakfast eaters. After that we set off for a visit Arles home to Vincent Van Gogh. Arles is a beautiful mix of Roman and Gothic influences along the gorgeous Rhone River. It has walled 'old city' with the Cathedral at the crest of a hill, sort of the classic design of many old European cities. Many wondered the streets, taking the ancient outdoor stadium, amphitheater, parks the famous cafe once visited by Vincent Van Gogh himself.



We concluded our day with the Women's World Cup Game in Montpellier between China and Italy. As you can see our seats were down along the byline and we had some great views of the action. For almost everyone this was their first World Cup game of any kind and any World Cup game includes groups of fans from the countries playing, singing, waving flags and throaty yells for their side. Italy prevailed with a 2-0 win, scoring goals in both halves. It was a late evening and off to bed when we returned.

### Day 7 – Wednesday, June 26

After our usual breakfast at the Hotel, about two-thirds decided to spend the day at the beach in Fos Sure Mer, taking in the sun and sand, relaxing by the Mediterranean. The other third wanted to enjoy the sights of France's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city, Marseille where a large majority took the local tram up to the Notre Dame de la Gard visiting a gorgeous cathedral that overlooked the city and harbor of Marseille. After all travelers returned for some rest before our 2<sup>nd</sup> set of games.



The Games were at a local club, Etoile Sportive Fosseenne, just 5 minutes down the road from our hotel. At his point in the trip, the temperatures had risen steadily up into the lower 90s so when playing on turf, it was quite hot. The games reflected the intensity and the Force gutted out at 2-0 win with both goals by Kyla Frederick. The

Force had the better of possession with Piper Yerkes and Alex Whalen earning the clean sheet. Because of the 6:00pm start times, two of our teams played simultaneously. The Phoenix also played a challenging side, finding a 4-4 tie at the end of 80 minutes of play, the French side





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scoring twice late. The boys continued to exhibit strong teamwork and a nice counter-attack. Goal scorers were Max Jalboot, Riley Gaj (2x) and Chris Evans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight game. Ethan Ericksen stood tall in goal and our boys, although a wee-bit frustrated, handled the comeback with grace when the game was over. The last game of the evening, featuring the Strikers, was a game where the girls played against two different opponents each half to give our hosts an opportunity to have more teams play 'The Americans'. Although down at the half 1-0, the girls rebounded to gut out a 3-1 win, not an easy task against a 'fresher' opponent in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. Goals were scored by Morgan Sipprell(2) and Jordana Law. Madison Jeffery, Madelyn LaBonge and Cory Pursel had assists had a nice assist on Morgan's goal. Netminders were, again, Angelina Becker and Morgan Sipprell.

The local club also offered us items from their snack stand the featured cold beverages and a sausage sandwich with a tasty sauce and topped with fries. Our families loved it.

The hotel still had dinner for us when returned and many folks chilled out for the night before our departure on Thursday

### Day 8 – Thursday, June 27

We set out for Marseille and our train ride to Compiègne by way of TGV to Marne-la-Vallée (Euro-Disney). Unfortunately, although a high-speed train which reduced our travel time by more than half, it was the hottest train known to mankind with a poorly operating air conditioning-system. Our travelers were undaunted and persevered. Paris doesn't have pass-through trains so we happily exited the train outside of town and picked up our properly air-conditioned busses. At this point we were greeted by our French tour guide Bernd Matthes, a German who has long since made his home in Paris and is a very interesting host. From the train station we made our way to our last destination, the Hotel Mercure-Compiègne. After check-in and some downtime, we had a delicious chicken dinner with some excellent French Desserts. Many parents relaxed in the nice bar and watched the WWC game where England beat up on Norway. Rest was needed as we had the hot train ride and two very busy days to follow.

### Day 9 – Friday, June 28



In what was likely to be the longest day of our trip, we had breakfast at the hotel and set out on our first visit to Paris. We started by bussing down the Champs Elysees, viewing the Place Charles de Gaulle and the Arc de Triomphe and disembarking at the Place de la Concorde for a 30 minute 'exploration'. Our Tour Guide for Paris, Bernd Reisen, although German by birth loves has lived in Paris for many years. Bernd has a very unique style and presents Paris with a keen eye and quick wit. Eventually we made our way over to the Latin Quarter and The Sorbonne, which previously hosted The University of Paris. Travelers disembarked for 4 hours of free time. The Latin

Quarter has an amazing mix of shops and eateries but is also very near Isle de la Cite' which is the literally city center of Paris. Many saw Notre Dame in its damaged state, perhaps the Louvre or Saint Chapelle, the prior church for the French monarch.

In what turned out to be a sparkling evening in Paris, at 6PM we boarded the busses for our drive to the Women's World Cup game between our defending WWC champions, United States, and the host French side. These tickets were procured many months in advance knowing that IF the US and France won their respective groups and Round of 16 playoff game, they would meet in the Quarterfinals. After both did that and won their R16 games, the US over Spain and France over Brazil, both by 2-1 scores, we knew Friday night at Stade Parc de Princes would be memorable. We knew this would be awesome when Megan Rapinoe score on free kick early in



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the game. The US had scored first in every game and this was a great beginning. Both sides traded shots the remainder of the half but no additional scoring so 1-0 at halftime. Early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half the US had a really nice breakout and once again Megan Rapinoe was wide open and buried the ball in the net, 2-0 US. After some testy back and forth play we thought the US had a 3-0 lead but the goal was ruled offside (correctly, but oh-so close). A 3-0 lead is just about a lock in soccer so you know what happens next, France gets a goal off a free kick in the 81<sup>st</sup> minute which makes the ending much more dramatic with only a 2-1 US lead. Even with 5' of extra time, the US does a great job maintaining possession and a

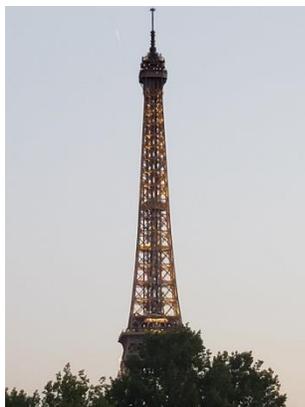


spectacular win. France had beaten the US back in the winter 3-0 on French soil so the US did a great 'payback' and as is so often with our American women, they show their mental and physical strength to defeat a very good French side.

One of the great aspects of a World Cup game is the atmosphere outside and inside the stadium. The French did a great job of hosting the events and the as their supporters sing 'Allez le Bleus' quite often. Translated, Allez le Bleus means "Go Blues" and when our U-S-A chants started, 'Allez le Bleus' followed and it was a great back-and-forth play as there with an estimated 40% US fans in the stands. Our 93 QSC fans did a great job cheering for our ladies throughout the entire game, hopefully a highlight for our group for many, many years to come.

We headed back to Compiègne after the game for some welcomed rest.

### Day 10 – Saturday June 29



After long day/night with the US game, we headed back into Paris for another day of sightseeing a huge portion of it self-guided.

Paris has so much to offer it's visitors so allowing our group almost a full-day is a nice treat. It permits the flexibility to 'do what you want'. We started with a drop-off at the Eiffel Tower for those who had pre-purchased tickets and those who wanted to buy walk-up tickets. Most of the group partook in the tower and saw some unbelievable views of Paris and the surrounding area. The Eiffel Tower is probably Paris's most iconic landmark and a great starting point. Barry Walmsley also shepherded a group on the Metro to Montmartre, home of the historic Sacre Couer, Paris' 2<sup>nd</sup> most visited landmark. From those points, the group scattered through Paris with time to do whatever they desired. So when to Museums, the Champs' Elysee, Arc de Triomphe and other prominent destinations. Many used the Paris Metro with its variety of directions and stops, permitting you to get anywhere in Paris quickly.



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At 8:30pm we gathered to finish off our Paris experience with a 9:00pm boat ride on the River Seine. For 90 minutes we saw a different view of the Paris sites from the water. One of the more interesting views was that of Notre Dame. After the fire from a few months ago, access to the cathedral has been limited to the front and entry to the building is impermissible. The vistas from the boat are striking and you can see how the rebuilding is growing. After Notre Dame, we headed back into the setting sun and our final view of the Eiffel Tower, before we boarded our busses and returned to the hotel after midnight.

### Day 11 – Sunday, June 30

Sunday after breakfast we boarded our busses mid-morning to our final game destination, Union-Sportive Chevrier-Grandfresnoy Football Club (USCGF). The Club was a combined club of two local towns and we knew we were in for a fun day when there were a number of the club members waiting to greet our busses.

This day was to be memorable as we were their honored guests. The plan was 3 successive games with a 90-120 minute break in the middle for lunch. As Bernd said, the French always seemed to be in a rush to get where they're going EXCEPT when it's time to eat!

The location for these games was a soccer club smack in the middle of fields of corn, wheat, spinach and potatoes with a little town around somewhere.



The first game featured the Force and it was to be their last game as a QSC team. They followed an Emma Geiser PK for a 1-0 lead, with goals from Cassidy Scott, Laurel Latt and Piper Yerkes culminating in a 4-0 win. A special thanks to Coach Aug Latt for his final game as Head Coach and helping the Force get through the Europe games successfully with a 2-1 record. Goalkeepers for the final game were Piper Yerkes in 1H and Hannah LaBonge in 2H.

After the first game the group broke for lunch, an impressive feast of fruits, meats, salads, desserts and as much baguette as you could handle. They had tents set up for outdoor seating along with wine, beer, coffee, water and soft drinks.

Next up came the Phoenix for their final game. This was a back and forth affair for a while with Riley Gaj or Ethan Ericksen coming together on a cross from Chris Evans.





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They weren't sure who last touched the service so they are sharing credit. Ethan Ericksen scored the final goal for the boys in 4-2 loss but it was an entertaining game. The boys ended the trip 0-2-1 but they acquitted themselves very well against solid opposition. Max Jalboot played admirably in goal.



While the boys were playing, the Force were getting into some international conversation with the local French players which amounted to a lot of laughter, dancing and exchanging Snapchat and Instagram IDs.

It was great to see the kids having a fun time with the French players throughout.



Since the boys were playing at 2pm, they didn't partake in much lunch so our hosts had refrigerated the food and rolled out the spread again at 3:30 so our boys could settle in and enjoy lunch. They were very generous and thoughtful.



At this point the Strikers Strong took the field for our final game of the trip. Morgan Sipprell scored her third goal of the trip on and assist from Paige Russell and Angelina Becker joined Morgan in splitting goalkeeping duties for the last time. This was a real battle between the two teams with some purposeful 1v1 battles throughout and, perhaps the teams might just shake hands, snap some photos and head back to the hotel but that wasn't the case.

One of the more common post-game occurrences between players after the game is the handshake as we mentioned earlier, but also exchanging jerseys. The girls from the Strikers decided that they, too, would like to partake in this tradition. All told there were probably close to a dozen QSC and FC jerseys exchanged between players. This was a first for a QSC Euro Trip as a spontaneous show of international appreciation developed.

All of our QSC players were on the field mingling with our counterparts, laughing, taking pics and basking in the glow of the late afternoon sun.





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At the very end, the USCGF Club President, Daniel Dubois presented a 'Cup of Appreciation' from their recent outdoor tournament as a gift to Quakertown Soccer Club and specialty key chains to all of the QSC players as a token of appreciation. Additionally, the French Regional Girls Soccer (District Oise de Football) president was on hand with hats and stickers for the players. We found out that she had been a key player in securing our WWC tickets for both sites. This was a testament to Barry and Bernd who develop these relationships in Europe that have permitted our travelers such an opportunity.

All throughout the day you could see many of the French club leadership and snack stand representatives wearing black QSC Europe 2019 t-shirts and our royal blue trip cinch sacks we had provided earlier. As we wrapped up our on-field festivities after the last game, we also presented Daniel all of our QSC Euro 2019 Soccer balls for distribution to kids in their club who may not have a ball available to them.

By the end of the day, our experience had evolved into one of the best ever in terms of a local European Club hosting QSC. As we were leaving, many of the French parents, players and club leadership gave us a final farewell with a line of waves and 'au revoir's' as our busses departed.



We headed back to the hotel for our 'last supper'. At dinner that night all the coaches were presented a Euro 2019 Pennant with the names of all the players on it. In addition the Head Coaches, Aung Latt, Dave Manhardt and Keith Hensel, were given a signed ball by all of the players on the trip as a token of appreciation for their leadership. We thanked the players as well for their consistent effort on and off the field. Overall their behavior had been exemplary and the parents on the trip as well as stateside should be very proud of the way they represented QSC.

### Day 12 – Sunday, July 1

Our final breakfast at the hotel was followed by room checkouts and loading the busses for one final excursion before our 6:00pm departure. One of the advantages of flying Norwegian Air on this trip were the direct flights which left us extra time to settle



in when we arrived but also another half day on Monday in Compiègne. Bernd surprised the group with tickets to the Castle in Compiègne. This self-guided audio tour provided a glimpse into what a royal palace looks like with the various rooms, chambers and chapels to serve emperors like Napoleon. The castle in Compiègne was a more 'rustic' locale with a huge garden and hunting grounds to serve the royal families' outdoor interest. The castle is the 3rd largest in the royal registry behind Versailles and Fontainebleau. After their tour, our travelers had time for one last visit to a café, get in some shopping, café au lait or visit a patisserie (bakery).



All on board, we headed to Charles de Gaulle Airport and our flight to JFK and busses home to QSC. Last, it's important to note and thank many people for our trip:

- QSC Board – they are 100% behind these trips and enable the framework for fundraising.



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- Trip Sponsors – see attached page and please feel free to patronize their businesses
- Adopt-A-Player Sponsors – thanks for helping our travelers who mean so much to you
- QSC Coaches and Team Admins – it’s their work that organize the activities to get us there
- QSC Parents and Players – thanks for taking an interest in seeing the soccer world outside the US. There’s a HUGE opportunity to travel to another country and get involved in their soccer and in their communities and you had the vision to explore.
- Travel and Play – Barry Walmsley helps us get to these destinations and his efforts are appreciated.

### Teams

#### '04F Force

Callie Abel  
Zoie Coronado  
Ali Dowling  
Kyla Frederick  
Emma Geiser

Gabby Kishbaugh  
Laurel Latt  
Cassidy Scott  
Kaitlyn Vargo  
Alex Whalen

Piper Yerkes  
Maggie Yocum  
Kendall Zuk

#### '03F Strikers Strong

Jordyn Basile  
Angelina Becker  
Cassidy Chantelau  
Hannah Hensel  
Madison Jeffery

Brianna Klein  
Kara Kreuz  
Madelyn LaBonge  
Jordana Law  
Ava Milne

Cori Pursel  
Natalie Reilly  
Paige Russell  
Morgan Sipprell  
Kayla Smith

#### '02M Phoenix

Justin Adamson  
Ethan Ericksen  
Christopher Evans  
Jacob Fetterman

Jack Flinchbaugh  
Aiden Gallagher  
Riley Gaj  
Maxwell Jalboot

Jacob Mandardt  
Zander Marks  
Gavin Tirjan

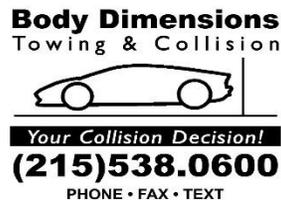




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