

## Europe - Wongu Peace Cup Champions 2012

Report by Martine Masner



*True Parents at the Opening Ceremony of the WONGU Peace Cup 2012*

From the very beginning we could see that Europe was better prepared than most of the other continents, because we could find real sport teams and athletes to compete. Many thanks to all brothers and sisters, who made that possible - altogether we were 72 from Europe. The athletes were accommodated in the very attractive Vivaldi Park Resort, a ski resort 1 hour north-east from Seoul.



*The athletes came from all corners of Europe, centered on the European flag, we could make one unified spirit.*

From March 22<sup>nd</sup> the competition started at the Namyangju Sports Cultural Center in Seoul. On this day the preliminary rounds for football, basketball and volleyball took place. Without too much difficulty, the European teams could win every game, and advance into the final for each of these team events. There was a very good atmosphere



in the European team. Although the athletes came from all corners of Europe, centered on the European flag, we could make one unified spirit. The Americans were cheering a lot their athletes, so we tried to cheer even more. We became stronger and stronger. One Albanian fundraising team came to help—it was great! In the beginning, we were worried about competition from the Northeast Region, because we know that Russia is very good in volleyball, but it turned out that NER brought teams from a sport institute in Hong Kong. Their teams were well versed in sports, but not strong enough, to compete against our Czech volleyball teams. The Bosnian basketball team, were also at a higher level and made it to the final. In the football semifinal we played against the USA—a team of mostly 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation, who had a good spirit and fought bravely, but could not defeat our Serbian team.



*The European team entering the stadium – True Parents applauding the European team*



*Hyung Jin Nim and Kook Jin Nim giving their opening address – martial arts display*

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the opening ceremony of the Cain Abel Wongu Peace Cup Cosmic Harmony Tournament took place. True Parents came, and the games immediately gained another dimension. Hyung jin nim and Kook jin nim both proclaimed in their opening addresses that True Parents are the Messiah—the Lord of the Second Advent. True Parents were smiling all the time. There were very impressive performances of cheer leading and martial arts. Even Hyung jin nim performed a martial arts display. Then the football final started —Sun Moon University against our Serbian team from Belgrade. We won 5:1.



*The soccer final - the winning European female volleyball team - the winning European basketball team*

Both our men's and women's volleyball teams played in the final against the USA, and our Bosnian basketball team as well. All 3 teams won and got Gold. They were very happy to receive such beautiful medals and trophies. The track and field competition took place outside in pouring cold rain. I must say that I admired all the athletes, who endured such weather conditions from the early morning. It felt as if we were paying indemnity for something. But nevertheless, everybody was competing with good spirit. The Asian team had a very high level female runner, who won Gold in 100 m and 400 m. So our European girls could only make 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Jan Tesař, our Czech runner, made Gold in the 400 m.

Then came the time for table tennis and badminton: Iva Mejdlová made Gold in table tennis for the women, and Zdeněk Zaspal made Silver after a very close battle against the men's Hong Kong champion. We were very surprised about our lovely badminton couple from Scotland, they played so well, and both made Gold. Both the table

tennis and badminton were very high level competitions, and exciting to watch. Everybody—our football, volleyball and basketball teams – were there cheering them on. I think they never had so many people cheering them before, and they really enjoyed the support.



*Some of the winning European athletes*

In the Unity and Harmony game we were eliminated in the first round. In some way, it was good, to leave some medals for others—Europe was starting to look suspiciously good!!

This time, we were not able to play Dodgeball because of some misunderstanding. But surely next time, we will take our revenge!

The day finished for all European athletes in a very high atmosphere. In the evening, we all celebrated together the great day.

The next day, on March 24<sup>th</sup>, was time for sightseeing, shopping and had a final meal at a very beautiful Korean restaurant.

Since we came back from Korea, many athletes wrote to us, and expressed their gratitude. Some said that it was a life-time experience for them. They want to keep contact with us, and help us to find good athletes for the next Wongu Cup. Many of them received True Parents' Autobiography and links to our movement's web pages. The Czech athletes will have next Friday a get-together to show their photos and to share their good times in Korea. The Serbian football team had a TV appearance, where they could report about the Wongu Peace Cup. And I am sure that many more good surprises will follow.

Dear blessed families, one more time Thank You for all your support which made it possible for Europe to be successful in the Wongu Cain Abel Peace Cup 2012.