



Madet Men in the USA

The following is taken from Coach Craig Chamber's Email Diary as he and his squad tour Massachusetts in style !! We'll continue to update it as the week progresses

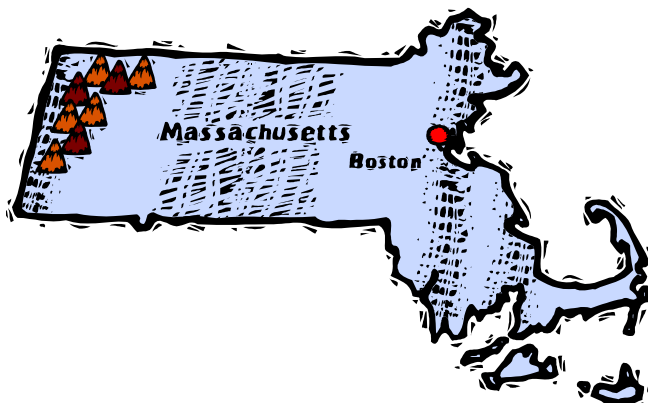
Friday : Day 1

Everyone was at Glasgow airport bright and early for the flight to London. We got off on time and by the time we were at Heathrow everyone (including Ian Fraser!) was at 35,000 feet and that was before we caught the flight to Boston !

Saturday : Day 2

Ian was at Craig's door at 4:45 this morning.....too excited to sleep. and was on form at Glasgow.

Here is the itinerary, It does not show the activities that they will be doing with their hosts. They should have a great time. Ian and Craig will need short leashes on the lads on Saturday. Their game at 2:20 is the only boys games in a 2 day tournament at that facility (4 operable courts) involving 25 girls teams. The boys don't know that yet either !!!!



Friday	Arrive at Logan 11:35 AM. Dick Lawless will meet. Proceed to Mansfield MPlex. Arrive about 3:00 PM. Light snack. Game with Walpole AAU team – 6:00 PM. Host families will pick up players after game.
Saturday	Spend day with host families. Meet at Walpole High School at 1:20 – 1:30 PM for trip to Mass Premier Courts. Game with MP Courts AAU team at 2:20 PM, Court #1. (Some hosts may want to drop players off at MP Courts.) Return to Walpole HS at 4:30 – 5:00 PM for host pick up.
Sunday	Meet at Walpole High School at 4:30 – 4:45 for trip to Mansfield Sportsplex (MPlex). Game with Middlesex Magic AAU team at 6:00 PM. Return to Walpole HS at 8:00 – 8:30 PM for host pick up.
Monday	Meet at Walpole High School at 8:45 – 9:00 AM for drive to Brattleboro, VT (approximately 2 ½ hours). Arrive Brattleboro Union High School between 11:00 AM and 12:00 noon. Peter Boyle will meet and settle in. Game Monday evening at 6:30 PM. Hosts will pick up players after game.
Tuesday	Meet at Brattleboro Union High School. Players will be dropped off before classes. Breakfast at House of Pizza. Team departs for Springfield. Visit Springfield Boys and Girls Club for 2pm to 4pm session. Drive to Northfield Mount Herman for dinner and scrimmage. Return to Springfield.
Wednesday	Visit Basketball Hall of Fame. Drive to Harvard, MA. Attend soccer match. Game in the evening.
Thursday	Drive to Boston via Wrentham Outlet Mall for shopping. R. Lawless will meet team there. Register at Youth Hostel in Boston and head to Brookline High School for 4:30 PM meal in their new culinary area. Game with Brookline team at 6:00 PM.
Friday	Tour Boston.

Sunday : Day 3

Yesterday morning was a quiet one for the squad with all the boys getting a good night's sleep after the exertions of the previous day.

The squad met at 1pm to travel to the game but unfortunately Scott was unable to travel as he wasn't feeling great (He's feeling a lot better now). The feedback from the boys at this point was that they have certainly been fed well. One of the boys told his homestay he wasn't that hungry at breakfast time but got 6 pancakes put done in front of him and then they proceeded to put butterscotch & chocolate sauce all over them!!! He wasn't sure if this was breakfast or dessert.

Yesterday's game was against a team the same age as ourselves and



unfortunately lost by 6. We were all disappointed after the game as we were leading with 3 minutes to go but failed to score when it matters. The games are a lot more physical here and the boys are taking time to adjust but i hope we'll match the physical side of things better today.

Last night the boys done their own things with the host family with some of the boys meeting up through this. I believe some went to the cinema and myself & Ian went to the New England Revolution v Columbus Crew football (soccer) game where Ryan and Calum were. I'm sure the boys will fill me into today about what they got up to.

Today's schedule has changed slightly as we are now going to watch the Boston Celtics pre-season friendly against the New Jersey Nets. One of the host families are friends with the president of the Boston Celtics and has arranged for the team to have a private suite at the game and after checking out the location of the suite, it really is one of the best spots in the whole arena and we can't thanks the McCarthy family enough.

After the game we travel back to Walpole to play at 4.30pm at the same arena as our 1st game.

Tomorrow will be an early start as we leave Walpole for the 2hr 30min drive to Brattleboro.

Monday : Day 4

Boys had an absolutely brilliant time at the Celtics game yesterday. We had one of the best boxes in the arena and it was great to see the speed & athleticism of the players.



We had to leave the game early as we had our own game to play. We lost by 4 but the boys played as well as they could and the best they have since we arrived. The game could have went either way so the boys should be proud of their efforts. We lost by 4 but missed around 10 free throws so we know that part of our game had an impact on the end result.

Last night the boys done their own things with their host families and we are meeting at 8.30am to drive the 2 1/2 hours to Brattleboro in Vermont for a day of activities at the local school then another game at night.

Let's hope we can go one better and get our 1st win of the tour, the boys certainly deserve it.

Let you know who we get on in Brattleboro tomorrow.

Tuesday : Day 5

Yesterday the boys finished the Walpole leg of the tour and said goodbye to their hosts who had looked after them so well.

The drive to Brattleboro is approximately 2 1/2 hours so we decided to leave earlier to make the most of the day. The drive could have be much longer for Ian's people mover as his 1st seat passenger who was calling out the Sat Nav direction over the Rap music, not mentioning any names but Kieran told him to stay left and take the next turn off which headed towards New York and not Brattleboro!!!! Kieran is no longer the front seat passenger in the people mover.

On route we stopped off at a fast food restaurant to grab some food, unsure of where our location was, Ian asked the server where we were and in true american style she replies "Burger King"!!!!!!!

We arrived in Brattleboro and Coach Boyle to the boys to a corn maze where they took part in a quiz then we headed to watch a American Football game at the local high school. By the time the game finished we had to head to our game which was in New Hampshire (our 3rd state in the day).

The boys lost the game by 18 and the damage was done in the 1st 5mins as we started very slowly and quickly found ourselves 15 down. We got in at half time 17 down and our 2nd half improved although the boys really struggled as the game was very physical.

Today we are going to Springfield (home of Basketball) for another busy day and i'll update you on our progress there.

Wednesday : Day 6

Another long day and another great experience for the team.

We all met at Brattleboro High School at 7.30am as school starts at 7.45am and the homestays had to get to school for that time. From the school we went to a place called the "house of Pizza" for a BIG BREAKFAST.

We left Brattleboro to head towards our comfort Inn in Springfield and on route we stopped off at a Shopping Mall. Coaches told the boys that they shouldn't but much at the moment as we have limited

luggage space and there will be plenty of other malls before the end of the tour. We arranged to meet the Boys in 1 hour and on our return we met with a sea of bags containing B.Ball boots & Clothes!!!

From the Mall we dropped our stuff at the comfort Inn then headed to the "Springfield Boys Club which is an InnerCity Club that gets kids off the street. Unfortunately, none of the kids were there as it was during school time so we took this opportunity and ran a short training session.

We then had an hour's drive to reach our Northfield as we were visiting "Northfield Mount Herman School". This is an elite school that is a powerhouse in high school basketball and sent 10 players to division 1 colleges last year. 2 of their senior players gave us a tour of their impressive campus and we also had a light snack before heading to the gym.

Our boys scrimmaged with 7 of their players and it was great for the boys to be on the same court as such talented players. (couple of the players are currently being recruited by colleges such as Harvard & Stanford". The boys thoroughly enjoyed the experience and certainly thrived on it.

After this, we headed back to our Hotel where we all went down to the pool for a swim and the coaches provided Crisps, Juice and Donuts due to our light dinner. The boys also had a "Who can stay in the Sauna longest" competition which Calum won!!

Today sees us visit the Hall of Fame in Springfield and then we drive to Harvard town to play a game at 7.30pm.

Thursday : Day 7

An action packed day. After letting the boys sleep until 9am we had breakfast at the hotel then left for the Hall of Fame. The boys really enjoyed this as there was a lot of interactive activities as well as a full sized court with all the different baskets that have been developed through the history of Basketball.

After the hall of fame we thought it would be good for the boys to experience a "Walmart" in America. We arranged to meet the boys at the subway inside Walmart as we were having lunch after this. We were met with several trolleys full of Gatorade and Lucky Charms cereal.



The boys seem to think we were driving 50-seater coaches with the amount of stuff they keep buying.

After Walmart we were on the road heading towards Harvard town. We arrived and watched the football (soccer) game at the local school. After this the boys went back with their homestays and got ready for the game.

The boys won last night by 16 and played very well. Coaching staff aren't sure whether we won because we are adapting to the style of play here or if the copious amounts of Gatorade taken on board assisted their performance. 2 of the boys also consumed 5hour energy boosting drinks and claimed to be "Buzzing" during the game!!!!!!

It was great to get a win under our belt as the boys deserve it with the hard work they have put in throughout the tour.

Today we head for a massive outlet mall to finish off our shopping although after Walmart yesterday one of the boys told me he had \$22 left!!!

After the outlet mall we'll head to our hostel in Boston and prepare for our game in Brookline tonight.

The Final Quarter !!!!

It was another early start yesterday as we met at the high school in Harvard at 7.30am before the school started at 7.45am. We headed towards the Big outlet mall in Wrentham and stopped at Dunkin Donuts on route for Breakfast. The boys had a good time at Wrentham and again bought lots of trainers & clothes (everyone is now having to sit with bags over their legs).

We left the mall after lunch and headed for the hostel in downtown Boston where we are spending our final night. The hostel isn't great but it's safe and has a bed and the boys seem quite happy.

After dropping our stuff we headed over to Brookline High for a light snack then play our game at 6pm. The boys were totally outclassed but the strongest team we have played to date. By halftime we were down by about 40 and the other coach suggested re-setting the scoreboard to 0-0 which was a nice gesture. The boys played much better in the 2nd half, only losing the half by 12. Although we were outclassed, the boys have definitely improved throughout the tour and you can see they are already being more physical when they play.

After the game the team went for pizza at a local restaurant then had our end of tour awards ceremony. The coaches decided that as all players had done something stupid during the tour that they all deserved a "HAGI". Coaches had earlier purchased clothing from "California sunshine swimwear" so all players had to put these on and get their picture taken. Sam Stuttard won the "HAGI" of all "HAGI's" for the following:

- Leaving his white strip in Walpole and having to borrow Scott's for the game in Brattleboro
- Leaving his training top in Springfield and we ain't going back for that!
- Then losing Scott's shorts that he had borrowed in Brattleboro meaning Scott had to wear red shorts with his white strip last night. All I can say is thank goodness we took his passport off him!!!

We have some time in Boston today to do some sightseeing and shopping before heading to the airport around 5pm for our flight home.

