

Germany/Austria Tour '91 Region II Team

We arrived in Germany, and didn't have much time before our first training session together. With only one day to spare before our first match, we had to work hard to come together and get rid of the jet-lag. Our first friendly match was against the Bavarian Regional Team, who welcomed us with a very high-pressure game. We went on to tie the game 1-1. The next day we played the same team and earned a 2-1 victory after a brief intermission due to an untimely snowstorm. Our time ended in Germany with an unbelievable experience of the German culture. After attending a professional match, which happened to be their league semifinal, we were all amazed by the enthusiasm that the fans have for the game. The team was also able to spend some time shopping and taking in some of the sights that Munich had to offer.

After a 3 hour bus trip, we arrived in Bludenz, Austria, a beautiful city surrounded by snow-capped mountains. Our opening match for the tournament was against the New Zealand National Team. Before kickoff, we were all entertained by one of New Zealand's national pastimes. They performed a special dance that is unique to their culture that gets them pumped up for a game. We dropped the result 0-1. Over the next five matches, we showed some real brilliancy in our play and ended up pitted in a grudge match against the New Zealand National Team for 3rd place in the tournament. Our team came out inspired and jumped out to a 2-0 lead, which we held for the rest of game. We spent the last night in Austria laughing and joking and just hanging out with each other. We talked about the week and how lucky we all were to be privileged with such an unbelievable experience. After some last minute shopping in the Munich airport, we returned home never to forget the time spent and the memories that we are all fortunate to have.