

Men's Tour Update

Here's an unofficial update from Seth, playing for the USA Mens Team in Ireland:

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Hey everyone The flight (from Boston) wasn't bad at all, only 6 hours or so. Customs was a breeze, we just walked through the "nothing to declare" line and they asked no questions! We've been getting up early each day and having a practice on foot with running, stretches, lineups, and racquet drills. Fun stuff.

In the afternoon we've been riding and switching around horses to find the best fit for each player. This weekend it looks like we have 4 good horses and 2 not as good. The 1's and 3's will be mounted the best and the 2's are getting the others. I am playing with Matt Linson (the 1) myself (the 3) and a rotation between Ryan Trueblood, Dave Brooks, and Bernie Uechtritz. The other section is Ryan Strider (the 1) and Ryan Murphy (the 3), with one of those three guys as their 2.

The weather is JUST like western Washington. 65 during the day with cloud breaks, 40 at night. They've had rain lately but it's been great since we've been here. Everything is green and they have a lot of the same plant life as the northwest. Haven't seen any unusual animals or insects. Speaking of which, yesterday I unzipped my bag the rest of the way to take out a pair of jeans when a scorpion crawled out!! (In texas last week we were having an issue with scorpions hiding in our sleeping bags. Chris Pickens got stung twice in his side while sleeping so we're all freaked out about it.) Then we show up here and one crawls out of my clothes bag! I killed it and showed it to our host family.

We are staying with three different host families this week, and move to the next location on Monday. The families have been wonderful hosts thus far. We haven't met the Irish men's team yet, which seems a little odd that we've been here for three days. The fields we're playing on are green grass, but not the flattest. Random holes and bumps, and it can be interesting getting a good bounce. Tonight they are dropping 10,000 gallons of water on the field and rolling it so it will flatten out. I'm riding a horse named Scooby. A chestnut gelding about 15.3hh, put together really nice. He would be one of the top horses in the States... amazing out the back, very fast and quick.

Sunday, June 18, 2006

Seth phoned this morning to wish his dad a Happy Father's Day, check on his truck, and let us know how it is going in Ireland.

He said that they played two different teams over the weekend, the team on Saturday was an Ireland National Polocrosse Team, and the USA won that one 16-10. Sunday's Match was half of the "Official Test Match" against the Irish International Team. That one was close all the way, and then the Irish pulled ahead at the end to win 23-17.

I didn't hear the whole roster, but It sounds like in the Sunday match, the first section was Ryan Strider, Bernie Uechtritz, and Ryan Murphy in that order. Second Section was Matt Linson, David Brooks, and Seth Alcott. I am not sure who might have subbed in or any of the other details, but the good news is I think they will have the game on videotape, so maybe we will all get to see it eventually.

Seth said that he had an amazing horse, good at both positons, so he was very happy about that. I also talked to Bernie for a few minutes, and he said that the experience has been a very good one for everyone. They are traveling to a new club for the next match, and will try to keep us updated. They were hoping to make some adjustments in the team before the next match to see if they can turn the score around next weekend.