



FIBA European Women's Basketball Summit 2019 By Kate Davies

The annual FIBA women's basketball summit held in Slovenia is well known for its high standard of players and coaches. I was given the opportunity to attend this camp alongside Fatmata Janneh and Zulieka Franklin from Basketball England. We were accompanied by Doreen St Marthe as our coach and Jade Butters as our official. I was excited to attend this camp and was looking forward to seeing the standard of players from other countries and getting to play with and against them.

When we had checked in to the camp we met our roommates. I was put in a room with girls from Czech Republic and Romania. At first everybody was nervous but after everybody had arrived we had a session of ice-breaking games and free time so we could get to know each other. By the first evening we were all comfortable around each other and had already made lots of friends.



Fatmata Zulika Doreen Jade Kate
Janneh Franklin St Marthe Butters Davies



Each day started with an intense, skill based, 3 hour training session. Each session was made up of 8 different stations, each one working on a different skill. The drills were fast and intense, yet the coaches would pick up on small flaws and help correct them. They demanded hard work and intensity, yet precision and accuracy, which pushed me to another level as a player.

The afternoons were packed with games and competitions, which were very intense and competitive. Each team was a mixture of players from different countries, so I got the chance to play with girls from Russia, Spain, Netherlands, France, England and Hungary, and our coaches were from Sweden, Poland, Spain and Slovenia. My teammates were all extremely talented and I really enjoyed being on a team with them. The way we played allowed us to create opportunities for each other and our coaches encouraged us to show off our skills and our shooting abilities. Overall the atmosphere was energetic and positive. It was extremely motivating to constantly be uplifted and encouraged by the people around me.





Off the court, players had the opportunity to take part in question and answer sessions with two different players. The first session was with Anna Barthold, who is a forward and is captain of the Sweden National Team, The second session was with Maria Stepanova who is a Russian centre, and has played for the Russian national team and for WNBA team Phoenix Mercury. We learned about how they started playing basketball, their experiences at different events and tournaments, and they offered advice during



Anna Barthold



Maria Stepanova

This camp was an experience I'll never forget and that is thank to the people I spent my time with. There were players, coaches and officials of many different nationalities, which is what makes this camp so unique.

Despite all of us being from different countries, used to different cultures and speaking different languages, we were all brought together by basketball. I have come away with new friends and knowledge, and this camp has shown me how basketball can bring people together. It was an amazing experience and I really hope more girls from Wales will get to experience this in the future.

I would like to thank Gavin Williams, Stef Collins, David Senart and my club coaches Jason Merchant and Tony Hinchey for collectively working together to make this opportunity possible for me at such short notice. I really appreciate the hard work that goes into organising these fantastic trips and feel very lucky to have been able to experience this memorable camp.



Coach Doreen

