

Granddaughter plays soccer on an international tour

Morgan Gottschalk, 13-year-old daughter of Brian and Sharla Gottschalk, McKinney, Texas, and granddaughter of Gay Walz, St. Francis, had the opportunity to go on the Stars 'N Stripes International Soccer Tours. This summer, as a participant, she went to Germany, Denmark and Sweden.

Morgan has been playing soccer for eight years and said she is in the highest soccer league in the whole United States.

The first country Morgan and her group went to was Germany. They arrived to do some sightseeing in a small German town. They rode a cable car above a vineyard, then walked back down the hill through the vineyard but she noted that they were not allowed to pick any of the grapes.

After lunch, they were bussed to Soest, Germany. The place where they stayed was a sports center. There they slept and ate their meals. "We were in Germany for the World Cup, so our tour guide/head coach got us tickets to the Slaughter House," she said.

She explained that the slaughter house had been turned into a restaurant and bar with two huge projection televisions. They watched the third and fourth place match where Germany was victorious, winning 3-1 over Portugal.

"All night we could hear horns blaring, screaming and cheering," she said.

"Soest is just a small town, so I can't imagine what it must sound like in a larger town!"

They went back the next night to watch the World Cup finals where Italy won the World Cup against France in penalty kicks.

The next day, the group boarded the bus early in the morning for a 9-hour ride to the next destination, Fredrickshaven, Denmark, where they stayed in a school. There was no time for the players to settle in because they went to the opening ceremony which had 24 countries represented.



Gottschalk

They walked everywhere and Morgan said they had to watch out for bikes.

"I learned from girls who went last year, that when crossing the street, you can't hesitate when you see a car coming or they will speed up and might hit you," she said. "Last year, an American girl was crossing the street and got hit by a car."

The team Morgan was on ended up with a second place Dana Cup No. 1 at this tournament. The tournament was the first for the team because they had girls from West Texas as well as her old team.

"It (second place) was a big accomplishment for our team as well as the history of the tour because we are the second team to get in the finals at Dana Cup," Morgan said.

"When we got back to the school, I got the Player of the Day jersey."

The next day, the girls went to the beach for some relaxation. However, there was a downside to going to the beach and that was the horrible sunburn Morgan ended up with.

Morgan said that after an "awesome experience in Denmark," it was time to go to Sweden. They boarded a ferry called Stena Line, early in the morning. On the ferry, there was a restaurant, slot machine and gift shop.

The arrived in Gothenburg, Sweden, just board another bus.

"While we were on the bus, I noticed that this place looked the most civilized of all the other countries," she said.

"There were more tall buildings and more traffic, just like home."

She said there were not as many people walking and riding bikes as in Germany and Denmark.

The next day was another opening ceremony.

"This one was a lot bigger and a lot better than in Denmark," she said.

The ceremony lasted an hour and a half and 64 countries were represented.

"The whole time, we were on our feet, cheering, singing or just having fun," she said.

This time, the girls stayed in a hotel.

"It was a very nice place called Hotel Odin," she said.

"When we started playing soccer, it was like magic," she said.

"We all knew what to do and how to do all of our moves. We were all impressed, but we got a little bit too excited because some teams beat us or tied us that shouldn't have."

"We got beat out of a 'A' bracket for first and second place. Then we got in the 'B' bracket."

"Everyone knew there still was a trophy to win but we were defeated in the quarterfinals."

Morgan said they were all "glum" for the next two days but, it went away when they stepped off the plane landing in Dallas with a second place Dana Cup trophy held high above their heads.

The day after returning to Dallas, Morgan ended up with staff infection because of scratching bug bites. She was on antibiotics for quite some time.

"Overall, my trip to Europe was a great experience," she said. "Next, my team is talking about going to China for a couple of weeks."

"I am glad I went (this summer) and will never forget this trip to European countries."



JT WOODCOX heads for the end zone during flag football Saturday. Joey McCormick and Aubrey Mills move in for his flags.

Herald staff photo by Leslie McCormick

Beecher Island News

By Bessie Dent



There were 56 at Sunday school. Howard Peaker had the special number.

The Beecher Island Helping Hand Club will resume Oct. 4, with Marla Rock as hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowe Shively flew to Huntsville, Ala., to visit Major and Mrs. James Kennedy and family. They were able to watch Jamie play volleyball and took in the Homecoming activities. They were gone Wednesday to Saturday.

Bob and Peggy Phillips of Apple Valley, Calif., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Chapman. They came Thursday to spend a week. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ekberg joined them for Sunday dinner.

Mrs. Larry Allen spent Friday and Saturday in Loveland visiting her mother, Bernice Shively.

Nettie May Welton attended the funeral service of Katherine Welton in Yuma last Monday. She was a sister-in-law of Troil.

Bessie Dent received word of the death of her cousin Cora May. Services were Saturday in Viola, Idaho.

Madison and Spencer Perila spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Simmons. Mrs. Randy Perila and Laura and Hayley Walker came Friday. They all returned home Sunday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bowman and family and Tempy Bowman and family spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Pete Osmus, Holly Johnson and boys. Mr. and Mrs. John Osmus and Jacob visited Sat-

urday. Gary Cranmer was an overnight guest Thursday of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Shaver. Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Kier of Monument, Colo., came to visit with Gary.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Mansfield had dinner Sunday with Jean Brenner in Idalia.

Mr. and Mrs. Quentin Simmons were Sunday lunch guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Simmons.

Weekend guests of Jacque Ekberg were Steve Ralston of Alma, Neb., Gary Ralston of Creighton, Neb., Karen and Harvey Chamberlin of Clinton, Mo.

Dan Brown from Michigan visited Nettie May Welton Wednesday on his way to Colorado Springs. He was a distant relative of the late Hattie Gorbet.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Matzke of Ellis were Friday overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Shaver.

Bill and Ellen Mansfield's home

was a busy, happy place over the weekend. Saturday dinner guests were Mr. and Mrs. Steve Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. Greg Goodman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Goodman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Monte Mansfield and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Mansfield. Afternoon visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Conrad, Eric Burg and a friend.

Mr. and Mrs. Walt Smith were Friday overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Johnson and family. They got to watch Dale's soccer game.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wall brought cake and Laurie Perila and children brought cake Friday to help MerryLu Simmons celebrate her birthday. To top it off, Mr. and Mrs. Quentin Simmons brought pizza that evening for all.

St. Francis News

Jean Winston of Ellsworth was a member of the Ellsworth High School tennis team which competed in the North Central Activities Association league tennis tournament in Russell on Saturday. Jean competes in the singles division and received a third place medal.

Attending the tournament to cheer her on were Betty Jean Winston, Dan and Cindy Winston of

Ellsworth, Vickie Kern of Wichita and Corrine Gugelmeyer, Colby, Logan and Dylan of Lakin. They all returned to Ellsworth following the tournament.

Before coming home to St. Francis on Sunday, Betty Jean attended church with Dan and J.J.

Jean, J.J., Vickie and Corrine are Betty's grandchildren and Colby, Logan and Dylan her great-grandchildren.

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