

USA MEN – News Dispatch #3 – Sunday, 24 June 2007
2007 World Deaf Basketball Championships
Guangzhou, China (12 hours ahead of EDT)
22-30 June 2007
<http://www.wdbc2007.org>

USA Men's Team Overcomes Slow Start to Defeat Italy 98-69

The USA Men's team finally put away their practice gear and put on their game uniforms for the first game of the tournament. USA defeated Italy 98-69 and improved the team's tournament record to 2-0 (forfeit from India).

Jaimie Valencia, Robert Haney, Sekoe White, Anton Jackson, and Bradley Miller started the game for USA. The first quarter started out slow with USA and Italy exchanging baskets. When USA started full-court press, USA pulled away. Italy, renown for its dramatic and physical play, was unable to keep up with USA's speed. USA took advantage of their size as USA dominated the boards with 50 rebounds over Italy's 29.

Luther Weedon continued his hot shooting streak in the game once again as he scored team-high 20 points with 4 treys in 16 minutes of play. Jon Mowl and Robert Haney also contributed on the offensive end as Mowl scored 16 points and Haney dished team-high 8 assists. USA's bench scored 53 of the team's 98 points.

Robert Roth, nicknamed as 'Grandpa' by his teammates, did not play like he was 38-years-old. He scored 9 points and grabbed 7 rebounds in his aggressive 12-minute play. "We scouted Italy last night in their game versus Ukraine and we were prepared for their physical style of play. The more we play in international games, the more prepared we are as a team for tougher teams in the tournament," Roth said of his first official international game.

Anton Jackson had a stellar game as he shot 4-for-5 from the field and 2-for-3 treys, putting 17 points on the scoreboard. "I think we had a good solid game. We played very well offensively. Meanwhile on our defensive end we did not meet our goals as planned, which was to hold Italy to 40 points or less. Italy got 69 points, 29 points over our goal. Overall, we had an okay game," Jackson said, also contributing 7 rebounds and 4 steals in 21 minutes.

Italy caught fire in the fourth quarter and scored 34 points, outscoring USA's 20. The USA Men's team had their eyes glued to the scoreboard in the last minute hoping to score its 100th point, but after several missed attempts in the paint, the buzzer went off.

Head Coach Keith Westhoelter was overall pleased with the game. "We had a much better defensive game today as we held Italy to only 69 points. I was not happy about the way the fourth quarter was played. We need to do a better job of finishing out games. I was also happy to see everyone get a lot of playing time. I hope that will continue as well."

The USA Men's team is preparing to play Ukraine (2-0) on Monday, June 25th at 5 PM.

Game Statistics

Date: June 24, 2007

Time: 11:00AM

Location: Guangzhou Tianhe Sports Center Gymnasium, Court A

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
USA	25	28	25	20	98
Italy	13	10	12	34	69

Name	#	FG	3PT	FT	Pts	ORB	DRB	TR	Ast	TO	BS	ST	Ch	Min
Jon Mowl	4	2/3	4/8	0/0	16	1	1	2	1	0	0	4	0	23
* Jaimie Valencia	5	1/3	½	0/0	5	2	0	2	3	3	0	3	0	22
Luther Weedon	6	¾	4/7	2/2	20	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	16
Matt Johnson	7	2/3	0/0	0/0	4	3	0	3	6	3	0	3	0	16
Nick LaLanne	8	2/3	0/0	0/0	4	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	9
Robert Roth	9	4/7	0/0	1/3	9	4	3	7	0	1	1	1	0	12
Ben DeMario	10	0/1	0/0	0/0	0	2	1	3	0	2	1	0	0	9
Orion Palmer	11	0/5	0/0	0/2	0	3	2	5	0	3	1	1	0	11
* Robert Haney	12	4/7	0/5	0/0	8	1	4	5	8	6	0	2	0	26
* Bradley Miller	13	2/3	0/0	0/0	4	3	4	7	1	1	1	3	0	14
* Anton Jackson	14	4/5	2/3	3/7	17	2	5	7	0	3	0	4	0	21
* Sekoe White	15	3/7	1/3	2/4	11	2	2	4	2	1	1	4	0	17
Team Total		27/51	12/28	8/21	98	24	26	50	22	23	5	25	0	
