

USA WOMEN – News Dispatch #1 – Friday, 22 June 2007
2007 World Deaf Basketball Championships
Guangzhou, China (12 hours ahead of EDT)
22-30 June 2007
<http://www.wdbc2007.org>

USA Women Opens Tournament with Win over Home Team

It has been four days since the USA Women and Men basketball teams arrived in Guangzhou, China for the Second DIBF World Deaf Basketball Championships. After four days of practices, team meetings, and adjusting to life in Guangzhou, the USA Women's team was definitely eager to take on China in their first game of the tournament. USA rolled over the home team in a 91-59 win.

The USA Women's team struggled with team chemistry and the lack of international playing experience in the first half of the game. The team got off to a slow start and led by 9 points for most of the first half. Players missed easy baskets and threw passes off target. In the first half, the team shot 35 percent (12 of 34) from the field and shot 15 for 26 from the free throw line. In the waning minutes of the second quarter, the USA Women's team finally found their rhythm and scored several key baskets in the paint. The game went to halftime with a USA 42-26 lead.

Head Coach Laura Edwards was not comfortable with the way the game went in the first half and decided to put in her veterans in the lineup to get better control of the game. As team defense picked up in the second half, fastbreak points and organized half-court offense sets succeeded. Even though China stayed in the game with their three-point shooting, the USA Women's 3-2 zone defense proved to be too much for China to handle.

After the game, Edwards said, "We could do better with our defense rotation, and the Chinese did a superb job of exposing our weakness with their crisp passing. We also could have showed more hustle on the fast break defense, but I am just glad to get the first game out of the way."

Shari Bailey, the Most Valuable Player from the first World Deaf Basketball Championship tournament in Greece, showed leadership and poise on the court as she led the team with 25 points and 14 rebounds.

Bailey agrees with Edwards on the improvements the team needs to make on the defensive end. "I believe that the best defense will create wonderful opportunities on the offensive end. The more we put our heart into defending the opponents the more we will be able to play our game. China showed us that any team that has heart or the desire to win can go far no matter what talents they have."

Jennifer Decuir chipped in with a team-high 5 assists and scored 20 points in her 34-minute play.

The USA Women's team will play Japan next on Sunday, June 24th at 1 PM.

Game Statistics

Date: June 22, 2007

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Guangzhou Tianhe Sports Centre Gymnasium, Court A

Team	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Final
USA	23	19	26	23	91
China	15	11	17	16	59

Name	#	FG	3PT	FT	Pts	ORB	DRB	TR	Ast	TO	BS	ST	Ch	Min
* Priscilla Biskupiak	4	3/6	0/0	½	7	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	-	25
Abby Moose	5	2/6	1/3	¾	10	2	2	4	3	3	0	4	-	21
* Jennifer Decuir	6	5/8	0/1	10/13	20	3	4	7	5	4	2	3	-	34
* Kallie Williams	7	0/2	0/1	0/0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	-	12
Shari Bailey	8	9/19	0/0	7/13	25	7	7	14	2	2	0	1	-	29
* Brittany Payne	9	3/4	0/0	2/5	8	1	3	4	0	1	0	2	-	14
Victoria Crockett	10	4/10	0/0	1/1	9	3	0	3	0	2	1	1	-	14
Kristin Feldman	11	3/5	0/0	0/0	6	4	4	8	0	3	0	0	-	22
* Jessica Salisbury	12	0/2	0/0	0/1	0	0	2	2	3	1	1	2	-	18
Barbara Hyde	13	3/4	0/0	0/0	6	3	1	4	0	1	0	0	-	11
Team Total		32/66	1/5	24/39	91	24	24	48	15	19	4	16	0	

Total FG	1st Half	12/34	35.3%	2nd Half	20/32	62.5%	Game	32/66	48.5%
3 PT FG	1st Half	1/3	33.3%	2nd Half	0/2	0%	Game	1/5	20%
Free Throws	1st Half	15/26	57.7%	2nd Half	9/13	69%	Game	24/39	61.5%
