

Americans Make Surprising Gains at Wongu Peace Cup Games

Yoshie Manaka
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The 2012 Wongu Peace Cup were held for three days from Thursday, March 22 to Saturday, Mar 24, 2012 in Korea. Close to 600 athletes and staff from eight regions participated in the tournament: USA, North East Region, Europe, Asia, Korea, Japan, Sri Lanka and South America.



The United States sent 50 athletes and ten staff members, and competed in the following sports: Basketball, Golf, Martial Arts, Soccer, Track, Table Tennis, Men's Volleyball, Women's Volleyball and the Harmony & Unity game.

Team USA received a medal in every team sport. The following are the results:

Basketball: Silver

Soccer: Bronze

Men's Volleyball: Silver

Volleyball-Women: Silver

Harmony & Unity Game: Gold

Martial Arts:

Individual Forms: 2 Bronze

Team Forms: 1 Silver, 1 Bronze

Individual Sparring: 2 Gold, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze

Although the USA and European representative tied with the best scores in golf, due to a handicap system, all the awards were given to players from Korea.



“We really wanted to achieve at least one Gold medal,” said Naokimi Ushiroda, who accompanied Team USA as staff. “We were very frustrated and nervous when we couldn't achieve that in any of the team sports. It was painful to see the US team suffer humiliating defeats against semi-professional teams from Europe in the final rounds, especially after having done so well against the other teams.”

“When we thought all hope was lost, we started with the final sport: The Harmony & Unity game,” continued Ushiroda. The Harmony and Unity game is a game created by Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, where participants hit a ball toward a bulls-eye target on the ground.

“The rules requested two men and two women to participate from each team, and we decided to have two of our soon to be Blessed Couples participate representing the US. We ended up winning three rounds in a row, earning the Gold. I really felt that although we were unable to be number one in skill compared to semi-professional athletes, God was showing us that we were the best in terms of harmony and unity. It

was great victory for us all.”

According to Ushiroda, there are many areas that need improvement for Woung Peace Cup to fulfill its founding vision. Overall, however, “It was great experience for us, and we were all very grateful for having this opportunity to represent the US, and share our Lovin' Life culture to the rest of the world!”



Below is a complete list of Team USA’s participants and their home districts.

1	First Name	Last Name	D#	Sport/Role
2	Victor Shin Chun	Lee	9	Int'l Coordinator
3	Kevin	Yoon	3	USA Delegation Advisor
4	Naokimi	Ushiroda	2	USA Delegation Head
5	Yoda	De Groot	1	General Manager
6	Hanna	Schmittat	1	Assistant Manager
7	Kenneth	Dodge	11	Basketball (M)
8	Mischa	Freystaetter	5	Basketball (M)
9	Myung James	Gomis	2	Basketball (M)
10	Hyo Nam	Heller	2	Basketball (M)
11	Ejong	Herd	10	Basketball (M)
12	Gideon	Raucci	2	Basketball (M)
13	Hudson	Sylte	10	Basketball (M)
14	Jina	Hamad	2	Basketball (M)
15	Frederick	Lacroix	Canada	Golf
16	Kentaro	Bodzewski	10	Soccer (M)
17	Jacob	Byrne	10	Soccer (M)
18	Sungjoon	Carlson	2	Soccer (M)
19	Adam	Carosso	11	Soccer (M)
20	Ben	Christiansen	8	Soccer (M)
21	C.	C.	10	Soccer (M)
22	Gregory	Couweleers		Soccer (M)
23	David	Eisenbart	1	Soccer (M)
24	Leonhard	Granstrom	10	Soccer (M)
25	Taesun	Krishnek	10	Soccer (M)
26	Tadamasa	Kubo	10	Soccer (M)
27	Hanniel	Park	4	Soccer (M)
28	Sam	Park	4	Soccer (M)
29	Tadaharu	Tate	10	Soccer (M)
30	Garrett	Whitmyre	10	Soccer (M)
31	Theodore	Wilkening	12	Soccer (M)
32	Jonathan	Schrämli	2	Table Tennis (M)
33	Victor	Servito	3	Track and Field 100&400m (M)
34	Masayoshi	Akutsu	6	Volleyball (M)
35	Takamichi	Akutsu	6	Volleyball (M)
36	Tokuin	Hankins	12	Volleyball (M)
37	Daniel	Heller	2	Volleyball (M)
38	Max	Heuft	7	Volleyball (M)
39	Trimon	Lamson	6	Volleyball (M)

40	Daniel	Rood	6	Volleyball (M)
41	Aika	Becker	1	Volleyball (W)
42	Clara	Brunkhorst	3	Volleyball (W)
43	Teresa	Ferrete	1	Volleyball (W)
44	Cynthia	Jones	1	Volleyball (W)
45	Miran	McCash		Volleyball (W)
46	Shiela	Pimentel	2	Volleyball (W)
47	Nicole	Thiessen Harder	2	Volleyball (W)
48	Glorianna	Zambon	4	Volleyball (W)
49	Edward	Abendroth		Volleyball (W) Staff
50	Peter	Freystaetter		Volleyball (W) Staff
51	Dr. Yong-Beom	Kim	UB	Martial Arts (M)
52	Kareem	Freckleton	UB	Martial Arts (M)
53	Chris	Van Mieghem	UB	Martial Arts (M)
54	Kenneth	Moore	UB	Martial Arts (M)
55	Abraham J.	Kim	UB	Martial Arts (M)
56	Matt	Domney	UB	Martial Arts (M)
57	Shota	Iwasaki		Martial Arts (M)
58	Janina	Cernova Shinozaki		Martial Arts (W)
59	Raymond	Cobo		Martial Arts (M)
60	Greg	Agulan		Martial Arts (M)
61	Benita	Iparraguirre	3	Martial Arts (W)