

# ALL ASIA CAMP: CHINA

*Nike All Asia Camp-CHINA* It was an honor and blessing to work with Dee Brown, Miles Simon, Dave Hopla and a talented group of girls from all over Asia. Nike always does a great job of putting together camps and creating an environment to inspire and help young players learn the game of basketball. Dee, Dave, and Miles did a fantastic job of teaching with such high energy and enthusiasm. We also managed to communicate the game despite a barrier of 3 different languages. I learned that sometimes I take for granted being able to communicate the game so easily in the states. The girls had an eagerness to learn and insisted that all our translators communicated to them what we were saying. We learned a lot from this group.

***They were very competitive but so are all of us coaches.***

I noticed at camp the players tended to shy away from contact a lot. We worked on absorbing contact when going to the basket. With a pad in one hand I would push and pump each player hard and some fell over and some fell out of bounds. They seemed to like to be challenged. They showed me their competitive nature when Miles, Dee and I played the 3 on 3 champions in a 4 minute game. Every time I tried to go near that basket they wanted to throw me out of the court and they succeeded once. I guess I learned my lesson by using that pad earlier that day. But that won't stop me in the future. By the way, we won that 3 on 3 game. Dee and Miles showed them some skills that made their jaws drop. I guess we all learned we are all retired but we still have that

competitiveness as players. It is this competitiveness to win that makes us want to be better coaches and teachers. I was coaching my team this week and we lost the last night and we were going into our last game of camp. I told the girls that we are not losing this game. I don't care what it takes but I need everyone to play like it's the last time. I said anyone not giving 100% is coming out! These girls played awesome the last game and they hustled and competed. That was the best feeling in the world to see that effort!

***These players also had an unbelievable willingness to learn.***

We would walk in the gym to see many girls working on skills we worked on in the clinic before. I did not see one player yawn the whole camp and I did not see one player with their hands on their knees as tired as they were. We noticed tremendous im-

provement after just 2 sessions. Each session they got better because they weren't scared to mess up and they were eager to improve. This motivated me to want to try to teach them as much as I could in such a short time. I was thankful for the other coaches because I would forget about water breaks sometimes.



***I learned that female players in Asia struggle with confidence just as American players do.***

We had a question and answer session with them and a lot of questions focused on the mental aspect of the game. They wondered how to keep their confidence when things don't go their way; they make mistakes, or have a bad game. We told them you have to forget about the past. You are only as good as your next possession. You have to do your best to learn from your mistakes. We also told them that you gain confidence because of all the hours of work you put in preparing every day. Always be prepared! Always compete! Believe in yourself even if others don't! Don't ever

let someone tell you that you can't!

Finally, I was reminded this week in China that enthusiasm is contagious. Dee, Miles, and Dave are some of the most passionate, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable coaches that can teach the game at the highest level. I am so thankful that they took the time to inspire and teach these girls this past week. I also thank them for inspiring me and impacting my life. I thank God for giving me the abilities to impact others. I thank God for placing people in my life that do the same for me!!!

Thank you to everyone involved with Nike for making this camp happen!!!!

Danielle



