



Maccabi GB™
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Maccabiah Games 2009

BASKETBALL

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The Maccabiah Games take place every 4 years, just like the Olympics. I was selected to play for Great Britain U16 National Basketball team. The games were in Israel. As almost every other athlete that has been would say that this is one of the greatest experiences ever to be had in a sporting aspect. Great Britain took a group of 10 boys for the U16 basketball team. We had 3 coaches that made us eat, sleep and breathe basketball for the 3 weeks that we were participating in the games. Every team within GB lived together for the 3 weeks. They did activities together, they ate together and shared rooms together.

Many people had their own opinion of why they loved the Maccabiah Games. Some people preferred the nightlife, playing different countries, the thrive of winning and success and walking through the airport having everyone stare at you as if your famous in your GB tracksuit. But I am almost positive that everyone can agree that they enjoyed the opening ceremony. This took place after the week of pre-camp had ended. The reason it was so amazing was because you were walking into a full capacity stadium where 40,000 people have their eyes on you as you're walking through country by country.

Although we didn't do great results-wise, we all still came back as a much better, confident and experienced player since not everyone is chosen to play for Great Britain. There were 12 teams in the U16 Boys Category: USA, Israel, Russia, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Turkey, Belgium, Brazil, Italy, Mexico and, of course, Great Britain.

We trained for 6 months solid leading up to the Maccabiah Games. Every session got harder and more intense then the one before.

I would definitely consider trying out for the next Maccabiah Games in 4 years time as it was the best experience I have had so far.

By Adam Schwartz



Great Britain U16's vs. Argentina U16's



Opening Ceremony



Great Britain U16's vs. Mexico U16's



Great Britain U16's stretching pre-game