

---

## 1999

### Bert went to a basketball game in December 1999: Spirou Charleroi (BEL) vs AEK Athens (GRE)

After having hosted Saratov (RUS) with young Russian power forward **Sepelev** (see the Basket Mag scouting page) and Hapoel Jerusalem (ISR) at the Coupole in October and November 1999, the Spirou Charleroi faced AEK Athens (GRE) in its facilities in early December. AEK was favorite in Group A of the 1999-2000 Saporta Cup.

Here are the figures of the surprising Spirou Charleroi vs AEK Athens (GRE) game which ended with a Spirou 18 points victory: 80-62, final score!

Attendance: 3500

Spirou Charleroi: **Elisma** 11pts; **Morton** 4pts; **Jerome** 15pts; **Cleymans** 13pts; **Beeuwsaert** 6pts; **Goethals** 14pts; **Stas** 17pts.

AEK Athens: **Hansell** 5pts; **Kikilias** 0pts; **O'Sullivan** 4pts; **Chatzis** 2pts; **Koronios** 4pts; **Ntikoudis** 12pts; **Tsakalidis** 8pts; **Muursepp** 2pts; **Bowie** 9pts; **Kakiouzis** 16pts.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Bert attended a basketball game in November 1999: Spirou Charleroi (BEL) vs Hapoel Jerusalem (ISR)

After having hosted Saratov (RUS) with young Russian power forward **Sepelev** (see the Basket Mag scouting page) at the Coupole in October, the Spirou Charleroi faced Hapoel Jerusalem (ISR) in its facilities on November 2nd. With Greek team AEK Athens, Hapoel is favorite in Group A of the 1999-2000 Saporta Cup.

Spirou Charleroi started quickly and took the lead: 7-2 and 19-12. **Tamir** and **Cohen-Mintz** were the only Hapoel players to challenge both Charleroi power forward **Elisma** and **Jerome** under the basket. Half-time was reached with the following score: 35-28 for the Belgian team.

In the beginning of the second half, Spirou Charleroi started very well again: 38-28 and 44-36. **Papi Turgeman**, Jerusalem's international point guard, was very convincing from behind the 3-points line. So was US power forward **Kenny Williams** who scored 14 points in the second half for Hapoel. Second American player for Hapoel Jerusalem, **Derek Hamilton**, did not play in Charleroi as he was just recovering from injury. After a few minutes, **Stas**, **Elisma** and **Cleymans** started to shoot very well again.

Very quickly, Charleroi took a comfortable lead: 60-43. The Spirou eventually took control of the game although **Williams** tried to keep Jerusalem in the race by scoring spectacular baskets... Show time! 60-53, 70-62 and final score: 77-65.

Mission accomplished for US **Eddie Elisma** (21 points and 12 rebounds) and his Belgian colleagues!

Next month, you will read a full report on the surprising Spirou Charleroi vs AEK Athens (GRE) game played in early December.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Bert went to a basketball game in October 1999: Spirou Charleroi (BEL) vs Saratov (RUS)

In early October, Bert and one of his brothers-in-law went to attend a Saporta Cup game: Spirou Charleroi (BEL) vs Saratov (RUS).

After three defeats in a row in Belgian championship, Spirou Charleroi needed to prove that they could do much better this season. First with **John Jerome** (former US player who got his Belgian passport at the beginning of the 1999-2000 season) and then with Belgian center **Daniel Goethals**, Charleroi kept a good tempo against an excellent Russian team. With a few minutes to go before the end of the first half, Saratov took the lead by 5 points thanks to a huge

forward able to hit three-pointers. His name is **Sepelev** and you can find some very positive comments about him under the Basket Mag scouting page (web page built by a bunch of brilliant French basketball analysts). **Eddie Ellisma** had the last word in the first half anyway. He scored several baskets and gave Charleroi a 39-37 lead after the initial twenty minutes.

In the second half, Charleroi players **Ellisma** again, **Cleymans**, **Stas** and **Rion** were the main actors of the local team supremacy. After half-time, the score changed as follows: 48-41, 56-48, 66-54, 71-60 and final 78-64.

Only Saratov forward **Sepelev** and US point guard **McGhee** tried to challenge a very good Spirou defense in the last minutes of the game.

Come back on Bert's site next month and read full reports on other Spirou games in Saporta Cup (against Hapoel Jerusalem, AEK Athens, etc.)...

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Bert went to a basketball game in September 1999: Profondeville vs BC Sombreffe

This month's game chosen by Bert is a 3rd Belgian National Division match between Profondeville, a club where some of Bert's friends are still playing, and BC Sombreffe, a team which was still in 2nd National Division last season. Profondeville, at home, won by a margin of 11 points (final score: 60-49). **Masnelli** (20 points) and **Vandescure** (9 points) were the best players in offense for Profondeville. Playing quite well offensively and grabbing several defensive rebounds, French player **Diakanua** and Spanish center **Della Fuente** were the only players in Sombreffe to be able to challenge a good team of Profondeville where **Fabrice Lambotte**, one of Bert's pals did not play because of knee injury!

The scoreboard showed 18-21 after 12 minutes in the game but half-time was reached by Profondeville with an 11-point-lead: 32-21 (Profondeville outscored Sombreffe 18-0 in the last 8 minutes of the first half). No danger for Profondeville in the second half as **Chekaba** (ex-Atomics Brussels, club still involved in 1st National Division championship) remained the only Sombreffe player trying to challenge the home team.

In the next few months, Bert will attend some of the Saporta Cup games at the Charleroi Coupole. Indeed, Spirou Charleroi will play against the Russian team of Saratov (still in Euroleague last year and having excellent young players such as power forward **Sepelev**), the Greeks of AEK Athens (with center **Tsakalidis** and new coach **Ivkovic**) as well as Israel's Hapoel Jerusalem (still one of the greatest teams on the European scene).

Come back on Bert's site and read full reports on some of those Saporta Cup games from next month on...

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Bert went to a basketball game in August 1999: Spirou Charleroi (BEL) vs University of Minnesota (USA)

The Spirous did not miss their first home game against the Minnesota Golden Gophers on August 28th. Charleroi easily beat Minnesota in a scrimmage game attended by 2800 people. 8 Charleroi players scored 10 points or more. After 10 minutes, the Spirous were leading by 6 points: 28-22. Until then, the Golden Gophers had been defending hard. But at half-time, Charleroi (**Daniel Goethals** 11 pts, **John Jerome** 14 pts and **Eddie Ellisma** 9 pts) reached an advantage of 19 points: 59-40.

In the second half, the Belgian team kept the same rhythm with Spirou Dutch center **Van Rijn** and Belgian center **Goethals** making the difference against both Golden Gophers centers **Przybilla** and **Aune**. Charleroi played very well in the second half and finally defeated Minnesota: 115-71.

Bert picked 2 players among the Golden Gophers who, according to him, could reach a great career in a near future: **Przybilla**, a strong, tall and powerful center, as well as **Bickerstaff**, a quick and very athletic forward whose jump is quite astonishing.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Bert went to a basketball game in May 1999: Spirou Charleroi vs Racing Antwerp

Game 3 of the 1999 Finals of the Belgian First National Division between Spirou Charleroi and Racing Antwerp. Antwerp won the first game at home by a score of 78-68 in the beginning of May. A few days later, game 2 ended with an easy Spirou victory: 76-59. It was 1-1 before the third game which had to take place in Charleroi. And on Saturday May 8th, Bert went indeed to 'La Coupole' with one of his colleagues who attended his very first basketball game.

Very hot in 'La Coupole' and very intense game won by Spirou Charleroi after overtime. With about 15 seconds to go, **Lance Miller** (US forward at Racing Antwerp) had the chance to make his team win the game but missed the last lay-up: score remained 60-60. In OT, US forward **Rich Morton** and Belgian guard **Jacques Stas** hit three-pointers from all ranges and lead the Spirou to a very important win. Final score: 75-67.

Spirou Charleroi: **Ellis** 13 pts; **Morton** 14 pts; **Desy** 5 pts; **Cleymans** 10 pts; **Marion** 2 pts; **Buja** 8 pts; **Stas** 21 pts; **Weatherspoon** 2 pts.

Racing Antwerp: **Miller** 13 pts; **Lauwerijs** -; **Rasquin** 2 pts; **Dupont** 2 pts; **Huggins** 19 pts; **Baert** 16 pts; **Van Haele** 3 pts; **Huger** 12 pts.

On Tuesday May 11th, Spirou Charleroi finally won its fourth national crown in a row in Antwerp.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Bert went to a basketball game in April 1999: Union Mons-Hainaut vs SN Ghent

This month's choice is a Belgian First National Division game between Union Mons-Hainaut (former LA Lakers **Melvin McCants** missing because of injury) and Siemens-Nixdorf Ghent. Bert went to the 'Halles de Jemappes' with some colleagues who attended their very first basketball game. The team of Mons, at home, lost by a margin of 12 points (final score: 83-95). **Van der Sluis** (24 points), **Tucker** (22 points) and **Hennie Sierens** (16 points) were the best players in offense for Ghent. They even gave Siemens-Nixdorf a 20 points lead in the first half (28-48). Playing very well offensively, American playmaker **Larry Terry** (hitting 5 three-pointers in the second half) was the only player in Mons-Hainaut to be able to challenge a good team of SN Ghent!

Disappointing game as both team finally qualified for the play-offs. Both teams should have shown much more fighting spirit as the end of the season approached but seemed tired instead. Positive point anyway: Ghent had a good shooting percentage and hit 12 three-pointers in this game. American players of both teams were fouled out: **Larry Terry** (Northwestern State '94) and **Jim Potter** (Idaho State '95) for Union Mons-Hainaut so as **Bobby Brannen** (Cincinnati '98) and **Daryl Tucker** (Southern Illinois '98) for Siemens-Nixdorf Ghent.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Bert went to a basketball game in February 1999: Belgium vs Greece

On February 27th, the Belgian Lions could not avoid a 8th loss in the qualification round for the European Championship due to take place in France next June. Indeed, already defeated by Slovenia three days before, the Belgian national team also lost against a good Greek team lead by a wonderful **Alvertis** (24 points). The Greeks very quickly took the lead: 3-12 after a few minutes. Belgian Coach **Tony Van den Bosch** asked for a time-out and Belgium came back into the game with better defense

and shooting percentage: 17-17 after ten minutes. Thanks to **Goethals**, **Cleymans** and **Baert**, the Belgian team stayed very close and reached half-time with 2 points behind Greece (former European Champ in 1987): 35-37.

Once back on the floor after the break, **Alvertis** started the showtime by scoring from all ranges: 41-48 for Greece with 15 minutes to go. Thanks to Spirou Charleroi forward **Eric Cleymans**, the Lions tied the game again at 50-50. Belgians were in foul trouble (guard **Jacques Stas** having his 5th foul at 73-77) and could not avoid a last Greek rush by **Alvertis** and **Papanikolaou** at the end of the game. Belgium finally lost by 9 points (73-82) and Greece is qualified for Eurobasket 1999 in France.

Nevertheless, since Greece's last win against Belgium, the Hellenic Coach **Giannakis** announced that he would resign before the European Championship in France. Quite a big fuss in Greece!

Here are the major scorers in this month's game attended by Bert:

BELGIUM:

Struelens 11 pts, Stas 11 pts, R. Bayer 5 pts, Cleymans 18 pts, Loridon 7 pts, Goethals 13 pts, Baert 8 pts.

GREECE:

Nikolaidis 4 pts, Liadelis 4 pts, Boudouris 2 pts, Papanikolaou 13 pts, Sigalas 2 pts, Alvertis 24 pts, Balogiannis 12 pts, Tsakalidis 4 pts, Rentzias 9 pts, Karagoutis 8 pts.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Bert went to a basketball game in February 1999: Spirou Charleroi (BEL) vs Benetton Treviso (ITA)**

On Wednesday, 10th of February, Spirou Charleroi played against Benetton Treviso (ITA). Bert and some 3500 people challenged a lot of snow and ice on the roads to attend the game at the Charleroi Coupole. It was an excellent game and the local crowd enjoyed it quite a lot. With such players as 1998 World Champ **Zeljko Rebraca** (YOU), **Tomas Jofresa** (SPA, guard, ex-Badalona and member of the Spanish Olympic team), **Ricardo Pittis** (ITA) and excellent American playmakers such as **Henry Williams** and **Casey Schmidt**, Benetton Treviso represents one of the highest budgets on the European basketball scene. Add coach **Obradovic** (also coach of the 1998 Yugoslavian national team, World Champion in Greece last summer) and you will understand why the Coupole was full on 10th of February.

The game was played in a very good spirit. Charleroi defended well and Treviso center **Zeljko Rebraca** was not at ease in the first half. He did not play a lot but Argentina's **Nicola** replaced him very well under the basket. The Spirou, with a wonderful team spirit, could challenge the Italians in the first half: **Jacques Stas**, **Eric Cleymans**, **Sébastien Buja** and **John Weatherspoon** probably played at their best level.

In the first part of the second half-time, US players **Richie Morton** and **Ron Ellis** scored most of the baskets to give the Spirou a 12 points advantage. The crowd was wild but always showing good spirit.

When **Ellis** got his 5th foul (about 16 minutes remaining in the game), Charleroi could not avoid an excellent **Williams** in offense and a wonderful **Pittis** in defense (certainly one of the top Italian basketball players in the last decade) to make Treviso take the lead. This time, for sure! The Italians finally won the game: 70-66.

The return game in Northeastern Italy ended with a local team victory. Indeed, Benetton Treviso beat Spirou Charleroi by 14 points.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Bert went to a basketball game in January 1999: Spirou Charleroi vs SN Ghent**

Find here a summary of the best game attended by Bert each month. This month's pick is a Belgian Cup Quarter Final game between Spirou Charleroi and Siemens-Nixdorf Ghent. Charleroi, at home, won by a margin of 22 (final score: 81-59). **Jacques Stas** (21 points), **Eric Cleymans** (22 points), **Richie Morton** (16 points) and **Ron Ellis** (10 points) were the best players in offense for Charleroi. Playing very well offensively and grabbing tons of defensive rebounds, **Bobby Brannen** (Cincinnati '98)

was the only player in Ghent to be able to challenge a supreme team of Spirou Charleroi! With an advantage of 22 points, Spirou should qualify easily for the semifinals as they will replay against Ghent in this "aggregate confrontation" away next week.

Next month, Bert will attend a Saporta Cup game (Final 16) at the Charleroi Coupole. Indeed, Spirou Charleroi will play the Italian team of Benetton Treviso, club having one of the highest budgets in European basketball. Bert already bought his tickets...

© 2007 Bert's Basketball Web Site: [www.berthoop.net](http://www.berthoop.net)