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## 2001

### Bert went to a basketball game in December 2001: BCSS Namur (BEL) vs Ano Liosia (GRE) in Women Ronchetti Cup

On Wednesday, December 12th, BC Saint-Servais Namur (BEL) played its third game of the Ronchetti Cup Group D against Ano Liosia (GRE). Bert and his brother-in-law challenged the fog to attend the game at the Hall Octave Henry in Saint-Servais, a suburb of Namur. It was an excellent game and the local crowd enjoyed it quite a lot.

In offense, the game started very well for BCSS (3-pointers by **Krystyna Szymanska-Lara**, **Mari-Ann Caers** and **Oksana Agabalova**). On the Greek side, US **Nyree Roberts** missed all free-throws (0/7) and some easy shots under the basket. **Juana Brown** took time to get into the game and only playmaker **Vasileia Gkouzini** (21 points, 4 steals that evening) was able to keep her team at only 11 points behind BCSS at half-time. BCSS Namur defended well and was successful at shooting from all ranges. BCSS Head Coach, Frenchman **Marc Silvert**, could count on its excellent playmaker duo **Lara-Wambe** to organize the game. Add **Elena Ovtchavora's** experience, **Olga Pfeifer's** strength under the basket or **Agathe Nnindjen's** physical gift and you will easily understand why Bert was very impressed by the quality of the game he saw that night.

In the third quarter, Belgian national team's playmaker **Kathy Wambe** (3 steals and 5 assists through the game) pushed her team to a greater leading margin. 62-43 at the end of the third quarter.

Ano Liosia Head Coach **Angelos Giannoulakis** and staff became nervous in the fourth quarter as they understood that the girls of Namur would not give the Greeks a single chance to come back into the game. **Gkouzini** and **Brown** in the second half were the only Greek players who tried to challenge the BCSS's defense. The Belgian team finally won the game: 83-55. Great basketball evening... Thank you girls! And on December 19th, 2001, BCSS Namur hosted Chieti (ITA). This fourth game of the qualification round Group D was won by the Belgian team. BCSS and Greek team Ano Liosia are ranked first in Group D for the moment.

BCSS vs Ano Liosia was certainly not the last women basketball game attended by Bert this season. If you want to know more about Women Euroleague or Ronchetti Cup check out this web site from time to time...

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### Bert went to a basketball game in November 2001: Spirou Charleroi (BEL) vs Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR)

Inspired performance from Maccabi Tel Aviv swingman **Anthony Parker**, who led the Israeli champions against Spirou Charleroi with 24 pts. **Parker** proved to be the clutch player whenever Charleroi challenged, especially after an attempt to cut a long-standing Maccabi lead to single digits in the fourth quarter. US Center **Nate Huffman** provided the inside balance to **Parker's** game with 14 pts for the winners. Point guard **David Desy** and shooter **Jim Potter** had 15 pts each for Charleroi.

**Jacques Stas** could not start at point guard for Charleroi. **David Desy** took his place. Charleroi missed its first six shots before **Ron Ellis** hit one. Maccabi was ahead 2-7 with 5 pts by **Tal Burstein**. But Charleroi got into the game as **Louis Rowe** and **John Jerome** got to the basket and cut the lead to 11-12. Maccabi had to work inside. This led it to return the ball outside, where **Anthony Parker** was waiting to make it 11-15. Charleroi, on a **Desy** two-pointer at the buzzer, stayed within 15-17. Not bad considering 5 turnovers so far by the whole team.

Maccabi forced another turnover from young guard **Tomas Van de Vondel** while taking an 18-26 lead. What was actually making the difference now was Maccabi's defense, which just kept forcing turnovers and bad shots out of Charleroi. The lead hit 20-31 but Charleroi got on the offensive boards and refused to let Maccabi go away (25-31). **Derrick Sharpe** was feeling it however, and popped his second three-pointer. **Rowe** got in foul trouble, with his third, while **Parker** was everywhere on the court: 26-40. Again **Desy** tried to bring back his team but it was now **McDonald** who took the game in his hands, fixing the score at 31-45. Only **Desy's** second buzzer-beater offered a little hope for the home team, down 34-46 at half-time.

Charleroi started the second half without **Darren Engellant** on Maccabi center **Nate Huffman**, who was reluctant to shoot, but not to pass, to **Parker** and **McDonald** in particular, as Maccabi lengthened the lead to 37-52. Spirou Coach **Bozzi** had to take a time-out. **Engellant** came back in but the gap was becoming huge, 37-58, as **Huffman** woke up to some inside scoring. The game seemed already over as Charleroi was unable to rise its level. On the contrary, it was hesitating more and more, with only **Jerome** still scoring as Maccabi held on 48-64 after the third quarter.

The fourth quarter saw Charleroi going along without much of a threat until **Jim Potter** came up with back-to-back three-pointers halfway through. Suddenly, that big lead was down to 11, at 57-68. **Parker**, excellent all game long, made the shots for a 59-72, which was more than enough to dampen the comeback spirit of Charleroi and finish off the road win for Maccabi.

Bert has really been impressed by the athletic abilities of Maccabi US forward **Anthony Parker**. Shooting from all ranges, rebounding offensively and defensively, rejecting or dunking balls, he is also able to recuperate very quickly after a quick action or effort. Physically speaking, the Turk **Besok** and the American **Huffman**, both Maccabi centers, are also huge but they did not have to force their talent in Charleroi.

On the whole, Charleroi has not been very impressive in this Euroleague for the moment. The first two home games against Wroclaw (POL) -- see 'Bert's archives' -- and Maccabi (ISR) -- see summary of the game on this page -- were disappointing. Thank god, there has been the latest game in La Coupole against Efes Pilsen (TUR) which ended up with a final surprising win for Charleroi: 79-75. Before this latest positive result, Charleroi had two good games away in Malaga (SPA) and Treviso (ITA) -- only final 8-pts losses -- so far and a complete off-day in Athens against Olympiakos (GRE), Spirou losing by a margin of 29 pts in Greece with brilliant performance by Olympiakos players **Risacher**, **Ford** and **Tomic**.

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#### Bert went to a basketball game in October 2001: Spirou Charleroi (BEL) vs Slask Wroclaw (POL)

Severely beaten by a very impressive Wroclaw team in this first Euroleague game of the new 2001-2002 season, Spirou Charleroi has completely missed its debut in the competition. **Darren Engellant** was the only powerful Charleroi player who could be in the way of the Polish team centers. But except guard **Jacques Stas** in the first quarter and forward **John Jerome** through

the whole game, no other Spirou played at his usual level. And to face a wonderful team of Wroclaw with a great international colony of first-class players, you need to be at the top. Very quickly, the Poles took the lead: 0-2, 7-7 and 13-28 at the end of the first quarter. The score quickly reached 27-41 and Russian national team forward **Andrei Fetissov** had scored 9 points.

He also controlled the air defensively (helped by the Slask Lithuanian center **Einikis**). **Tomczyk** had also contributed to the good percentage in offense for Slask Wroclaw.

In the second half, **Fetissov** from downtown and **Einikis** under the basket kept on scoring. Charleroi was really bad... 4/16 from the field for Spirou Charleroi in the third quarter which ended with a score of 38-60. Each at their turn, Slask playmakers **Hawkins** and **Alanovic** organized the game very well. Two air balls by **Potter** and **Rowe** as well as an easy lay-up missed by **Engellant**, made the Charleroi attendance displeased: 38-68 and 48-68 when **John Jerome**, the only good Spirou with 16 pts and 7/12 from the field that night, was fouled out. Final score was then 53-71 and best scorer for Wroclaw was **Einikis** with 17 pts.

Next Euroleague game in Charleroi: Spirou vs Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR, and last year Euroleague winner). **Ellis**, **Rowe**, **Desy**, **Jerome**, **Van de Vondel**, **Defossé**, **Huggins**, **Stas**, **Potter** and **Engellant** owe a revenge to their supporters. Bert will be there!

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#### Bert went to a basketball game in June 2001: USA vs Canada (18 and under)

Bert attended the last two games of the 2001 World Junior Basketball Tournament in Douai (Northern France) scheduled on Monday, June 4th. Selections of the best players (age 18 and under) in eight countries have participated in this very well organized international tournament. Here are the national teams which took part this year: Argentina, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Lithuania, Poland and USA. It was probably the cream of this basketball

generation. Young players who will maybe play for their own country already at the next Olympic Games in Athens and most probably at the 2008 Olympics.

Big attendance for the final championship game played in the very nice facilities of the Lycée Corot in Douai. The USA selection played against Canada in this final game. And Bert has had the chance to see an excellent game. In the first quarter, the USA team had some trouble to score as Canadian **Janko Mrskic** (center, 2,05m) played a tough defense and controlled the air space around the basket. As he had already been during the first two days of the tournament, **Denham Brown** (forward, 1,98m) was very hot and quick. He lead the Canadian team to a winning first quarter.

However, in the second quarter, both US towers **Shelden Williams** (center, 2,04m) and **Craig Forth** (center, 2,10 m) took power over the Canadian centers. US team's fastbreaks were quickly run and ended up with easy baskets by **Carmelo Anthony** (forward, 2,00m) and **DeAngelo Alexander** (guard, 1,96m). Score at half-time: 55-48 for the USA.

In the second half, US players **Carmelo Anthony**, shooting from all ranges, and **Shelden Williams**, defending, blocking shots and running the court very quickly, allowed the USA team to stay in front. Helped by his teammates, Canadian **Denham Brown** kept on scoring. Thanks to a great basket from mid-court by **Anthony** on the buzzer at the end of the third quarter, USA could reach a good margin of 9 points (77-68).

But Canada came back again into the game. Canadian **Jermaine Anderson** (guard, 1,87m) helped **Brown** in scoring this time and Canada was close again. It was only 86-83 for the US team with 5 minutes remaining. The US team finally won the game in the last seconds of the game mainly by forcing points under the basket. If the Polish referee had seen a foul on **Denham Brown's** last 3-pointer, the Canadian team could have pushed the USA to overtime. But the final score was fixed on a last dunk by American player **Jawad Williams** (forward, 2,02m): 102-99 for the United States.

Names to remember for the next generations: US duo **Carmelo Anthony** from Towson Catholic School at Towson, MD and **Shelden Williams** from Midwest City High School at Midwest City, OK; Argentinean players **Matias Sandes** (forward, 1,99m) and **Emiliano David Maldonado** (guard, 1,85m); Lithuanian shooter **Petras Salvis** (guard-forward, 1,93m) or French local rookie **Tahirou Sani** (forward, 2,02m).

Final results: 1. USA; 2. Canada; 3. Argentina; 4. Lithuania; 5. Croatia; 6. Czech Republic; 7. Poland; 8. France.

3-points contest: 1. **Petras Salvis** (LIT); 2. **DeAngelo Alexander** (USA); 3. **Fabien Calvez** (FRA).

Dunk contest: 1. **Mike Tuck** (CAN); 2. **Tahirou Sani** (FRA); 3. **Jawad Williams** (USA).

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### Bert went to a basketball game in April 2001: Spirou Charleroi vs Blue Fox Ghent

On April 20th, Spirou Charleroi played its last regular season home game at La Coupole in front of a huge attendance of 3500 people. For the last home game before the play-offs, Spirou Charleroi faced Blue Fox Ghent, a team having a lot of problems on as well as off the court this season. Indeed, Ghent had to pay a few debts to the Belgian Basketball Federation before the game against Charleroi.

And they paid indeed, allowing them to finish the season in due form but with a team reduced to about four players as well as one coach under contract and some Belgian Juniors. At the 6th minute, BF Ghent took the lead for the only time in the game: 11-12. Spirou Charleroi quickly reacted (mainly thanks to **John Jerome**, **Jacques Stas** and **Ron Ellis**) and very easily made a huge gap before the end of the second quarter. Here is the score evolution before half-time: 11-12, 27-18, 41-28 and 63-35.

In the second half, Spirou's show went on with some spectacular actions by **Michael Batiste** and **Eric Cleymans**. Only both Ukrainians **Bogdan Karebin** (son of BF Ghent's 49-year-old Head Coach and international NBA scout **Boris Karebin**) and **Konstantin Galenkin** tried to challenge the Spirou Charleroi team. Former BC Kiev's player **Galenkin** (born in 1971 and 2,04m) is a center with great talent and quite strong under the basket. He grabs a lot of offensive and defensive rebounds and mainly scores after power moves under the basket. He is the kind of player able to play as an excellent 6th man in a good European team.

Score evolution in second half: 81-42, 99-51, 112-58 and 124-70 (final score).

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

Spirou Charleroi: **Ellis** 19 pts, **Stas** 17 pts, **Brown** 8 pts, **Cleymans** 15 pts, **Desy** 9 pts, **Goethals** 13 pts, **Jerome** 15 pts, **Batiste** 18 pts.

Blue Fox Ghent: **Lincoln** 9 pts, **Visnevics** 13 pts, **Caekaert** --, **Desmet** --, **Gentbrugge** --, **Bernaerdt** 3 pts, **Oelbrandt** --, **Karebin** 18 pts, **Galenkin** 27 pts.

Bert also went to see Union Mons Hainaut vs BC Ostend on April 28th. A very good lesson of basketball by BC Ostend with excellent players such as **J.R. Holden**, **Ralph Biggs**, **Virginjus Praskevicius** or **Mike Doyle**. Final score: 64-82.

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**Bert went to a basketball game in January 2001: Belgium vs Slovenia**

Bert could have chosen the last Spirou Charleroi game in Euroleague which ended with a victory of the Belgian team over Cibona Zagreb on January 17th. Final score of this game: 100-91. Spirou Charleroi ended its Euroleague campaign with a win against Zagreb (CRO) as they started it with the victory over Saint-Petersburg (RUS). Croatian player **Matej Mamic** (born in 1975, 2,02 m), very good technically and having quite a good physical condition, played only in the 2nd and 3rd quarters and scored 17 points. **Mamic** also grabbed 8 rebounds.

But Bert selected the Belgium vs Slovenia game which he and relatives attended in the beautiful facilities of Roeselare (Northern Belgium). Indeed, Bert had won 4 free tickets for this important game by answering a quiz in a Belgian paper (La Dernière Heure/Les Sports). Here are the stats of this very interesting game: attendance of 1400 people; score evolution: 6-10, 26-23, 48-33, 67-56 and final score of 79-66; Belgium's best scorer: **Ron Ellis** 24pts, 9rbs; Slovenia's best scorer: **Becirovic** 20 pts, 1rb. Several players were missing in the Slovenian team which was already qualified (**Smodis**, **Tusek**, **Alibegovic**, **Milic**, **Zdovc**, **Duscak** and **Kraljevic** stayed home). Slovenian coach **Boris Zrinski** had come to Belgium with an experimental team.

Anyway, this very important home team win over Slovenia allows Belgium not to play a pre-qualification round for the Euro 2003 due to take place in the summer.

According to Bert, one young Slovenian player has been quite remarkable. **Beno Udrih**, a young 18-year-old guard who is running the court quickly, having a good shot from mid-range, setting fastbreaks and assisting big guys under the basket. He is not as spectacular as future superstars **Becirovic** (Olimpija Ljubljana) or **Nachbar** (Benetton Treviso) but he can have great impact on the game by his quickness and great assists. **Udrih's** statistics (1,91 m, Olimpija Ljubljana) against Belgium: 3/4 2pts, 0/1 3pts et 2 rebounds.

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