



AUGUSTANA COLLEGE FOOTBALL TO TRAVEL OVERSEAS FOR GLOBAL FOOTBALL SWISS ALPS & AUSTRIA TOUR

Wednesday, May 19, 2010 – Granbury, TX - The Augustana College football team led by head coach Jim Barnes is traveling to Switzerland and Austria from May 24 to June 2 for a unique cultural experience that combines local sightseeing with a game against local opposition in the Global Football Swiss Alps & Austria Tour.

Yes, this is football – the American version – to be played on a continent that where soccer is commonly known as football, but the gridiron game has a growing presence on the sporting landscape. This summer, Austria will host the 2011 IFAF Senior World Championship, a prestigious event held every four years since 1999.

While exploring the many historical places of interest that Switzerland and Austria have to offer, the Vikings will find time to practice and scrimmage a local Swiss team in Interlochen as they prepare to face the Austria Senior National team on Sunday, May 30 in the Charity Bowl held in the historic city of Vienna.

A select group of players and coaches will also have an audience with the American ambassador to Austria, Mr. William C. Eacho, III, on Friday, May 28, two days before they face the Austrian national team. Those dedicated players and coaches will make the lengthy drive from bordering Switzerland ahead of their teammates' return in order to meet the Ambassador.

Proceeds raised by the annual Charity Bowl money benefit a local orphanage, while Augustana will face stiff opposition in the game. Austria won last year's B Group European Championship, will compete in the 2010 A Group and then play host to the world finals next summer.

The visit is organized by Texas-based Global Football, which provides the opportunity for young amateur athletes from different countries to compete against one another, while experiencing and learning first hand about each other's cultures.

Global Football President Patrick Steenberge has produced football games in 18 nations and this year Global Football is scheduled to travel with NCAA DIII college teams to Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

"We have hosted American football games in some of the greatest venues in the world in 18 different countries with each place being an honor," said Steenberge. "Our mission is to share our passion for the sport with intrigued onlookers and hardcore fans, of which there are many in Austria. We hope the challenge of a game against American opposition will help the Austrians prepare for their upcoming tournaments and be a great spectacle for the fans."

In nine seasons, head coach Jim Barnes has compiled an overall record of 73-30, won three College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin titles and participated in two NCAA Division III playoffs. Sophomore quarterback, David Lee led the offense in 2009, throwing for 1,714 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior running back recorded 687 total yards and eight touchdowns. Junior linebacker John Mayo collected 59 tackles on the campaign.

Augustana players and staff will have the opportunity to hike the Swiss Alps, go canyoning, and experience white water rafting during their stay in Switzerland. The team will then travel to Austria exploring the city of Innsbruck before the Charity Bowl game in front of thousands of spectators that also attracts TV coverage in Austria.

For more information regarding Global Football tours and events contact Patrick Steenberge:
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