

Porto Trip 2016

by Liam Irvine

The Porto trip was amazing. The day to day training taught me loads of new tricks and ways to play to football. Every day the Hartismere staff helped with my testing (diabetes) and check if I was alright all the time.

Day 1

We had to be at the school at five in the morning. I had never been on a flight before and I was a little nervous but not too bad. It was awesome, I could see the sea and mountains as we came in to land. We went to the training ground and met a Porto first team player and then had our first training session. Thiago was our coach, his English was good and he gave us lots of drills to improve our passing and movement. We then went to our hotel. I shared with Oli and Bradley. We had dinner and then we were allowed to chat in our rooms or play pool.

Day 2

We went back to the training ground after breakfast and played against the Porto academy teams. They were really good and beat us easily. I played in two games and enjoyed it. Their teams had played together since they were 5 years old. We then went to the FC Porto stadium and had a tour of the ground. We saw loads of trophies and watched old games they had played. It was a brilliant stadium.

Day 3

We trained in the morning and then got to watch the Porto B team play a league game. They won 3-0. They had a striker who scored 2 goals and he had played for the first team a few times. We also had a tour of Porto. In the evening we watched Barcelona again Real Madrid.

Day 4

I was really tired. We trained in the morning and then went to the shopping mall and then ten pin bowling. In the evening we went for a meal with the coaches. They gave us rucksacks and certificates.

Day 5

We had to check out of the hotel and then went for our last sessions. Thiago was really helpful with the coaching. He gave good advice and helped make me better as a player. We played games on the last day and our teachers joined in. We then flew home.

I had a great time. The only problem was the Porto first team game being rearranged so we missed it because we were flying back. It was brilliant fun and I would just like to thank you for your donation. Without it, I would not have been able to go on the trip so thank you very much. It was a trip I will never forget.

Liam Irvine