



Soldiers with the 92nd Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Group, 3rd Infantry Division pose in their new college football jerseys

College teams donate jerseys to Soldier's memorial fund

Story and photo by Sgt. Andrew Miller
Task Force Baghdad

CAMP LIBERTY – Football jerseys from around the United States were sent to Army engineers here recently — just in time for the bowl games.

More than 40 Division 1-A schools sent their jerseys to the Capt. Scott Corwin Memorial Fund, which uses all donations to benefit Soldiers of the 92nd Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Group, 3rd Infantry Division.

The fund was established in memory of Corwin, a 92nd

Engineer Battalion Soldier who was murdered in Savannah, Ga. on May 29, 2004. The murder remains unsolved and is under investigation.

Capt. Cleveland Dargan, 92nd Engineer Battalion plans officer, said the universities responded to requests from Greg Corwin, Scott's father and the fund manager, in his attempt to help boost the spirits of Soldiers deployed to Iraq.

"This is a good way of keeping the spirit of Scott alive," said Capt. John Dills, the officer in charge of the 92nd Engineer Battalion administration and logistics operations center. "The two things you know he loved were the military and sports."

The jerseys represent only the latest example of support from the fund, which was established just prior to the engineers' deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since the deployment, the Corwin family has hosted and sponsored several events for deployed 92nd Engineer Soldiers' family members in the Savannah area.

"This was a big boost in morale right here," said Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Nails, noncommissioned officer in charge of security and intelligence for the battalion. "(The Corwin Family) has continued to do things for our unit. You just don't see stuff like this."

Soldier's from 48th BCT, Italy play sandlot Soccer

Story by Staff Sgt. Britt Smith
48th Brigade Combat Team

CAMP ADDER — Pick up or pro? The question is what happens when a soccer game breaks out between Coalition Forces. Soldiers from the 48th Brigade Combat Team and the Italian Army lined up on either side of a soccer ball and engaged in a real game of "sandlot" ball.

The grass was definitely in short supply at Camp Adder's soccer field but not the enthusiasm level, as the two teams went at it amid the dust clouds and sand.

The level of play was surprisingly good for a bunch of Soldiers who only days before had been on patrol in the Baghdad area.

The enemy now before them wore shorts

and soccer cleats and performed as a group that obviously played together more than once.

As the teams met on the field of sand, the language barrier was overcome with the universal language of "football."

The 48th players rotated goalies as their number one keeper, Pfc. Brian Palen, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, 48th BCT of Dublin, Ga. was out with a minor leg injury.

They held their own and managed to score two goals against the Italians, who

rolled up a total of six nets.

Both the Americans and Italians played well, as both teams traded kicks and passes up and down the field for more than an hour. The final score notwithstanding, the best part of the day was the chance to meet and play against people from other countries.

"It's amazing, I've never had a chance to do this. It really is two countries coming together," said Spc.

Christopher Monk, a Soldier from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, 48th BCT and

resident of Eastman, Ga.

Luca Pace of the Italian Army conveyed his admiration for the American Soldier's ball handling skills as well as the opportunity to play others from another country.

"It's good to play other Soldiers, and we want to do it again," he said.

As the sun set over the dust bowl, Dawson, Ga. resident Spc. Justin Smith from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment, 48th BCT echoed the sentiment of his Italian counterpart.

"It's a great experience to play another country, and they are very good at playing soccer. I definitely want to do this again."

The loss on the field is only temporary, but the opportunity to make friends with other Coalition Forces is an experience that will last a lifetime.

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