

## ATHLETES IN ACTION BULGARIA VISION AND TIMELINE

*Vision: A Christ-follower on every team  
and in every sport in Bulgaria*

Brief Timeline:

- 1980's AIA Wrestling Teams Tour Bulgaria
- 1993 AIA Baseball Coaches Tour Bulgaria
- 1995 AIA American Basketball Team Tours Bulgaria
- 2000 AIA Bulgaria Officially Begins
- 2001 AIA American Basketball Team Tours Bulgaria
- 2002 AIA American Basketball Team Tours Bulgaria
- 2004 AIA American Basketball Team Tours Bulgaria
- 2005 AIA American Basketball Team Tours Bulgaria
- 2006 Yuliyans Radionov Is the First Bulgarian Player to Play with AIA
- 2007 AIA Bulgaria Hosts National Clinic for Bulgarian Coaches
- 2007 AIA Bulgaria Tours the United States for the First Time
- 2008 AIA Canadian Women's Basketball Team Tours Bulgaria
- 2008 AIA American Basketball Team Tours Bulgaria
- 2009 AIA Bulgaria Vision to Start Professional Basketball Club Begins
- 2010 AIA American Basketball Team Tours Bulgaria
- 2010 AIA Basketball Tournament at National Sports Academy of Bulgaria
- 2011 AIA Bulgarian Team in International Tournament in Macedonia
- 2011 AIA Bulgaria Tours the United States for the Second Time
- 2012 AIA Bulgaria Tours the United States for the Third Time



2002



2005



2007



2007



2008



2010



2011

### FUTURE HOPE AND VISION

- Continued Work with University and Professional Athletes/Students
- Continued "Reverse Mission Trips"
- Begin an Athletes in Action Professional Basketball Team in the National Basketball League of Bulgaria

*A Christ-follower on every team  
and in every sport in Bulgaria*

AIA BULGARIA'S SCHEDULE- JUNE 2012			
Date	Team	Where	Time
June 15	Chicago Select	Marshall High School Chicago, IL	11:00am
June 16	Trinity International	St. Peter Lutheran School Arlington Heights, IL	6:00pm
June 19	Athletes in Action USA	Cincinnati, OH	6:00pm
June 22	Tri-Cities Select 1	King College Bristol, TN	7:00pm
June 24	Tri-Cities Select 2	King College Bristol, TN	6:00pm
June 27	Ignition Prasco	Cincinnati Christian School Cincinnati, OH	6:00pm
June 29	Asbury University	McGee's Courts for Sports Cincinnati, OH	11:00am

Our schedule is subject to change. For more information about games and other parts of our schedule, go to:  
[www.athletesinactionbulgaria2012.wordpress.com](http://www.athletesinactionbulgaria2012.wordpress.com)

### SUPPORT STAFF



**Brooke Rollins**  
Director of AIA Bulgaria



**Lawrence and Courtney Sharrett**  
Coordinators for AIA Bulgaria



**Dian Kirov**  
Translator



**Ashley Bristol**  
Works with University Students in Bulgaria



**Julie Dykes**  
Lived and worked in Bulgaria 15 years

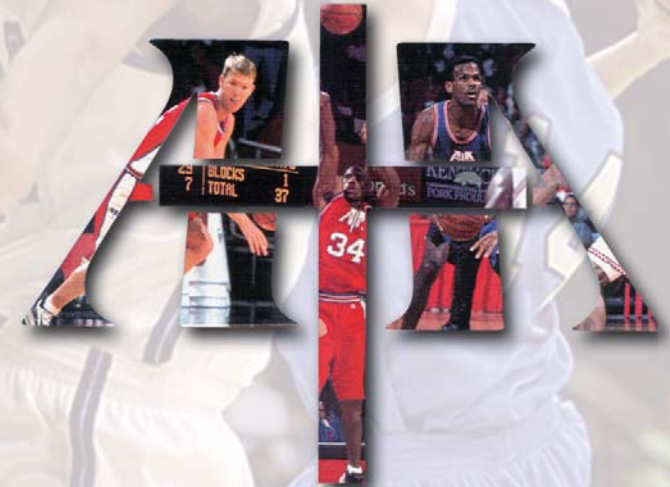
### COORDINATORS ATHLETES IN ACTION BULGARIA

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„Athletes in Action“

# ATHLETES IN ACTION

## BASKETBALL



## Athletes in Action Bulgaria Third Time in the USA

June 12- July 2, 2012

[www.athletesinactionbulgaria2012.wordpress.com](http://www.athletesinactionbulgaria2012.wordpress.com)



PROGRAM

# WHO ARE WE?

Is there a place for faith in sports? The daily lives of athletes are filled with emotions that come from successes and failures.



Because of that, they often have need of someone to come alongside and calm them down or just encourage them. Since their

founding in 1966, Athletes in Action has had an enormous amount of experience around the world doing just that.

Our goal is to help athletes grow in three areas of their lives: the mental, the physical, and the spiritual, so that they can develop as a "total athlete" and a complete person. To accomplish that goal in Bulgaria, we are working together with the Basketball Federation, the Wrestling Federation, and the Soccer Union, as well as being in contact with other teams, coaches, referees, and players.



Athletes in Action works with athletes worldwide. Currently the global influence of AIA reaches to over 90 countries and thousands of athletes. They send out around 45 competitive teams every summer

representing Jesus Christ while exchanging cultural experiences and competing in various sports. AIA staff work in over 125 colleges in the United States and with over 35 professional teams.



AIA Basketball Clinic in Vidin (2005)

Bulgaria has hosted a baseball team, wrestling teams, and eight basketball teams. With this 2012 trip, America will be hosting a Bulgarian basketball team for the third time.



AIA Basketball Clinic in Yambol (2002)

## ATHLETES IN ACTION BULGARIA 2012



**Milen Dimitrov**  
PF  
11-19-1988  
6'7"/ 215 lbs  
Stara Zagora



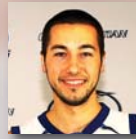
**Ivan Tilev**  
PF  
7-28-1979  
6'9"/ 250 lbs  
Sofia



**Sasho Grujev**  
PG  
7-24-1983  
6'1"/ 175 lbs  
Slovenia, Georgia



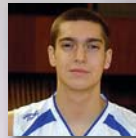
**Rosen Todorov**  
SG  
1-5-1985  
6'5"/ 195 lbs  
Sofia



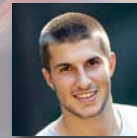
**Milen Kostov**  
PG  
1-23-1989  
6'2"/ 180 lbs  
Ohio Christian



**Sergey Tsvetkov**  
SG/SF  
5-26-1988  
6'5"/ 200 lbs  
Stara Zagora



**Vasil Kyosev**  
SG/SF  
2-23-1990  
6'5"/ 200 lbs  
Varna



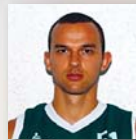
**Stanislav Vaklinov**  
PF/C  
6-7-1989  
6'9"/ 235 lbs  
Samokov



**Ventsislav Petkov**  
PG  
10-14-1991  
6'2"/ 180 lbs  
Sofia



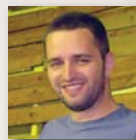
**Niki Varbanov**  
C  
6-6-1985  
6'11"/ 265 lbs  
Estonia



**Kiril Raykov**  
SG/SF  
4-28-1987  
6'5"/ 205 lbs  
Germany



**Tom Thomas**  
Athletic Trainer  
New Jersey



**Ivo Stoimenov**  
Head Coach  
Veliko Turnovo



**Vasko Atanasov**  
Assistant Coach  
Strumica,  
Macedonia



**Jeremiah Boswell**  
Assistant Coach/  
Player  
Skopje,  
Macedonia



**Lili Borisova**  
Statistics  
Bulgarian  
Basketball  
Federation



I started playing basketball when I was 13 years old. This is the sport that I started to love from the first moment I went to the gym. This is the thing I love to do and desire to continue to do for as long as I am healthy. In life, everybody has difficult and tough periods. I had a bad injury when I was 21 (two years ago). It was my first serious injury, and I missed the whole season. I wanted to come back on the court as soon as possible. I always considered myself a Christian, but I did not know what that meant exactly. Last summer, I had the great chance to go to America with Athletes in Action Bulgaria where I realized what it means to really be a Christian: to have a relationship with

God. That made me stronger. I returned from the States and began praying every day. I know God hears my prayers. I am grateful to Jesus Christ who was, and is, my sun through the darkness. - *Sergey Tsvetkov*

If I split my life in two parts, it would be before and after my participation in last summer's AIA trip to the United States. I will remember my first time in the United States forever. I met so many great people there. I felt like I was part of American families. The atmosphere cannot be explained in simple words. Our team was like one big family. We were learning so many different things about life. We were playing our favorite game and, most importantly, we were growing as people in pure Christianity learning about real faith in Jesus Christ. - *Kiro Raykov*



I want to come to the USA because I remember the Team Times we had during an AIA International tournament in Macedonia last year. It was unforgettable. The atmosphere was awesome. We were all as one big family. And I am sure it is going to be the same way in the US, or even better. I also want to see the way American Christians live and learn everything about them. I believe that this time together will not only be good for basketball reasons, but it will also help us to grow as people. - *Vasil Kyosev*

I am excited to be part of this trip. I want to share the gospel with others, to be a good influence, and to be an example for those who have not heard about my Savior, Jesus Christ! - *Milen Kostov*

I want to see God working in the hearts of Bulgarian athletes and see their lives changed by His grace. I just want to be part of this process and help the guys with their growth in Christ. - *Dian Kirov*

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for me, a chance to grow as a Christian, as a coach, and as a person. I will get a chance to serve the Lord through the game of basketball. - *Vasko Atanasov*