

FROM 1B

Hester: 3 bronze, 1 silver

trip, an unusual arrangement for the family.

Hester's not shy about the fact that some aspects of Greek culture didn't appeal to him — particularly the local cuisine.

"Not too good," is how he describes the local food in Athens with a laugh. His diet overseas consisted of French fries, boiled bacon and boiled eggs. Mom Anita Hester said Daniel lost 20 pounds during the trip.

There were some aspects of the trip that appealed to Daniel. The opening ceremonies featured performances by Stevie Wonder and Vanessa Williams — but also lasted five hours.

Daniel was also part of a visit to the home of Daniel Bennett Smith, America's ambassador to Greece. Athletes presented the dignitary with a Team USA banner during the visit.

Daniel also returned

with an impressive collection of pins from other countries represented at the Games. He talks fondly of his friends on the American power lifting team, and says they even gave him a nickname, "Hammer."

Still, it's clear that Daniel is happy to be home. A contingent of American troops welcomed the athletes during a return stop in Shannon, Ireland.

"I about cried," Daniel said of the sight, and describes his thrill at landing in Baltimore for a final stop, knowing he was back on American soil.

"He was funny," Anita said.

"He got home and later that afternoon he was taking a shower and I happened to walk by the bathroom, and he was in there saying 'I am so glad to be home. I can watch my movies, I can listen to my music, I can

sleep in my bed, and I don't have to eat Greek food.'"

Daniel will now focus on softball, which he is beginning his second season of. He's learning to pitch for his Special Olympics team.

Anita says it's not likely Daniel will receive a return invitation to the Special Olympics World Games. Athletes are nominated by coaches rather than qualifying directly, and she thinks the process favors granting spots to new competitors over returning athletes.

Still, the memories will always stay with him.

"Just a once in a lifetime experience," Anita said.

"Who would have ever thought that a little fellow from Cumming, Georgia, [or one who] started out a little fellow, would have ever made it to the World Games in Athens, Greece?"

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MLS: Team s

defender Tim Ream — in the starting lineup. Backe also was able to insert teenage sensation Juan Agudelo in the 81st minute, to the delight of the home fans. Henry was substituted at halftime and Ream was removed in the 76th minute, receiving a hearty cheer as he left the field.

The MLS All-Stars had their best chance to score in the 64th minute. Chris Wondolowski cranked a shot from 25 yards that hit Manchester United goalkeeper Ben Amos in the right arm and caromed into the path of Nick LaBrocca, but the Chivas USA forward sent what should have been a sitter wide of the right post.

Manchester United showed why it is regarded as one of the top teams in the world.

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