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SERGEY MEZENTSEV GETS TECHNICAL AT THE RIO GAMES

WORKING AT THE SUMMER GAMES WAS A CHANCE IN A LIFETIME

Sergey Mezentsev, Performance Bar Technician, remembers the day two years ago that his phone rang with good news of an open position at Converse. Soon after the building opened in April 2015, Sergey started his dream job of working at the Performance Bar at Converse HQ. Now, his day is a blend of helping employees solve technology issues while continuing to grow his own technical skills on major projects. Work life, he thought, couldn't get any better. Then, Sergey received another call. This time, the caller invited him to join the Nike Tech Team in Brazil to support Nike's Olympic Project at the 2016 Summer Games. Jackpot!

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A consummate team player and avid traveler, Sergey was eager to lend a hand and put another stamp on his passport. For five weeks this August, he served the technology needs of the Nike team, broadened his skills, and had the chance to watch some of the Olympic events live from the sidelines. Returning from the work assignment of a lifetime, Sergey was happy to share his experiences in Rio and describe what it felt like to be part of the action.

Describe your role at Converse.

I provide all kinds of technical support to Converse and Nike employees at the Lovejoy Performance Bar. Along with helping people, I'm involved in company critical projects like

supporting and launching Converse B2B, migration from Mobile Iron to AirWatch and migration from Windows 7 to Windows 10.

What was your career path to Converse?

I remember the first time I saw Converse HQ in the construction stage. I thought to myself that it will be cool to work there. Then, on March 16, 2015, I received a phone call about an open position for the Performance Bar Technician at Converse, which made me very excited! After getting hired by Converse, my life changed and went in a totally different direction. Working here has been incredibly positive. I've gotten the opportunity to grow my skills and apply them to different projects, but most importantly, it feels like family. Speaking of family, since starting here, my wife and I welcomed a baby girl, Violetta, in January, 2016.

How were you chosen to work at the 2016 Summer Games in Rio for NIKE, Inc.?

I was chosen for this team for the variety of different technical skills that I have acquired. I'm passionate about technology and learning new technologies fast which allows me to troubleshoot and find solutions to critical issues quickly.

How was the work day during the Summer Games different from your day at the Performance Bar?

The work day in Rio was completely different from a regular day at the Performance Bar simply because we didn't have same tools we normally use every day. To get something done, we needed to be very creative. For example, to print anything in Rio, we had to create a special script to install printer drivers. To scan anything, we had to engage a Nike Engineering team to help us create a special scanning server for Rio. I was working as part of very a talented team to get it all done. Working together, we were able to find a solution to any issue that came up in Rio before it ever impacted the business. The team in ended up calling us the "A-Team" (Chris Coomler, Robert Sutton, Steve Sheehan, Paulo Souza, Richard Den Hertog, Marcos Eulalio , Armando Carvalho and myself).

Any special moments for you during your trip?

The entire Nike Olympic Project itself was a very special event in my life. The most memorable moment in general was the ability to watch the games live, not on TV, and to feel the atmosphere in the stadiums. Everyone from all over the globe was so electrified to be there. You could just feel the energy.

I especially enjoyed being at the Men's Beach Volleyball gold medal game. It was raining the

entire game and no one was bothered. The Brazilian spectators were singing and dancing without a single care that it was raining. It felt so joyous.

It was incredible to witness Ashton Eaton earn his second Olympic gold medal in the

decathlon. But the real magic was the unforgettable experience of watching Usain Bolt outrun all other athletes. Watching him run on television just doesn't do him justice. I was there for his

relay race where he ran the last leg. His team was behind a bit, but when Bolt took the baton, not only did he catch up, but he flew by them. Being at eye level really highlights the incredible power of this man and the huge distance he had over any of the other runners. Amazing, just amazing to witness. I even got a pretty good close up with him on my phone. It is

a moment I will cherish.

I was also able to attend the closing ceremony which was so much fun. The best part was the fireworks at the end. It was spectacular.

How would you describe your overall experience in Rio?

Overall, the experience in Rio was amazing and challenging. Challenging because of all technical issues we had and the amount of hours we worked during our time there. It was amazing because I not only had the chance to see Rio for the first time, but to see it during the Summer Games made it very special indeed.

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