



EVO Basketball Competes U15 EYBL Czech Republic

by Johann Arcon

With the intramural season arriving, students are ready to showcase their skills beyond their academics through sports, whether on the court, the net, or even on the board. With events like these happening every year, let us inspire our preparation with a feature on **Akio Laith Austria David**.

A PSDian baller playing under **Evolution Sports Qatar**, commonly known as **EVO Sports Qatar**, Akio and his team secured a spot in the **European Youth Basketball League (EYBL)** under the **U15 category** through their athleticism, skill, and genuine love for the game.

David recalls the demanding journey they had to take just to reach the tournament venue:

“We had to take a 6-hour flight at 2 am, after the drop off from the airport, we had to take a bus, then ride a train for 3 hours, then a van to our hotel.”

From a six-hour flight at 2 a.m., followed by multiple transfers by bus, train, and van, the team arrived exhausted yet determined. Despite the fatigue that came with traveling to another country, EVO had no choice but to push through, as they needed to practice immediately to adjust to playing in an international setting.

After the long journey and intense practices, EVO Sports Qatar played their first game at **6:00 PM on January 2, 2026**, against **NH Ostrava**, one of the teams based in the Czech Republic. Amid the fast-paced

crossovers, three-point shots, and relentless defense, EVO Sports Qatar fell short with a final score of **47–69**.

Even in defeat, the team showed resilience. As Akio shared, ***“All of them were a threat”***. He said that they had to keep their heads high. He also emphasized that every opponent they faced posed a serious challenge, making each game a test of both skill and mentality. Rather than dwelling on the loss, the team focused on learning from their mistakes and preparing themselves mentally and physically for the next matchup.

As the tournament progressed, each game became a lesson in discipline, teamwork, and perseverance. They had games against DLang Academy, an academy based in Switzerland, with a score of 74-59 in favor of DLang Academy. Their third game was against Svincolati Milazzo, a basketball camp based in Italy, with a score of 86-74, with Milazzo taking the win. Akio said that even amidst the losses, each bucket ignited hope within himself as ***“It felt good because it was my first international bucket other than the Philippines”***.

With their last game, EVO managed to break through the enemy defence with a win of 82-56 against Akademia Mlodych Dzikow, a Polish basketball camp.

Beyond wins and losses, Akio felt really complete saying that ***“all the games were close, we just made a lot of mistakes and turn overs but the games were always closely fought”*** He continued to say that ***“although we lost, we never got blew out by 20 points”*** The experience of competing internationally allowed Akio and his teammates to grow not only as athletes but also as individuals representing their team and their country.