Florence

Varsity Athletes Go Abroad to Give

Devin and his teammates were the first of many athletes to participate in a new NYU pilot program that combines athletic competition with community service opportunities. TeamNYUGlobal’s first 10-day trip was to Italy last August, where they stayed at NYU Florence’s Villa La Pietra and traveled to Milan, Rome, and Venice. Before they left New York with their NYU Athletics coaches and other staff, they prepared by taking intensive Italian culture and language classes so they would be ready to immerse themselves in community service projects coordinated by the staff at the NYU Florence global academic center.

Through TeamNYUGlobal, all varsity athletes will go on a trip once during their four years at NYU. Following NCAA rules, the team can only travel during breaks and for friendly competition with local teams while the sport is in season at their global destination.

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Exhibition Competition

In Rome, during their first stop, the team played the All-Star Italy team. Playing a close game, the Violets ended the first half ahead 38-25, but failed to capture the match, losing 71-65 in the end.

“From a basketball standpoint, it’s a huge advantage for us to go overseas to play and get a head start on the season,” said Carl Yaffee, a hotel and tourism management student and senior captain on the squad. The team quickly forgot about the game they lost once they were sightseeing at the Coliseum, St. Peter’s Basilica, and the Roman Forum.

For more, follow TeamNYUGlobal at teamnyuglobal.tumblr.com.

Value-Added Athletics

The competitions were fun, but the real point of the experience was much greater. As squad captain Carl said, “On a personal level, NYU has done so much for all of us, so it was great to represent NYU abroad. But it was working with these kids that was the most amazing experience.”

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