Coach Vando to the Olympics | Eastern

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PRICE - USU Eastern Head Men's Basketball Coach Vando Becheli will head home to Brazil this week to help with the 2016 Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro. Becheli, who was raised in Sao Paolo, is making the 13 hours of flying and 5 hours of driving trip to Rio for the Olympics which kick off August 5 with opening ceremonies.

The Brazil Olympic Committee called Becheli earlier this year and asked him to come help with the basketball events at the XXXI Olympiad. He will specifically be a liaison for the Australian Women’s National team over the 16-day competition.

“I think this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, I am very excited and very honored that they called me and offered me the position,” says Becheli.

Part of his duties will be sitting court side on the bench during games and being at every practice as the team competes for an Olympic gold medal.

USU Eastern Athletic Director Dave Paur is very proud of Becheli for his opportunity to work at the first Olympic games in the South American region.

“HE did a good job in Brazil and they know him there. They are basically recognizing him and telling him you have done a good job for your country and this is what you get you do. I think it's a wonderful thing for him to represent his country in the Olympics,” says Paur.

Before arriving at USU Eastern in 2008, Becheli played and coached in Brazil for over 18 years professionally. Before becoming Head Coach at USU Eastern four years ago, he spent a few seasons as an assistant in Price.

The Rio 2016 Olympics begin on August 5 with the opening ceremonies broadcasted nationally on NBC.