

# THE BULLY'S BIGGEST TEST

Josiah Obasi faces Russian newcomer German Kokaev as EFC 137 middleweight picture intensifies



**Johannesburg, South Africa - 11 August 2026**

The battle for position in EFC's middleweight division is set to intensify at EFC 137 as undefeated Josiah "The Bully" Obasi faces experienced Russian newcomer German Kokaev in a matchup that adds another major contest to an increasingly significant night for the division.

With former two-time EFC middleweight champion Luke Michael facing Botha on the same card, EFC 137 could provide important answers about who is ready to emerge at the front of the queue behind reigning champion Diego Bandu.

For Obasi, the assignment represents a considerable step up in experience. The undefeated 4-0 athlete enters only his second EFC appearance, yet has been matched against an opponent carrying 12 professional fights and experience on Russia's competitive MMA circuit.

Standing 6'2" with a 79-inch reach, Obasi combines physicality and athleticism with effective range, powerful boxing and dangerous ground-and-pound. His perfect professional record includes two TKO victories followed by back-to-back decision wins, demonstrating an ability to finish opponents as well as maintain his effectiveness over the distance.

Now he faces the most experienced opponent of his young professional career.

Kokaev arrives in EFC with an 8-4 professional record and valuable experience competing in ACA Young Eagles. The 27-year-old has accumulated three knockout victories, one submission and four decision wins, while his time on the Russian circuit has tested him against experienced opposition. Among his standout performances was a 31-second TKO victory over Abubakar Temirgareev in their rematch.

Now relocating to Cape Town and training out of Pride Fighting Academy, Kokaev brings a measured approach, solid wrestling and considerable professional experience to his EFC debut. A victory over an undefeated athlete in his first appearance would immediately announce Kokaev as another serious addition to the middleweight roster.

For Obasi, victory would carry equal significance. Taking out an 8-4 opponent in only his second EFC appearance would further establish "The Bully" as one of the division's athletes to watch and demonstrate that his unbeaten start can translate against considerably more experienced competition.

With Michael and Botha also colliding at EFC 137, reigning champion Diego Bandu watching developments at the top of the division and current number-one contender Siyaku Nomvemve yet to return to competition, September 10 could significantly reshape the middleweight landscape. Whether an established name reasserts himself or a new contender emerges, the road towards the championship could look very different after EFC 137.

This bout features on the EFC 137 fight card, headlined by Faez Jacobs and Chadrack Yemba competing for the interim EFC featherweight championship. EFC 137 takes place on Thursday, 10 September at the World Sports Betting EFC Arena in Johannesburg.

Broadcast and ticket information are available at [efcworldwide.com](http://efcworldwide.com).

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