

Rohr opts for attacking football against Nigeria

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Continental  
Gymnastics Cup: TIG Elevates Nigeria's Pride in Portugal



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"Akpakomiza Novelty Match In Benin City"



Joshua's Career Earnings Hit \$200m



Igali thumbs up Bayelsa United over Rivers United win, charges them to maintain momentum

Dominant Edo Queens victorious over CBE with commanding win



Nigeria's Super Eagles Train in Abidjan Ahead of Crucial AFCON Qualifier Against Benin



# " Akpakomiza Novelty Match In Benin City"

**SPEAK  
ON THE  
ISSUES**

WITH  
**FANNY AMUN**

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Ex Nigeria football international players and local home base will honor the EDO State Executive Governor Elect in a novelty match at the Samuel Ogbemudia stadium schedule Monday 11th November 2024. The game will unveil notable names led by the strongest left footer Dr Felix Owolabi popularly known as OWOBLOW of 3sc football club of Ibadan and super eagles of Nigeria. Others expected are the head master himself Mutiu Adepoju , our very on Serozo the Chief coach of the Super eagles and Technical Director NFA and the foreign base coach from Uromi State the transformer of Talents with so many caps who has distinguished himself and a proud son of Edo who has been assigned co-ordinate the teams by the coordinator. Welcoming the event that will usher into EDO state the giant stride the state deserves in sports to drive the sports commission to take it's rightful place devoured of politics.

The novelty football match was played honour of HE, Sen Monday OKPEBHOLE to unite the much divided EDO state in the last eight years after the era of the comrade Governor Sen Adams Aliu Oshiomhole that unity was a bond in the sports loving state known for sports in the national hierarchy of top five states in Nigeria.

It was very evident that sports will always be a unifying factor as the gathering was that of faces of different interest as affiliates of various political background came together to honour the Governor like it use to be in the recent past. History has it that Edo state has been known for sports and politics of hatred and infighting took over the state with affiliations which has further decided sports which is suppose to be



the unifying factor. As the transition that ushered into office the 5th Executive Governor of Edo state distinguish senator now the Executive Governor of Edo state was a successful event with the list of attendance include but not limited to the presence of the President commander in Chief of the armed forces, federal republic of Nigeria Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, ably represented by Mr vice president Alh Kashim Shettima GCON , the presence of the distinguished serving and past senators of

the federal republic of Nigeria where very over whelming also the past executive governors and other eminent personalities that witnessed the occasion. It was an event that the parties from other political group where united to celebrate the brand new executive Governor of Edo state who radiate peace at first sight and humble to a fault. In the novelty game that was witnessed by the Executive Governor, senator Adams Aliu Oshiomhole the past executive Governor was all fun that saw the immediate past deputy governor of Edo

state Comrade Philip Shaibu JP the indifactable Edo state chairman of the all progressive party Hon Jareth Tenebe emerging as the best keeper in the universe couple with the excellent dribbling skills display by the publisher of Midwest Herald newspaper Comrade Orobosa Omo-Ojo JP. with an offer to play for an unknown club in the United kingdom. EDO state will definitely witness a new dawn as the new executive Governor takes the central stage in the affairs of Edo state.

# Nigeria's Super Eagles Train in Abidjan Ahead of Crucial AFCON Qualifier Against Benin

Nigeria's Super Eagles are gearing up for their highly anticipated Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifier against Benin Republic, with 22 players now in camp ahead of Thursday's match at the Stade Félix Houphouët-Boigny in Abidjan. The team began their preparations on Tuesday night with a training session, and only Spain-based forward Sadiq Umar is expected to join the squad on Wednesday morning.

Speaking to thenff.com, Coach Augustine Eguavoen expressed optimism about the team's mood and readiness for the match. "We have 22 players here, with one more to join us tomorrow. The atmosphere in Abidjan has been fantastic, and we're all excited for the first training session ahead of Thursday's game," Eguavoen said.

On Tuesday, 11 players arrived, including Captain William Ekong, AFCON 2023's Player of the Tournament Victor Osimhen, and forward Ademola Lookman. Defenders Bright Osayi-Samuel, Olaoluwa Aina, Victor Collins, and Calvin Bassey also made their way to camp, along with midfielders Alex Iwobi and Alhassan Yusuf Abdullahi, as well as Germany-based forward Victor Boniface. South Africa-based goalkeeper Stanley Nwabali arrived shortly thereafter.



Other players had already joined camp earlier in the week. Goalkeeper Maduka Okoye, midfielder Wilfred Ndidi, and forward Kelechi Iheanacho arrived, joining the eight players who were already in camp on Monday: Amas Obasogie (goalkeeper), defenders

Gabriel Osho and Bruno Onyemaechi, midfielders Fisayo Dele-Bashiru, Frank Onyeka, and Raphael Onyedika, and forwards Moses Simon and Samuel Chukwueze. Currently leading Group D with 10 points from four matches, having scored seven goals

and conceded none, the Super Eagles are in confident spirits as they head into the match. The Stade Félix Houphouët-Boigny is a venue with mixed memories for the Eagles, where they celebrated victories over Guinea-Bissau, Cameroon, and Angola in the 2023 AFCON.



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**Miss. Tochukwu Oluehi**  
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**Mr. Alhassan Yussif**  
Goal Keeper Coach  
Ghana  
**Guest**



**Miss. Kaylin C Swart**  
Banyana Banyana of South Africa  
Goal Keeper  
**Guest**



**Mr. Tony Donwa**  
Goal Keeper Coach  
Enugu Rengers  
**Guest**



**Mr. Chitou Rachad**  
Goal Keeper Coach  
Rep. Benin  
**Guest**



# 19 Big Scouts Set To Storm Remo For SPOCS Tournament

BY RAYMOND NWADUBA

About 19 top scouts are set to storm Ikenne, Remo in Ogun State for the SPOCS U19 Scouting Tournament, according to organisers.

The program, which will hold November 15 – November 20, 2024, promises the best of grassroots football.

So far, 32 teams have entered for the competition and all is now set for the program to begin.

“Everything is set says Gbenga Victor Agbejeye, CEO Grassrunners FC, the host of the tournament.

“We expect a every high standard scouting tournament like always, he said.

“SPOCS is renowned for excellence and we are ready to keep breaking our own records every year to ensure we continue raising the bar.

“We want to welcome all our guests in advance, the participating teams, as we wish every team the best of luck”.

Below is the comprehensive list of the expected scouts:

1.Bastian Sistemich {Germany}

2.Konrad Mario {Austria}

3.Sascha Werner Empacher {Germany}

4.Kai Gunter Noltemyer {Germany}

5.Erick Cesar Fradrik Baegerfeldt {Sweden}

6.Niclas Bruno Paul Ullrich B. W {Germany}

7.Daniel Kerst {Germany}

8.Bakari Hamadi Masadi Liulige {Tanzania}

9.Shaffih Kajuna Dauda {Tanzania}

10.Helge Payer {Austria}

11.Carsten Fuss {Germany}

12.Zika Filip {Czech}

13.Jesper Leopold Egidius Van Aarnhen {Netherlands}

14. Lucas Bartp Verhaeghe {Belgium}

15. Islam Adel Ibraheem {Egypt}

16. Zhigang Guo {China}

17. Zhang Si {China}

18. Wang Jun{China}

19. Kisa Sehart {Turkey}

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# Joshua's Career Earnings Hit \$200m

Anthony Joshua has surpassed the \$200m mark in career earnings, making him one of boxing's highest earners, surpassing heavyweight rival Tyson Fury and rising star Gervonta Davis, The PUNCH reports.

The former two-time heavyweight champion earned \$75m from fights in 2024 alone, placing him second only to Canelo Alvarez in yearly earnings. The Mexican champion matched Joshua's fight purse but edged him in off-field earnings by \$2m.

Fury, 36, collected \$50m in 2024, taking his career earnings to \$150m, significantly behind Joshua's impressive haul.

Meanwhile, Davis, 30, has accumulated \$50m since his professional debut, with his recent bouts against Ryan Garcia and Frank Martin contributing nearly \$20m to his wealth. Garcia himself has emerged as a pay-per-view star, amassing over \$40m in career earnings.

Joshua's financial ascent began notably with his Saudi Arabia rematch against Andy Ruiz Jr., where he pocketed \$65m. His subsequent battles with Oleksandr Usyk yielded over \$40m for the first two encounters.

Watford-born pugilist's earnings were further boosted by his high-profile clash with Francis Ngannou last year, which added \$50m to his account. Additional paydays include consecutive \$12m purses for fights against Jermaine Franklin and Robert Helenius, plus similar earnings from six spectacular shows at Wembley and the



Principality Stadium.

Currently nursing injuries from his recent loss to Daniel Dubois, Joshua, 35, is eyeing a potential clash with Fury. The two-time world champion is waiting for the outcome of Usyk vs. Fury 2 before making his next move.

With one fight remaining on his Riyadh Season contract, His Excellency Turki Alalshikh is expected to make a lucrative offer for the all-British showdown, should it materialise.

Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn recently confirmed the boxer will not return to action until at least May 2024, ruling out an immediate rematch with

IBF world heavyweight champion DuBois.

"We got one last chapter in this career that we need to make sure we get 100 per cent spot on," Hearn told Boxing News. "When he comes back in May or June or whenever that's going to be, you have to be physically and mentally 100 per cent ready."

# Igali thumbs up Bayelsa United over Rivers United win, charges them to maintain momentum

The commissioner for Sports Development, Bayelsa State, honourable Daniel Igali, has commended Bayelsa United following their first away win of the current NPFL campaign.

Bayelsa United, away from home on Sunday, defeated Rivers United 1-0 in what was a South-South derby to reduce the pressure on coach Ladan Bosso, who was given a two-match ultimatum by the State Government to turn results around positively.

Speaking exclusively on Monday in his office, honourable Igali expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Prosperity Boys despite the pressure.

Igali, who saw the game in Port Harcourt, assessed that the technical crew and players

approached the game with a positive attitude and were resilient, thus the result.

"The one nil win against Rivers United was our first away win of the season and obviously our results haven't been that spectacular which doesn't portray the strength of the team so I think the team is now coming up on their own. You can see with just that win the team is fifth on the log, and we hope to keep the momentum."

"I was very pleased with the way our players played away from home, and I think if we can keep this spirit in our home games, we should be in a very respectable position in the League."

Bayelsa United's next two fixtures are against Kastina United in Yenagoa and a trip to 3SC of Ibadan.



# Delta Preseason Cup 2024: Participating Teams And Fixtures Unveiled



Ughelli, Delta State – The organizers of the Delta Preseason Cup 2024 have officially released the list of participating clubs and the full fixture schedule for the tournament.

- PARTICIPATING TEAMS**  
**GROUP A**  
Warri Wolves (Warri)  
Edel FC (Anambra)  
Excellent FC (Ughelli)  
Young Soccer FA (Issele-Uku)  
**GROUP B**  
Benin Warriors FC (Edo)  
Ughelli Rovers FC (Ughelli)  
Great Avengers FC (Effurun)  
Double Excel FC (Warri)  
**FULL FIXTURES**  
November 15  
Ughelli Rovers vs Benin Warriors – 8am  
Double Excel vs Great Avengers – 10am  
Excellent FC vs Young Soccer FA – 2pm

- Warri Wolves vs Edel FC – 4pm  
November 16  
Double Excel vs Ughelli Rovers – 10am  
Great Avengers vs Benin Warriors – 12pm  
Edel FC vs Young Soccer FC – 2pm  
Excellent FC vs Warri Wolves – 4pm  
November 17  
Ughelli Rovers vs Great Avengers – 10am  
Double Excel vs Benin Warriors – 12noon  
Edel FC vs Excellent FC – 2pm  
Warri Wolves vs Young Soccer FA – 4pm  
November 18 (Semi-Finals and Finals)  
Semi-Final 1 (1st GA vs 2nd GB) – 7am  
Semi-Final 2 (1st GB vs 2nd GA) – 9am  
Finals – 3pm  
Tournament Director, Mr. Onome Ikrehero Johnbull, expressed confidence that the competition will achieve its objectives, fostering teamwork, sportsmanship, and excitement.



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# Dominant Edo Queens victorious over CBE with commanding win

A dominant display by Edo Queens saw the Nigerian outfit overcoming fellow debutants, Commercial Bank of Ethiopia FC 3-0 at the Larbi Zaouli Stadium in Casablanca on Sunday evening.

Brilliantly taken goals by Emem Essien, Folasade Ljamilusi and Chukwuamaka Osigwe were enough to secure a CAF Women's Champions League debut victory for the WAFU B champions against the Ethiopian side.

The youthful Edo Queens wasted no time in getting off their mark, pressing numbers forward and forcing errors of the CBE defence.

Their efforts were duly rewarded as early as the fifth minute when the speedy Ljamilusi's brilliant run concluded with a well taken cross that found a well-positioned Essien who showed composure in bringing it down to fire her side into the lead.

CBE tried getting back into the game, but Queens' high pressing kept them at bay.

Coming back from the recess, the Nigerians extended their lead with Ljamilusi doubling the lead after good combination play between her and Esther Moses in the box for Ljamilusi to send



it into the roof of the net in the 54th minute.

With the match comfortably in their control, Queens continued enjoying a lion's share of possession, with CBE hardly troubling their defence.

The match was eventually put beyond reach for the Ethiopians in the 80th minute when 17-year-old substitute, Chukwuamaka Osigwe controlled a ball from Moses to unleash a left-footed strike that left the keeper with no chance.

The commanding win sees Queens top Group B, with FC Masar behind them following their 1-0 win over reigning champions, Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies earlier on the day.

# Rangers Attacked By Plateau United Fans After Draw In Jos.



A player of Rangers International Football Club, Daniel Onyia, was fatally injured on the head by one of the big stones throw by pebble throwing fans who laid an ambush for the team along Zaria Road, in front of Jos International Stadium as they made their way back to their hotel after a goalless draw in a match day 11, NPFL fixture.

The Toyota Coasta bus conveying the players had four of its side wind shields shattered with some other players getting hit by the large pebbles thrown by the fans who started showing their resentments as soon as the referee blew the final whistle to end the match.

As the players and official buses made to leave the stadium, there were loud bangs on the bodies of the buses as the drivers made a quick dash towards the exit gate.

On its way to where the team was lodged after making a turn at the Farringada round-about, the fans that laid an ambush in front of the stadium, pelted the players' bus with large stones with one of them catching the young midfielder on the face and beside the left eye.

The bus had to make an emergency stop at the Alherri area near St. Murumba College, Jos, where the team medical personnel administered treatment on the injured player.

Plateau State Football Association chairman, Hon. Suleiman Yahaya Kwande and other officials of the football house visited the scene to assess the situation and commiserate with the team over the attack.

In a swift response to the violent attack, the management of Rangers International F.C ably led by Barr. Amobi Ezeaku, has submitted a strong petition to the league organisers, NPFL over the incidence demanding a compensation of Fifty Million Naira ( 50,000,000.00) to take care of medical expenses on the injured players and fix the damages inflicted on the team buses.

The petition sites the inability of Plateau United to provide adequate security before, during and especially, after the match for the visiting team, Rangers, as major reason for the violent incident that brought bodily harm and psychological trauma to players and officials of Rangers as well as destruction of the team bus which negates the true spirit of what the game of football preaches thereby bringing the game to disrepute.

The club called for immediate sanction to be metted out to Plateau United to serve as a deterrent to other clubs in the Nigeria Premier Football League.

# AFCON 2025: Okumagba wants Super Eagles to wrap up qualification in Abidjan

Super Eagles Supporters Club president Vincent Okumagba has urged the national team to wrap up their qualification for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations by beating Benin Republic's Cheetahs when they clash Thursday night in Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire.

The Super Eagles currently lead the group D qualifiers with ten points and Benin Cheetahs are second on the log with six points. A win will seal up qualification for the Super Eagles ahead of their last group game against Rwanda Monday November 18 in Uyo.

"The Super Eagles need to win or at least post a draw in Abidjan to seal qualification. The match in Uyo will be like a send forth for the team.

"On a personal note, I want them to win and give me a fabulous birthday present," said Mr. Okumagba who would be celebrating his birthday on November 16.

He added the SESC is mobilising its members to give the Super Eagles total support in both games.

"We are mobilising our members to give the Super Eagles maximum support in Abidjan. A



good number of our group are based in Cote d'Ivoire, but some would be leaving Lagos to join them.

"As for the match in Uyo we would be fully on ground to give the team all the push they need to collect all the points."



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**ENROLL NOW!**

# Rohr opts for attacking football against Nigeria

Former Super Eagles manager Gernot Rohr, who is now with neighbouring Benin Republic, will opt for attacking football in Thursday's Africa Cup of Nations qualifying duel between Benin Republic and Nigeria.

Sources in the Benin Republic informed Sports Village Square that the Franco-German coach must win the potentially difficult match to get Benin's qualifying chances back on track.

A win will put the team just a point behind the group leaders. He therefore tweaked his 25-man selection with three major returns that added Remo Stars' Sergie Adebisi Obassa who had previously been in goal for the team while featuring for Buffles FC du Borgou.

Also included is Ryan Adigo. His inclusion and that of Obassa is to present an air-tight defence line to wade off possible counter-attack by the Su-



per Eagles whose territory, the Benin Cheetahs hope to put under constant bombardment.

To further seal the Cheetahs' defence line, Cédric Hountondji has been assigned as a replacement for injured Rabiou Sankamao.

It is the first time that Sankamao will be absent from Gernot Rohr's squad since his U-20 days at Egypt 2022.

David Kiki who has been absent since the injury he sustained last September in Uyo during the first-leg match with the Super Eagles has recovered and will be fielded on Thursday night.

He could be at the left-full back in place of Yohan Roche. Possibly to lead the attack will be the duo of Jodel Dossou and Steve Mouna, who scored last June in Benin Republic's first-ever defeat of the Nigerian national team in 65 years.

## Twelve Benin Cheetahs land in Abidjan to battle Super Eagles

The Cheetahs of Benin Republic are already gathering in Abidjan, their adopted home as they confront the Super Eagles on the same ground where they had their famous 2-1 win in World Cup qualifiers last June.

The last international break of the year 2024 opens this Monday, November 11. To begin preparations for the matches of the 5th and 6th days of the CAN 2025 qualifiers, the Cheetahs are already joining Gernot Rohr and his gang in Abidjan.

According to Roméo Aklozo, a Benin Republic football commentator, out of the 25 players called up by Gernot Rohr, about 10 were already in Abidjan since Sunday. Eight were expected as of Monday.

The expected are Steve Mounié, Jodel Dossou, Marcel Danjinnou, Andreas Hountondji, Tamimou Ouorou, David Kiki, Sessi d'Almeida and Olivier Verdon.



## You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet, Edo Queens coach blasts ahead of clash with Egypt's FC Masar



Ahead of Wednesday's CAF Women's Champions League duel of Nigeria's Edo Queens and Egypt's FC Masar, Moses Aduku, the coach of the Nigerian side is hopeful of another resounding win.

At the team's debut on Sunday, Edo Queens overwhelmed fellow newcomers,

Edo Queens head coach, Moses Aduku says every match of the CAF Women's Champions League Morocco 2024 must be approached like a cup final. Central Bank of Ethiopia FC 3-0.

Aduku can now afford to raise his voice, saying that his team would play every match as if it were the final.

But the Egyptians are no pushovers as they inflicted a surprise 1-0 defeat on reigning champions, Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa.

Recalling Edo Queen's defeat of the Ethiopi-

ans, Aduku remarked: "We are grateful for the victory. The Ethiopian side was no pushover. We denied them of playing their game. If you are to stay in a competition, you need to win your first game. We are here to compete and take it one game at a time."

A win against FC Masar on Wednesday will see Edo Queens in a good position to historically secure a place in the semi-finals of the competition, something that the coach says will not come easy, with a high in the confident side like Masar.

"Their defeating the champions has certainly given them confidence, but we are not here to undermine any team. What I have told my team is that every team that is here are potential champions and we have to play every game like it is a cup final" concluded the coach.

## Continental Gymnastics Cup: TIG Elevates Nigeria's Pride in Portugal

Nigeria's premier gymnastics club, Tony International Gymnastics (TIG), is flying the nation's flag high at the Continental Gymnastics Cup in Portugal. This major competition not only allows athletes to earn points towards Olympic qualification but also serves as an invaluable platform for gymnasts to showcase their skills and gain critical points for international tournaments.

TIG is represented by two standout athletes, Angela Marinoni and Desire Ehnahoro, in this event. Originally, the club intended to field a team of eight, including Oluwasemilore Praise Adeoye, Chiwendu Chenille Okpandu, Chimamanda Onyeabor, Chukwumnadigide Elah Oguegbulu, Francisca Chiagoziem Okpanku, and Desire Oluuebube Ehnahoro-Agbi. However, due to visa and financial challenges, only Marinoni and Ehnahoro were able to travel, even though the full team had been registered.

Reflecting on their performance so far, TIG President Anthony Asuquo praised the athletes'

resilience and determination. "I'm incredibly proud of Angela and Desire for how they've conducted themselves, following their routines and achieving gold, silver, and bronze medals amongst themselves. Competing in an Olympic scoring event exposes them to athletes they might face at the Olympics, which is invaluable experience."

Asuquo emphasized TIG's commitment to giving athletes international exposure, despite Nigeria's challenging economic environment. "We strive to provide our athletes with the opportunities they need. While I wished we could have brought more athletes, the current situation made it difficult."

He expressed optimism that with experienced sports administrators like Mallam Shehu Dikko joining the fold, Nigerian sports might enter a period of growth and success.

This year's Continental Gymnastics Cup has drawn 19 clubs from around the globe, all competing for critical points in Portugal.



# Christ's School Triumphs in Thrilling Ekiti Governors Cup 2024 Opener



The 2024 edition of the Ekiti Governors Cup kicked off in dramatic fashion on Tuesday as Christ's School, Ado-Ekiti, edged out Anglican High School in a nail-biting 4-3 encounter. The match, held at the Oluyemi Kayode Stadium, was an electrifying display of skill, determination, and resilience from both teams.

The game began with Anglican High School taking control early. Ayodele Ebenezer found the net in the 13th minute with a well-placed shot, followed by Faith Adeyemi's clinical finish in the 19th minute, giving Anglican High School a commanding 2-0 lead.

However, Christ's School quickly regrouped. In a show of grit, Ajayi Bright turned the tide with two quick goals in the 25th and 27th minutes, leveling the match at halftime. The second half was equally intense, with both teams relentlessly pushing for victory. Christ's School ultimately emerged victorious, thanks to decisive strikes that sealed the game 4-3 in their favor.

The event drew an impressive array of dignitaries, underscoring its significance. Among those present were Mrs. Olusola Osetoba, the Technical Advisor to the

Governor on Sports, and Special Assistants to the Governor on Sports. The permanent secretary for sports and the Ekiti Football Association chairman were also in attendance, alongside a large crowd of enthusiastic supporters.

The day was packed with exciting matches. In other fixtures, Eso-Obe Community School, Ikoro, defeated Iloro Community School with a convincing 3-0 scoreline. Meanwhile, Corpus Christi College, Ilawe, showcased their dominance by thrashing Oniwe Grammar School 5-1.

The action continues on Wednesday, with Iludun Community High School set to clash with Oniyo Grammar School. Erinmope High School will take on Aayo Oja High School, while Saliu Adeoti and Eyomojo Osun High School are also scheduled to battle it out.

Speaking after the opening matches, Yomi Elijah, the founder of the Schools' Sports Foundation, Organisers of the Ekiti Governors Cup, expressed gratitude to all those who contributed to the tournament's success.

"This event is a testament to our col-



lective effort to promote grassroots sports in Ekiti. I want to thank everyone, students, coaches, sponsors, and government officials, for their unwavering support," he said.

The Ekiti Governors Cup promises to be a thrilling spectacle of youth talent, as schools from across the state compete for glory in this prestigious tournament.

The tournament is solely sponsored by Peculiar Ultimate Concerns..

# Nigerian British Basketball Player Set Sights on Huge Accomplishments

The rising profile of Nigerian-British basketball player Divine-Blessing Obamakinwa is generating rave reviews in the United Kingdom.

Obamakinwa continued to put up impressive numbers for Liverpool Basketball II Club in the ongoing National Basketball League(NBL) Conference Championship.

Looking ahead to this Sunday's(17 November 2024) clash with Bolton State University Basketball Club, the 6ft 7 inches center said they were determined to protect their immaculate start to the season.

"In our next game against Bolton University, we will come out forcefully to continue our winning streak, though we have never lost any game since we gained promotion to NBL Division 4 but that will not make us to look down on our opponents," he stated.

Obamakinwa's contribution to Liverpool's impressive campaign remains eye-catching.

He scored 20 points in his team's 157-48 away victory over Stockport Basketball Club last weekend to finish 2nd highest scorer in the game.

Despite the blowout victory, Obamakinwa and his teammates are not getting carried away in the championship.

"The team aims is to cross each line whenever they get there. Every game should be taken step by step until we get to the NBL Super League



which is the biggest league in UK. The higher you go, the tougher the challenges are," he told correspondent Philips Adefiyoye in the UK.

"The Stockport match was a good game, though in the first quarter, we made some mis-

takes and in the second quarter we bounced back as a team with confidence. Scoring 20 points should not be the limit of what I am targeting, but as the game progresses I will continue scoring with confidence whenever I find myself in a good

position to score."

Obamakinwa whose parents hail from Ondo and Ekiti States of South-western Nigeria nurses the ambition of representing the African country if the door is open.

His passion for Nigerian basketball was further ignited after a telephone conversation with former D'Tigers' captain, Olumide Oyedele who provided him with valuable words of encouragement.

In his words:"Olumide Oyedele advice helped me hundred percent to increase my passion for the slam and dunk game. He admonished me to keep working hard and be focused in order to attain the greater height."

Advancing his club career is also a top priority for Obamakinwa who sees himself landing in the NBA in the future.

He described Phoenix Suns' power forward Kelvin Durant as his idol, due to the American's style of play and his efficacy on the court.

"My ambition o move to the United State of America to further my basketball career in the NBA is still intact which can never be swept under the carpet.

"I watch Kelvin Durant a lot, he is very skillful and calculative on the court of play, he is a game changer, which is why I take him as my role model," he stressed.



OUR FATHER  
OUR HERO  
GOES HOME

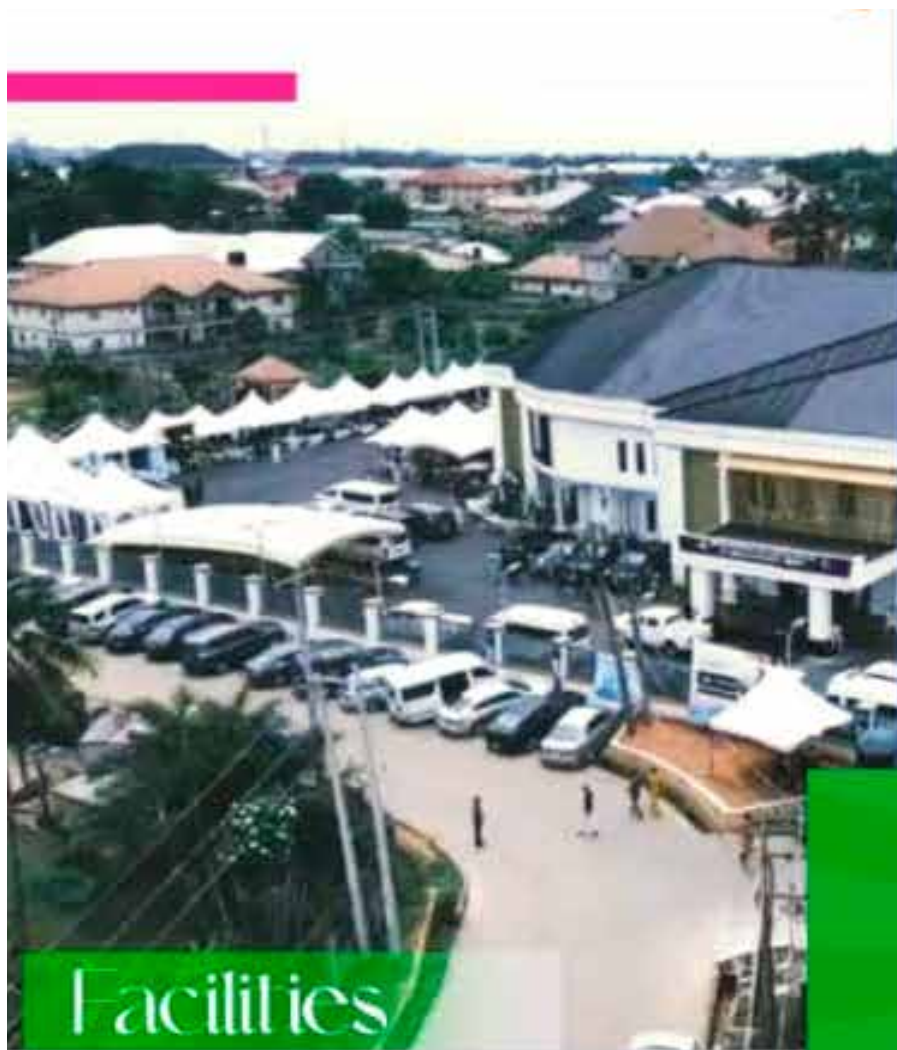
LATE SEN. (DR.) PATRICK  
IFEANYI UBAH  
(EBUBECHUKWUZO)  
1971 - 2024



KEEP THESE DATES FOR OUR HERO

- **SERVICE OF SONGS/  
NIGHT OF TRIBUTES - LAGOS**  
Date: Thursday November 14, 2024  
Time: 4:00PM  
Venue: Harbour Point, Victoria Island
- **COMMENDATION SERVICE - LAGOS**  
Date: Friday November 15, 2024  
Time: 10:00AM  
Venue: Church of Assumption, Falomo, Ikoyi
- **NIGHT OF TRIBUTES - ABUJA**  
Date: November 18, 2024  
Time: 5:00PM  
Venue: NAF Conference Centre and Suites  
Plot 496 Ahmadu Bello Way, Abuja
- **VALEDICTORY SECTION**  
Date: November 19, 2024  
Venue: Red Chamber NASS  
Time: 10:00AM
- **WAKE-KEEP/SERVICE OF SONGS - NNEWI**  
Date: Thursday November 21, 2024  
Time: 6:00PM  
Venue: Late Senator Ubah's Residence, Umuanuka,  
Otolu, Nnewi

- **FUNERAL SERVICE - NNEWI**  
Date: Friday November 22, 2024  
Time: 10:00AM  
Venue: Late Senator Ubah's Residence, Umuanuka,  
Otolu, Nnewi
- **FUNERAL CEREMONY - NNEWI**  
Date: Friday November 22, 2024  
Time: 12:00PM  
Venue: Late Senator Ubah's Residence, Umuanuka,  
Otolu, Nnewi
- **CONTINUATION OF FUNERAL - NNEWI**  
Date: Saturday November 23, 2024  
Time: 10:00AM  
Venue: Late Senator Ubah's Residence, Umuanuka,  
Otolu, Nnewi
- **OUTING SERVICE - NNEWI**  
Date: Sunday November 24, 2024  
Time: 10:00AM  
Venue: St Peter's Catholic Church, Umuanuka Otolu



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- 3 Fully furnished back stage rooms for offices, changing rooms or holding purposes.
- Exotic Hall - 500 capacity
- Mini Hall - 200 capacity
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# SLIDING TACKLES: THE 3RD (GOV DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS! AND ! (BAYELSA) ; WINS IT ; WITH (OVERRIDING) FINESSE !

Yes! It's No Longer CURRENT NEWS that WRESTLING (the GAME of the MATS and the SMART);took CENTRE STAGE, Last Week with the COMMENCEMENT of the Captivating 3RD (GOV. DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS in YENAGOA ( the CAPITAL CITY of BAYELSA STATE)! And! Yes! It's GOOD NEWS that NIGERIA'S hard-hitting Forthright Football Column, SLIDING TACKLES was Divinely there LIVE to Witness and Torchlight, the Events and Activities of the WRESTLING SHOWPIECE Called - THE 3RD (GOV. DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS; which had Paraded the PHYSICAL REPRESENTATION of 27 STATES/FCT; NIGERIA ELITE WRESTLING CLUBS; and MILITARY/PARAMILITARY CLUBS! Yes! It's GREAT NEWS especially for NIGERIA SPORTS; that the 3RD (GOV. DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS, which turned out a Huge Success and a Sports Blockbuster Hit? PARADED over 600 TOP NATIONAL WRESTLERS and Upcoming Budding YOUNG WRESTLERS who ALL CAME TO CONQUER AND WIN!

Yes! The 3RD (GOV. DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS was indeed a SHOWPIECE (3-COURSE) DISH, Excellently COOKED by the Bayelsa Sports Commissioner/President of the Nigeria Wrestling Federation Board, Legendary WRESTLING CHAMPION, DR. DANIEL IGALI! Yes! The Internationally-rated 3RD (GOV. DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS was indeed a Sumptuous Meal; POWERED and HOSTED by the Bayelsa State Government under the Able Leadership of the Sports loving, Bayelsa State Governor, DOUYE DIRI, who is Fondly Called - THE GAMES MASTER! Yes! The Most Exciting DISTINCTION of the (GOV. DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS, was in the PACKAGING and DELIVERY by the CHAMPION DR. DANIEL IGALI led NIGERIA WRESTLING FEDERATION BOARD! Yes! The PRESENTATION of the NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS by WRESTLING FEDERATION BOARD, was MASTERCLASS, with No Stories or Complaints because the OFFICIATING was FAIR and Seen to be so by we, the Spectators! Yes! Special Mention Must also go to the WRESTLING BOARDS of the PARTICIPATING STATES who did a Tremendous and Wonderful Job as Practically Seen from the Top notch QUALITY PERFORMANCE of their WRESTLERS at the CLASSICS! Yes! The STATES WRESTLING BOARDS, did a Marvelous Yeoman's Job as they Presented WELL GROOMED WRESTLERS in the UNDER 15; UNDER 19; and SENIOR CATEGORIES (Both MEN and WOMEN)! Yes! The



Honest RATING of SLIDING TACKLES on the 3RD (GOV. DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS; is that the WRESTLING SHOWDOWN was MAGNIFICENT and Should Be A TEXTBOOK for OTHER SPORTS FEDERATION BOARDS to STUDY and ADOPT Especially on FAIRPLAY and ORGANISATION! NOTE that ACCREDITATION was Seamlessly Conducted and There Were NO AGE CHEATS COMPLAINS!

3RD ( GOV . DOUYE DIRI ) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS ; ENDS IN ( GRAND STYLE )!

Yes! It's a Stark Reality that in Strict Adherence to the Life's Directive that WHATSOEVER HAS A BEGINNING, MUST HAVE, AN ENDING! SLIDING TACKLES Authoritatively Reports that the Highly Entertaining 3RD (GOV. DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS; which held for ONE WEEK in YENAGOA, Bayelsa State (Also Known as "THE PROSPERITY STATE"); CAME TO A BEFITTING END, YESTERDAY (Saturday, 9th November, 2024); amidst Pomp and Pageantry! Yes! The CLOSING CEREMONY of the 3RD (GOV. DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS was indeed an Electrifying CLIMAX to the Hugely Successful NATIONAL WRESTLING FESTIVAL! Yes! ALL the EXPECTED INVITED SPECIAL GUESTS were PRESENT, Led by the GAMES MASTER himself (GOV. DOUYE DIRI)! Also! In Attendance were the Bayelsa State Deputy Governor, the Chief of Defence Staff, the Comptroller General of the Nigeria Customs Services, the SSG of Bayelsa State Government,

the CEO, Premium Trust Bank (Age-long MAJOR SPONSORS of the NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS); the Strong WORLD WRESTLING DELEGATION, and Other Important Dignitaries!

Yes! HOSTS/DEFENDING CHAMPIONS, BAYELSA STATE WRESTLERS; WON THE 3RD (GOV. DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS; with an OVERWHELMING COMMAND DISPLAY Laced With NATURAL SKILLS and FINESSE! Yes! The VICTORY of BAYELSA STATE in the Just Concluded NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS, was Total and Overriding as BAYELSA WON ALL TROPHIES for the BEST YOUNG WRESTLERS (MALE and FEMALE Categories)! And! Finally! BAYELSA Confirmed it's UNDISPUTED DOMINANCE in NIGERIA WRESTLING, by EMERGING the OVERALL BEST WRESTLING TEAM of the 3RD (GOV. DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS! But! It's instructive to Observe that the Seemingly CLEAR SUPREMACY of the GIFTED BAYELSA WRESTLERS, didn't Come WITHOUT A FIERCE FIGHT from the OTHER STATES who ALL CAME TO CONQUER AND WIN! No! The WRESTLERS from OTHER STATES, truly were No PUSHOVERS, as They gave BAYELSA, a GOOD RUN for their MEDALS! Yes! Other WRESTLING STATES like DELTA, ONDO, EDO, KANO had a GOOD SHOWING at the (GOV. DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS! Yes! ONE (Spectacular) YOUNG WRESTLER from DELTA STATE WON (ALL HIS 8 WRESTLING FIGHTS) with KNOCKOUTS to EMERGE as THE BEST WRES-

TLER in the MALE CATEGORY! Then! The STRONG (Bullish) WRESTLER from ONDO STATE, DESTROYED ALL HER OPPONENTS to GRAB the BEST AWARD in HER FEMALE (WEIGHT) CATEGORY! The SUPERSTAR to WATCH OUT for in the FUTURE, is the GIFTED YOUNG WRESTLER from BAYELSA STATE that WON THE BEST FEMALE WRESTLER of the NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS!

FINALLY ! The 3RD (DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS was a Chartbursting WRESTLING EXTRAVAGANZA which Honestly lived up to it's BILLINGS and THEME of - ' PREPARING (WRESTLING) CHAMPIONS; FOR THE FUTURE"! Yes! The WRESTLING CLASSICS indeed Showcased and Produced FUTURE WORLD BEATERS and CHAMPIONS! SLIDING TACKLES also Observed that the WRESTLERS from the RIVERINE AREAS of the NATION; Seem to be MOST NATURALLY GIFTED in the WRESTLING SPORT than WRESTLERS from the LAND STATES! Yes! The Excessively Talented YOUNG WRESTLERS of BAYELSA, ONDO and EDO STATES proved this Assertion at the Just Concluded 3RD (GOV. DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS; with Amazing and Unbelievable WRESTLING SKILLS!

Once again! Take a Well deserved BOW, the Sports loving GOVERNOR of BAYELSA STATE, DOUYE DIRI (the GAMES MASTER); for the Wonderful HOSTING! Take Your Mandatory BOW, the President of the NIGERIA WRESTLING FEDERATION BOARD/ Bayelsa State Sports COMMISSIONER, CHAMPION DANIEL IGALI, for COOKING a GOOD WRESTLING DISH (For the NATION)! Then! Big KUDOS to the Entire BOARD of the NIGERIA WRESTLING FEDERATION and the BOARDS of the STATES WRESTLING ASSOCIATIONS for a WONDERFUL PACKAGE and PRESENTATION! COMMENDATIONS to the BOARDS of the ELITE WRESTLING CLUBS and the MILITARY/ PARAMILITARY WRESTLING AUTHORITIES for a Fantastic REPRESENTATION and DISPLAY! CONGRATULATIONS to ALL the WRESTLERS and their hard-working COACHES for YOUR DETERMINED GUSTY PERFORMANCE at the CLASSICS! Yes! The 3RD (DOUYE DIRI) NATIONAL WRESTLING CLASSICS; ENDED in (SPLENDOR) .....

" AND ! (BAYELSA) WON IT ; WITH (OVERRIDING) FINESSE "!

Barrister lyke Igbokwe ( Torchlight Of Nigeria Football )  
WhatsApp : 09136715922

# OBITUARY REMINDER!!!

Sequel to the above, the funeral rites of our departed elder, senior and colleague, Mr IGIEBOR MICHAEL ( a k a Ben Johnson) comes up as approved by his family. The Edo State Football Referees Council members are please directed to attend the service of songs slated for Thursday, 21/11/2024. Venue is 33, Omorodion Street, off College road, off Ekenwan road, Benin City. Time is 3pm. May the soul of late Mr Mike IGIEBOR rest in peace. Thanks & God bless you all.  
E-signed by,  
OKOBI SYLVESTER  
(CPS)

FUNERAL INVITATION



In Loving Memory Of  
**IGIEBOR MICHAEL  
IYIEWUARE**

RSVP: 08039131642

21st Nov. 2024: Body Leaves God's Care Mortuary, No 85, Ekenwa Rd, Benin City to his Residence at: No 33 Omorodion Street off College Road Off Ekenwan Rd, Benin City by 10am  
Service of Song at His Residence (address as above) by 3pm

23rd Nov. 2024, Social Dance at No 13 College Road Open Field event Centre Beside St. Francis Catholic Church Time: 1pm

24th Nov. 2024 Thanksgiving Service at Assemblies of God Church, Oyakhilomen Temple, No 4, Oyakhilomen Avenue Behind Former Ekenwan Park Off Ekenwan Road. Time: 9am



# AMANYANABO

## FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

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WILLIAM DAPPA III, EDWARD I, PEREKULE XI, JP, DSSRS, CON

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**1ST PRIZE**  
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**2ND PRIZE**  
**N2,000,000**

**3RD PRIZE**  
**N1,000,000**

Interested teams from Bonny Kingdom to  
pick up forms from 15th-30th October.  
From Graftons Place  
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Terms & conditions apply

**MATCHES START**  
**30TH NOV -**  
**13TH DEC 2024**

**VENUE** - GOVT. SCHOOL, SHELL ROAD, BONNY ISLAND  
**TIME** - 1PM & 4PM MATCH DAYS



MEDIA PARTNERS

