

# BONES OF STEEL TAKES ON THE ULTIMATE FIGHTER

EFC TAKEOVER OF THE GLOBAL STAGE CONTINUES

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**Johannesburg, South Africa** - EFC flyweight contender Tumelo ‘Bones of Steel’ Manyamala has made the bold decision to put his EFC contract on hold to compete in The UFC’s Ultimate Fighter (TUF) reality show. This incredible opportunity comes after Manyamala, one of the top-ranked flyweight fighters in EFC, was poised to compete for a number one contender spot against Musa Sethwape. However in the lead up, the talented athlete received an offer to enter the prestigious TUF house, a gateway to the UFC, and he has seized the opportunity to further his career on the worlds’ biggest stage.

Manyamala’s move mirrors the journeys of other EFC athletes who have successfully made the transition to the UFC Octagon. Notably, former EFC flyweight champion Nzazimulo Zulu, and with his success and with the success of other former EFC champions like former EFC female flyweight division queen Manon Fiorot

demolishing the UFC roster and one step away from championship status, Manyamala hopes to follow in similar footsteps. His decision showcases how EFC continues to serve as an invaluable stepping stone for African and world athletes, providing them with the exposure and opportunities they need to reach the biggest stages in mixed martial arts.

EFC has long been known as the leading MMA organization in Africa, and Manyamala's decision is further proof of the ever-growing recognition of African talent. With the flyweight division in EFC and across the African continent continuing to thrive, the opportunities for EFC athletes are endless. The most recent EFC flyweight champion, Edson Machavane, recently signed with ONE Championship, marking yet another significant step in the global rise of EFC talent. The flyweight division is flying high, with Manyamala's decision only adding to the excitement surrounding the weight class.

Graeme Cartmell, EFC matchmaker, has noted a surge of interest from top talent from around the world looking to join the EFC roster and his next task is to secure a challenger for Willie van Rooyen, the current number one EFC flyweight contender. With a growing pool of athletes, the flyweight division is poised to remain one of the most exciting and competitive in the organization.

Cairo Howarth, EFC President, commented on the increasing demand for the organisations athletes:

*"The demand for EFC athletes to compete in the UFC and other major leagues has grown exponentially in recent years, and it's been incredible to see our athletes rise to the occasion. Every time one of them takes the next step in their career, it inspires more young talent to chase their dreams and challenge themselves at the highest levels. This is all made possible by our partners and the growing exposure we're able to provide, and we look forward to the world continuing to watch EFC athletes on the global stage."*

As EFC continues to showcase the very best African athletes taking on the world, the organization would like to thank the millions of fans who watch and support the sport and its athletes. The rise of EFC athletes is not only a win for the athletes but for the sport as a whole, and we look forward to continuing this incredible journey together.