

KNOX LEGACY SERIES REVEALS CHAMPIONSHIP CARD FOR CAPE TOWN



Cape Town, South Africa — EFC has officially confirmed the championship-heavy main card for the inaugural KNOX Legacy Series, set to take place on Thursday, 26 February 2026 at the GrandWest Grand Arena in Cape Town.

The event will see Cape Town's leading MMA champions and contenders face elite international challengers, delivering a true global showcase for African mixed martial arts in one of the world's most iconic cities.

The KNOX Legacy Series is a purpose-led platform delivered in partnership with the City of Cape Town and powered by EFC. The series is led by former UFC middleweight champion and South Africa's first UFC champion, Dricus du Plessis, whose vision for the event centres on opportunity, pathway-building, and creating world-class stages for the next generation of athletes.

Confirmed Main Card and Championship Bouts

Middleweight Championship – Main Event

Cape Town's own Luke Michael defends the EFC middleweight title against Diego Bandu of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Bantamweight Championship – Co-Main Event

Cape Town favourite Faez Jacobs puts his EFC bantamweight title on the line against Australia's Trent Girdham.

Interim Lightweight Championship

Adrian Sanchez faces Brazil's Jefferson Pereira for the interim title, after Sanchez was originally scheduled to challenge the reigning champion Martin van Staden before an injury reshaped the division.

Flyweight Grand Prix Final

Rising Cape Town talent Tumelo Manyamala advances from The Ultimate Fighter house to meet Ntando Zondi for the flyweight championship.

Featured Flyweight Bout – Main Card Opener

Cape Town standout Terrance Ballelo opens the main card against Brazil's Kleber Sousa in a pivotal flyweight contest.

The main card reflects the core positioning of the KNOX Legacy Series: local excellence tested against international standards, forged on a global stage. Additional bouts will be revealed in the coming weeks.

Leadership and Partnership

As the driving force behind the series, Dricus du Plessis plays a leadership role rather than competing, supporting athletes and the sport through long-term platform building.

"This vision is about giving back to the sport that gave me everything," du Plessis has said. "Creating opportunities for people to follow their dreams as a career."

KNOX Hydrate co-founder Ethan Hughes highlighted the broader purpose behind the initiative, noting that the Legacy Series is designed to elevate South African MMA by providing meaningful global exposure and opportunity.

The City of Cape Town, represented by Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis, has backed the event as part of the city's commitment to hosting major international sporting events and positioning Cape Town as a world-class destination for global competition.

EFC President Cairo Howarth confirmed that the KNOX Legacy Series will open EFC's 2026 calendar in the biggest way possible, with the event set for extensive global broadcast and international reach.

Event Details

EFC 131: KNOX Legacy Series
Thursday, 26 February 2026
GrandWest Grand Arena, Cape Town, South Africa

Broadcast information available at www.efcworldwide.com

About KNOX Hydrate®

KNOX Hydration is a South African wellness brand founded by UFC champion Dricus du Plessis and Ethan Hughes. Focused on better-for-you products, KNOX makes hydration, replenishment, and recovery accessible for all ages. Its lineup includes caffeine-free Sparkling Hydration for the whole family and convenient Electrolyte + Hydration sachets for on-the-go performance.

Believing optimal hydration powers both body and mind, KNOX helps people operate at their best. The brand also reinvests in local communities, supporting youth education, fitness initiatives, amateur sports, and emerging athletes, fueling the next generation's pursuit of purpose.

For more information visit knoxydrate.com or follow:

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