

DDP BRINGS KNOX LEGACY SERIES TO CAPE TOWN

A Global MMA Showcase Arrives Feb 2026

17 November 2025



Cape Town, South Africa — Today, the City of Cape Town, KNOX Hydrate and the EFC formally announced the launch of the KNOX Legacy Series, a world-class mixed martial arts event set to take place at GrandWest on Thursday, 26 February 2026. The announcement was made during a special press conference in Seapoint, Cape Town.

The event will see Cape Town's best MMA athletes take on elite challengers from across the globe, bringing a true international showdown to one of the world's most iconic cities. A short promotional video released today teased the scale of the spectacle, confirming the involvement of UFC superstar and KNOX co-founder, Dricus du Plessis, and highlighting Cape Town as the stage where the world will compete.

Speaking at the event, Cape Town Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis expressed the City's support for hosting major global sporting events:

"I have seen why Dricus is a champion, and it's because he does not give up, this has been a long time in the making and been a passion and a vision of his for a couple of years now and it has been so awesome to see how determined he has been to make this happen. We are very privileged that this is going to be hosted in Cape Town."

When it became clear that it was going to be overwhelmingly expensive to try have a UFC sanctioned event, Dricus was still determined that we were going to bring an MMA event to Cape Town and he was determined to see it through.

Cape Town is super excited to host this event along with Knox and the EFC. We are always keen to bring more events down to Cape Town, especially global sporting events like this one. There is a huge fan base in Cape Town, we know there will be big support for the event in the city and we know it will be broadcast nationally and internationally. This will help us significantly in showing that Cape Town can host a UFC title bout with Dricus in the future."

Dricus du Plessis, co-founder of KNOX and South Africa's first UFC champion, shared a few words and his vision for the series:

"Amazing to be here, amazing to be back! Sitting here feels almost like it was when I was back in the EFC. It's incredible how it went full circle. What I want to speak about is what this event represents. Not about only the fights or the fighters and how amazing that's going to be... For me it was a vision. From the first day I started mixed martial arts and decided I'm going to do this professionally I've never had another job in my life. From the first day I watched the sport it was EFC 9 or 10. I walked into the Dome and I couldn't believe this massive event and I knew I needed to be there... and here I am today a former world champion which was all a part of that day I walked into that arena... I want more people to have that opportunity. I know how hard it is to make it happen when you're starting off in this sport... I think in South Africa and Africa as a whole we have so little in comparison to the other fighting countries but we have managed to do so great... This vision is to give back to the sport that gave me everything.... This is not me doing this, this is me doing this alongside the EFC that has invested in this sport since I was 14 or 15 years old.

All of us that are here in South Africa know about this sport because the EFC gave us all that platform to make it happen. That's why we partnered with them. They started MMA on the African continent and took it to that level... I don't really want to speak about a UFC at this event because this is our event. What we want to do is show the world and show these massive organisations that we can host a world class event and I have no doubt about that...

The other big thing for me is that finally MMA is joining with the city, joining with the government and being recognised as a sport, not as fighting, but as a sport, and this will give so many people the opportunity to see this and to follow their dreams as a career... To finally get that recognition, thank you Cape Town!"

KNOX co-founder Ethan Hughes highlighted the company's role in elevating South African sport:

"When Dricus and I founded Knox our mission was simply to create an alternative healthier and accessible lifestyle product... Today we proudly introduced the Knox Legacy Series it's not just another night of fights, it's a celebration of the legacy of the sport that has created opportunities for so many South Africans... Sport unites us, we cherish our heroes and I'm thankful to call one such hero a friend. Dricus asked me when we were

forming the company if I could please help spread the true possibilities of MMA in South Africa to a global audience...Today I helped fulfil that request."

EFC President Cairo Howarth confirmed that the KNOX Legacy Series will open the EFC's 2026 calendar:

"Thank you to everyone who made this happen...This series is going to kick off EFC's 2026 calendar next year in the biggest way possible. It's going to be broadcast around the world globally on different TV networks. It's going to have unbelievable digital traction, we literally talking about hundreds of millions of people watching. We are super excited for it and really grateful for the opportunity. Big news to come in the coming weeks!"

The press conference concluded with the introduction of five Cape Town athletes who will compete on the card:

Luke Michael, Faez Jacobs, Terence Balelo, Tumelo Manyamala and Adrian Sanchez, with their international opponents to be revealed soon.

The KNOX Legacy Series marks a milestone for MMA in South Africa, blending global competition, top-tier production, and Cape Town's world-class hosting capability to create an event unlike any in EFC's recent history.

Event Details: KNOX Legacy Series
Date: Thursday, 26 February 2026
Venue: GrandWest Arena, Cape Town

More information, athlete matchups, and broadcast details will be announced soon.

Watch the full press conference [HERE](#)
Official photos from the day available [HERE](#)

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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