

THE LONG ROAD TO THE HEXAGON

Kheola Godfrey and Thapelo "Rasta" Malatjie make their professional debuts at EFC 138



Johannesburg, South Africa - 14 August 2026

Two South African athletes will take the biggest step of their respective careers when Kheola Godfrey faces Thapelo "Rasta" Malatjie in a flyweight contest at EFC 138 on Thursday, 8 October, with both men making their professional mixed martial arts debuts.

For Godfrey, the opportunity represents the culmination of a journey that began when he started training mixed martial arts in 2019. His path to the professional ranks has included years of amateur competition, grappling and countless rounds alongside some of Africa's most accomplished fighters, but it has also been interrupted by circumstances far beyond competition.

After leaving his village in search of greater opportunities, financial hardship and periods of homelessness forced Godfrey to step away from the sport at different stages of his journey. Each time circumstances allowed, he returned. Training under former EFC champion Demarte Pena at Fight City in Johannesburg, Godfrey finally arrives at EFC with his professional licence and the opportunity he has spent years working towards.

His training experience has placed him alongside athletes including Igeu Kabesa, Nkazimulu Zulu, Tumisang Madiba, Themba Gorimbo, Silvester Chipfumbu and Nicolaas Hwende. Those years spent in elite training environments have provided an education that extends well beyond what an amateur record can show.

Malatjie arrives by a different route. The 23 year old Johannesburg prospect has compiled a 4-1 amateur record, with all four victories coming by submission. Through competition on the South African amateur circuit, "Rasta" has established a clear threat on the ground with finishes by rear naked choke, guillotine and Ninja Choke.

Following the only defeat of his amateur career, Malatjie responded with three consecutive submission victories. That run has earned him the opportunity to leave the amateur ranks behind and test his submission game at professional level.

For Godfrey, EFC 138 represents an opportunity years in the making. For Malatjie, it is the next step after an impressive amateur run. On 8 October, two very different journeys arrive at the same destination inside the EFC Hexagon.

EFC 138 is presented by World Sports Betting and takes place on Thursday, 8 October at the WSB EFC Arena in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Tickets and broadcast information are available at: <https://efcworldwide.com>

About EFC® - The Extreme Fighting Championship®

Headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa, EFC is a world leading mixed martial arts organisation. EFC produces 10 live events annually at sold out arenas. With over 200 athletes exclusively contracted to the organisation, EFC showcases the greatest warriors on the planet. EFC events are broadcast in over 120 countries around the world on numerous television networks in multiple languages. EFC programming is available weekly in more than 600 million television households globally, making it one of the most recognisable MMA brands in the world.

For more information visit efcworldwide.com or follow:

[Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#)