

Bulls have a chance to advance in the NBA Cup, but at what cost?

FROM THE ARCHIVE

The Nigeria state remain work in progress destined to achieve the aspirations desired of a virile state in the nearest future that will guarantee a self sustainable nation.

Nigeria's Super Falcons land in France for crucial test against Les Bleues in Angers



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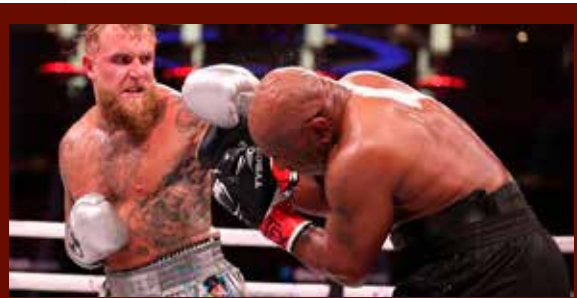
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The New Sports Hierarchy Should Be Servant Leaders



NNL 25: Godswill Akpabio United FC Officially Unveiled



Jake Paul 'in Talks' to Fight Former Boxing World Champion Next

X



World Athletics dangles \$10m jackpot before Amusan, Ofili, Brume, others



The New Sports Hierarchy Should Be Servant Leaders

It was in the era of Nigeria late sports icons that sports administration was never questionable with notable astute sports administrators made records that could be verified as being trusted, transparent and exact in decisions with notable names like Pa. Isaac Akioye , Pa Jimmy Omagbemi, Brig Gen Samuel Osaigbovo Ogbemudia (rtd) Pa, Alhaji Buba Ahmed, Pa Awotore Elaya of blessed memory including Alh Ibrahim Galadima who is un arguably of divine providence remained a living legend amongst the distinguished personalities that has served this country diligently in their course of service with indelible records which will remain in the test of times as a reference point for the generation yet unborn as reliable achieve in sports administration.

Unlike a few that has mortgaged human integrity who held public offices with attitudes of being economical with the truth even when they were on trust turning it as family benefits by applying the same rules and regulations which their predecessors interpreted in accuracies to achieved all times records the other way round at a time it matters most in a state of confusion that has caused more harm than good mortgaging facts and their conscience for what so ever gains at the crucial stages mostly at the middle of the major events that required clarity.

Since Nigeria independence it has experienced the appointments and replacements of various hierarchy serving either as the sports ministers and as a commissions with records of services which could be regarded from different perspectives in all the records has spoken and visibly they have all done achievements that has its good and bad sides but the Nigeria state remains the beneficiary.

However, the sports community has witnessed a new done with the appointments made by Mr President commander in chief of the armed forces federal republic of Nigeria President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR that sports has benefited with the two grounded products not in doubt conversant with sports politics as the sheriff in town.

Under this noble leadership the expectations is huge, coming from the pending issues of infighting if it could be resolved for once with no pretence that all is well when some of those that held public offices has existed under a cabal that has made no sense destroying this great institution that is more than enough to benefit all equitably other than constituting nuisance to so disenfranchise others those that they



perceived as estranged enemies who decided to look the other way from the evil ways of public service in a time past. Sports has never been a stable terrain

Absolutely, reconciliation is imminent in sports to appease the minds of those that would have been offended which the present leadership of the National sports com-

greeted the sports competitions from controversies to have a clear participation in fair play for the best hands and legs to be given confidence and a level playing status for the best to emerge in terms of participation and representation against desperadoes.

Appointments that will contribute immensely to sports development should be done as per the best practices with Mallam SHEHU DIKKO as the Chairman of the incoming executive board of the National sports commission (NSC) and the appointment of Hon Bukola OLAPADE as the Director General of the National sports commission to be given time frame to coordinate sports with a vibrant team of technocrats that will change the structure of sports with a budgetary circle running year in year out with athletes and the incoming federations producing leadership with capacity that will take swift decisions given value to their federations when it matters most.

It is time to depart from the past and sports will benefit most in the nearest future as events are ran from back to back globally when funds are released lately in Nigeria at the foot of the aircraft with shameless claims that monies were given and nothing to show for it participation as in the case of the last summer Olympics games in France.

SPEAK ON THE ISSUES

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that every interested party laid claim to be an experts and knowledgeable than others even when it is glary that some have refused to accept that they may have out use their relevance for others to deal precisely over issues that requires decisions for the aggrieved to be satisfied with final decisions on grievances.

mission Mallam Shehu Dikko and others including yours sincerely has been a victim of massive media intimidation with several court processes that are ongoing with violations that could further curse confusion and disunity amongst us as a one family united by sports. Despite the mixed feelings which has

NNL 25: Godswill Akpabio United FC Officially Unveiled

Godswill Akpabio United FC has been officially unveiled, marking a major milestone for the newly established club as they prepare to compete in the 2024/2025 Nigeria National League (NNL) season, BSNSports.com.ng reports.

The club, owned by Nigeria's Senate President, Senator Godswill Akpabio, has already signalled its ambitious intentions for promotion to the Nigerian Premier League (NPL) with the recruitment of a blend of experienced players and young talents hungry for success.

The unveiling event witnessed the formal presentation of the team, the new coaching staff, players, management officials, and other personnel.

Leading the coaching team is former Nigerian international and seasoned coach Patrick Udoh, who has been tasked with guiding the team to greater heights in the NNL.





Cup 2023



World Athletics dangles \$10m jackpot before Amusan, Ofili, Brume, others

Tobi Amusan, who holds the world record in women's 100 metres hurdles, Olympic high jump bronze medallist, Ese Brume, emerging 100 metres star, Favour Ofili, and other top Nigerian athletes have been presented an opportunity to win \$150,000 by World Athletics.

The venue is Budapest, Hungary, which will host the inaugural World Athletics Ultimate Championship, an event that is expected to transform the athletics calendar and define, which athlete is the best of the best — clashing in 28 events across the three evenings of competition.

According to insidethegames.biz, the championship will pit world champions, Olympic champions, the Wanda Diamond League winners, and the year's best-performing athletes against each other in 16 disciplines. The programme will feature 26 individual events — 16 track and 10 field — plus two relays, including the new mixed 4x100m.

Listed for the championship are 100m, long jump, 800m, triple jump (women), 1500m, hammer (men), 5000m, javelin, 100m/110m hurdles, mixed 4x100m, 400m hurdles and mixed 4x400m.

The report said that aside from being crowned the best of the best, these athletes will all be competing for their share of a record-setting prize pot of US\$10 million, with champions set to receive \$150,000. The inaugural edition of the championship will be held from September 11 to 13, 2026, in Budapest.



Bulls have a chance to advance in the NBA Cup, but at what cost?



The Chicago Bulls got their second win in the NBA Cup tournament on Tuesday against the Washington Wizards with a 127-108 win.

Moving to 2-1 in the group stage, the Bulls are now in first place in Group C with a +15 point differential.

Having beaten them head-to-head, the Bulls own the tiebreaker over the Atlanta Hawks. The Hawks, without Trae Young, managed to beat the Boston Celtics, so they own the head-to-head tiebreaker over Boston despite all three teams having the same record.

In order for the Bulls to be able to move onto Las Vegas for the NBA Cup Knockout Round on December 10th and 11th, some things will need to go right for them.

First, they'll need to unseat the Celtics who are 15-3 with a +12.3 point differential coming off their NBA Championship. They've just gotten Kristaps Porzingis

back, making that challenge even more daunting.

Additionally, they'll need the Cavaliers to lose one of their final two Cup games, against the Hawks and Wizards. Unlikely considering the Cavs are 17-1 with a +12.9 net rating — even better than the champs.

Even if the Bulls beat the Celtics and the Cavs fall to the Hawks or Wizards, the Bulls could still win the group if their point differential is greater than the Cavs. Through their first two games, the Cavs are 1-1, having lost to the Celtics. Their plus-minus is +15, same as the Bulls.

There is also the Wild Card path. Even if the Bulls end up second in the group, they could make the Knockout Round if they own the best record of the Eastern Conference teams that finish second in their groups. In that case, they would need a few losses from the New York Knicks and Detroit Pistons to get the nod.

Jake Paul 'in Talks' to Fight Former Boxing World Champion Next

Jake Paul defeated Mike Tyson on the 15th of November by unanimous decision in a fight watched by over 60 million people around the world, and now the YouTuber-turned-boxer may already have a new opponent in line.

Paul's victory over Tyson faced lots of criticism, with the 27-year-old's team having to make a statement asserting that the bout was not fixed, saying: "Rigging a professional boxing match is a federal crime in the United States of America. Paul vs Tyson was a professional match sanctioned by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations (TDLR). Both fighters, in good faith, performed to the best of their abilities with the goal of winning the fight. There were absolutely no restrictions — contractual or otherwise — around either fighter."

After facing this criticism, Paul perhaps needs to fight an opponent more in his age range to gain back some legitimacy, and it looks like he's heading in that direction, slightly.

On Tuesday the 26th of November, 38-year-old former middleweight boxing champion, Julio Cesar Chavez Jr, claimed that he had been reached out to by Paul's team about a potential

fight between the two. Chavez Jr might still be over a decade older than his potential opponent, but at least there wouldn't be the 30-year age gap like there was in Paul's latest fight against the great Mike Tyson.

Speaking about the potential fight, Chavez Jr said: "It's an option, we're looking into it, let's see, this week I have a meeting... I'd be interested in fighting a champion, but fighting Jake Paul, for the fame and the media, would put me in a position to fight against others. I'm not looking for it, it's been presented. It's not concrete, but let's see what happens."

The Mexican fighter is certainly correct about the fame and media a fight against Paul would bring. Whatever you think of the social media star's fights, you cannot deny the numbers that he brings in, shown by the fact that over 60 million people watched his last fight. In fact, the last time Chavez Jr fought was on the undercard of Jake Paul vs Mike Perry, back in July of this year. In his fight that night, the former middleweight champion came away victorious via unanimous decision against Uriah Hall, a former UFC fighter.





A source of pride and satisfaction” – Moroccan defender eyes CAF Player of the Year award over Lookman

Morocco and Paris Saint-Germain full-back, Achraf Hakimi, has backed himself to win the CAF Player of the Year award over Ademola Lookman, Soccernet.ng reports.

The 26-year-old defender has experienced success with every club he's played for, from his academy days, winning the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Super Cup with Real Madrid, the DFL Super Cup with Borussia Dortmund, the Serie A with Inter Milan alongside multiple trophies with PSG.

Hakimi, alongside Nigeria and Atalanta's Ademola Lookman, Serhou Guirassy, Simon Adingra, and Ronwen Hayden-Williams made the final five CAF Player of the Year nominees shortlist.

The former Real Madrid man revealed that even if he doesn't win the Player of the Year award, the nomination is enough inspiration to spur him to aim higher in the future.

The winner of the CAF Player of the Year award will be known on Monday, December 16th when the Awards Ceremony will be hosted in Marrakech, Morocco.



Nigeria's Super Falcons land in France for crucial test against Les Bleues in Angers



Nigeria's Super Falcons, nine-time African champions, have begun arriving in Angers, France, ahead of Saturday's eagerly awaited international friendly against Les Bleues, Soccernet.ng report.

Players and officials touched down on Wednesday morning as preparations intensify

for the high-profile encounter.

This meeting between France and Nigeria in Angers is the second time the two teams will face off in a friendly.

The first meeting in April 2018 ended in disappointment for the Falcons, who suffered an 8-0 loss in freezing conditions at Stade Marie-Mar-

vingt in Le Mans.

Among the key events of that match were a hat-trick from Valérie Gauvin and an own goal by Faith Ikidi-Michael.

Only goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie, now playing in France, and Mexico-based defender Osinachi Ohale remain from that squad.

Despite that setback, competitive meetings between the two nations have been much closer. In the FIFA Women's World Cup, the Falcons narrowly lost by a single goal in both 2011 (in Germany) and 2019 (at Roazhon Park, France).

This friendly is part of Nigeria's preparations for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations, where the Super Falcons will aim to reclaim their continental crown from reigning champion, South Africa.

The former African champions claimed two wins against Algeria in November and just days ago learned their Women's AFCON group stage opponents — Tunisia, Algeria, and Botswana.

Saturday's match kicks off at 9:30 pm local time, the same as in Nigeria. With the team keen to erase the memory of their last outing against Les Bleues, this game promises to be a crucial test for the emerging Super Falcons.

Super Falcons Squad For France:

Goalkeepers: Chiamaka Nnadozie (Paris FC, France); Anderline Mgbembi (Rivers Angels); Rachael Unachukwu (Nasarawa Amazons)

Defenders: Osinachi Ohale (Pachucha Club de Futbol, Mexico); Michelle Alozie (Houston Dash, USA); Ashleigh Plumtre (Ittihad Ladies, Saudi Arabia); Rofiat Imuran (London City Lioness, England); Sikiratu Isah (Nasarawa Amazons); Oluwatosin Demehin (Galatasaray Sportive, Turkey)

Midfielders: Jennifer Echegini (Paris Saint Germain, France); Toni Payne (Everton Ladies, England); Josephine Mathias (Nasarawa Amazons); Christy Ucheibe (SL Benfica, Portugal); Shukurat Oladipo (FC Robo Queens); Adoo Yina (Nasarawa Amazons)

Forwards: Blessing Nkor (Pyramids FC, Egypt); Gift Monday (Coasta Adeje Tenerife Egatesa (Spain); Ifeoma Onumonu (Montpellier FC, France); Omorinsola Babajide (Coasta Adeje Tenerife Egatesa (Spain); Mercy Omokwo (Bayelsa Queens)

'Not allowed to leave' - Genk chief confirms Fulham-linked Arokodare is going nowhere in January

KRC Genk Head of Football Dimitri De Condé has ruled out the possibility of the club parting ways with any of their star players including Nigerian striker Tolu Arokodare in the January transfer window.

Arokodare has recently been linked with Fulham who want to bolster their attacking department in the mid-season transfer window.

The Cottagers have Raúl Jiménez and

Rodrigo Muniz as options in the center forward department but are still interested in getting another striker, hence the reported interest in Arokodare.

Genk grabbed his services from Amiens in January 2023, after the departure of Super Eagles forward Paul Onuachu to Southampton.

He struggled with injuries for the rest of the campaign but was able to put his

early setback aside to help the Blue-White advance to the Jupiler Pro League play-offs last season, scoring 12 goals.

The 24-year-old has taken a huge leap in his form this campaign, notching nine goals in 15 games in the Belgian top-flight which must have caught the interest of Fulham.

Speaking to TVL Sportcafé via voetbalnieuws, De Condé revealed that Genk

have no intention of letting their star striker leave in January.

"Tolu is not allowed to leave. He is also very grateful to our trainer and will not leave Fink and Genk just like that," De Condé said.

Arokodare is one goal adrift of Kasper Dolberg who is the Jupiler Pro-League leading top-scorer with 10 goals for RSC Anderlecht.



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YOUNG STRIKERS

BASE CITY FC

GENUINE FC

C GROUP

CODBLESS UNITED

UNIQUE FC

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MATCH DAYS

AMANYANABO CUP 2024

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER, 2024



CODBLESS UNITED

VS



NEW SAINTS

TIME: 1:00PM

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER, 2024



OLOMA FC

VS



BONNY STARLETS

TIME: 3:00PM

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MATCH DAYS

AMANYANABO CUP 2024

TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER, 2024



YOUNG TALENT

VS



DIVINE FC

TIME: 1:00PM

TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER, 2024



UNIQUE FC

VS



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TIME: 3:00PM

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MATCH DAYS

AMANYANABO CUP 2024

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER, 2024



IBANI UTD

VS



BRIGHT STARS FC

TIME: 1:00PM

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER, 2024



BEAUTIFUL STRIKERS

VS



BASE CITY

TIME: 1:00PM

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER, 2024



ATLANTIC FC

VS



ADVENTURER FC

TIME: 3:00PM

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MATCH DAYS

AMANYANABO CUP 2024

WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER, 2024



YOUNG STRIKERS

VS



GENUINE FC

TIME: 1:00PM

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Experts Praise Yucateco On Kano Boxing Championship

As part of its efforts to develop Olympics grade boxers in the country Yucateco boxing promotions have staged a one day boxing championship in Kano state. The event held on Saturday at the Sports Arena of the Nigerian army brigade headquarters Bukavu barracks in Kano, featured pugilists from Jigawa, Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, and host Kano state.

The championship tagged "Reigniting The Northwest Boxing Culture" headlines the week-12 hostilities of the ongoing Yucateco boxing league. With 24 pugilists on the 12 bouts fight card, the tournament gave boxing fans plenty to savour. Here are some of the results.

In the 46-48 kg contest, Zakariyya Ado from Kaduna defeated Abubakar Salisu of Zamfara state, Sani Ali Bashir from Katsina lost to Muhammad Tarik of Kano.

The 54 kg brawl also brought about some gusty battles as Abubakar Ibrahim of Kano triumph over Rabiuh Yahuza of Sokoto, Ali Rabiuh from Katsina down Faruk Ibrahim, Bashir Ali of Katsina came tops over Iro Ibrahim of Kano state.

Some of the highpoints of the event was the presentation of the prestigious Yucateco Boxing Recognition Award to selected sports stakeholders in the northwest zone, as well as the donation of boxing gloves and other training equipment to the Kano state boxing association by Yucateco Boxing Promotions.

The initiator of the event the Chief Executive Officer CEO of Yucateco boxing promotions Omonlei Yakubu Imadu, said the aim behind the championship is to re-awaken the boxing culture in the Northern region.

"the north has so much boxing potentials that has been left undiscovered for too long, championship of this nature is important in our quest to bring boxing back



to its glory days in this part of the country".

The president of the Boxing Promoters Association of Nigeria (BPAN) further announce Yucateco's readiness to sponsor selected boxing Referees and Judges from the Northwest for the International Boxing Association (IBA) training course in the coming months.

"we are not just focusing on the boxers, boxing development is holistic hence our resolve to sponsor selected referees and Judges for the next (IBA) training programs, this i believe will immensely upgrade their knowledge of the game".

The Special guest of honour Brig. Gen. A.M Tukur, Commander 3 brigade headquarters of the Nigerian army, urge more individuals and corporate bodies to emulate the Yucateco boxing development model.

" this is a very laudable initiative and I

must commend Mr. Omonlei Imadu for bringing this to Kano, Nigerian boxing needs a more pragmatic approach to get back to its glory days and it's heartwarming to note that Yucateco is already taking a lead by introducing a novel boxing league"

A total of 305 bouts have been completed in the ongoing Yucateco boxing league with 12 accredited boxing clubs vying for the grand prize of N50 Million naira.

Wike Set To Reward Athletes 2022 National Sports Festival



In his usual way not allow hardwork and sacrifice go down in vain, Minister of the Federal Capital Territory

Nyesom Ezenwo Wike has approved the reward of athletes who have done FCT proud during the 2022 National Sports

Festival.

It will be recalled that the past administration could not honour the due

to reason best known to them, but after a prolonged delay from the past administration, the present administration under the able leadership of the FCT Minister, Wike has graciously agreed to reward the athletes for their effort.

In a statement issued by the Director of Sports FCT department Mr Luka Istifanus revealed that, FCT Minister in his magnanimity has said that rewarding athletes is what they deserve as they have worked hard to represent the FCT.

"FCT in 2022 hit a milestone like never before when they emerged 9th position which has never been done by the FCT team in the past National Sports Festivals.

"Athletes are elated to have a sports loving Minister like his Excellency Nyesom Ezenwo Wike who rewards hardwork and excellence.

"We have enjoyed good attention from the Minister since he assumed office,he understands that Sports is a key factor in the FCT and the country,he is always concerned about the welfare of the athletes that is why he approved this reward for them to keep representing the FCT with a winning mentality."

He also highlighted that the FCT is preparing really well for the 2024 Gateway Games taking place in Ogun state in January 2025.

However, the award ceremony is scheduled for sometime in December 2024.

On the other hand, athletes has also appealed to the People's Minister, to extend the gesture accorded to the senior elite athletes of the National Sports Festival to the U-15 as well that represented the FCT at the National Youth Games in 2023 and 2024 as they came 7th and 9th on the table respectively.



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Gumel congratulates Chief Nnaji as he emerges CAPM Vice President

President of Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC), Engr. Habu Gumel has Congratulated Chief Jonathan Nnaji, President of Nigeria's Modern Pentathlon Federation, on his recent victory as the Vice President of the Africa Modern Confederation (CAPM).

Chief Nnaji emerged during the elective Congress of the African body at the election held in Saudi Arabia from November 15 -17, 2024. In a statement released by Tony Nezianya, the PRO of NOC, the African countries in attendance during the elective Congress in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia are Cote d'Ivoire, Namibia, Senegal, Central Africa Republic and Kenya.

The world body of Modern Pentathlon is known as the Union of Modern International Pentathlon Federation.

This is made up of five sports. They are: Fencing, horse racing (jumping), shooting (Pistol shooting), Running. All as one sport, indeed an Olympic sport.



NSC Explores Sustainable Private Sector Driven Funding Models for Greater Sports Development



gun Lai Labode, MD/CEO of CashToken Rewards Africa. Labode unveiled the Nigeria National Public-Private Universal Sports and Social Security System (NINPPUSSS), a funding model designed to revolutionize sports development in Nigeria through a "Chancified National Contribution."

"Our model, developed after years of research, shows how we can generate billions of naira annually for sports," Labode stated. "With the visionary leadership of Mallam Shehu Dikko and Honourable Bukola Olopade, we believe this is achievable."

The NINPPUSSS initiative aims to generate approximately N1 Trillion annually. These funds are designed to be directed towards promoting grassroots sports development and supporting athletes.

The NSC leadership expressed optimism about leveraging these innovative approaches to achieve the Commission's mandate of creating a robust and sustainable sports ecosystem.

This development underscores the NSC's readiness to embrace cutting-edge solutions, including the integration of eSports, as a critical component of Nigeria's sports and economic future. The Commission is committed to achieving President Bola Tinubu's vision for a vibrant sports economy in Nigeria.

The National Sports Commission (NSC) has reiterated its commitment to building a sustainable sports economy, which will also include tapping into the fast-growing eSports industry.

This was emphasized during a session where the NSC Chairman, Mallam Shehu Dikko, and Director General, Hon. Bukola Olopade, received

two private sector-driven presentations on funding and development strategies for Nigerian sports.

The first presentation was delivered by Damilola Pedro, Co-founder and Head of Partnerships at Game Africa. She highlighted the multi-billion-dollar potential of eSports to revolutionize Nigeria's sports economy, stressing the oppor-

tunities for youth empowerment through video gaming.

"Our presentation focuses on the untapped opportunities in eSports to empower Nigerian youths using video games," Pedro explained.

"Nigeria has a viable pathway to unlock the next billions in gaming revenue."

The second presentation came from Osi-Apa-

FCT FA Chairman Mouktar Congratulates Olopade, Gusau on Appointment and Election

The Federal Capital Territory Football Association Chairman, Alhaji Adam Mouktar Mohammed, has felicitated Chief Bukola Olawale Olopade on his appointment by President Bola Tinubu as the Director-General of the National Sports Commission, describing him as a round peg in a round hole.

Mouktar in a congratulatory message said Olopade, with his wealth of experience spanning decades in sports administration, would no doubt perform beyond expectations in the new role.

The FCT FA Boss, noted that Chief Olopade has carved a niche for himself in sports administration through unwavering dedication and tenacity, adding that the appointment represents a round peg in a round hole.

"I heartily congratulate you on your well-deserved appointment as the Director General of the National Sports Commission. This remarkable achievement is no doubt, a testament to your exceptional leadership prowess, unwavering dedication, and profound contributions to sports development in Nigeria."

"Your passion and commitment towards

achieving excellence in sports have earned you this prestigious role, and I am confident that under your leadership, the National Sports Commission will achieve unprecedented milestones. I celebrate this new chapter in your journey and wish you resounding success as you work to elevate Nigeria's sports sector to greater enviable heights."

Similarly, Alhaji Mouktar, is extending warm congratulations to the President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau, on his election as the 1st Vice President of the West African Football Union (WAFU) Zone B.

"You have been crowned for your exceptional leadership. Your election is a clear testimony of your vision and dedication to grassroots and elite development of football over the years in Nigeria."

"This is a demonstration of your commitment and dedication to football development in Nigeria, the sub region, Africa and world at large. I am optimistic that you will bring to the fore your expertise that will bring maximum progress to the regional football body."

Gusau's electoral victory was announced following the WAFU B leadership election held in Niamey, Niger Republic, recently.



Why I Have Been Silent On Nigerian Sports — Gara Gombe

Sports entrepreneur and former Gombe United FC Chairman, Hon. Ahmed Shuaibu Gara-Gombe, has said only administrators with skeletons in sports can afford to bar stakeholders from expressing their views on sports development in Nigeria.

In a chat with journalists recently, Gara-Gombe noted that on several occasions, he had been barred from expressing his views over major development and appointment in Nigeria sports in radio and television stations in Nigeria.

"All sports stakeholders and those who appreciate my modest contributions in Nigeria sports, especially trying to always put sports administrators and managers on their toes.

"I advise them not to worry as many people have been calling me, sending messages to my friends and close associates asking why I have been quiet about the reintroduction of the National Sports Commission (NSC) and the managers."

The Chairman Gombe State Athletics Association also reacted to rumours that he had pulled out of sports business and administration.

"There's nothing to worry about as my silence is deliberate, I'm still in sports, people are saying I have quite sports, I'm not out of sports for now.

"Because there's no way I can afford to sleep because certain people who I have differences with about how they managed our sports in the past are now in charge of sports in the country.

"The Nigeria Constitution has given me and all of us the right to participate in lawful activities in the country, in this case, including sports. So, my silence is deliberate, I will talk at the right time."

On his travails with a few television and radio stations in Nigeria, he said: "I would like to say clearly that in the last few weeks, I was barred from featuring on four national television and Radio stations, even a few newspapers to express my opinion and discuss the newly introduced Na-



tional Sports Commission (NSC) by the Federal Government.

The disturbing part is that those who blocked me using proxies have no idea of what I want to talk about, I don't know what they are afraid of or why they don't want me to express my own right and opinion as guaranteed by law.

"I don't see why they should be afraid, If they feel comfortable with their past or who they are, why must they go about blocking me?"

"There was this station, one hour to a scheduled interview, they called me to say my air time (interview) had been paid for. However, I know about television production, one can't come two hours to production to tell me my air time has been paid for.

"It doesn't show integrity of the media; however, I don't own a TV or a radio station, but I own a newspaper and I would continue to raise my voice on issues I feel are in the best

interest of the Nigerian public.

"The intriguing side of it is that they don't have an idea of what I want to say whether or not it's in their favour.

"So because people that have skeletons never wanted a biology teacher to handle a topic on anatomy."

He assured all sports stakeholders and those who still have confidence and belief in his contribution in sports in Nigeria to remain calm.

"I'm very much around, concerned and will pursue swift and talk about credible sports development in Nigeria without fear or favour.

"Currently, I am outside the country, I can also talk from anywhere around the globe, for now, I am busy to start commenting on issues Nigerians are already aware of, but at the appropriate time, no individual or group can cover the sun or the moon with two hands

"My detractors forgot that the social media is also available to me to air my views. At the end of the day, the national interest shall prevail.

"Nigeria is bigger and greater than any individual or cabal that wants to hold down Nigerian sports. Profiteering from it in the last 20 to 25 years must stop," he concluded.

On the panel set up by the former Minister of Sports, John Enoh, Gara-Gombe said as far as he was concerned, the seven-man committee didn't do a good job.

"They left many issues untouched. They didn't talk about finances and also they refused to investigate the AFN on why certain things happened.

"I see no reason the panel didn't indict the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) they also refused to indict the former Minister, and Ministry officials in areas concerning how the over N24 billion Olympic funds was managed."

Ademola Olajire: A Trailblazer Redefining Sports Media Excellence Amidst Baseless Attacks



Dr. Ademola Olajire, a trailblazer in African sports journalism and media, exemplifies excellence with over 30 years of achievements. Despite recent baseless criticisms, his legacy as a visionary leader in Nigerian football media and a mentor to future generations remains unshaken and deeply inspiring. These are my thoughts on his personality and achievements.

1. A Legacy Built on Unmatched Professionalism

Dr. Ademola Olajire, Director of Media and Communications for the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), stands as a towering figure in African sports journalism. With over 32 years of excellence in sports reporting and nearly two decades in sports administration, his trajectory speaks volumes. From covering six FIFA World Cup finals and 12 Africa

Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournaments to earning accolades for his media expertise, Olajire has demonstrated the depth of his professionalism. His academic foundation, including a PhD in Mass Communication and a certificate from the prestigious Wits Business School, underscores his commitment to excellence.

2. Resilience Against Baseless Criticism

Recently, a campaign of calumny has targeted Dr. Olajire, with detractors peddling unfounded claims about his credentials and contributions. However, these attacks lack substance, especially when juxtaposed with his documented achievements. His long-standing service, marked by transparency and diligence, has been lauded by peers and institutions alike. Dr. Olajire's career proves that success, not mediocrity, often invites unwar-

ranted scrutiny.

3. Transforming Nigerian Football Media

Under Dr. Olajire's leadership, the NFF Media Department has evolved into a globally respected entity. His innovative strategies have amplified the visibility of Nigerian football, bridging local talent and international audiences. Notably, his work has brought NFF's communications up to global standards, earning him several awards, including an induction into the NFF Hall of Fame. Such milestones reflect not just personal success but a profound impact on Nigerian football's global narrative.

4. An Icon for the Next Generation

Dr. Olajire's journey is an inspiring template for aspiring sports journalists and administrators. Despite challenges, his relentless pursuit of excellence reaffirms the importance of resilience in achieving greatness. As a mentor and role model, he has opened doors for young professionals, emphasizing the transformative power of dedication and hard work in a competitive industry.

5. A Legacy Beyond Criticism

Amidst attempts to tarnish his reputation, Dr. Olajire's legacy shines even brighter. His decorated career, marked by groundbreaking contributions to African sports media, places him among the continent's most revered professionals. As detractors spin baseless narratives, his unwavering commitment to excellence and integrity remains a testament to his enduring relevance in the industry.

Dr. Ademola Olajire exemplifies the resilience and excellence required to elevate African sports to global prominence, making him a force to reckon with in sports communication.

Victor Ikpeba Dedicates 4th Edition of 5-A-Side Tournament To Late Dapo Sotunumi

The 1997 African Footballer of the Year, Victor Ikpeba, has announced that the 2024 Victor Ikpeba 5-A-Side soccer tournament will be dedicated to the late veteran journalist, Dapo Sotunumi, who passed away suddenly last week.

Ikpeba, who aims to give back to society through sports, described late Dapo as a good man who encouraged him to organize the tournament. "Dedicating this event to him is a way to appreciate his support and contributions," Ikpeba said.

"It's painful that we had discussed bigger plans for this event, and suddenly he's no longer with us," Ikpeba added. "He worked tirelessly for this brand, and I'm honored to dedicate this

year's Under-20 Victor Ikpeba 5-A-Side tournament to his memory."

The 4th edition of the Ikpeba 5-A-Side tournament is scheduled to take place from December 17th to 21st at the De Cloud Arena, located after Osubi airport, close to Warri, Delta State.

Interested teams can contact the organizers on the following numbers:

- Ogo Clarkson: 08026797191
- Mr. Marvel Dick: 07030295629
- Coach Kingsley: 07087523246

The tournament will feature cash prizes for the top three winners:

- 1st prize: ₦50,000.00
- 2nd prize: ₦20,000.00
- 3rd prize: ₦10,000.00

The date for the tournament draws will be announced soon.

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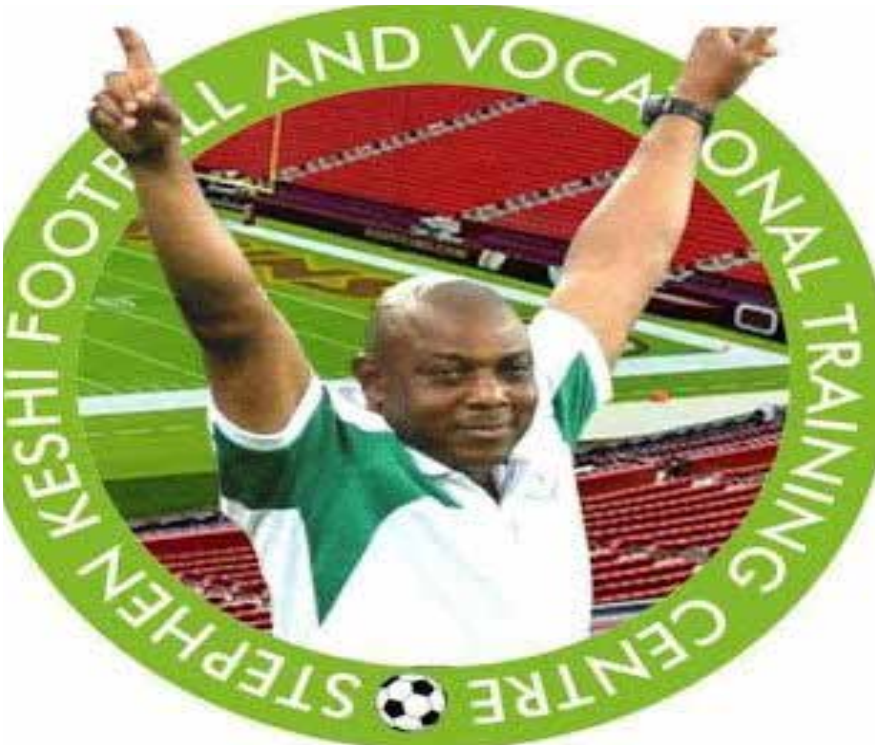
6th Stephen Keshi National under 17 Football tournament climax today in Benin City

BY FAVOUR OJE

Benin City, the Edo state capital is agog as the Final match of the 6th Edition of the prestigious Stephen Keshi National under 17 Football Tournament hold on Sunday, November 24th, 2024 inside the Famous Samuel Ogbemudia stadium in Benin City.

The event organise by the Stephen Keshi Football and Vocational Training Centre Obazuwa, Benin City, will see Top teams Worshippers Fc of Benin City take on Dynamo Sports Fc also of Benin City, in the Final match by 3pm, while the third place match is between Flight Fc of Gboko, Benue state and Dinamo Academica Fc of Benin City , schedule for 1pm

The tournament in Memory of the Former Super Eagles captain and Coach, Late Stephen Keshi given his contributions to Football in Nigeria and beyond, had 16 teams in attendance from across Nigeria, with venue at the NIPOST training school, Egor, Benin City. This year edition that has been described as the best since the inception of the tournament by most of the participating teams as a result of the scouting



team that came from Europe to Fish out talents, as well the good organisation by the organising committee is expected to produce the best winner on Sunday

The closing event of the tournament will be witnessed by the chairman of the National Sports Commission Shehu Dikko, the President Nigeria Football Federation Ibrahim Gusau, The chairman Board of trustees (SKFVTC) Dr Louis Brown Ogbeifun, some top members of the Edo state sports Commission, Chairman and members of the Edo state Football Association, Ex players and Friends of the late Football icon amongst others.

Meanwhile, chairman of the organising committee of this year Stephen Keshi National under 17 Football tournament, Kelvin Etemike has asked Football Faithful, stakeholders in Edo state to come out in their numbers to the closing event beginning from 1pm at the remodeled Samuel Ogbemudia stadium, Benin City.

Medals, trophies, winning prizes are among other souvenirs to be given out today during the closing ceremony.

Nigeria's Football In Shambles: A Lack Of Vision and Leadership, Says Ex International Abiodun Baruwa



Former Nigerian international goalkeeper Abiodun Baruwa says the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) has been plagued by corruption and mismanagement, hindering the growth and development of Nigerian football.

Baruwa was a player for Nigeria U-23 at the 1996 summer Olympics when his team won the gold medal. The former FC Sion of Switzerland goalkeeper was selected for the 1998 World Cup

with the Nigeria national team, the Super Eagles.

"From the top to the bottom, the organization lacks a clear plan, vision, and leadership. The NFF seems more focused on enriching its officials rather than developing the sport. This has led to a lack of investment in grassroots football, inadequate support for coaches and players, and poor administration of the sport," Baruwa told Sports-Boom.com.

CONSEQUENCES OF NFF'S FAILURES
Baruwa opined that the consequences of the NFF's failures are far-reaching.

"The Super Eagles' poor performance in recent tournaments is a direct result of the NFF's failures, and the absence of a clear plan and vision has hindered the development of Nigerian football, particularly at the grassroots level.

"The NFF's corruption has led to a lack of trust and confidence in the organization."

LACK OF LONG-TERM PLANNING AND INVESTMENT IN NIGERIAN FOOTBALL
The Nigerian football system is plagued by a lack of long-term planning and investment, particularly in the domestic league. The focus on short-term gains and a "game-by-game" approach is detrimental to the development of the sport.

"You can't run football like this. It's wrong." The absence of a clear vision and strategy has led to a decline in the quality of players produced by the Nigerian league," Baruwa hinted.

NEGLECTING THE DOMESTIC LEAGUE
He pointed that the failure to invest in the domestic league has severe consequences.

"The Nigerian league is no longer producing top-quality players, forcing the national team to rely on players playing abroad. The best Nigerian players are seeking opportunities abroad, depriving the domestic league of talent and expertise.

"The neglect of the domestic league has contributed to the decline of Nigerian football, making it challenging for the national team to compete with other top African teams."

NIGERIA'S FOOTBALL PARADOX: BIG COUNTRY, SMALL-MINDED APPROACH
As a prominent football nation, Nigeria's approach to the sport is surprisingly unprofessional. The lack of contracts for coaches is a glaring example of this. "Only in Nigeria coaches don't have contracts. It's bad business," said Baruwa.

"Coaches are left in limbo, unsure of their future, which affects their ability to plan and develop the team. Without contracts, coaches are not held accountable for their performance, leading to a lack of responsibility and motivation.

"The absence of a stable coaching environment hinders player development, as coaches are not invested in the long-term growth of the team."

REFORM AND CHANGE: THE WAY FORWARD
Baruwa said to revitalize Nigerian football, a radical overhaul of the system is necessary.

"There is need to professionalize the NFF thereby establishing a professional and transparent governing body that prioritizes the development of Nigeria football with a clear vision and plan. We need to also invest more in grassroots football, providing support for coaches, players, and infrastructure development.

"The Nigerian league has to be reformed by implementing changes to the league structure, including improved governance, financial management and competitiveness."

The former Sturm Graz goalkeeper further said the NFF needs to be more transparent and accountable in its dealings, including its finances and decision-making process.

Go for Osimhen, Havertz can't win Arsenal EPL title, Gallas urges Arteta

Former Arsenal defender William Gallas has urged the club to sign Super Eagles striker Victor Osimhen, claiming he would be a better option than Kai Havertz for their Premier League title ambitions.

Osimhen, currently on loan at Galatasaray from Napoli, has been linked with several top European clubs. Gallas believes Arsenal should prioritise bringing in the Nigerian forward, criticizing Havertz's contribution to the team.

Speaking to Genting Casino, Gallas said, "Kai Havertz has never been the right man to take Arsenal to the Premier League title. He's a good player, but not world-class. Arsenal need a striker like

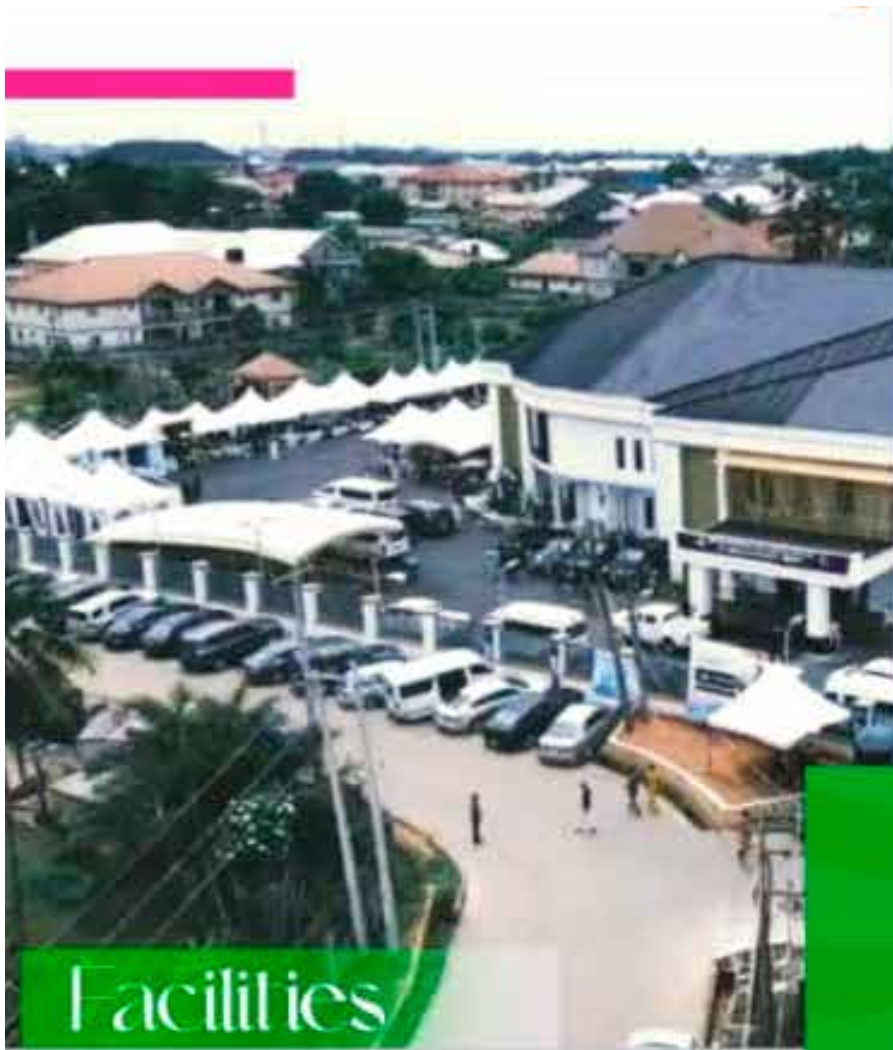
Osimhen. It's obvious they need to wake up."

Gallas highlighted Osimhen's potential, saying, "I don't understand why Osimhen is at Galatasaray. He should be playing in the Premier League, and Arsenal could benefit from his talent."

The former defender also emphasized the importance of squad depth, pointing to Manchester City and Liverpool as examples. "You need a strong squad to compete. If you rely on the same starting XI, performance levels drop," he added.

Arsenal, currently fourth in the Premier League, will face Sporting CP in a Champions League clash on Tuesday.





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Shehu Dikko Holds Strategic Meeting with Nigeria Olympic Committee in Abuja

The Chairman of the National Sports Commission (NSC), Shehu Dikko, on Tuesday held a meeting with the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) in Abuja to discuss petinent issues within the sports ecosystem.

The meeting focused on several strategic areas crucial to the future of sports in the country:

During the meeting, Dikko reiterated the peculiar need for a robust legal framework to guide the sports sector in Nigeria, especially as it needs to reflect the new dimension of sports development, as envisioned by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Discussions centered on the the drafting and enact-ing process of legislations to formalize the sports economy, ensuring clear policies for governance, regulation, and investment.

The framework is expected to attract private sector participation, enhance trans-parency, and define roles for stakeholders, creating a well-structured and thriving in-dustry.

Dikko and the NOC also emphasized the importance of having world-class sports facilities across the country. Investment in modern infrastructure, including training centers, stadia, and community sports hubs, was identified as key priorities. These facilities will not only serve as breeding grounds for athletes but also as hubs for hosting international competitions, there-by boosting tourism and national pride.

Funding for athletes was another critical topic of discussion. The meeting explored



ways to secure consistent financial support for athletes, including sponsorships, and public-private partnerships.

Dikko stated that the goal is to ensure athletes have access to quality training, medical care, and competitive opportuni-ties, enabling them to focus on excelling in their respective sports.

The NSC chairman added that the need for timely training camps, logistical arrangements, and exposure to interna-tional tournaments are paramount. This proactive approach is aimed at improving Nigeria's performance on the global stage and avoiding the last-minute rush that has hindered success in the past.

Shehu Dikko reaffirmed the NSC's com-mitment to working closely with the NOC and other stakeholders to achieve these goals. He emphasized that collaboration is key to the success of the reforms envi-sioned by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Stakeholders at the meeting concluded that these discussions will set the stage for transformative progress that will benefit athletes and the sports industry in gen-eral.

A Society That Looks After Its Own



Mike Tyson went very broke after quitting boxing 19 years ago. Today, his story has changed because his compatriots decided to be agents of positive change.

He admitted his youthful errors leading to the mismanagement of his resources which landed him near penury.

But his country, the sporting fraternity and stakeholders of boxing who felt he had given so much to the sport yet done America proud with his talent rallied round him. The Iroko

must not fall.

They FIXED a bout with a former blogger, Paul Jake thus, created an avenue for the legendary Iron Mike to smile home with a whopping \$20m. It was an inconsequential fight which brought a lot of positive conse-quences in the life of Tyson

It was deliberately done to help him re-build his life or better still help him bounce back as a "retirement benefit" even as he ages.

No one cared about his race or colour of his skin. No one bothered to ask, which or what religion he practices? No one asked, whose son he was. No one queried him on what he did with the millions he made in box-ing while he was champ. No one reminded him of how reckless and lavish he was with money during his youthful era.

It wasn't about East, West, North or South. It was about giving life a meaning. It was about giving someone a shoulder to lean on. It was about being one's brother's keeper.

No one recalled how he gambled, went in and out of nite clubs, frolicked with women and lived a larger than life lifestyle which later crashed. All they wanted is for Tyson to age gracefully. All they wanted is to leave a legacy of ensuring the champ remains a champ.

He was simply helped. He was assisted. He was supported. He was lifted. He was revived. He was given hope again. He was brought back to life.

That's what life is all about. Don't con-demn others. Don't pass blames. Don't judge. Don't mock...just help if you can and when necessary.

Each time, our true heroes helplessly pass on as a result of poverty and or curable health challenges, I weep profusely.

Tears well up my eyes when I remember Jerry Okorodudu, Rashidi Yekini, Peter Fre-gene, Sebastian Brodericks, Mike Onyemach-ara, Emmanuel Ebiede and Thompson Oliha among others who served Nigeria but died as a result of avoidable situations

It is well...We must all remember that we are lifted by lifting others.

Let love lead

Oborewori, Odegbami, Others to Honour Late Goalkeeper Peter Fregene in Delta



BY PETER NWOKORO, WARRI

Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborewori, and Nigerian football legend Segun "Mathematical" Odegbami are among the top personalities set to attend the burial of former Green Eagles goalkeeper, Coach Peter Fregene, on Friday, November 29. The event, which will feature a novelty football match, is scheduled to take place at the Sapele Township Stadium.

Coach Fregene, who passed away last

month at 77 after a prolonged illness, is remembered for his remarkable 15-year career with the Green Eagles and his passion for grooming young talents through his "Catch Them Young" program in Sapele.

The Chairman of the Burial Committee, Mr. Larry Kubeinje, described the ceremony as a fitting tribute to a football icon. "Coach Fregene was not just a legend on the pitch but a mentor who dedicated his life to developing grassroots football. This is an opportunity to celebrate his legacy,"

Kubeinje said.

The burial activities will commence on Wednesday, November 27, with a Service of Songs at Okotie-Eboh Grammar School Field, Sapele. His interment will follow on Friday at his hometown, Abraka, with a grand reception in Sapele to conclude the ceremonies.

Sources reveal that veteran footballers from "All Stars" groups across Warri, Benin, Ughelli, and Bayelsa will join the event, hosted by the Sapele All Stars. High Chief

Felix Anirah, patron of the Fenirah Football Tournament, and Hon. Michael Diden (Ejele), founder of Ejele Football Academy, are among the chief hosts of the occasion.

Governor Oborewori's participation highlights his administration's commitment to celebrating sports heroes and advancing grassroots sports development. "Peter Fregene's legacy will inspire future generations of footballers in Delta State and beyond," a government representative noted.