

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

1 Introduction

In addition to Uganda's Entertainment, I have investigated the highly anticipated basketball preseason tournament, the Friday Night Lights (FNL). A social basketball event that brings fans closer to their stars in a relaxed and exciting atmosphere.

When you watch the American sports drama television series, Friday Night Lights, you will be moved by the connection between the fans and the players who strive to create success on the field.

The series details events surrounding a high school American football team from a fictional town called Dillon: a small, close-knit community in rural Texas. Every player the Dillon Panthers added to their roster got the front yard of their compound decorated with his respective jersey number as per the team.

That way, the players became stars and the team has a distinct identity. Every game the Panthers hosted on a Friday night was played under a carnival atmosphere. You don't like what is on the field that much or know the rules that much in order to get attracted to the game or even discussing it.

The carnival is exactly what sport needs amid competition from the entertainment scene. The title of the series, Friday Night Lights (FNL), also creates quite a telepathy with the youth.

Some Ugandans got the drift too and FNL is here. It's something the youth can identify with, Philip Kyomuhendo, one of the concept designers, told SCORE. Here, it's not American football but basketball. For every Jason Street in Dillon, there is Ben Komakech. For every Tim Riggins, there is Ivan Enabu. For every Brian Smash Williams, there is Joseph Ikong.

2 Aim

FNL is about fun and enjoying not competition

3 About

Basketball tournament where the fans get to play with their favourite players. This league was set up to encourage fan interaction and showcase the players' skills and talents during the off season period. With a new twist, FNL gives the fans opportunities to vote their favorite teams that display the most entertainment plus lots of show stopping entertainment and prizes.

4 Teams

The 10 teams are selected after a process where fans were requested to vote for a star player and those with majority votes are considered for the year's event. Teams that have taken part include: Team OTeam(defending champions) led by City Oilers Otim Jonah, Team Enabu(Jimmy Enabu), Team Wazee(for the veteran players), Team Blick(Norman Blick), Team KBOB(Ben Komakech), Team Kami(Kami Kabangu), Team Ikong(Joseph Ikong), Team Amoding(Maureen Amoding), Team Fahmy(Fahmy Ssebatindira), Team McGyver(Brian Odong),Team Flirsh(Judith Nansobya)

5 Format of play

Every team must have three players from the National Basketball League (NBL), two ladies, three fans, two players from the League and a player from the lower league. A team must have at least one female player on court at the time of play. The games are played for 30minutes with two halves of 15minutes each. The games are played on Fridays at either YMCA outdoor court or MTN Arena Lugogo with at least two games up to the knock out stage. The ten teams are split into two groups of five and the top four qualify for the quarter finals after a round robin format. The winning team in each game walks away with a prize of UGX 300,000 while the overall winner gets UGX 3M.

6 Past winners

2016- Team OTeam 2015- Team Amoding 2014- Team Ikong 2013- Team Amoding 2012- Team Ikong 2011- Team Ikong

7 Conclusion

Basketball is a non-contact team sport played on a rectangular court by two teams of five players each. The objective is to shoot a ball through a hoop 18 inches in diameter and 10 feet high mounted to a backboard at end of the court. A team can score a field goal which scores three points for the shooting team, behind the three point line, two points when inside the three point line. Basketball is one of the worlds most popular and widely viewed sports.