

THE LOCKER

APRIL 2026

ROOM

SPORT MAGAZINE

PLAYER OF
THE YEAR
2026

FBF26: Where the Hardwood Met Its Heroes

Across 32 high-stakes games, the University of Botswana courts tested the limits of 72 athletes and a 60-man crew. But the true heart of the season emerged in the moments no one saw coming.

Photography: Panther Shots

HABIB ELUNOR

When the #1 pick was called, the debates started: Could he really deliver? 14 weeks later, the answer is in the highlights



Issue 6

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The FBF26 season at the University of Botswana defined a new era of community-driven basketball, concluding with the Midnight Rouges winning the women's title and the Yello Ranglers securing the men's championship. It was more than a season—it was a movement. Over 14 weeks and 32 high-stakes games, 72 athletes and a 60-man crew redefined what community basketball looks like.

From the high-energy Juniors, Women's, and Men's All-Star games to the final trophy lifts, the intensity never wavered.

The story doesn't end at the court. Every ankle-breaker, clutch shot, and championship moment was captured in cinematic detail.

Experience the full season—from Week 1 to the Grand Finale—on our YouTube channel!

Thandi Tumelo
Head of Game Operations

FaithWorx
Sports

05 Rise of Champions

Crowning of FBF26 final four Campus Champions in an unforgettable Clash

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See the season's most valuable players and outstanding performers.

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These are the games VIPs who ensure success.





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RISE OF THE CHAMPIONS

The University of Botswana Indoor Arena bore witness to a historic shift in the campus hierarchy this season, crowning its new basketball royalty. Two powerhouse teams turned years of ambition into championship gold, proving that FBF greatness is earned through grit and persistence.

Midnight Rouges: The Giant-Slayers

The Midnight Rouges didn't just win the title; they seized it. In a classic **David vs. Goliath** narrative, their journey to the Champions Circle was defined by a "giant-slaying" mentality. In a year where everything was stacked against them, they proved that no giant is too big to fall when met with campus grit.

Yello Ranglers: The Persistence of Kings

After three seasons as "perennial contenders," the Ranglers finally fulfilled their destiny. In a legendary "Legacy Run," they faced their ultimate rivals, the White Rovers, in a clash of titans. By maintaining composure under the UB Indoor Arena lights, they ended their title drought and proved the power of resilience—the Ranglers' reign has begun.

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Player of the Year

Habib Elunor

Rookie of the Year

Yaone Badisang

Defensive Player of the Year

Lukani Mathangwane

MVP



most valuable players.

a shout out to outstanding players throughout the season

photography by Panther Shots



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FBF MVPS:

CAMPUS STARS

The **University of Botswana** crowned its 2026 basketball royalty, honoring two athletes who dominated the court during the Campus Champions Clash.

Christine Phitinyane (Midnight Rouges)

The "Midnight Queen" earned MVP honors through sheer "grit and grace." A defensive powerhouse in the paint, Phitinyane was the heartbeat of the Rouges, hitting clutch transition buckets.

Simangaliso Anesu Nawa (Yello Ranglers)

The "Face of the Franchise" finally brought the Ranglers their first title. Nawa "owned the Final Four". His elite playmaking and poise under the UB Indoor Arena lights transformed the team's culture into one of champions.



PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Simangaliso Nawa

Yaone Badisang

Oteng Kesenogile
FBF25 MVP

Jaden Mfanyana

Bogadi Ogotseng

Michelle Olebeng

Habib Elunor
#1 draft pick

Naledi Ramorobjwa

Tinashe Pule

Faith Moitato

Natasha Mmereki

Angela Segotso

Yasemin Kimyacioglu



At its heart, this is a mission of faith and purpose. Every "Huddle" session and every broadcast is a chance for our apprentices to discover their God-given potential.



The Hustle Behind the Hype: Inside the FBF Apprentice Model

When the lights go up at FastBreak Friday (FBF), the magic isn't just on the court—it's behind the scenes. Through our Campus Elevate initiative, we've turned the sideline into a high-performance lab for the next generation of sports leaders in Botswana.

More Than a Volunteer. An Apprentice.

We don't just need "help"; we're building an industry. Our Apprentice Model moves beyond basic volunteering into professional mastery. We've created a "Capture-to-Commerce" loop where students run the show.

By partnering with campus sports clubs, we are strengthening governance and giving students real-world skills in media, marketing, and management.



⊕ UB RELICS

THE UNSUNG MVPS:

A TRIBUTE TO THE FBF26 CREW

BEHIND EVERY HIGHLIGHT REEL AND BUZZER-BEATER AT FBF26 WAS A TEAM OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS WHO PROVED THAT HEART IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS HIGH-END GEAR.

Armed with iPhones, and Switcher Studio, these media mavens were the league's true unsung heroes. It wasn't always easy; they battled through technical sound glitches, untrained hands, and the inevitable gaps of a live production. Yet, they made magic happen, capturing the intensity of the campus stage for the world to see.

The league's success rested on a small army of talent. From the Camera and Switcher Operators to the Announcers and Commentators who gave the games a voice, every role was vital. On the floor, Managers, Photographers, Referees, and Table Officials kept the clock ticking and the spirit fair. Behind the scenes, Content Creators, Event Assistants, and Game Commissioners ensured the FBF machine ran smoothly from tip-off to the final trophy lift.

To the crew that built the stage for our champions: Thank you. You turned a campus league into a professional spectacle.



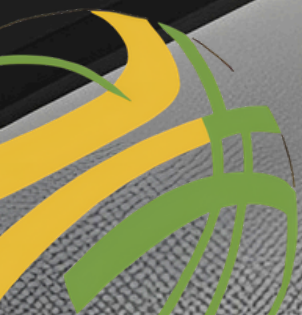
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Fast-Break Friday will be back for another campus basketball season