

GFF-PELE ALUMNI “FRANK WATSON” NATIONAL U15 INTRA- ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT

2017/18



REPORT

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GFF – Pele Alumni “Frank Watson” National U15 Intra-Association Tournament

FIRST YEAR REPORT (2017 / 2018)

Overview

The nation-wide GFF-Pele Alumni “Frank Watson” National U15 Intra-Association Tournament was launched on Wednesday October 4, 2017, and is a partnership between the Guyana Football Federation Inc. (GFF) and the Pele Alumni. The tournament was conducted over the period October 2017 – April 2018 and is a key component of the GFF Executive Committee's strategic objective in its youth development thrust, which emphasizes three essential goals:

1. To streamline sponsorship agreements beyond Executive Cycles.
2. To ensure that consistent youth football is played at all levels in each Regional Member Association (RMA) throughout the year.
3. To enable the establishment of Academy Training Centers (ATC) in each RMA, which will facilitate the growth and development of Elite Coaches and Elite Players.

This nationwide tournament continues to complement the ATC programme that is being conducted by the GFF Technical Department throughout Guyana. In this relatively new system, the best players from the various Youth Leagues throughout the Country are entered into the Academies where they are exposed to consistent, age-specific, technical and tactical training on a weekly basis, until they transition finally into the Senior National Programme.



Official unveiling of tournament

Tournament Operation

The league is designed as an Intra-Association Tournament and was played in all of the nine (9) Regional Member Associations (RMAs) and Region 1 (Morucca), namely:

1. Bartica Football Association (Bar. FA)
2. Berbice Football Association (BFA)
3. East Bank Demerara Football Association (EBDFA)
4. East Demerara Football Association (EDFA)
5. Essequibo / Pomeroon Football Association (E/PFA)
6. Georgetown Football Association (GFA)
7. Rupununi Football Association (RFA)
8. Upper Demerara Football Association (UDFA)
9. West Demerara Football Association (WDFa)



WDFC opening day

Objectives of the Tournament

The objectives of the tournament are:

1. To enhance the development and quality of U15 Age Group Football
2. To support the PLAYER PERFORMANCE CLOCK target of 10,000 HOURS OF DELIBERATE PRACTICE to develop Guyanese elite performers
3. To significantly increase the PLAYER POPULATION across Guyana
4. To improve the quality of youth coaching, and upskill the coaching staff
5. To act as a base of the TALENT ID recruitment pathway
6. Produce players for the GFF NATIONAL TEAMS



GFF president Wayne Forde officially kicks off the tournament at EBDFA



Handing over of equipment to RMA's

Participation and Points Standing

Participating clubs and point standings for the RMA's are as follows:

NO.	RMA	CLUBS	POINTS STANDING/PLACEMENT
1	Bartica Football Association (Bar. FA)	Rising Stars FC	1st
		Potaro Strikers FC	2 nd
		Lazio FC	3 rd
		Strikers FC	4 th
		River's View FC	5 th
		Beacons FC	6 th
2	Berbice Football Association (BFA)	Corriverton Lynx FC	24
		NA United FC	22
		Cougars FC	19
		Monedderlust FC	16
		Orealla Falcons FC	15
		Arsenal FC	14
		Hearts of Oak FC	13
		Hopetown Rangers United FC	12
		Rosignol FC	0
		Young Strikers FC	0
		East Bank Gunners FC	0
3	East Bank Demerara Football Association (EBDFA)	Timehri Panthers Sports Club	28
		KK Warriors FC	23
		Swan FC	22
		Agricola Red Triangle FC	19
		Grove Hi-Tech FC	19
		Diamond Upsetters FC	14
		Herstelling Raiders FC	14
		Mocha Champs FC	13
		Friendship All Stars FC	12
		Samatta Point/Kaneville FC	12
		Soesdyke Falcons FC	9
Diamond United FC	0		
4	East Demerara Football Association (EDFA)	BV/Triumph United FC	12
		Buxton United FC	6
		Mahaica Determinators FC	6
		Victoria Scorpions FC	4
		Plaisance Panthers FC	2
		Buxton Stars FC	2
		Golden Stars FC	1
		Ann's Grove United FC	0
5	Essequibo / Pomeroon Football Association (EPFA)	Dartmouth Dominators FC	1 st
		Super 11 FC	2 nd
		Queenstown United FC	3 rd

		Henrietta United FC	4 th
		Good Hope FC	5 th
		Devonshire Castle FC	6 th
6	Georgetown Football Association (GFA)	Santos FC	1st
		Eastveldt FC	2 nd
		Masters Academy FC	3 rd
		Riddim Squad FC	4 th
		Pele FC	5 th
		Tavel Foundation FC	6 th
		Beacons FC	7 th
		Black Pearl FC	8 th
		Fruta Conquerors FC	9 th
	Rupununi Football Association (RFA)	Tabatinga FC	6
		Paiwomak Warriors FC	6
		FC Strikers	6
		Guyana Rush Saints FC	3
		Snatchers FC	0
		Basin FC	0
		Surama FC	0
8	Upper Demerara Football Association (UDFA)	Milerock FC	14
		Botofago FC	13
		Amelia's Ward Panthers FC	13
		Silver Shattas FC	8
		Hi-Stars FC	7
		Topp XX	3
		Eagles United FC	1
9	West Demerara Football Association (W DFA)	FC Eagles	1st
		Pouderoyen FC	2 nd
		Den Amstel FC	3 rd
		Wales United FC	4 th
		Combined Team	5 th

Leading Goal Scorers and outstanding players

The leading goal scorers for the EBDFA were as follows:

PLAYER	CLUB	GOALS SCORED
Shoran James	Herstelling Raiders FC	19
Ishmael Pulsurran	Timehri Panthers FC	17
Brian Lambert	Agricola Red Triangle FC	14
Tyrone Burnette	Soesdyke Falcons FC	8
Kevon Scott	Kuru Kururu Warriors FC	8
Azeem Calistro	Swan FC	8
Kevin Daniels	Swan FC	7
Soloman Austin	Herstelling Raiders FC	7
Devon Padmore	Grove Hi-tech FC	6

Shemel Alleyne	Mocha Champs FC	5
Jadon	Samatta point/Kaneville FC	3
Marlon Dey	Friendship All Stars FC	3
Joshua Joseph	Swan FC	3
Shaquille Agard	Kuru Kururu Warriors FC	3
Jamal Thomas	Diamond Upsetters FC	3

The leading goal scorer of the UDFA was:

PLAYER	CLUB	GOALS SCORED
Malachi Todd	Botofago FC	6

Outstanding players of the UDFA are:

PLAYER	CLUB	ACHIEVEMENT
Akeem Venture	Amelia's Ward Panthers FC	Best Defender
Zadain McIntyre	Milerock FC	Best Midfielder
Gerold Mentor	Milerock FC	Best Goalkeeper



EBDFA top goal scorer Shoran James receives his trophy and ball from Pele Alumni Corporation Rep. Mr. David Gomes

Playing Venues

The RMA playing venues for the first year were:

NO.	REGIONAL MEMBER ASSOCIATION	MATCH VENUES
1	Bartica Football Association (Bar. FA)	Bartica Secondary School Ground
2	Berbice Football Association (BFA)	#5 Ground
		Skeldon Community Ground
		Esplanade Ground
		Scottsburg Ground
3	East Bank Demerara Football Association (EBDFA)	Grove Playfield
		Timehri Red Ground
4	East Demerara Football Association (EDFA)	Golden Grove Ground
5	Essequibo / Pomeroon Football Association (EPFA)	Anna Regina Comm. Centre Ground
		Walton Cricket Ground
		Queenstown Comm. Centre Ground
		Anna Regina Multi-lateral School Ground
6	Georgetown Football Association (GFA)	Tucville Ground
		GNS Ground
		GFC Ground
7	Rupununi Football Association (RFA)	Snatchers FC Ground
		Guyana Rush Saints FC Ground
		Piawomak Warriors FC Ground
		Surama FC Ground
		Gladiators FC Ground
8	Upper Demerara Football Association (UDFA)	Wisburg Secondary School Ground
9	West Demerara Football Association (WDFFA)	Wales Estate Ground
		Den Amstel Community Centre Ground

National Play-off



Finalist clubs in National Play-off

Overview

The GFF-Pele Alumni “Frank Watson” U15 National Play-off was conducted over the period February 2 – 16, 2019 at two venues; National Training Centre (NTC), Providence and Anna Regina Community Centre Ground, Essequibo. All RMA winners and the winning team from Region 1 were invited to this play-off, namely: Tabatinga FC (RFA), Milerock FC (UDFA), Timehri Panthers FC (EBDFA), FC Eagles (WDFa), Santos FC (GFA), Dartmouth Dominators FC (EPFA), Rising Stars FC (Bar. FA), BV/Triumph United FC (EDFA), Corriverton Lynx FC (BFA) and Atkinson Brothers FC (Region 1).

Format of Play-off

This play-off took a round robin format where teams were placed into three (3) clusters comprising of three (3) teams each to contest the first phase of the tournament. The winner of each cluster went forward to the final stage of the play-off.

Results

FC Eagles from the West Demerara Football Association were crowned the GFF-Pele Alumni “Frank Watson” National U15 Nationwide Play-off Champions after defeating Santos FC by a 2-0 margin when the curtains came down on 16th February, 2019 at the NTC, Providence.



FC Eagles celebrating with the winning trophy

Technical Analysis

General Play

Overall play in the tournament was at an acceptable standard throughout the Intra-Association phase of the tournament.

Given that prior to this partnership with the Pele Alumni Organisation, they weren't many opportunities for youth teams across all RMAs to play on a consistent basis, the quality of the games were on the lower side of an acceptable level. This obviously improved once the tournament games were played consistently over the weekends.

Noticeable improvements in overall play became visible after each team would have had a few games under their belt. This is generally synonymous across all facets of the game. The kids must play to improve.

Consistent and scheduled matches meant that both players and coaches were presented with targets to accomplish. It meant that there was more commitment across the board. More training sessions were organized, more players showed interest and motivation came in the form of the competition schedule.

Contribution towards “Player Development Clock”

Player Development Clock and its importance

Our U15 players are being prepared to become our future national team players. It means that their development at this level must be on par with what’s happening across the football spectrum. The “Player Development Clock” is an instrument used to measure the hours of deliberate practice that is required for a player to meet his/ her full potential as a top player. Without tournaments and targeted preparation, those hours suffer tremendously therefore slowing or halting the development of the player.

The Frank Watson tournament would have contributed approximately one hundred hours (100 hrs) towards the “Player Development Clock” for a player who would have played approximately 10 matches over several weekends. Those hours may have been missed if the tournament was not played. While this may appear insignificant, the ongoing effects would have driven additional training and practice long after the tournament would have been concluded.

Scouting and Player Pathways

The tournament presented a tremendous opportunity for our technical officers across the RMAs, to have a real opportunity to identify and document talent for our Academy Training Centers and onward to age appropriate National Teams. Our technical officers were mandated to scout all players participating in the tournament so as to inform future selections. A National U14 squad was subsequently identified and later participated in the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Challenge Trophy held across the Caribbean. The team performed creditably in the international tournament with a Fifty percent (50%) win/ loss record over four games. All players that represented Guyana were identified and scouted by the technical officers during competition matches.

Our youth players must continue to be presented with opportunities to develop consistent with the development of youth players all around the world. The Frank Watson tournament is a significant contributor to the development of our players and we must continue to find ways to improve its impact on Guyana’s Football Development. Our players must play in order to develop and improve, our coaches must have players on the pitch to be able to improve their skills also.

Areas of Concerns

Areas of concern as highlighted by the RMAs and the Federation thus far continue to be:

1. The absence of the adequate number of certified Match Officials for matches.
2. The limited number of suitable match venues within the RMA’s.
3. Most RMA’s were only able to conduct one round of the tournament, which resulted from them not being able to maintain a smooth flow of matches. The unavailability of venues across the region due to the inclement weather was the main bugbear.

4. A sore point of the tournament was the seeming inability or unwillingness of the RMAs to maintain and send records of the activity within their jurisdictions, and to provide the requisite timely Reports to the GFF and other stakeholders.
5. The inadequacy of the RMAs reporting efforts made it difficult to do a holistic analysis of the tournament, and its impact on the afore-mentioned objectives as set by the GFF.

Going Forward

The below listed activities have commenced / will commence, in the continued effort of the GFF to improve and grow the tournament in the new Season and beyond:

1. The GFF employed Technical Development Officers (TDOs) and Youth Development Officers (YDOs) continue to lend support to the RMA's in each area.
2. A training session to facilitate capacity building at the RMA's were conducted by the GFF. This will result in Communication, Competitions, and Marketing Officers being appointed in each RMA. These will continually liaise with their respective counterparts at the GFF.
3. Office spaces are being identified in each area, for use by the RMA's.
4. To improve the image and bring awareness to the tournament, it is recommended that a tournament logo and new banner be designed and produced for the upcoming season.
5. Help is still being sought through the Minister within the Ministry of Social Cohesion, Department of Culture, Youth, and Sport for assistance in offsetting transportation costs in the RMAs with transportation challenges.
6. The National Sports Commission has undertaken a seemingly slow but sure program of the upgrade of community grounds countrywide.
7. Invitations are still being sent to non-competing sponsors to partner with the GFF in this and other leagues and events.

Conclusion

The GFF – Pele Alumni “Frank Watson” National Intra-Association Tournament has had a tremendously positive impact on the GFF's Youth Development Strategy. It has produced a solid census that informs on Guyana's player population, player development gap (Regionally), venue conditions (impact on the game), capacity gaps at the Association level and fundamental weaknesses in the Federation's members support intervention and funding programme.

We now have a robust platform to build the operational infrastructure of this competition through which the GFF and Pele Alumni Corporation will derive tremendous value in years to come.

Sincere gratitude must be extended to Pele Alumni Corporation for committing to such a mutually beneficial and immensely rewarding undertaking in support of the growth and development of Guyana's Youth.

We look forward to the continuation of this partnership as we hold hands and take the game forward collectively.