



INTRODUCTION

PNG Basketball Buzz is a sports magazine that I John Fred created to spotlight emerging basketball talent and promote the sport across Papua New Guinea. The magazine serves as a platform to celebrate the achievements of local athletes, provide in – depth coverage of games, and inspired the next generation of basketballers in PNG.

The magazine is consisting of 16 articles that I wrote through my Facebook page, Lagu media Agency. The stories are from athletes throughout Papua New Guinea.

JOHN FRED – Freelance Writer

Contents

PAGES

1.	Cover Page
2	Introduction
3	Contents
4 – 6	Kevin Kaia Aims High
7	Player Profile
8	Player Profile
9	Player Profile
10 – 11	Opex Kima: The silent archiver in basketball
12 -1 3	Meet Allan Millard
114-15	Drusilla Mea: Young aspiring hoop star from Tubuserea Village.
16 -17	Elave dedicates awards to big sister
18 – 19	Mainu received player of the tournament for 2024 Varsity Cup
20 -21	Muri continues to produce best basketballers
22 -24	Youths see sports as a driven force to combat social issues
25-27	Kalista Kotoveke: Aspiring Basketball Ambassador
28	Meet Martin Ben
29-30	From Eriku Basketball court to team PNG
31-32	Clarice Hane
33-35	Joelyne Opety: Rookie of the year for 2024 Varsity games
36-37	Kaupa Breaking barriers in Simbu Province sports scene
38	Budin back to courts
39-40	Mope officiating for almost 30 years.

Kevin Kaia showing his MVP Awards and Pom WBL U18 title



Ultimax Basketball Club's point guard Kevin Kaia Jrn is one of the best upcoming basketballers in the country. At 14 years of age, the young kid from Baimuru Village in Gulf Province is one of the players to watch in every match he plays.

Kevin plays a vital role in helping his team, the Ultimax, to claimed the POMWBL U18 basketball titles in male division. Kevin was also named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the U18 division. This will be the second MVP for Kevin Kaia in Ultimax jersey, last year he received the MVP awards for Ultimax in senior men's division.

Joining Kevin in Ultimax's jersey is Himson Kaia his elder brother, Avae Kaia Jrn, and Milla John, Kevin's cousins. It was a thrilling moment for the Kaia Family. This will be the second grand final for Kevin to play alongside his elder brother and cousins.

Kevin is one of the familiar faces in the Junior National Team. He part of the U17 PNG Basketball team that took part in FIBA U17 Oceania Championships hosted here in Port Moresby.

Growing up in Kaugere community, Kevin learns basketball from PNG's basketball legend Mr Moi Muri. Kevin started his basketball career in Kaugere Community.

From playing under pressure and controlling the pressure in basketball is norm to young Kevin Kaia. Kaia is a three pointer who can shoot anywhere in the court. A fearless point guard who can drive through defenders to score points when his team needs point. Kaia is also defensive player who loves defence.

Wearing the PNG Colours in Pacific Games is a dream of a life time for Kevin. With the international exposure Kevin have in the junior level, he will be giving all his best to represent the country again in the future.

Kevin is currently playing in Port Moresby Elite Basketball Competition with Togaba Coffee. Young Kaia said playing in Premier Elite Competition is always his childhood dream.

"I am happy and honoured to play alongside players like Purari Muri, Obert Muri and Tony Haro in PEB. And playing against some PNG Reps in other team," said Kaia.

At 14 years of age, Kevin has already shown positive outcomes from the way he plays, young Kevin made his PEB debut on a high note with man of the match performance

against the Tamaraws. The young pint guard from Ultimex U18 is one of the youngest basketballers to play in Port Moresby Elite Basketball Competition. Through his talent and skills in basketball, Kevin has received positive feedback from few PNG Reps in basketball.



Kevin Kaia in Togoba Coffee jersey, receiving the man of the match award from Lawrence Lahari.
PC: Courtesy of Port Moresby Elite Basketball

Moreover, Kevin is looking forward to represent PNG in junior division again in next year and onwards. Kevin described the feeling of wearing the PNG jersey and representing the country has one of the best feelings that will last for eternity, a feeling of overwhelm, a feeling of having a sense of becoming an ambassador of basketball in the country.

“Wearing the PNG Jersey is always a good feeling; I am blessed that I have the opportunity to represent the country (PNG).” Stated Kevin

Player Profiles



PLAYER Profile

Jackie **Asiba**

Team
PNG

Position:
Center

Debut: 2023
Pacific
Games

Local Club:
Chariots



OPEX KIMA: The Silent Archiver in Basketball Arena.



Opex Kima in action for ACL Kings against the Mini plus Tamaraws in Port Moresby Elite Basketball

Photo: Courtesy of Port Moresby Elite Basketball

Hailing from Gulf, and Southern Highlands, young basketballer Opex Kima have won several titles in basketball in the country.

The young lad from Kaugere community is one of the crowds' favourites in every match that he plays. Known for his "post moves" and second attempt from offensive rebounds Opa has been one of the outstanding basketball players.

Climbing the ranks from junior division to senior men's division, Kima have proved to strong in rebounding and post plays. Kima a forward who can help centres and play centre as well

At 22 years of age, Opa Kima have won back-to-back Port Moresby Basketball League (PMBL) titles with KSS Flames, he also won back-to-back National South's Basketball League (NSBL) titles with Usano Sura Souths.

Like many other kids growing up in Kaugere community, Opa learn basketball from community level. Opa started his career in Kaugere Basketball Association before playing in other competitions in city. Opa is currently one of the best young forwards in basketball arena. He a player with good attitude on and off the court.

Many people did not know that Opa is part Southern Highlands, a province that always loves basketball. The Gulf and Southern Highlands lad's dream and goal is to represent PNG one fine day in basketball. Either in Pacific games, Melanesian Cup, or a friendly match. For Opa wearing the famous red, black, and gold colours will be a dream come true.

Currently Opa is playing with Mayawala in FAPNG Basketball League, and Ultimax in POMBA. Opa is also part of the ACL kings basketball club for some good years.

The young forward is one of the players who have experienced in players finals in basketball arena. Opa has won several tournaments and competitions throughout the country.

Meet Allan Millard, a promising young basketball player hailing from Kaugere whose passion and talent on the court are paving the way for a bright future in the world of hoops.



Allan Millard Posing for a photo during one of his training sessions with Ultimax Basketball Club.

Young Millard started playing basketball from backyard courts in his home. Playing under the Mango tree from a home-made wooden board and a ring made from old bike rims. Straight from backyard basketball, Allan started playing in Kaugere Rabia Basketball Association. He started playing in U10 and U12 division. Getting advantage from his height, Allan started playing in senior men's division when he was 13 years of age.

Straight from Kaugere Basketball, Allan was drafted in to KSS Flames by Mr Moi Muri who is a basketball mentor for all the kids in Kaugere. Allan is part of the KSS Southern Flames team that won the Port Moresby Men's Basketball League title last year. Allan plays a significant role throughout the season 2023 for KSS Flames helping Apia Muri in playing Centre and forward as well. For Allan playing with players like Apia Muri, Purari Muri is a childhood dream come true.

Allan Millard is also part of the youthful team from Ultimax that won the Port Moresby Basketball Association last year.

At 18 years of age Allan has received positive and motivational feedback from former PNG Reps and current PNG Reps as one of the future stars of Basketball PNG.

The young man from Kaugere is part of team PNG U17 side that took part in FIBA U17 Oceanic Championship here in Port Moresby. Allan is one of the outstanding players of team PNG U17 side.

From Rebounding ability to defensive skills (blocking, stealing), from passing and court vision to basketball IQ and decision-making, from agility and footwork to post moves and scoring in the paint, Allan Millard has ticked all the boxes.

The 18-year-old is one of the best young basketball local talents in the country that needs more international exposure to attract selectors from overseas. Allan is a player who is always humble on and off the court, a player with good attitude and behaviour.

Currently, Allan is playing for Tribes Coffee in Port Moresby Elite Basketball Competition.

Alice Drusilla Mea: Young Aspiring Hoop star from Tubuserea Village



Young Mea ready to take the court with full smile on her face

Tubuserea Village, which is some few minutes' drive from Port Moresby is the home of many aspiring talented basketballers. Tubuserea is one of the villages in the Central Province that used basketball as a tool to keep youths busy and free from social issues. One of their local talents straight from Tubuserea village who has potential to one day represents Papua New Guinea in Basketball is young Alice Drusilla Mea.

At 15 years of age, Alice can play against some of the best basketballers in the country in Port Moresby Basketball Association (POMBA). Alice plays point Guard for her village team, Lakwaharu Spartans senior women's team in POMBA.

The young talented kid has always given good challenge to opponent's team in every match. Alice played a vital part in leading the team in executing game plans throughout the season. Through her little effort as point guard, the Spartans reached the POMBA quarter finals before bowing out of the competition.

For young Alice playing against national rep players like Betty Angula, Marca Muri, Susan Paisoi and Rosa Kauri are memorable moments that she will always be treasured. Alice also has that aim and goal to one day represent PNG in Pacific Games. Alice also represents PNG in under 17 division.

Alice is part of the team PNG U17 girls' team that took part in FIBA Oceania U17 Championships hosted here in Port Moresby. Playing in front of the nation and her family have motivated and pushed Alice to have that desire to represent PNG in future.

Despite being youngest player for the Spartans team in POMBA. Alice is a player who can play under pressure and control the ball. From 3-point shooting to anywhere in the court, Alice always gives attempt to score a point. Alice is a team player who always play with the team. She will always choose team work than individual show and go.

The 15 Kid from Tubuserea has proved to be one of the best young talents in POMBA season 2024

Elavo Dedicates Awards to His Big Sister



Morea Elavo showcasing his awards after the awards night for the Varsity Games

2024 Varsity Games Most Valuable Player and Top Points scorer awards recipient Morea Elavo from IBSU dedicated his awards to his late sister, who passed away few weeks ago.

Morea who hails from Gulf and Central, plays an important role to help his school IBSU defeated The UPNG Chiefs to claim the 2024 Varsity Games Basketball Cup. The young point guard is known for his three-point shooting and pressure control.

Morea said his Sister was always his number one Supporter in basketball. She is always at the side of the basketball court cheering for me in all the tournaments that I took part and all the basketball competition that I took part.

Morea Elavo is one of the best young basketballers in the country, Elavo also represented PNG from junior division to senior men's division.

Elavo comes from a basketball family, all his family's played basketball. The star point guard start playing basketball when he was six years old, playing for Tamaraws. He first represented PNG in U15 division, when Port Moresby hosted the FIBA Oceania U15 Champions. He also represents PNG in U17 division. Elavo's dream of representing PNG in Senior Men's division came to reality in 2022 when he makes his debut in FIBA Melanesian Cup in Fiji alongside his elder brother Gabriel Elavo. Elavo is also part of the PNG Men's Basketball 5x5 team that took part in 2023 Pacific Games in Solomon Islands

For More Elavo this MVP awards will be his first Most Valuable Player awards, Morea has bagged other awards apart from MVP in different tournaments and competitions.

"I dedicate this win and award to my sister I lost few weeks Ago and I also missed the first day of the tournament because went to lay my sister to rest on Sunday and join the team on the second day I wasn't expecting two awards to be honest". The star point guard said.

Mainu Received Player of The Tournament for 2024 Varsity Games



UPNG Chiefs Captain Emmanuel Mainu. Photo: Courtesy of Wepio Media Agency •

At 19 years of age, young Emmanuel Mainu ticks all the boxes to be one of the best basketball players in the country. Mainu is a player who fits in any position, from forward to centre and guard; the young lad can fit in easily. Known for his powerful rebounds, fearless drive in and pressure control during game situations, Mainu is always the fans' favourite.

The Southern Highlands native's basketball journey is like one of Southern Highlands household name basketballer Moses Lune. Like Lune and other basketballers, Emmanuel Mainu learn basketball from famous Ela Beach basketball court, the young star started playing freelance basketball in 2018 from Ela Beach basketball court. He always spent his free time with his friends to go and play fan games at Ela Beach.

Emmanuel Mainu has so far become one of the players who has the spirit of playing in grand finals. Mainu plays his first basketball grand final with EMK City Rangers against the Epari Kuare in Pangia. Mainu also plays with Civpac Amesl and EMK City Rangers in National South's Basketball League (NSBL) playing four consecutive grand finals, he also plays in PMBL grand final last year with Civpac Amesl.

Young Mainu's experience as helped him lead his school, the University of Papua New Guinea to the recent Varsity games grand final. The second-year business strategic management also captain the UPNG Chiefs basketball club. His talent and skills have proved him to be one of the best basketballers in the University competition. The power forward was named the 2024 varsity cup player of the tournament.

Like many other sports athletes, Mainu his dream and goal is to represent his country in the code of basketball and become role model to kids that love playing basketball.

Muri Continues to Produce Best Basketballers



Ultimax Basketball Club junior players displaying their awards with their super Coach Moi Muri

PNG National Men's Basketball Team Head Coach Mr Moi Muri continue his legacy and trade make to produce Best Basketballers in the country.

His effort, dedication and commitment paid off during last Sunday's Pom WBL Grand Finals when his junior players from Ultimax dominated the Pom WBL Grand Final. The Ultimax claimed the U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18. Out of all the division the U10 and U12 mix team won the grand final as well as U14 boys and girls.

Speaking on behalf of Coach Muri is the elder's son and PNG International Apia Muri.

"These kids deserve it. Your time and efforts have rewarded you all a lot of influence in the community but these children did it for the Love of the sport. Thank you to the men standing behind, A coach a mentor,

Moi Muri. And some senior players who took time for them. Thank you to the parents for supporting them throughout the weekends and now see your little champions. We Thank our heavenly father for the skills and talents that he gave and we give praise to him. Thank you ULTIMAX for sponsoring these children.

CHAMPIONS ULTIMAX," said Apia Muri.

Moi Muri is well known for his strict principle's basketball arena. He always makes sure his players start their training on time and finish on time. Apart from basketball, Muri always teaches the kids importance of life. How to be a good citizen in community.

The Ultimax basketball club always train under the heat of direct sun light at Muri Basketball Court, Kaugere. From Senior Men's and Women's to U10 division, they all train at same venue in different schedules. "These kids do not train in stadium or indoor court, their training ground is outdoor, under the sun. Outdoor training also motivates them to take every single match seriously", Muri said.

Through his mentoring and coaching role in basketball in his community, Kaugere. The community as produced some of the best basketball in the country. And Mr Muri is still putting extra effort to produce more basketball stars from Kaugere Basketball Court.

Meanwhile, the Ultimax Senior Men's and Women's will be playing their Major Semi Finals in Port Moresby Basketball Association (POMBA) this coming Wednesday. The Ultimax men and women finish on top of the ladder of the POMBA 2024 season.

Youths See Sports as A Driving Forces to Combat Social Issues in Community.



Equalizers Men's team

Youths from the back end at Bomana, outside of Port Moresby City has seen positive Impact of sports in their small community. Despite not having a structural youth group or association the youths from far end of Bomana decided to register basketball club in Port Moresby Basketball Association to keep them busy and free from social activities and issues such as alcohol and drug related problems, violence in society and pity crimes.

The light known community is located at back of the Dela Salle Secondary School the community have a sporting oval from soccer, rugby league and AFL and a volleyball and basketball court that usually keeps them (youths) busy and free from social issues. Out of all the sporting code the youths decided to form and register a basketball club called Equalizers.

“We never took part in any competition not even suburbs or other teams. We have a basketball court beside our home, so we grew up watching and trying to learn the game and we would talk about playing in a team, like to take part in competitions. But all this talking about being in a team was when most of us were in primary schools and no adult really made the effort to look for a team or start a team for us. We are also residing far from most of the teams that we wanted to join like a Gerehu team, so the only option we saw for us was to create our own basketball team. Having a basketball team was a dream for most of our players, until this year two individuals took it upon themselves to start a team”, these are the emotional words from one of the founders of the Equalizers Basketball Club, Ms Agnes Rossen Urupua. Ms Urupua is one of the youths that came up with the idea to use basketball to change the society, especially the lives of youths.

Agnes is a first year Law Student at University of Papua New Guinea. Through her aspiring idea the youths in her community decided to put the full concentration on sporting activity. “Sports is one of the factors that helps people to help fit and have a positive mind-set. Sports also plays a vital role to help people from mental health problems. It gives us growth mind-set”, Agnes added

We search on Facebook for Associations that run basketball competition in Port Moresby and came across POMBA last year. Me (Agnes) and Tiriman contact Mr Sliver Mohu and got response to him in December last year. We were given requirements to take part in POMBA. Through the help of two other adults in our community we managed to register with POMBA and took part in in this season”, Agnes Urupua said

Despite living outside from Port Moresby City, the young man and women’s always make effort to play every match with passion and eager to learn basketball. They always travel by PMV Buses from Bomana to Taurama Aquatic Centre, and vice versa when returning home, every game night. The love and eagerness that this young man and women have for basketball in something that most basketball club should learn

Bomana is one of the Community known for rugby league, AFL, Soccer, and other sports. Basketball is a sport that these young adults are trying their very best to introduce to the community. From No proper sponsors to transportation issues, and other issues faced by club, they are not giving up on their dream and passion for basketball

It was also a blessing and boost for their men's team to have the service of PNG Basketball Household name player Apia Muri to be part of the team for this season. The Team PNG Men's Basketball Captain (Apia) help their men's side throughout the season

The Club is also planning to took part in other basketball tournaments and competitions in future. They are also appealing to Businesses Houses and Individuals who resides in Port Moresby North East electorate to help them in terms of sponsorship in their future Basketball events and tournaments

Kalista Kotoveke: Aspiring Basketball Ambassador



Kalista ready to take a free throw during Varsity Games. PC: Logan

“I grew up around the basketball courts. My dad plays as well that is why. But uh, I started playing competitively when I was about 12, that is around 2013 if I remember correctly haha. And uh, I was playing in the Kavieng Basketball Association (KABA). The team I was playing for was my dad’s; Rawal Heats,” These are the words of young Kalista Kotoveke.

The New Ireland native has been one of the outstanding players in the UPNG Basketball Association for the 2024 season and the university games, the Varsity Cup. Kalista play for

her University, The Pacific Adventist University PM Lakers. Being the team captain and point guard, Kalista always give her best in every match that she plays for her university. Born and raised from a basketball family, Kali knows how to control pressure, execute game plan and put pressure on opponents. Kali is a point guard who can plays small forward and shooting guard as well. From No look passes, to hard drive in, 3 points to 45-degree shots and fast Break, the PM Lakers point guard ticks all the box.

Mingling with senior players or people who have experienced in sports or anything in life with give you self confidence and boosts you as an individual person, and yes Kali had the privilege and opportunity to be around with some senior players in basketball arena.

“2018 I had the privilege to play with the senior ladies (Betty Angula, Normalisa Dobunaba, Maka Muri, Lilly, Cynthia, Nester, Mary Elavo, etc.) in the ALL STARS. For team POMWBL. We got the Gold. But me sotimobs disla time. I was just starting to gain the real experience yk. Me makim number tasol haha. They did put me in to play a few minutes and I treasured every second because I learned a lot from those senior ladies”, said Kali

Kali is a team player who gives back credit to his team members whenever they play and beat other teams.

“I am very humbled and I would still give credit to the team. Me no shine lo strong blomi haha. The team assisted me well as well in my games and off course our good Lord who gave me wisdom to lead the team,” she stated

Through her leadership role, she led the PAU Lakers to grand final in Varsity Basketball Cup this year. Out of all the Universities take part, Kali’s PAU played against UPNG in grand final and lost. This gives them motivation and challenged them to prepare and prove their worth at the UPNG Basketball Competition. From 4th placing, the PM Lakers defeated all the school and claimed the UPNG Basketball Association 2024 titles under the leadership of Kalista Kotoveke. She adopted the leadership attributes from her dad. Kali was once part of Youth Leadership Program Conducted Online from United States

“2018 and 2020 I was in a program under the care of late Aunty Rudi Daroa, former Basketball Federation of PNG president Nick Daroa’s wife. I attended a training camp in

Brisbane, Toowoomba. Its a summer camp. So, in 2018 I went with some of the girls and on 2020, I was the only one who signed up most of the girls pulled out due to COVID 19”, Kalista concludes

Kalista Kotoveke also represents PNG in FIBA U17 Oceanic Basketball Championship in 2019.

Meet Martin Ben: A Young Skilful and Talented Basketballer from Tamaraws Basketball Club.

Tamaraws Basketball Club's young point guard Martin Ben has been one of the outstanding players in FA PNG Cooperate Basketball League and Port Moresby Basketball Association. So far Ben has received three Man of the Match Awards for the Tamaraws team competing in FAPNG League.

At 20 years of age, Martin has proved his worth as one of the contenders of the team PNG jersey in future. Ben is young player who knows how to play in pressure situation, a team player who can read his teammates game style.

Martin Ben hails from Central province and Gulf Province. Ben is also known as Bob star by most basketball fans and players. The young lad from Gulf and Central started playing basketball in 2014 when he was 11 years old. Ben is a loyal Tamaraws Basketball Club member, he started playing for the club in 2014 in junior division. Fast forward to now, he is one of the best point guards for Tamaraws senior men's side.

The youngster is also a defensive player who can play defence through the four quarters. Ben is a fearless player who can drive in anytime when there is a defence from opposing team. From 3-point shots to 45-degree shots to hard lay up and ball handling, the man has ticked all the boxes.

Martin Ben also plays for the Tamaraws last year in Port Moresby Basketball League (PMBL), where his team finishes third on the competition.

Ben is aiming to make the National Team in future.

Photo: Courtesy of FAPNG Cooperate Basketball League

From Eriku Basketball Courts to Team PNG: The basketball journey of Ryan Tetemo.



“When I first start playing basketball, my goal was to represent my province in PNG Games. I train very hard to achieve my goal. I achieved my goal in in 2017 when I was selected to represent my home town, Lae City in National Basketball All Stars Champions in Port

Moresby. I was shocked when my name was mentioned in the PNG National Team training on squad for the FIBA Melanesian Cup “. These are the words of PNG Men’s Basketball Power Forward, Ryan Tetemo.

Ryan Tetemo, who hails from Morobe and Buka, start playing basketball in 2015 for Uni Tech Bulls U21 division when he was 17 years of age. Through his height advantage and the way of playing, Ryan always heads the Uni Tech Bulls senior men’s team.

Like any other kid in Lae City, soccer was their first sports before playing any other sports. Ryan also plays soccer when he was in primary school before playing basketball. Despite the soccer background in his home province, Ryan chooses basketball over soccer.

Ryan’s journey in basketball is quite tough for him. He made his first National squad in 2017 for the FIBA Melanesian Cup. However, he did not make the final team because he has some problems with his passport. similar Situation happen again in 2018, when Ryan was named in the 3x3 national team. This situation and issue did not stop Ryan from archiving his goals in basketball.

In 2022, the young lad from Lae City’s goal of wearing the Team PNG jersey came to reality when he made his debut in Melanesian Cup in Fiji. It was an emotional moment for a kid who put all his effort and sacrifices to wear the Team PNG jersey.

Ryan also fights for his spot last year (2023) and made the final cut for the PNG Men’s Basketball Team that took part in Solomon Islands Pacific Games.

Ryan also won several titles with KSS Flames in PMBL and other competitions. Through his sacrifices, endless commitment, dedication, and effort Ryan has Represent Team Morobe and Team PNG as well in basketball. “It was a tough journey for me, I have faced a lot of challenges before I represent PNG. The road was touch for me. I did give up; I give all me effort and commitment to wear the famous team PNG jersey. If I can do it, any other kid in any province can do it as well”. Ryan Said.

Clarice Hane: The Raising Star from Tubuserea Village

Meet 17-year-old Clarice Hane, one of the youngest players in the history of PNG Basketball to make Senior Women's debut at the age of 16.

Clarice Hane hails from Tubuserea Village, in Central Province. Clarice comes from a basketball family; Clair and all her siblings plays basketball from their village competition. Her father is also their coach.

Clarice started playing at a very young age, she made her National Championships debut when was 9 years of age, playing for her Village team, Tubuserea during the 3x3 national Through her height advantage, skills and talent Clair start playing in senior women's division when she was only 9 years of age. Clarice is player who always faces her opponent team with confidence and respect.

Clarice made her debut for team PNG senior women's division in 2022 during the FIBA Melanesian Cup in Fiji. She was the youngest player in the team and tournament as well. From this experience, Clair Hane later leads and captain the PNG Basketball U15 girls' team to Guam, to take part it the FIBA Oceania Champion.

Clair also captain the PNG U17 girls in last year's FIBA U17 Oceania Champions in Port Moresby. Her biggest achievement was making the final team and take part in the Solomon Islands Pacific Games.

Clarice remains as one of the youngest players in the history of PNG Basketball to debut in senior women's division at the age of 15.

"You must keep on going, even at some points you are about to give up, just remember that giving up will not do you any good, but Hard work and sacrifices will pay off. And one more thing, if I can do it all the way from Tubuserea Village, I know for sure that others playing basketball in village can do it as well, it is just all about resilience and patience". Clair Hane said this words as an encouragement to upcoming basketballers.

"I was so happy and proud of myself coz it was always my dream to wear that jersey and especially seeing my father standing there and cheering me up was just something special to me and it was because of him and I have reached that through his sacrifice and

everything you know. He trained me and coached me ever since I was a kid and as a kid growing up seeing my whole lot of family playing basketball just motivates me more to play.” Clarice also added

The Tubuserea native is currently playing for the Chariots Basketball Club in Port Moresby Basketball Association. Young Clarice Hane is also aiming for a spot in the upcoming national and international events for basketball.

Meet Joelyne Opety: The Rookie of The Year for the 2024 Varsity Games.



First Year Law Student, Ms Joelyne Opety has put her signature in the recently host university basketball tournament. The 18-year tall centre pick up the Rookie awards in the female division.

Started playing basketball in 2021, while a student at Kerevet National High School. Ms Opety never have the feeling and taste of real basketball pressure until she came to UPNG to do her first year to study Law. Opety start basketball from fun games and school carnival while she was in Kerevet, basketball was an article that will always keeps her busy when she has free time. Opety plays her first basketball competition this year in UPNG, through the UPNG Basketball Association battle of the schools. Through her skills and passion Opety was selected to be part of the UPNG Chiefs team that took part in recent Varsity Games.

Known has “Tall Girl” by fans and supporters, Opety is Centre that can jump easily and picks up rebounds through her height advantage. Opety plays an important role in her team, which they where Undefeated from day one of the competition to grand final winner, the UPNG Chiefs female team one. Her performance has made her to pick up the Rookie Awards for the female division.



The New Ireland and AROB native have also attract clubs from other basketball competitions and association. Ms Opety was asked by several coaches to join their clubs. However, Opety wants to remain and took part in UPNG Basketball Association and wait for

the right time when she is ready. The 18-year-old is one of the players that has passion and love for basketball. Opety is also aiming to represents PNG in the future.

“It is Exciting Yet Nerve Wrecking. It is Like I Am Thrilled to Be of Those That Got Selected to Represent the University but On the Other Hand I am Nervous Because People Have High Expectations of The Team and I did Not Want to Disappoint Anyone”. The UPNG Chiefs

Centre said

Kaupa Breaking Boundaries in Simbu Province's Sports Scene.



Simbu Province is well known for producing best rugby league stars from the times of great Bal Numapo to the current NRL Star Justin Olam.

Well let me introduce to you all Mr Augustine Kaupa. Kaupa who also hails from Simbu Province, has been making waves in the country's basketball scene. As a professional basketball player, Kaupa has proudly represented Papua New Guinea in two Pacific Games, showcasing his skills, talents, and dedication on the international stage.

The Simbu native is one of the key players for the Civpac Amesi in the Port Moresby Men's Basketball League (PMBL) and competes in the EMK City Rangers Basketball Competition.

Kaupa journey to success has been marked by hard work, perseverance, and deep passion for the game.

Kaupa started playing when he was 12 years old, he started his career with Saints Basketball Club, playing for the U14 in 2009. During that year Kaupa lead his U14 team to

grand finals. From that moment on, Kaupa has been one of the regular faces in every basketball grand final. Kaupa said he learn the skill and art of basketball himself when he was a kid growing up in Hohola Basketball Court.

Kaupa also added that, he would really love to go back and spread the game in his home province back home, but it all depends on the costs of traveling to and from.

Kaupa is one of the unique basketballers in the current PNG Men's Basketball team. He the only Simbu native that always represents country in international tours.

Budin Back to the courts after two years of missionary work.



Saints Basketball Club's young athlete Bullie Budin is great full to be part of the basketball team again, after serving two years as a Full-Time missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Budin serves his mission in the Highland, Momase and New Guinea Islands regions for the period of 24 months. The young lad has been part of the saints Basketball club from junior level to PMBL, before going to his mission. Budin is currently back with the club that he calls family, playing in the Port Moresby Basketball Association. He said he loves playing

the sport, and the sport helped him from stress free and teaches him some good principles in life.

Budin says one of his role model and people that motivate him to serve his mission is former New South Wales Blues star player Will Hopoate and Melbourne Storm's Young Tonumaipea.

Photo: Courtesy of Saints Basketball Club

Mope officiating basketball for almost 30 years.



For over three decades, Mrs. Anna Mope has been a shining beacon of dedication and passion in the world of basketball officiating. As one of the longest-serving referees in Papua New Guinea and match coordinators, Anna has not only made a significant impact on the sport but has also inspired countless individuals along the way. Anne will be turning 57-year-old this year. Despite her age, her love for basketball is unmeasured.

Anna's journey in basketball officiating began over 30 years ago when she first stepped onto the court with a whistle in hand. Her love for the game and her natural ability to maintain fairness and integrity in every match quickly set her apart as a respected figure in the basketball community. Through her unwavering commitment to upholding the rules and ensuring a level playing field for all athletes, Anna has earned the trust and admiration of players, coaches, and fans alike.

In addition to her remarkable career as a basketball referee, Anna is also a dedicated elementary school teacher and a loving mother of four. Mrs Mope is currently teaching at Sevese Morea Primary School. Balancing the demands of officiating high-stakes matches with the responsibilities of raising a family is no easy feat, but Anna does so with grace and determination.

Throughout her illustrious career, Anna has faced numerous challenges and obstacles, but she has always persevered with resilience and a positive attitude. Her ability to remain calm under pressure, make split-second decisions with confidence, and handle difficult situations with professionalism has earned her the reputation of being a true pioneer in basketball officiating.

So far Anna has officiated basketball match in 2 Pacific Games. One in New Caledonia and one in Port Moresby. Anna has also officiated few other international tournaments hosted by FIBA Oceania.

Mrs. Anna Mope's legacy in basketball officiating is one that will be remembered and cherished for years to come.