Beat: Sports

Lady Elite 4-Peat

It's Getting Sticky!!

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USPA NEWS - A pivotal figure behind Lady Elite's sustained success is their sponsor of over five years, Jeremiah Abu-Bakr. A local real estate mogul and owner of multiple businesses, Abu-Bakr's unwavering support has been instrumental. Currently awaiting induction into the Flag Football Hall of Fame as a player, his contributions both on and off the field have left an indelible mark on the sport.

This past weekend, the Lady Elite Flag Football team journeyed to the "Sunshine State," specifically Davenport, Florida, just outside of Orlando, on a mission to defend their 2024 United Flag Football League (UFFL) National title. A victory would mark their fourth consecutive national championship—a testament to a loyal squad, with over 70% of its original roster committed for more than a decade.

The tournament commenced with a nail-biting opener, where Lady Elite narrowly secured a 6-0 win over AOA, setting the tone for a challenging path ahead. As the games progressed, the team showcased their resilience and depth, delivering commanding wins the following day over Carolina United (27-0) and Most Wanted (26-0), advancing to championship Sunday. In Game 1 of the finals, the team beat DC Bad Girls (12-0), securing their place in the championship game at 6:30 PM. With only an hour to rest and regroup, the stakes were higher than ever.

Finally, it was game time. Early in the first half, adversity struck when their starting quarterback, Dearria Franklin, suffered a severe thumb injury on her passing hand and was immediately rushed to the ER. The Lady Elite sideline was devastated, with tears in their eyes as they watched their leader being transported off the field. However, undeterred, Head Coach Larry Duncan adjusted the game plan, turning to their versatile quarterback Britnee Sangalan, also known as "Bunny," renowned for her speed and agility. This strategic shift paid off, as Bunny ignited the offense with breathtaking touchdown passes while the defense delivered pivotal stops, including crucial interceptions.

The climax of the championship game was nothing short of dramatic. With the opposition pressing on a decisive drive, Lady Elite's defense held firm, making a monumental stop on fourth down. Regaining possession, they expertly managed the clock, sealing their fourth consecutive national title. The United Flag Football League (UFFL) celebrated their achievement, crowning Lady Elite as the 8v8 Women's D1 UFFL National Champions.

This victory propels Lady Elite closer to the esteemed record held by the Lady Black Mambas, who currently boast seven national titles. With Lady Elite now at five total championships, including an impressive four in a row, the competition intensifies. Lady Elite's blend of seasoned veterans and emerging talents signals a formidable challenge to the reigning record holders. The message is clear: "Black Mambas, you are on notice to be dethroned."

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