



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **KFC Bombers secure Triton Men's Basketball League championship 12-0**

The KFC Bombers won the title during the Spring 2023 Triton Men's Basketball League Championship hosted by the University of Guam Athletics Department Monday night.

KFC Bombers upset the MVP Stars 92-90.

Team OG finished in third place by beating the UOG Tritons in overtime.

### **Championship game**

In the championship game, the Bombers held a tight lead over the Stars 22-21 by the end of the first quarter. The MVPs struggled with success behind the arch and honed their energy under the basket.

By the second half, the MVP Stars took the lead 41-38. A combined 13 points from Darren Hechanova and JP Cruz resulted in the Stars outscoring the Bombers 20-16 in the second quarter.

MVPs led by 10 points within the first three minutes of the second half.

Chris Conner built momentum for his team in the second period after he and teammate Jaden Finley scored 16 of the Bombers' 27 points in the third quarter to even the scoreboard at 65.

Both teams kept a close scoring game for the entire fourth period. JP Cruz, heavily guarded by the Bombers, found his shot with short-range jumpers and quick looks for a 3-pointer. He scored 14 points in the 4th quarter.

Bombers' Garrington Simpson used his speed to outrun MVP defense and maneuvered his way toward 12 points for the quarter.

The Bombers took a 92-87 lead with 30 seconds left in the game. JP Cruz managed to hit a 3-pointer with seconds to spare, but it was not enough for the MVPs to steal the win.

Garrington Simpson and Jaden Finley both led the Bombers with 25 points apiece. MVP Star JP Cruz finished the game with 30 points, and Vince Estella added 19 points.

### **Overtime settles third place**

The Team OG and the UOG Tritons matchup was neck and neck. UOG Tritons had a four-point lead with three minutes left in the first quarter, but a solid run by Team OG late in the period gave them a 23-21 lead at the end of 10 minutes.

Team OG led by 9 halfway through the second quarter, outscoring the Tritons 27 to 21 points, and securing a 50-42 lead at the end of the first half. Cisco Uncangco scored four of his seven 3-pointers in the first half to help the Tritons remain competitive in the game.

The UOG Tritons regained the lead 55-54 halfway through the third quarter. Both teams bounced back and forth by regaining and chasing the lead. Despite the Tritons outscoring Team OG 30-24 and Manny Soriano's 12-point performance, the Tritons trailed by 2 points at the end of the third quarter.

Both teams pushed their best efforts in the fourth quarter. With less than 2 minutes left in the period, the score was tied 92 apiece. Tritons and OGs would hit three-point shots to break free from the draw. With less than 30 seconds remaining, Amram Yobei took the game into his hands with acrobatic two possessions to give the Tritons the lead 101-98. Eric Reyes hit a 3-point buzzer-beater to send the game into overtime.

Team OG, with only a 7-man roster, outlasted the Tritons in overtime and scored 21 points to win the game, 122-114.

Eric Reyes led Team OG with 32 points. Tristan Valdez, Vince Espinal, and Chris Change scored 21, 20, and 18 points, respectively. UOG's Yobei scored 30 points and Manny Soriano finished with 28 points.

### **Final Standings:**

1. KFC Bombers

2. MVP Stars
3. Team OG
4. UOG Tritons
5. Navy Ballers
6. MicroFriends

**All-Tournament Team:**

MVP – Garrington Simpson (KFC Bombers)

1. Drake Felder (KFC Bombers)
2. Aubrey Cameron (KFC Bombers)
3. Chris Conner (KFC Bombers)
4. Jaden Finley (KFC Bombers)
5. Darren Hechanova (MVP Stars)
6. JP Cruz (MVP Stars)
7. Vince Estella (MVP Stars)
8. Johnny Chaco (MVP Stars)
9. AJ Grape (Team OG)
10. Reo Aiken (Team OG)
11. Kyle Gaiten (Team OG)
12. Amram Yobei (UOG Tritons)
13. Logan Hopkins (UOG Tritons)
14. Jeremiah Fitzgerald (Navy Ballers)
15. Jose Ignacia (MicroFriends)

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Photo captions:

**2023-league1**

Triton Men's Basketball League All-Tournament Team Members from left, Ty Modglong, Amram Yobei, Logan Hopkins, Jaden Finley, Aubrey Cameron, Drake Felder, and Chris Conner after the the Triton Men's Basketball League championship Monday, May 8, 2023 at the Calvo Field House.

**2023-league2**

Chris Conner dribbles past Darren Hechanova in the Triton Men's Basketball League championship Monday, May 8, 2023 at the Calvo Field House.

Photos courtesy University of Guam Triton Men's Basketball League