

VIVO PRO KABADDI SEASON VI BIGGER, BETTER AND FITTER

Season opens on Sunday, October 7th, 2018 on the Star Sports Network and Hotstar

Season VI trophy unveiled with the 12 captains in Chennai

- The opening ceremony on 7th of October in Chennai will have Shruti Hassan and Vijay Sethupathi, the face of VIVO pro Kabaddi in Tamil Nadu
- Building anticipation for the season through engaging content that drives team affinity, Star Sports launches the invitational regional campaign for Karnataka with Bengaluru Bulls: **Bulls Gala Budhwaara (Wednesday)**, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana with Telegu Titans: **Titans Tho Tuesday** and Maharashtra with U Mumba: **Saturday Night, U Mumba Chi Night**
- The opening match will witness defending champions Patna Pirates, take on home team Tamil Thalaivas in the first clash of the season

CHENNAI, 5th OCTOBER 2018: India's most anticipated kabaddi league, VIVO Pro Kabaddi is back, with Season VI as the 12 fittest captains unveil the most coveted trophy.

The *bravest* 12, **Surjeet Singh** from Bengal Warriors, **Joginder Singh Narwal** from Dabang Delhi K.C., **Sunil Kumar** from Gujarat Fortunegiants, **Surender Nada**, from Haryana Steelers, **Anup Kumar** from Jaipur Pink Panthers, **Pardeep Narwal** for defending Champions Patna Pirates, **Girish Maruti Ernak** from Puneri Paltan, **Vishal Bhardwaj** from Telugu Titans, **Rishank Devadiga** from U.P. Yoddha, and U Mumba vice-captain **Dharmaraj Cheralathan** came together on one stage, decoding their strategy for the season.

Talking about the famous Dubki, Pardeep Narwal, Captain, Patna Pirates, said, "I will never stop doing the Dubki. This season along with the Dubki, I have worked on multiple strategic moves to counter our opponents. For Patna Pirates, one of the most challenging teams we believe is Puneri Paltan because their defense is very strong. I look forward to the season and I am going to take the trophy home this time."

Talking about the team composition, Ajay Thakur, Captain, Tamil Thalaivas, said, "In the previous season our team composition was heavy on youngsters. So, if it happened that I was not on the mat, taking instant decisions was tough. This year, the team has a perfect balance of young and experienced players, we have Manjeet Chhillar, Jasvir Singh and Sukesh Hegde who can take phenomenal decisions at the spur of the moment during the match."

Commenting on the biggest rivals for Bengaluru Bulls this season, Captain Rohit Kumar, said, "According to me, the team that puts its best foot forward will win, it is a competition, and everyone will come prepared. In my opinion Tamil Thalaivas is the most prepared team for this season, under the able guidance from Ajay Thakur. In terms of players, Surrender Nada is the one defender who is the toughest to beat for a raider, along with being the best, he also covers up when his team falters."

Talking about the impact of fitness in a three-month long league, Rishank Devadiga, Captain, U.P. Yoddha, said, “Earlier the season was shorter, and the chances of injury were higher as players prove their mettle on the mat each day. With a three-month long league, there is enough break period for players to rest and recuperate. The challenge in a longer league is the maintain a certain level of fitness consistently which is what we at U.P. Yoddha are training for.”

The inaugural ceremony of Season VI will be a star-studded affair, with eminent sports icons and film personalities expected to attend. Shruti Hassan and face of VIVO pro Kabaddi in Tamil Nadu, Vijay Sethupathi will be seen cheering for their favourite teams along with fans on opening day.

In a first, to further build team affinity and fan loyalty, Star Sports has introduced invitational regional campaigns for key markets, Bengaluru Bulls – **Bulls Gala Budhwaara** (Wednesday), Telegu Titans – **Titans Tho Tuesday** and U Mumba – **Saturday Night, U Mumba Chi Night**, heralding the weekly team slots for the three squads.

Gearing up for the exhilarating matches across 13 weeks, the teams have been training fastidiously to prepare for a competitive season. With many firsts this season, the caravan will travel to Kochi for the play-offs and the grand finale will be held in Mumbai on the 5th of January, 2018.

From October 7th, 2018 to January 5th, 2019, fans can catch each match LIVE, 7:30 pm onwards, on the Star Sports Network including the FTA channel Star Sports First, regional channel Star Sports 1 Tamil, in Kannada on Star Suvarna Plus, in Telugu on Star Maa Gold and Hotstar.

ABOUT STAR SPORTS

Home to a number of leading domestic and international sports, the Star Sports network with 12 channels broadcasts premier sporting events which include cricket coverage under the purview of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), VIVO Indian Premier League (IPL) New Zealand Cricket Board, Bangladesh Cricket Board and Asian Cricket Council (ACC); Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL); Karnataka Premier League (KPL); Caribbean Premier League (CPL); VIVO Pro Kabaddi; football under Hero Indian Super League (ISL) Hero I-League, Hero Super Cup, Premier League, Bundesliga; Badminton under Badminton World Federation (BWF) events, Premier Badminton League (PBL); Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT); and other premium sports such as Formula 1; Wimbledon, The French Open and US Open.

ABOUT MASHAL SPORTS

Mashal Sports is the rights owner and organizer of VIVO Pro Kabaddi league. VIVO Pro Kabaddi was launched in 2014 and is already among the foremost sports leagues in the country; for participant teams, tenure of tournament, television viewership, and passionate fans among men, women, and children from all parts of our country.

Through VIVO Pro Kabaddi, as well as other significant initiatives, Mashal has achieved path-breaking success in reinvigorating Kabaddi to a modern world class sport from India.