

Namibia Today Sport

Hitman favorite to clinch Sportsman of the Year award

By Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - This year's sports awards has been tipped off to go to the most preferred candidate to tribute the Sportsman of the Year award to the World Boxing Association (WBA) Lightweight champion Paulus 'Hitman' Moses. The Mobile Telecommunication (MTC) is the sponsor of the National Sports Commission's (NSC) organized sports awards for 2009. It will be held this evening at Safari Hotel starting at 18h00. Moses dethroned the WBA Lightweight champion, Yusuke Kobori of Japan in his own backyard on January 3, this year. Moses retained his WBA title with a 12 rounds unanimous decision



Nestor Tobias, Boxing Promoter, trainer and Manager

during his first title defence against another Japanese challenger,

Takehiro 'Samurai' Shimada at the much-vaunted "Rumble in the Namib Desert" held in Windhoek, today exactly 98 days ago (July 25).

This young man, Hitman, and his trainer-cum-promoter and manager Nestor Tobias made history to have staged the first of its kind boxing tournament of that magnitude in the Land of the Braves (Namibia).

Tobias would, with all likelihood, scoop the Coach of the Year category as a boxing coach seeing that he has made a quantum leap in producing four world titles through his pugilists like Hitman, Paulus Ali Nuumbembe (WBO welterweight title), Bethuel Tyson Uushon (WBA Pan-African welterweight title), and Jatoorora



WBA Lightweight champion Paulus 'Hitman' Moses

'Sting' Tjingaveta (WBO Pan-African lightweight title). What more need to be said about the successful achievements in boxing?

Ailly Hangula-Paulino, chairperson of the Independent Panel of Judges

told the media conference some weeks ago that her panel placed considerable emphasis on the international performance of the individual nominees.

"The points score system was used

to evaluate the individual sports achievements on international, inter-continental, regional and national levels", Hangula-Paulino elucidated.

"To ensure that international events and the subsequent international achievements are comparable amongst the alternative sports codes, the panel evaluated each event in lieu of the number of countries participating at any such event, the ranking of the athlete at the specific event as well as the athlete's current overall world ranking".

Amongst the 15 categories of nominations MTC as sponsor of this glorified national event has established an award for the Sports Journalist of the Year.

The selection criteria for the sport reporter award is based on statistics by MTC's contracted Survey Warehouse as its research agency that have collected a data base of published clippings across all sports codes over the current year. May the best sports personalities win!



Lolo Goraseb bids farewell to his Black Africa Football Club teammates

Lolo to bid farewell to active football

By Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - Sylvester Goraseb who has, on numerous occasions, captained the Brave Warriors (Namibia national team) and his premiership club Black Africa will hang his boots tomorrow at Sam Nujoma Stadium. Goraseb will end his long football career in style as he has organized a testimonial match penciled for tomorrow (Saturday) that will feature the best former Africa's football legends who will showcase their talents against the Class of 1998. The Class of '98 made it possible to represent Namibia at their first African Cup of Nations held in Burkina Faso in 1998. Following their incredible display and high spirit of determination, some world renown journalists were made to believe that God must have been a

Namibian due to the Brave Warriors' death-defying comebacks and never-say-no-attitude. The team gained the name the *Architects of the great Comebacks*. Goraseb was part of this great team at the 21st African Cup of Nations.

The breathtaking testimonial match was preceded by a gala dinner held at the local hotel last night and coaching clinic that will take place today.

The phenomenal Goraseb, cognomen Lolo is one of the football icons Namibia has ever produced. He is one of the top three most capped national team players with 63 international games for the Brave Warriors. He has played for only one of the Namibia Premier league teams, Black Africa, for a good 17 years without a single transfer to other clubs. Many local players have a tendency of changing clubs like they do with their underwears. Namibia

Premier League player should take leaf from Lolo's book, to stay put with their teams.

Lolo has invited southern African football legends from various countries with whom he brushed shoulders on the pitch. Players such as Dr Khumalo, Phil Masinga (South Africa), Kalusha Bwalya (Zambia), Fabrice Akwa (Angola), Mmoni Segopolo (Botswana), Peter Ndlovu (Zimbabwe), and many others will all grace the Sam Nujoma Stadium on the D-day. Tickets for the Lolo Goraseb testimonial match dubbed "Hope for our children" are available at Street House, Gammams Select Service Station, Pikeue Restaurant, Pius & Nicy's Durban Bar, Otjomuise Pub and E & M Fast Food in front of United House Building, corner of Independence Avenue and Frans Indongo Street. The entrance fee is N\$20 per head.

Three title fights rendezvous at Kuisebmond Hall

By Kayele M. Kambombo



Bethuel Tyson Uushona goes for the vacant Welterweight WBO Africa Interim

WINDHOEK - All roads lead to the coastal town of Walvis Bay where three boxing titles will be for grab tomorrow at the boxing fiesta penciled for Kuisebmond Community Hall.

For the main bout, the hard hitting

Namibia's Bethuel Tyson Uushona will take on Coline Mayisela from South Africa to scuffle for the vacant Welterweight WBO Africa Interim over 12 rounds.

Uushona who is also known as "The Unstoppable" is still unconquerable. He boasts an impressive record of 18-18 while his opponent, Mayisela prides himself on a record of 25-19-6.

Namibia's 'little giant' Paulus "The Rock" Ambunda will fight against South Africa's Lwazi Mzolisi for a vacant Bantamweight WBO Interim 12 round bouts, after Siyabonga Nyanga (South African) has chickened out. Ambunda is in the category of Namibia's knockout experts who do not finish all rounds. Ambunda is undefeated (8-8) while his opponent has

a record of 10-8-2.

Daniel "Open Fire" Kashela and the former welterweight Pan African champion Jason "Task" Naule will have a tryst in the Welterweight National title bout. This fight is scheduled for 10 rounds.

The crowd's favourite boxer Sacky 'Izinyoka' Shikukutu, is undefeated in 11 fights, eight of which he won by KO. He will fight against Norman Tshisakhawe from South Africa who has a record of 16 fights, 10 wins and six defeats. The fight is scheduled for six rounds. It is at the very same Kuisebmond Hall where Shikukutu was baptized "Izinyoka" as he stings like a venomous snake.

It will be a professional debut for Immanuel "Prince Imms" Naindjala, the Amateur National Bantamweight Champion who will take on his fellow countryman Daniel Haufiku with a record of one fight and one loss.

Naindjala is very experienced fighter. He has fought 200 amateur bouts with less than 50 losses. He won two Bronze medals at Zone VI and was crowned the best boxer of the Zone. He occupies the 78th position in the Amateurs Boxing Rankings in the world and has represented Namibia at both Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

Boxing tourney produces six victors

By Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - The 10 young pugilists who represented Namibia at the international friendly amateur boxing tournament held in Manzini, Swaziland over the weekend walked away with six wins.

Their fights were eye-catching as Titus Aiyambo, in the 64kg weight category sent his Swazi opponent Thabiso Maseko to the canvas with the third round stoppage. The other two Namibians Mejangdjae Desmond Kasuto (69kg) and Walter Kautondokwa (75kg) also thumped their antagonists by Technical Knockouts (TKO) in bouts three against Sbonelo Ndzimandze and Thanda Mkhatheswa respectively.

Other aspiring Namibian fighters who also recorded wins on points were Eric Kalenga who beat Nkhosinani Duuba under the 57kg

weight category and Mika Shonena beat Frank Gamedza (60kg), while Erastus Marenga won Sfiso Mkhonfa (64kg).

Even though they showed the mettle they are made of, everything did not go smoothly with four Namibian fighters as Immanuel Shapaka (48kg), Nathanael Kamati (51kg), Norbert Ashivudhi (54kg) and Kasera Sironko (81kg) lost on points against their contemporaries at the hands of Sthembiso Mkhwanazi, Muntu Simelane, Smanga Shiba and Musa Nqozo, in that order.

Mistake Gariseb, head coach of the boxing team highly praised his boxers for extraordinary performance in Swaziland. "Our boxers are the strongest in Zone VI, as a result we do not have much competition around", Gariseb quipped.

"We need to go to Europe to gain exposure because most of our boxers are highly ranked in the world", add-

ing that Japhet Utoni is ranked 17th in the world, Mejangdjae Desmond Kasuto Kasuto is 20th while Baluka Johannes and Imms Naindjala occupy the 78th and 80th positions in the world respectively".

In the meantime, the Secretary General of Namibia Boxing Association, Joe "Mkonto Wesizwe" Kaperu announced that in September 2010 the World Series of Boxing (WSB) will signal a new beginning in the global boxing world - a fresh new concept from AIBA with a city based franchised league of professional boxing, established on a global basis. Each match between teams will consist of five bouts (one per weight class), of five rounds, of three minutes each and 75 matches in each season.

The WSB will consist of five weight categories: Bantamweight, Lightweight, Middleweight, Light Heavyweight and Heavyweight.



Namibia Amateur Boxer who clinched six out of 10 victories in Swaziland (l-r): Erastus Marenga, Muchel Kavari, Norbert Ashivudhi, Titus Aiyambo, Kamati Nathanael, Amupolo Andreas, Walter Kautondokwa and Kasera Sironko