

Namibia Today Sport

Namibia's football legionnaires mull over moves

Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - Namibians football players who ply their trade in South Africa and the rest of the world are contemplating moves in their football career.

Namibian midfielder **Sydney Platjies** is set to leave Mamelodi Sundowns after failing to play a match so far this season. He has made only four starts for Sundowns since joining from Jomo Cosmos two years ago.

He spent the second half of last season on loan at Moroka Swallows and now it seems he will be off again – albeit this time on a permanent contract.

Platjies business manager, Colin April, is working 24/7 around the clock to find him a new football home, either in Belgium, Turkey or South Africa. The plans are underway, depending on Sundowns' response to let him go as he still has two years remaining on his contract.

The 27-year-old has been frustrated in his efforts to impress new coach Hristo Stoichkov, and is currently not training with the first



Maritzburg United's Namibian international winger, **Rudolf Bester**

team, spending his time alone in the gym.

Richard 'Rho' Gariseb who plied his trade in football for the South African Premier Soccer League (PSL) team BIDVest

Wits has parted amicably with his club and is currently back to Namibia.

The 29 year-old Brave Warriors defender now ponders to rejoin his local club, Orlando Pirates, alias

"Khoen di !Ans" (People's Team) of which he captained for a couple of years before he settled down at Wits, four years ago, that is.

He alludes to 'personal reasons' as *raison d'être* for the termination of his contract with Wits. Gariseb reckons to be back in the database of one the South African PSL club comes 2010/2011 season.

Maritzburg United's Namibian international winger, **Rudolf Bester** has been nominated for the Jet Club Rookie of the month award.

Each Month Jet announces nominees for the Jet Club Rookie of the Month award. It is then up to the soccer loving public to vote for nominees that has performed the best that month.

The winner takes home R5000 and automatically qualifies for the Jet Club PSL Rookie of the Year award where R50 000 prize money will be at stake.

The 26 year old has already been capped over 30 times for his country and judging by his

Haikali (8f 4w 4L).

Asked for his comment about the fight, Haikali expressed his contentment: "I am feeling very happy. I knew that I will finish him in the fourth or fifth round because I know his tactics of fighting and his weaknesses".

"I am now the WBO Africa champion. This is very important for me in my boxing career".

Tjingaveta (15f 12w 3L) was ranked 10th in the WBO lightweight category until to his defeat last weekend. Will there be a rematch when Tobias, promoter and trainer of Tjingaveta so request.

Undercards

The undercards saw five champions who featured as sparring partners for Paulus 'Hitman' Moses, the incumbent WBA lightweight champion, in preparation of his second title defence against Marco Antonio Barrera. The fight is due in January in Los Angeles, USA.

The five champions were former WBA Pan Africa welterweight champion Jason 'Taks' Naule with a record of 15 fights 12 wins 3 losses, undefeated WBO Africa Interim welterweight champion Bethuel 'The Unstoppable' Uushona, aka Tyson (19, 19), current WBO Africa welterweight champion Paulus 'Ali' Nuumbembe, alias 'Silent Assassin' (27,22, 4,1). The "world sparring partners" were from the neighbouring South Africa. The IBO lightweight All Africa champion Jason Beben (11f 9w 2d) and WBF featherweight champion Oscar Chauke (32f, 26w, 4L, 2d).

They did a tremendous job to give Hitman a tough infighting.

performance's so far this season, Bester could as well help United reach greater heights.

He has played 11 of the 15 league games so far this season and there is no doubt he will be a great asset for the "Team of Choice" as Maritzburg United is affectionately known by its fans.

The winning Jet Club Rookie will be determined by the football fans through a voting process. Supporters of the Team of Choice and the soccer loving public are encouraged

to vote for Bester either by phoning and selecting him through the competition phone line on **082 234 2585** or **SMS jerb1 to 34379**.

The Hamburg SV Club has extended the work contract of long-serving Namibian all-rounder **Collin Benjamin** by one year until 2011. The 31 years old defense player is excited about it.

Benjamin joined Hamburg SV in 2001 and has played 138 leagues games for the club.

Kuisebmond Stadium ready

By Kayele M. Kambombo

The Kuisebmond Stadium in Walvis Bay is now ready to be used for NPL games.

The NPL Administrator Josua Hoebeb has confirmed that all Namibia Premier League (NPL) games will be played at Kuisebmond Stadium as from Sunday (November 29).

Hoebeb was not in a position to authenticate what was actually been put in place in as far as renovations made to the stadium are concerned. However, he told this writer that the match officials and the two Walsvis Bay-based teams (Blue Waters and Eleven Arrows) were satisfied with standard of the pitch so far.

Arrows will take on United Stars from Rundu on Sunday at Kuisebmond Stadium followed by a coastal derby penciled for December 12 between the two rivals (Arrows and Blue Waters).

According to Hoebeb "the pitch is now playable but will only be used during day time and not in the night". Asked to why? Hoebeb referred this writer to the Municipality officials at Walvis Bay for further elucidation on the matter.

After several attempts were made to reach the referred officials the end results culminated into a letdown.

Be that as it may, this is a great relieve for Blue Waters and Eleven Arrows clubs to have their home ground ready to play in. The supporters of both teams will be delighted to have their home ground back to normality after being regarded as not suitable for NPL games to be staged there until such time the renovation has been completed.

The most problematic areas of concern were that the pitch was not well leveled and had potholes; the lights were in poor condition and the cloakrooms in a dilapidated state.

It is mindboggling as to why the pitch has to be used only by day time and not in the evenings. It goes without saying that the lights are still not ready, that is.

It leaves this writer to quote Mahatma Gandhi who in his teaching put it: "It is difficult, but not impossible, to conduct strictly honest business", and not to hit around the bush.

Haikali triumphs over Tjingaveta

By Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - Martin Haikali was crowned as new WBO Africa champion after he stopped Jatoorora Tjingaveta in the sixth round.

The former champion, started well from the first four rounds but a determined Haikali was encouraged by his trainer at the ringside, Warren Nashilongo, Warrant Officer in the Namibia Special Field Force, to con-

centrate on jabbing and to open up Tjingaveta's facial defence.

Nashilongo who looked desperate and hungry for victory was continuously shouting and giving instructions in Spanish and Oshiwambo simultaneously. His tactic seems to have worked out as Haikali carried out his trainer's instruction to the book and spirit.

Nashilongo was one of the happiest men ever that night. "I am feeling good", said Nashilongo,

adding that "we have worked hard for this fight".

"Haikali won this fight in a dramatic style with a technical knockout. This says it all. He can fight any challenger and emerge victorious because this is his time".

Nashilongo now has two champions in his stable. The undefeated WBO Africa Interim welterweight champion Bethuel 'The Unstoppable' Uushona, aka Tyson with a record of 19 fights and 19 wins and

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Warren Nashilongo, Trainer; Andrew the WBO Africa Representative and new WBO lightweight champion

All five should be applauded for a job well done.

In the other undercards fights Namibia's Abmerk Shidjuu (11f 67w 2L 2d) knocked out Pardon Katerera (6f 5w 1L) from Zimbabwe in the second round, 2 minutes 59 seconds in the Flyweight category scheduled

for six rounds.

Samuel Kapapu (8-6-2) won on point against Lawrence Moyo (8-5-2-1) in the lightweight division over six rounds, while Bantamweight Immanuel Naindjala (2-2) peppered his fellow countryman Mattheus Kaabdala (2-1) to win on points.

Black Tuesday for WBA champion and Trainer

By Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - It was a black Tuesday morning (November 24) for the WBO Lightweight champion and his mentor when they were caught by surprise by notorious thieves in Johannesburg. The world champion Paulus 'Hitman' Moses and his promoter, trainer and manager Nestor Tobias were caught off guard on the highway by robbers who pretended to be policemen.

"Be warned this is armed robbery", one of the thugs shouted pointing guns on the two passengers, after the taxi they were travelling in on the highway from OR Tambo International Airport to Parktown hotel was forced to come to a standstill. They were commanded to "empty all they had on them" and ransacked the two Namibians. These included jewelries, watches, necklaces, cell phones, and whopping R12 000 in cash.

The Hitman and Tobias were invited

to attend the launch of Dingaan Thobela's book entitled "The Rose of Soweto", the same Tuesday night.

The same Tuesday Hitman was supposed to receive a cheque of N\$10 000 from the Namibia Sports Commission at the MTC headquarters in Windhoek as he was the award winner of the 2009 Sportsman of the Year.

Heletjie van Staden, 2009 Sports-women of the Year was there to receive her cheque for her achievements in sport (mountain biking).