

Namibia Today Sport

Safile, an absolutely phenomenal player

Namibia had great players in the years gone by but if a player like Eliphias Shivute is not in the annals of Namibia's footballing history, sorry ngoo, that history will never be absolute. Shivute was a complete phenomenal player and a marvel to watch in his heydays. **KAYELE M. KAMBOMBO** of **NAMIBIA TODAY SPORT** had a spirited boosting talk with one of the Namibia's legionnaires of all times. Shivute is the man who scored the first international goal for the Brave Warriors. Please read on to discern what a great man she was on the pitch.

Brief Football Career History:

Eliphias Shivute got married to Justine in 2003 and is a father of four children, two daughter and two sons. The eldest daughter Monica is 16 years of age followed by Kwashi (boy: 13), Andrew (8) and Anastacia (4).

He was a player to marvel. He was outstanding, absolutely phenomenal. Shivute had trial stint with the amateurs of German First Division giants Borussia Moenchengladbach but could not be registered with the amateurs because he was already over 23 years of age. The German Football Federation has a regulation that any foreign player in the amateur league should not be older than 23 years of which he was, unfortunately. He was born in Walvis Bay on 27 September 1974.

Was this the end of Shivute's

football dream? Never! The best was still to come. Shivute has made no bones about the fact that he wants to represent the country of his birth at international level. He became the first Namibian to play for a top-level side in Europe.

Eliphias Shivute affectionately known as "Safile" (Elifas spelled backwards), who formerly started playing for the quaintly (in terms of international football) named Blue Waters and Eleven Arrows (1989-91) and played for Fifth Division Schwarz-Weiss Duren (1996), a nonprofessional side for which he scored over 13 goals in a short spell. When he arrived at Duren, under manager Joe Franken, the team was third from bottom but ended third from top largely due to Shivute's scoring prowess.



Eliphias Shivute

Ironically, it was when he scored a hat trick for Duren in one of the league matches that the Allemania Aachen scouts spotted him and immediately entered into negotiations for a contract. This negotiations ended into Safile signing a one-year contract with Third Division Aachen, a senior side in the Ruhr Rhine region where successful

teams such as Cologne, Dortmund and Schalke hail from.

According to the *Daily Record Staff*, Safile has had trials with Dundee United and Hearts Football Club earlier, but decided to sign for Motherwell F. C.

As a kid Safile followed and

admired the British and Scottish football through TV and devouring books about players living thousands of miles away. As soon as he saw Alex "Eck" McLeish, the big red-haired Motherwell manager he recognized him.

It would be stretching the truth to say that McLeish was the only manager Safile ever wanted to play for - but Big Eck's playing career obviously helped him reach a decision.

Safile began his football career unaware that fate would lead him into the professional ranks with Motherwell (1997 - 1999). He scored twice in his trial match for Motherwell - and impressed McLeish.

Safile has it all. The flair, speed, the shooting power in both foot and he was a good header of the ball into the bargain. Mere mortals gasped open-mouthed at his improvisation and audacity. It was all in a day's work for the Namibian.

Marking Safile for 90 minutes is to cause trouble for "yourself". He is such a slippery customer. Thankfully not all opponents are such a handful as him. The problem is that you will never know what he is going to do next. He has a magical touch and can produce the totally unexpected at any moment. He is so tricky, so elusive. There is not a lot of showmanship about his play, and did not abuse it.

The bottom line is that he was a great finisher. Few African defences have found the antidote to the aerial threat, the mobility and guile of Safile. Perhaps Bafana Bafana's defender Willem Jackson would have given a better account about the qualities possessed by Safile because Jackson was given a tough time in both the encounters when the Warriors met Bafana Bafana, to say the least. Jackson used all sorts of gadgets he had and other "inventions" that he could think of, he even resorted in using his hands to literally hold Safile not to go through but the Namibian international was too tactical and his passes were more than Jackson could imagine.

The fans have rejoiced in some spectacular football. Safile's fourth goal in the 4-1 thrashing of Malawi during the first COSAF Castle Cup was such a compendium of footballing virtues that, if you have not already seen it, try to get hold of a video. A picture really is worth more than a thousand words.

In his first full match debut for Scottish Premier side Motherwell, Safile played a blistering match in a one-all draw against league leaders Heibernians. McLeish was impressed with Safile and singled him out for praise.

This match earned him the "Player of the Match" award. *The Sunday Mail* report described him as "slick Namibian winger" with mazy runs who had Heibernians defence in sixes and sevens. He kept the home (Scottish) fans to their feet to acclaim him for the type of player who has not been seen in Motherwell colours for many years.

Safile had been playing more as a schemer-striker, drifting in and around the box - displaying qualities that set him apart from the rest - ability to create space for himself and eliminate defenders and shoot from the tightest of spaces and angle. Namibia 'could' do without his cunning and creativity.

Safile's rise to the role of Namibian football's figurehead has not been achieved without risks. He threw away his education and the prospect of a good job in the mining industry - to follow what must have seemed a pipe dream.

He became a regular headline hogger both home and internationally. He was also plying his trade of football in China where he first signed up with Dalilan Wanda and later was on a six-month loan to the First Division outfit Shengzen Pingan FC.

The football business turned sour with Safile thus he decided to look for some greener pastures in Europe, moving from one capital city to another without success. He eventually returned to China to take up his position again in Shengzen but ended his football career with FK Cukaricki Stankom of Serbia.

Having learnt a hard lesson in football politics and having come through with flying colours, Safile had the world at his feet. All that remains in for him is to do the rest. It came as no surprise when he walked away with a "Sportsman of the Year" for 1997 at the sport gala organized by the Namibia National Sport Council in Windhoek. Our young and upcoming footballers should emulate his example. Every good thing always comes to an end.

Shivute played a major role in finding a club for Rudolph Bester with FK Cukaricki Stankom in Serbia, a team in which he played for eight months.

ELIFASSHIVUTE'S FACTS FILE

Name: Eliphias Shivute
Nickname: Safile
Birth Date: 27 September 1974;
Age: 34
Birth Place: Walvis Bay, Namibia; **Nationality:** Namibian
Height: 1.78cm **Weight:** 80kg
Marital Status: Married with four (4) dependents
Previous Clubs: Eleven Arrows, (Namibia); Blue Waters (Namibia); Schwarz Weiss Duren (Germany); Allemania Aachen (Germany); Motherwell FC (Scotland); Dalilan Wanda (China); Shengzen Pingan FC (China); FK Cukaricki Stankom (Serbia)

Present Club: Retired footballer
Brave Warriors Debut: 1992 Madagascar 3 Namibia 0; **International Caps:** 49

Position: Striker-cum-attacking midfielder; Goals: 8

Shengzen Pingan FC Debut: 1999; **Goals:** 4

Honours:
Namibian international
1997: Sports Man of the Year at the sport gala organized by the Namibia National Sport Council in Windhoek

Cosafa Castle Cup runners-up (against Zambia)

Player of the Match with Motherwell (1) against league leaders Heibernians (1)

1998: Cosafa Castle Cup runners-up (against Angola)

Played for the Brave Warrior at the 1998 African Cup of Nations in Burkina Faso and scored one goal

2006 Assisting Second Division Invincible FC with coaching

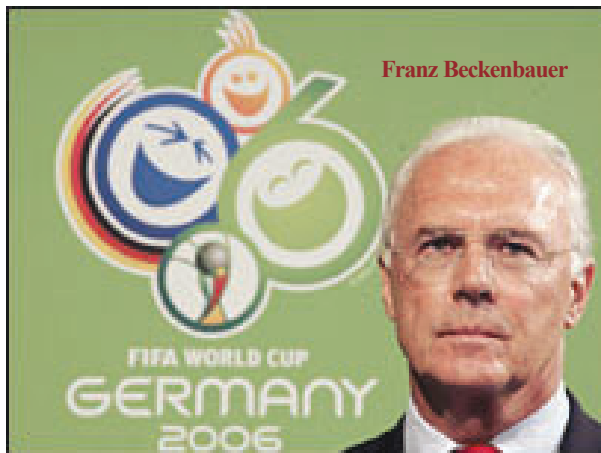
2008: Manager and Agent of Brave Warriors and Eleven Arrows FC player Rudolph Bester

Beckenbauer tips Ghana

German legend Franz Beckenbauer says he expects Ghana and Germany to emerge from World Cup Group D.

The World Cup winning coach and player reckons the group which pits his country against Ghana, Serbia and Australia should not cause Joachim Low any panic even though he admits it is packed with good teams.

Serbia picked the automatic slot in their qualifying group ahead of France while Australia were only denied a place in the quarterfinals of the 2006 World Cup.



Franz Beckenbauer

But 'The Kaizer' reckons the fact that the tournament is taking place on African soil, his pick to emerge from the group is Germany and Ghana.

Another German great Gunter Netzer is not so sure though. "It is much harder for me to assess Ghana," he said

"This team has, like all the African teams has the advantage that the World Cup takes place on the African continent. This will trigger additional euphoria. Yet in the end we have to enforce the German quality."

was informed.

The NFF Board will now meet to consider other options, but it is understood that a combined Africa Cup of Nations and World Cup camp may be settled for in South Africa, with Durban the top choice due to its near equidistance from the other two centers where the Eagles will play their World Cup games.

Nigeria may pick Durban

Nigeria have jettisoned plans to camp in Namibia ahead of next month's Africa Cup of Nations.

Instead, the two-time champions may have tentatively settled on World Cup host city Durban, where they will play one of their World Cup games.

Head coach Shuaibu Amodu and executive committee member Taiwo Ogunjobi were in Namibia last week to assess and pick a suitable camping site, but

came away dissatisfied with the condition of the pitches on offer.

Competent sources told **KickOffNigeria.com** that the only good pitch was at the country's national stadium "But that is an artificial turf," **KickOffNigeria.com**

Final World Cup Draw

The Final Draw for the World Cup finals served up some killer groups - none more so than Bafana Bafana's Group A and Group G, which features Brazil, Ivory Coast and Portugal.

Group A: South Africa, Mexico, Uruguay, France

Group B: Argentina, Nigeria, Korea Republic, Greece

Group C: England, USA, Algeria, Slovenia

Group D: Germany, Australia, Serbia, Ghana

Group E: Netherlands, Denmark, Japan, Cameroon

Group F: Italy, Paraguay, New Zealand, Slovakia

Group G: Brazil, North Korea, Ivory Coast, Portugal

Group H: Spain, Switzerland, Honduras, Chile

Parreira to change squad

Bafana Bafana head coach Carlos Alberto Parreira says he is thinking of preparing a "different squad".

The Brazilian was speaking to *Sunday Sun*, before he left the country yesterday to go back to Brazil to prepare for the training camp, which Bafana will hold there early next year.

Bafana have been drawn with France, Mexico and Uruguay in Group A of next year's World Cup and Parreira says we can't afford to face such strong countries mainly with benchwarmers in our squad.

"You can say that is a handi-



Carlos Alberto Parreira

cap for us. I have looked at France

and I have noticed they have about 15 players abroad but they are regularly in action at their clubs. Many of our players are not even playing and that is why we need to prepare a different squad because we can't rely on players who arrive 15 days before the World Cup and then discover that they are not fit," he said.

However, the World Cup winning coach told the media on Friday after the draw that "We are not afraid of anyone", despite the challenges the national team faces in the run up to the global showpiece.