

Namibia Today Sport

Saintfiet content with 2010 AFCON draws

By Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - Namibia is in Group 6 with Burkina Faso, Gambia and Mauritania in the qualifying round for the 2012 African Cup of Nations.

The draw was conducted in the southern Congolese town in Lubumbashi on Saturday.

Namibia's national coach Tom Saintfiet is happy with the 2012 African Cup of Nations draw. He said the Brave Warriors have a good group.

Saintfiet has expressed confidence that Namibia's Brave Warriors have a good chance to be counted in the 14 places of the second round. "However, we cannot underestimate the caliber of our opponents", cautions Saintfiet.

"There are no minnows in the tournament of this magnitude", presages Saintfiet, adding that "the quality of any group should not be underestimated".

He singled out Burkina Faso as the biggest and strong side amongst the rest and has a good coach from Germany in Paulo Jorge Rebelo Duarte, but was quick to comment

WINDHOEK - The second title defence of Paulus 'Hitman' Moses for the WBA lightweight title is like a nightmare and extremely outlandish to Namibians and Africans in general.

It is so spine-chilling to think of the fight of this magnitude to be continuously deferred. The first challenger was Urbano Antillon who was the mandatory challenger to Moses but was knocked out by Miguel Acosta in the 1 minute 47 seconds of the ninth round scheduled for 12 rounds.

This fight took place at Grand Mayan, Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit in Mexico, the same night that Moses defeated Takehiro 'Samurai' Shimada in a unanimous decision in Windhoek, Namibia.

The internationally celebrated boxing promoter Don King claimed to have found a credible challenger in Marco Antonio Barrera but he later chickened out. Then came Nicaragua's Jose Alfaro, as the date of the fight looms he developed cold feet like Barrera.

Now Moses is going to face Venezuelan Miguel Acosta, alias Aguacerito, who is the current mandatory challenger to the Regular WBA champion, 'The Hitman'.

The 31 years-old Acosta has a record of 31 fights 26 wins and three (3) losses with 20 knockouts.

Moses, born in June 4, 1978, is the World Boxing Association (WBA) lightweight world champion who has a 100% professional record of 25-0-0 victories with 17 knockouts.

At the media briefing this week, Nestor Tobias, mentor, manager and promoter of Moses informed media practitioners that the fight will take place early April but no particular date was set.

However, there is a probability the fight to be staged in Namibia,

on Gambia as a tricky side.

"Gambia is a relatively unknown team but have many players plying their trade of football in Europe, notably in Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Holland", observes Saintfiet.

Gambia beat Tunisia in their 2010 World Cup-cum-Africa Cup of Nations' qualification duel. They (Gambia) are ranked above Namibia in the recent (February 3) FIFA rankings as they are at 98 spot in the world and 22 in Africa.

Burkina Faso occupy 51 and 8 positions, with the group's Lilliputian, Mauritania at 161/43 while Namibia are at 109/28.

Egypt won a record third Nations Cup title last month while South Africa failed to qualify for the tournament in Angola. Niger and Sierra Leone are the two other teams in Group 7.

The continent's two economic superpowers (Egypt and South Africa) have never been paired before in a qualifying group, either for the Nations Cup or World Cup.

Ghana, who were runners-up in Angola, got a decidedly easier draw with Congo, Swaziland and Sudan in Group 9. Ghana beat Sudan home and away last year in their successful bid to qualify for the 2010 World Cup finals.

The 44 teams were separated into 11 groups and will compete for 14 places. The 11 group winners qualify for the 2012 finals, to be co-hosted by Equatorial Guinea and Gabon who qualify automatically, along with three best second placed finishers.

The qualifying campaign starts in September.

Togo was not part of the process after the Court of Arbitration for Sport denied its request to be provisionally included earlier this week. The country was banned from the next two tournaments after it left last month's edition following a gun attack on its team bus.

Togo's overall appeal against its ban is still to be heard by CAF. If successful, the draw would have to be restaged by the African Football Confederation.

Group 1: Mali, Cape Verde Is-

lands, Zimbabwe, Liberia.

Group 2: Nigeria, Guinea, Ethiopia, Madagascar.

Group 3: Zambia, Mozambique, Libya, Comoros Islands.

Group 4: Algeria, Morocco, Tanzania, Central African Repub-

lic.

Group 5: Cameroon, Senegal, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius.

Group 6: Burkina Faso, Gambia, Namibia, Mauritania.

Group 7: Egypt, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Niger.

Group 8: Ivory Coast, Benin, Rwanda, Burundi.

Group 9: Ghana, Congo, Sudan, Swaziland.

Group 10: Angola, Uganda, Kenya, Guinea Bissau.

Group 11: Tunisia, Malawi, Chad, Botswana.

Sandro takes over Blue Waters as coach

By Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - After a chain of poor performance, Blue Waters management decided Sandro "Jingle" de Gouveia to temporarily steer the team to its winning ways, at least until the end of the current season.

A reliable source, who prefers not to be named, within Blue Waters Club hierarchy blow the gaff that Sandro has provisionally taken over the helm of the team from the substantive coach Lucky Shipanga to "sort out the mess" with regard to wrong placement of players in the squad that resulted to poor performance.

However, Shipanga will join forces with De Gouveia until the end of the league. "I should emphasize here that Lucky (Shipanga) is not fired or demoted but it is just a temporary technical

substitute", explicates the source.

It is believed De Gouveia's experience can be vital in Blue Waters' bid to end the horrible recent run of results.

Blue Waters, also known as the Beautiful Birds, were relegated last season and came back very strong in the first four of its opening matches. The occurrence that sent stern warning to other coaches and football fraternity that the coastal town's blue and white outfit will never be relegated again.

The Beautiful Birds topped the log for six weeks. Now the situation has boomeranged, as mother luck has turned her back against the second oldest team in Namibia. The team had committed a lot of defensive errors, as a result conceded more own goals than any other team in the ongoing season.

Blue Waters' chances to remain in the 2010/2011 league have become a big concern. The team has

lost four times consecutively. The latest lost was inflicted by Civics last Saturday when they lost 3-1 at Sam Nujoma Stadium in Windhoek. Blue Waters defence were chaotic, to say the least.

Shipanga has admitted that "there is a problem in my goalkeeping area. We are conceding goals unnecessarily due to (school boys) defensive errors".

Blue Waters have a good chance to stay in the league provided they pocket 33 points during the remainder of the last five matches that would be concluded at the end of the 2009/2010 season.

The coastal town's outfit has five chances, three of which are a must-win in order to stay away from relegation. Two wins will also be enough to survive relegation as they will end at 30 points but will end at the edge of relegation, 10th position. The 33 points will place them at a safe and more respectable position.

Shidjuu loses dubiously to Edwards

By Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - The Englishman Chris Edwards won the Commonwealth flyweight title beating Abmerk Shidjuu with one point difference.

Edwards, an English professional boxer who competes in the flyweight and Super flyweight divisions is the current Commonwealth and former British flyweight champion after he was "dubiously" declared winner on points over Namibia's Shidjuu last Friday in Stokes, Manchester, United Kingdom.

Namibia's Abmerk Shidjuu, a contender for the then vacant Commonwealth flyweight title was "robbed" off a would-be historic win for Namibia and his boxing career.

A couple of minutes after the fight, Shidjuu's promoter and manager Nestor Tobias gave the post-mortem about the fight to *Namibia Today Sport*, upon inquiry. He said: "We lost by a point. This was like a daylight robbery.



Chris Edwards, new Commonwealth flyweight champion

"Shidjuu was a clear winner of the brawl as he took the fight to Edwards", explicates Tobias.

Namibia's number one boxing promoter said they have wedged a petition with the Commonwealth Boxing Council complaining about the doubtful results of the fight presented to the ring announcer.

The scorecards of all three judges dictated 115-114 in favour of the Englishman.

Tobias will request for a rematch to take place in not too

distant future as he is sure that Shidjuu will devour Edwards.

Hopefully Namibia will host the rematch pending on the availability of funds. It's for certain that the Edwards camp will delay the rematch by hook or crook.

If it so happened that the Commonwealth boxing Council allows for a return fight it will most certainly be held in the United Kingdom.

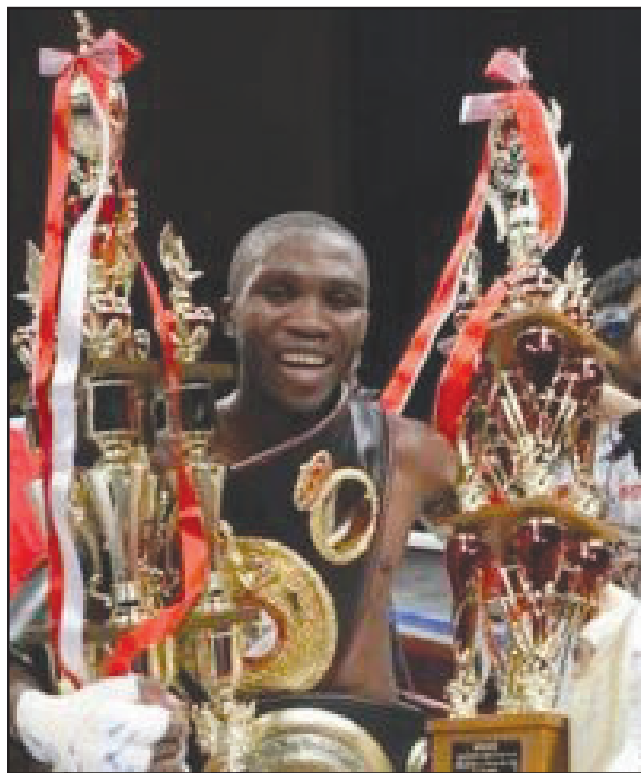
The problem with getting the Commonwealth Title is that one has to go over to Britain to get it, fight their Champion with their referee and judge as well.

This week Tobias announced at a media conference that Shidjuu will be back in the United Kingdom to square up with Paul Edwards for a non-title bout of eight rounds on April 23, 2010 in Coventry.

This invitation, through email, was coaxed following Shidjuu's remarkable showing against Chris Edwards. A win for Shidjuu will determine the Commonwealth title rematch (Chris) Edwards.

Hitman's 2nd title defence against Acosta

By Kayele M. Kambombo



Paulus 'Hitman' Moses

as the Land of the Braves is one of the three countries proposed including the USA and Germany.

"This is going to be a tough fight and if it will be convened here in Windhoek, the better. It is always convenient for a champion to defend his title in front of his home crowd as the fighter will be confident with all the support he will get from his fellow countrymen," emphasizes Tobias.

"The WBA title is a national asset. It is not only for The Hitman or Nestor", Tobias spells out.

He promised to try convincing

Don King to consider Namibia as appropriate venue for this forthcoming fight.



Miguel Acosta in the process of dethrone Urbano Antillon from the mandatory challenger

Coach announces Warriors squad to Durban

By Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - Tom Saintfiet has announced the final 18 Brave Warriors players for the international friendly match against Bafana Bafana penciled for March 3 in Durban.

The South African coastal city of Durban is to host the official launch of the 100-day countdown to the FIFA World Cup on March 2. The event will culminate into the extravagant celebration would include a special gala banquet and a football match between Bafana Bafana and the Brave Warriors of Namibia at Durban's new Moses Mabhida Stadium.

The Warriors are expected to pull out all the stops on the pitch to give South Africans good value for their money.

The Namibia National "A" team known as the Tafel Lager Brave Warriors that is scheduled to play against their South African counterparts' cognomen "Bafana Bafana" in an international friendly match on March 3, 2010, Durban, South Africa are as follow:

Goalkeepers: Attiel Mbaha (Orlando Pirates), Virgill Vries (Eleven Arrows)

Defenders: Hartman Toromba (Vasco Da Gama- SA), Richard Gariseb (Orlando Pirates), Steven Goagab (Orlando Pirates), Nelson Geingob (Civics), Oliver Risser (Manglerud Star - Norway), Michael Pienaar (Carara Kicks - SA).

Midfielders: Quinton Jacobs (African Stars), Ninja Karongee (African Stars), Rudi Louw (African Stars), Razundara Tjikuzu (Diyarbakirspor - Turkey), Sidney Plaatjies (Unattached), Paulus Shipanga (Bay United - SA).

Forwards: Rudolf Bester (Maritzburg United - SA), Henrico Botes (Platinum Stars SA) Wilko Risser (Eintracht Trier Germany), Heinrich Isaacks (Civics), Eslin Kamuhanga (Civics).