

# Namibia Today Sport

## Warriors held Bafana to draw

South Africa were unable to mark the 100-day countdown to the FIFA World Cup and the official opening of the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban with a win as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Namibia in an international friendly on Wednesday evening.

Though Bafana Bafana dominated possession they struggled to break down a disciplined and well-organised Brave Warriors outfit who stunned the hosts by taking the lead through Rudolph Bester just before half time. South Africa hit back in the 70th minute via Katlego Mphela.

Bafana Bafana showed some good signs in attack in the opening 15 minutes, with strikers Lebohang Mokoena and Mphela looking hungry for the ball and making good runs that pulled Namibian defenders out of position; unfortunately the final pass or cross often left much to be desired.

Namibia created the first scoring chance when Wilko Risser's lob found the Bafana backline square and allowed Bester a clear sight of goal. Fortunately for the hosts the ball didn't quite drop for the Maritzburg United striker and it allowed Bradley Carnell to make a crucial challenge.

Just a minute later Teko Modise sprang to life with a stunning long range drive that was too hot to handle for Athiel Mbaha.

Lebohang Mokoena was first to the loose ball in the penalty area but he was unable to get away a shot or find a teammate.

On the half hour mark Modise had a good opportunity to try curl a shot into the far corner after Siphwe Tshabalala had slipped a clever ball into the box but the Orlando Pirates playmaker scuffed his effort, allowing Mbaha to make a straightforward save.

Two minutes later Brave Warriors captain Quinton Jacobs curled a shot just over the crossbar from a long range free kick, though Itumeleng Khune seemed to have it covered if it was on target.

The visitors, against the run of play, broke the deadlock in the 42nd minute and stunned the Durban crowd into silence. Right winger Razundara Tjikuzu skipped past Carnell with alarming ease and Bester ran onto his cutback, firing the ball into the back of the net via the inside of Khune's right hand post. Bafana Bafana made two changes at the start of the second half, with Tlou Segolela and Reneilwe Letsholonyane replacing Mokoena and Lance Davids. The



*A disciplined and well-organized Brave Warriors outfit stunned the hosts Bafana Bafana by taking the lead through the industrious striker Rudolph Bester just before half time. The international friendly ended in 1-1 stalemate. Inset: Brave Warriors coach Tom Saintfiet has a secret formula to spoil parties of the so-called big guns.*

replacements initially struggled to make their presence felt, though the Namibians were clearly wary of Segolela's pace.

And the Bloemfontein Celtic winger very nearly used his searing speed to great effect on 62 minutes when he sprinted onto a

through ball from Letsholonyane but Mbaha made a great block to deny Bafana an equaliser.

Three minutes later Daine Klate

– fresh off the bench to replace Tshabalala – fired a low drive just wide of goal as the hosts really began to dial up the pressure on the Brave Warriors.

With 20 minutes to go Namibia finally cracked. Letsholonyane picked out a superb pass to the overlapping Bryce Moon, who in turn found Mphela with his cutback. The Mamelodi Sundowns striker took one touch to get the ball out from under his feet and then fired a shot across Mbaha and into the net to bring Bafana level.

South Africa dominated the dying minutes of the match but Namibia's excellent defensive effort was a match for whatever the likes of Modise, Segolela and Mphela could throw at them, and a draw was probably a fair result.

**South Africa (0) 1 (Mphela 70')**  
**Namibia (1) 1 (Bester 42')**

**South Africa:** (4-4-2) Khune - Ngcongca (Moon 60'), Sangweni, Fransman, Carnell (Thwala 60'); Modise, Davids (Letsholonyane 46'), Khuboni, Tshabalala (Klate 60'); L. Mokoena (Segolela 46'), Mphela

**Namibia:** (4-4-2) Mbaha - Toromba, Gariseb, O. Risser, Geingob; Tjikuzu (Isaacks 74'), Jacobs, Karongee, Plaatjies (Shipanga 78'); W. Risser (Pienaar 90'), Bester (Louw 87')

## Gladiators take on Angola

Staff Reporter

**The Namibia Women senior National team-Brave Gladiators will play the preliminary round of the AFCON 2010 against their northern neighbours-Angola.**

The First Leg match against Angola will take place in

Windhoek tomorrow at the Sam Nujoma Stadium slated for 16h00.

The Brave Gladiators has been training since the last week of February camping at the NFA Soccer house in Windhoek.

Former Brave Warriors and Chief Santos coach and coach of the Namibia Zone Six Under-20 Women's; Team will lead the team in the first leg match due to the un-

availability of head coach Jacqui Shipanga who will be away with work commitments.

Johnson will be assisted by the Gladiators assistant and fitness coach Brayn Van Staden.

Influential striker Emerencia "Kleintjie" Fredericks will be watching the match from the stands. She has picked up a terrible angle injury in DRC in January

during a world Cup qualification's second round match and was booked off for six weeks.

The NFA Women Desk request Namibians from all walks of life to come in big numbers to support the Gladiators.

The Namibian squad:

**Goalkeepers:** 1. Bonnitha Eixas, Novatha Paulus, Melani Hikuam

**Defenders:** Mammie Kasaona (Beauties F.C), Susanna Eises (Beauties F.C), Josephine Seibes

(POLY Babes), Mariana Gaebusi (Beauties F.C), Stacey Naris (Beauties F.C), Maggy Paulus (Beauties F.C),

**Midfielders:** Abertha Davis (JS Girls Academy), Helvi Asheendo (Rehoboth Queens F.C), Queen Manga (POLY Babes), Stefanie Hummel (Beauties F.C), Tomelina Adams (Buchter Girls F.C - Luderitz), Bianga Fredericks (Beauties F.C), Lorain Jossop (POLY Babes), Stefani Cloete (Beauties F.C).

**Strikers:** Stella Williams (Beauties F.C), Juliana Skrywer (Rehoboth Queens F.C), Vewe Katjiipeute (S Girls Academy), Marelle Polster (Beauties F.C), Ellencia Games (POLY Babes), Toshi Haufiku (WHK College of Education)

**Technical Staff:** Care Taker Coach: Max Johnson, Assistant Coach: Brayn Van Staden, Team Medic: Donatha Gawanab, Physio: Julia Halweendo, Team Manager: Natasha Cloete

## Hiddink ideal for Ivory Coast

By Stephen Fottrell

**There is perhaps no-one who embodies the image of the global game more than the much-travelled frequent flier Guus Hiddink.**

The 63-year-old Dutchman has been approached to take on the challenge of leading a talented but stuttering Ivory Coast side to the World Cup.

Vahid Halilhodzic was relieved of his duties last week following a disappointing Africa Cup of Nations campaign and they have since suffered a deflating 2-0 defeat to Hiddink's former team, South Korea, in London on Wednesday.

Were he to take on the challenge of taking the Elephants to South Africa, it would cap a remarkable period of globetrotting for Hiddink, even by the standards of one of the busiest and most in-demand coaches in the game.

The past 12 months have already seen him commit to three different coaching roles.

Just weeks ago, he confirmed he would not be renewing his contract with Russia and accepted the

post of Turkey's national coach.

Never one to remain idle, however, the Dutch coach is considering filling the time between his contract with Russia expiring in June and moving to Istanbul in August, by making the Ivory Coast the fourth team he has led to a World Cup final, following the Netherlands (1998), South Korea (2002) and Australia (2006).

Hiddink is not averse to a bit of multi-tasking, having commuted between the Netherlands and Australia in the lead-up to the 2006 World Cup, in his dual role as PSV Eindhoven and Socceroos coach.

In Germany, he led the Australians to the last 16 in only their second World Cup appearance, a feat the Ivorians will at least hope to emulate this time around.

To do that, though, they will need an international coach of Hiddink's experience, after finding themselves in another tough group - a fate that

prevented them from progressing in Germany four years ago.

On that occasion they ended up as underdogs in a group that included Argentina and the Netherlands, and now the Ivorians will have to overcome the odds once more after being drawn against Brazil, Portugal and North Korea in Group G.

Hiddink would certainly relish the opportunity to reunite with Elephants captain Didier Drogba and Salomon Kalou, having led Chelsea to victory in England's FA Cup final last year during a short period in charge of the London club, when he was again balancing dual responsibilities, this time with the Russians.

His stock was at its highest at that time, after proving highly popular in England and he looked certain to lead the Russians to South Africa until Slovenia became the only second-seeded European play-off team to progress with a shock win over Hiddink's highly fancied team.

Since that rare blemish on his polished CV, Hiddink has been

looking for a new challenge, and has certainly already found one with a young Turkish squad in the midst of a period of transition.

However, there is a more immediate challenge that must surely be tempting for a man who doesn't shirk from one - that of trying to inspire the best from an Ivory Coast side, which is arguably the most talented of all the African

teams competing on their home continent this summer.

He has had previous success in using home continent advantage to get the best out of a side, having exceeded expectations by getting South Korea to a World Cup semi-final as co-hosts eight years ago - an achievement which earned him honorary South Korean citizenship.

Four years later, he earned national hero status once again, becoming "Aussie Guus" down under when he managed to break the Socceroos cycle of perennially fail-

ing at the final hurdle to qualify for the finals.

And despite his disappointment with Russia, the fact that he was also linked with Nigeria, another of the African qualifiers to seek a new coach ahead of June, shows just how in demand he remains around the world.

Whether he can become an honorary Ivorian will of course depend on him being able to get the Elephants out of one of the toughest groups in South Africa, but given his track record, few would bet against it.



*Omeege United, in Oshana Region, is one the 32 football teams which have benefitted from the Leo NFA Cup 2010 sponsorship. Omeege United qualified to play in this competition proper after they were crowned winners in Oshana, when they defeated African United 5-1 in the Regional final of the Second Division in January this year. Here Paulus Shilunga receives the sponsored kit. Some of the teams will play this weekend in Otjiwarongo.*