

Namibia Today Sport

Angola appoints Renard as coach

Frenchman Herve Renard has been appointed coach of Angola.

Renard replaces Portuguese coach Manuel Jose, who did not renew his contract after hosts Angola were eliminated in the African Cup of Nations quarter-finals in January.

The 41-year-old has signed a two-year contract, two days after quitting his job as Zambia coach.

Burkina Faso coach Paulo Duarte and Romanian Laszlo Boloni were the other two trainers under consideration.

The Frenchman played for Cannes in his homeland before working under compatriot Claude LeRoy in China, England and Ghana.

Renard will not face any competitive action with Angola until the 2012 Nations Cup qualifiers start in September.

Angola are in the same group with Guinea Bissau, Kenya and Uganda.



Frenchman Herve Renard has signed a two-year contract with Angola

Parreira wants quality friendlies

Piers Edwards

South Africa coach Carlos Alberto Parreira has admitted the quality of the hosts' pre-World Cup friendlies is far from 'ideal'.

The Brazilian was speaking as he named a 25-man squad for this month's training camp in Germany, where South Africa will play an international friendly against China on 28 April.

In addition, the 2010 World Cup hosts will also play three club sides although only one match, the clash with FC Nuremberg on 22 April, has been confirmed.

With a potential May date with Argentina hanging in the balance, South Africa's sole confirmed friendly in the run-up to the World Cup is a 5 June meeting with Denmark.

"When I rejoined South Africa in November, we should have had games organized but we did not," lamented Brazil's 1994 World Cup-winning coach.

"And with such a short time, it was very difficult (to organize quality friendlies) as the big teams had already fixed their games.

"I tried Brazil - personally - and I tried Germany and England, but they could not play us because their calendar was already full."

South Africa's matches this year have been against Swaziland (6-2), Zimbabwe (3-0), Namibia (1-1) and away to a weak Paraguay side (1-1) - with friendlies against China and Denmark to come.

At the World Cup in June, the hosts will face superior opposition in the shape of Group A opponents Mexico, Uruguay and 1998 world champions France.

"So are these warm-ups my ideal games? No, they're simply what was possible," Parreira admitted.

"But they are enough for us to get a good preparation. Denmark are a good team, and we might play Colombia or Wales as well."

The CEO of the South African FA, Leslie Sedibe, also mentioned Bolivia as a potential opponent and confirmed talks are



South Africa coach Carlos Alberto Parreira

ongoing with the Argentine FA about a friendly in late May.

Meanwhile, Parreira handed World Cup lifelines to a trio of forgotten internationals as he prepares for Monday's departure to Germany, where South Africa will be based until the end of April.

The Brazilian unexpectedly recalled forwards Siyabonga Nomvethe, 32, and Katlego Mashego, neither of whom has made a Parreira squad since the coach's reappointment last October.

Though Nasief Morris was not chosen for a camp that falls outside the international calendar, the only South African playing in Spain's La Liga was given some cause for hope.

"This is not the final camp, nor the final list," Parreira told a news conference on Thursday.

"Players are not in, nor out, and we will consider later whether we take someone like Nasief for the final camp or not."

Morris has not played for South Africa since falling out

with previous coach Joel Santana on the eve of last year's Fifa Confederations Cup, a dry run for June's World Cup.

Yet both the experienced Moroka Swallows' Nomvete, 32, who last played for Bafana Bafana in 2007 but who has found a new lease of life, and Mashego, even though the Orlando Pirates forward has struggled for form this season, were recalled.

Meanwhile, six players from last month's camp in Brazil were dropped - with the World Cup dreams of Daine Klate, Thulasizwe Mbuyane, Thulani Serero, Thlou Segolela and Richard Henyekane now hanging by a thread.

The sixth player to go, Kermit Erasmus, may still make South Africa's final training camp in Johannesburg (which starts on 5 May).

The Excelsior Rotterdam forward, who shone at last year's U20 World Cup, was only allowed to join the camp in Brazil after being given spe-

cial permission by his Dutch club.

After returning to South Africa from their German camp on 30 May, South Africa's players will have a week's rest before entering the final phase of the hosts' World Cup preparations.

All Bafana Bafana's squad heading to Germany play in South Africa, save for midfielder Daylon Claasen who is on the books of Ajax Amsterdam but has yet to make his debut for the Dutch side.

South Africa squad

Goalkeepers: Itumeleng Khune (Kaizer Chiefs), Moeneeb Josephs (Orlando Pirates), Shu-Aib Walters (Maritzburg United)

Defenders: Matthew Booth, Siboniso Gaxa, Innocent Mdllele, Siyanda Xulu (all Mamelodi Sundowns), Lucas Thwala (Orlando Pirates), Siyabonga Sangweni (Golden Arrows), Bongani Khumalo (SuperSport Utd), Thabo Nthethe (Bloemfontein Celtic)

Midfielders: Andile Jali, Teko Modise (both Orlando Pirates), Franklin Cale, Lebohang Mokoena, Surprise Moriri (all Mamelodi Sundowns), Reneilwe Letsholonyane, Siphwe Tshabalala (all Kaizer Chiefs), Thanduyise Khuboni (Golden Arrows), Lance Davids (Ajax Cape Town), Daylon Claasen (Ajax Amsterdam, Netherlands), Thabo Nthethe, Katlego Mashego

Strikers: Gert Schalkwyk (Orlando Pirates), Katlego Mphela (Mamelodi Sundowns) and Siyabonga Nomvethe (Moroka Swallows).

North Korea to camp in Zimbabwe

North Korea will train in Zimbabwe before heading to South Africa for this year's World Cup in June.

The southern African country approached five countries playing in the global tournament to set up their training bases in the country.

But Zimbabwe's tourism minister Walter Mzembe said only North Korea has confirmed it will come.

England and the United States were among the countries asked to visit in the build-up to the tournament. Mzembe said Australia and five-time World Cup winner Brazil were also approached in a bid to boost Zimbabwe's tourism industry but they are yet to respond.

The North Korean team is expected in Zimbabwe at the end of May but no specific dates were given. North Korea last appeared at the World Cup in 1966.

As I see it

By Kayele M. Kambombo

Football fraternity awaits SKW Incident outcome

When anyone talks about Leo/NFA Cup the immediate thing that comes to mind is "the SKW incident". The unfortunate incident at the Leo NFA Cup Round of last-32 match between African Stars and Tigers at the Sport Klub Windhoek Stadium on Saturday, 06 March 2010 was described as horrendous and a criminal act by spectators and supporters alike.

Such criminal act should not be allowed to happen again at any stadium and in any form it may raise its ugly head.

In a statement issued to media on March 7, 2010, the NFA assured the football loving fraternity that it was "awaiting reports from the Security firm entrusted with provision of security at the game as well as the report from the Match Commissioner".

The NFA promised to peruse the reports as soon as possible and that due investigation will be undertaken to determine the right course of action, where necessary.

Barry Rukoro, NFA CEO made it categorically clear at a media briefing that the NFA has received the reports it awaited for but no action seems to have been taken around the SKW Stadium incident, nor did the football custodian make any attempt to announce the outcome of its investigation.

The NFA promised to continue to ensure that football is the winner notwithstanding the respect of the law. The football fraternity wants the culprit(s) to be brought to book, failure to do that, the same incident is bound to happen again anywhere in one of our stadiums.

All and sundry should promote fair play, respect for all and stamp out hooliganism at football stadiums in the length and breadth of this country.

It is unfortunate that Namibians will break the law with impunity but they are not ready to face the consequences of their actions. This kind of impunity will slowly lead to the death of local football if not checked.

Many thought hooliganism had died in football in Namibia and started watching local football religiously, but what happened last month made me conclude that some fans think they are above the law.

Is NFA waiting for death to occur in the stadium before they consider crowd hooliganism a serious issue and stamp it out?

Many fans who have witness the shocking incidence in question will not attend certain matches because they feel it may not be too safe for them to attend. Are we waiting for any death to occur before action is taken? Crowd or individual hooliganism in the stadium is a serious issue that must not be taken lightly.

The concerned clubs and fans must be punished. They must be responsible enough to know that there are consequences for any bad behaviour during matches.

And the Namibian football fraternity should understand that the corporate world have a lukewarm interest in local football due to such bad behaviour. The NFA should show its muscles and bring those involved to face the law.

This has only created confusion and undermines the fight against hooliganism.

It is therefore upon NFA to do everything within its power to ensure that football is played in a safe environment,

Leo/Namibia Premier League and the entire football loving people should work together to stamp out hooliganism and any efforts put out by either of them to eradicate the vice must be encouraged.

May the beautiful game prosper.