

Namibia Today Sport

NPL CEO tables conspicuous skeleton fixtures

By Kayele M. Kambombo

It seems Namibia Premier League (NPL) management does not cease to get football fraternity by surprise when it comes to revolutionize the beautiful game.

The NPL Chief Executive Officer, Mathew Haikali, tabled an eye-catching skeleton NPL fixture at the media briefing held at its Headquarters yesterday.

"Today marks the start of the administrative journey for the 2010/11 season", quips Haikali, adding that the responsibility of finally endorsing and adopting the fixture is an administrative issue, which the NPL Office has responsibility over.

"As with the conclusion of the league, that was accomplished at the same time as all the other league in the world, so does today also present an opportunity for the Namibia premier league to join the transparency and accountability associated with the drawing of the fixture of the new season", says Haikali confidently.

The first round of the MTC/NPL will commence on Saturday, September 11, 2010 and be concluded with the 22nd round on Saturday, May 21, 2011.

Haikali pledge that a draft fixture with the names will be drawn and forwarded to the 12 teams to be able to identify their playing venues and communicate that information to the league before the annual general meeting, which will also give the office an opportunity to do the nec-



NPL Chief Executive Officer, Mathew Haikali (left) tabling an eye-catching skeleton NPL fixture while Lorraine Lola Gowases, NPL Front Desk & Registration Secretary looks on (Photos by Kayele M. Kambombo)



Andries Skrywer of Black Africa



Brave Warriors' mascot Robbie, Tom Saintfiet (Brave warrior's coach), and Paul Stramis of Civics doing the draw.



essary logistic related to the playing field. He further vowed that the final fixture will be issued with the times, dates and venues after the annual general meeting. The NPL CEO emphatically put it that

"there will be no changes to the allocation of teams".

Haikali reminded the teams that it is the responsibilities of home teams to secure the booking of the stadiums and make sure

that no fields of play will be double booked. Haikali also noted that the arrangements of security and the availability of medics at the stadium are the sole responsibility of the home teams, adding that the

home team is also responsible to avail cloakrooms at least four hours before the commencement of any match. "Funds are readily available for all these responsibilities.

He also announced that the Board of Governors (BoG) elective Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on July 24, this year in Windhoek. "A call for nomination has been sent", concludes Haikali.

Blue Waters' Hangara passes on

By Kayele M. Kambombo

Alfonso Hangara better known to his peers in the football circles as "Fonso" has died last Saturday and will be laid to rest in his hometown of Okakarara tomorrow.

The late Fonso who was born in Okakarara has allegedly died from natural cause. He was 42 years of age at the time of his death.

Fonso was Blue Waters midfield stalwart where he plied his trade of football for eight uninterrupted years accumulating 60 appearances for the coastal team and retired from active football in 2001.

He also had a stint with Namibia national team, the Brave Warriors. Meanwhile Blue Waters provided its message of condolences to the late Hangara. He left behind his wife and five dependents.

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO LATE FONSO HANGARA

It was with a great sense of loss



Alfonso Hangara

when we heard of the untimely death of late Alfonso "Fonso" Hangara.

We wanted to let you know that you have our greatest sympathy,

and our hearts are truly saddened.

Late Hangara was more than just a wonderful person; he was always so kind and considerate to us that we always welcomed seeing him at every opportunity.

And, we know that his passing will not only leave a void in our lives, but in the hearts of all those who knew him.

Late Hangara was one of our players who regularly appeared in the white and blue outfit of Blue Waters. He was well known for his strong support and he believes in Blue Waters.

We believe that he will be reunited with our old players and supporters that have passed on.

Late Hangara can only be remembered for his professional skills in the middle of park on the field of play. He has passes on as a Blue Water and will always be remembered as such. Even though the body died we still believe his spirit stays alive.

Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with you

With our deepest sympathy,
Blue Waters Management,
Players and Supporters

Namibia Under-20 face Botswana in Friendlies

By Staff member

Namibia's Under-20 national team will take on their Botswana counterparts this weekend as preparation for the Africa Youth Championships gets into gear.

A squad of 20 players left for Gaborone on yesterday to play friendly matches against Botswana, one today and the second one on Sunday. This came about on the request by the Namibia Football Association (NFA) to the Botswana FA to offer the under-20 sides of both countries a chance to flex some muscles as both prepare for the Africa Youth Champions qualifiers due to start towards the end of July.

The Namibian team will take on the reigning world youth champions Ghana on July 25 in Accra with the return leg in Windhoek on August 7. According to Namibia's Team Manager, Jakes Amaning, "the lads are rearing to go".

"It has been a long spell without football for these players. They are looking forward to take on Botswana and just rub of the rustiness as they prepare for the Ghana clash.

"The two coaches are fairly new to the team and the interactions between the coaches and the players have been great. The Botswana test will even take the relationship further".

The two coaches are Ricardo Mannetti and Bernard Kaanjuka, will be observed and advised by the NFA technical Director Klaus Staerk. The exciting team consists of various premiership players such as Orlando Pirates Hitman Sidney Urikhob, Africa Stars speedy striker Ikwatrua Tjozongoro and Black Africa's attacking duo of Willy Stephanus and Roger Kumbee Katjiteo.

Namibia's full squad of 20 players: Oswaldo Xamseb, Sakeus Willbard, Sidney Urikhob, Willy Stephanus, Denzyl Haoseb, Robinson Iyambo, Roger Kumbee Katjiteo, Joseph Nairenge, Larry Horaeb, Benson Shilongo, Ikwatrua Tjozongoro, Steven Sabatha, Nevvile Tjueza, Alfeus Handura, Papi Kavezembi, Collin Ndjai, Absalom Imbodi, Edward Akwaake

Ghana qualify to last 16 despite 1-0 loss to Germany

Germany set up a World Cup last-16 contest with England as Mesut Ozil's stunning strike proved enough to earn victory over Ghana, who also qualified from Group D.

Ozil settled an entertaining affair in the second half with a wonderful, dipping volley from outside the box to ensure it would be the Germans who face Fabio Capello's men in Bloemfontein on Sunday.

In a game that swung from end-to-end, at breakneck speed at times, Ghana wasted some fine chances, but the African side go through as group runners-up, thanks to Australia's surprise victory over Serbia, and they will now face USA in Rustenburg on tomorrow.

Going into the game Ghana only needed a point to be sure of progressing, but they came up against a German team desperate to put their shock 1-0 defeat at the hands of Serbia in their last match behind them.

Knowing a win would set up a clash with old rivals England, Germany played with great tempo and after Cacau shot at Richard Kingson, Lucas Podolski went close with a deflected volley that flew narrowly wide of the target.

But Ghana weathered the early storm and eventually asserted their own style on proceedings. They were content to let Germany have a lot of the ball and hit them on the break when they won it back and their pace soon began to cause problems.

Asamoah Gyan should have done better with a shot that was superbly blocked by the tireless Bastian Schweinsteiger before Kevin-Prince Boateng played in Gyan, only for the striker's touch to let him down at the

crucial moment.

After Ozil rolled a tame shot at Kingson from the right-hand side of the Ghana box it was the Africans who twice went close again when Gyan's goal-bound header from a corner was cleared off the line by Philipp Lahm and then Boateng glanced across the face of goal from Andre Ayew's centre.

Germany knew raced out of the blocks after the interval, aware that Serbia and Australia were goalless at

the break and a Serbia goal could send Germany out. After Asamoah spurned a rare Ghana break into the Germany half by shooting at Manuel Neuer, Ozil produced his match-winning moment. The gifted playmaker had endured a frustrating evening up to that point, but when the ball fell to him just outside the penalty area, he set himself up and then crashed a glorious left-footed effort past Kingson's fruitless dive.

Now Ghana had most to lose and

they tried to hit back immediately as Prince Tagoe's goal bound header at the far post drew a superb block from Jerome Boateng - the German defender who was playing against his brother, Kevin, in a first for the World Cup.

Ghana continued to press and Gyan's back heel exquisitely set up Ayew only for Lahm to get in a last-ditch goal-saving challenge, and Germany eased through the closing stages without looking unduly troubled.

Even after the final whistle blew, there were some nervous moments for Ghana as they waited for the result from Nelspruit, but in the end they had done enough to secure Africa's first place in the next round.