

Namibia Today Sport

Uushona to defend WBO title tonight

By Kayele M. Kambombo

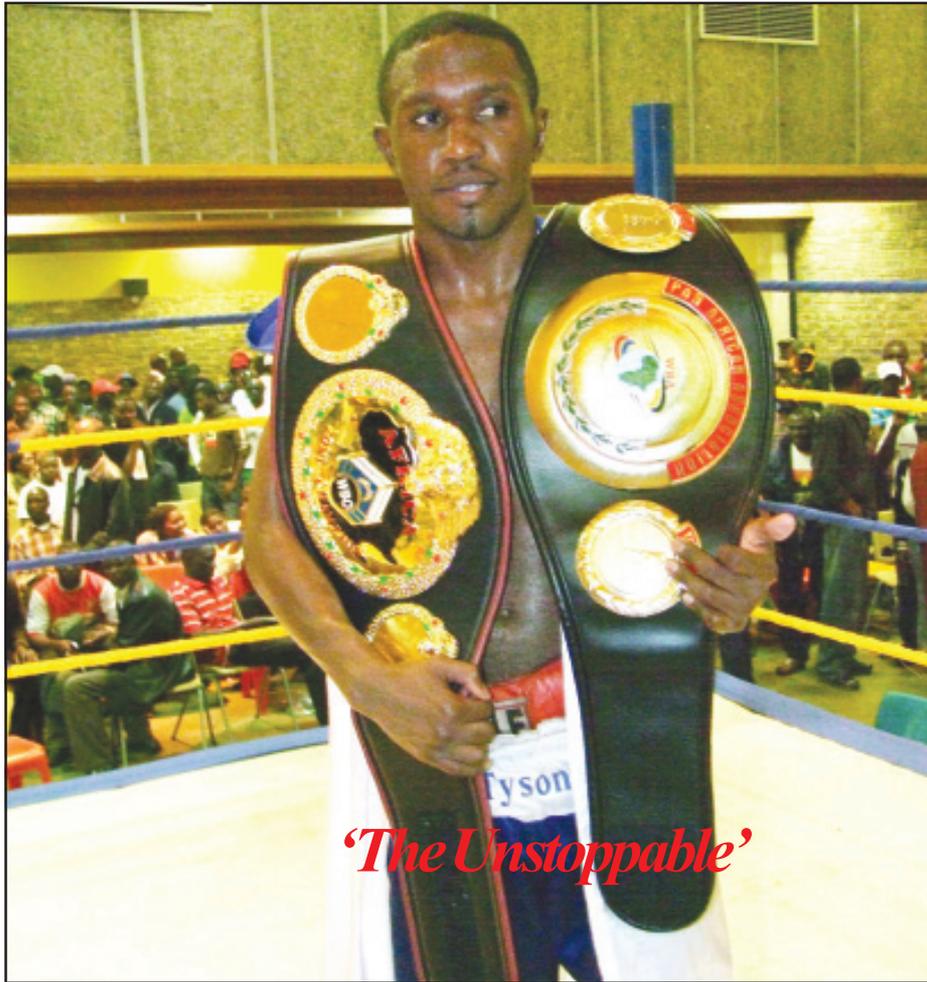
ONGWEDIVA: The undefeated WBO Africa middleweight and national champion Bethuel alias 'The Unstoppable' Uushona make his third title defence against challenger Pius Dipheko of South African.

The title defence fight that is scheduled for 12 rounds will take place at Terfontein, in Johannesburg tonight. The fight is slotted for undercards before the main heavyweight bout.

Uushona is not easily intimidated by any challenger, neither is he threatened by any pugilist's boxing record. He is determined and has experience in the trade of boxing.

He has rumbled before in a foreign country and knows very well what intimidation is all about. He has done it in the USA and clobbered his opponents. This time around is no exception.

In another bout featuring a Namibia pugilist on the same night will be Abraham Ndaendapo who will take on Collin Chauke of South Africa in a six round Junior Lightweight



'The Unstoppable'

none title international bout. Nestor Tobias will be at the

corner of Tyson and Ndaendapo as coach-cum-

promoter. Both boxers are fit and rearing to go.

Shipanga at U17 FIFA World Cup

Brave Gladiators coach Jacqueline "Jacqui" Shipanga will offer her technical skills on the game as part of the FIFA technical Study Group at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup which will be held in Trinidad and Tobago from September 5-25.

Sixteen teams, comprising representatives from all six confederations, will take part in the final competition, in which Trinidad and Tobago has a guaranteed place as the host nation.

Ghana, South Africa and Nigeria will represent Africa at the championship that will be played in five cities.

After her FIFA assignment, Shipanga will jet out to Chicago, United States to represent the Namibia Football Association on September 27 to 30 at the prestigious Beyond Sport Awards 2010 in the Federation/Governing Body of the Year category.

The NFA's Galz and Goals program that is funded by UNICEF is nominated. Other shortlisted federations are the United States National Basket-



Brave Gladiators coach Jacqueline "Jacqui" Shipanga

ball Association (NBA) Cares and the Australia's Football league (AFL) Multicultural Program. The Galz and Goals Program initiative has been selected as one of 33 shortlisted organizations from over 350 projects worldwide that entered

this year's Awards.

The first two days of the Summit will be focused on providing the Shortlist Projects with practical skills, support, knowledge, inspiration, and networking opportunities that will aim to genu-

inely benefit your program.

The programme will include insights from a range of high-profile figures, such as HRH Prince Faisal Al Hussein of Jordan, FIFA Secretary General Jérôme Valcke; CARE USA adviser Dr. Auma Obama, and World Cup Winner Julie Foudy.

Additional speakers will continue to be announced in the coming months, with the aim to rival last year's impressive line-up, which included Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Dikembe Mutombo, Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, and many others.

The winner will each receive US\$15 000 of funding and a substantial package of technical support to help them grow and become sustainable.

Rajevac confident of Essien return to Ghana side

Ghana coach Milovan Rajevac is confident Chelsea midfielder Michael Essien will return to international football early next year.

Essien has just returned from a long lay-off after a cruciate ligament injury sustained at the Africa Cup of Nations in Angola.

The midfielder has now asked for time off international football to get back to his best form at club level. That decision has been heavily criticised in Ghana.

However, Rajevac has a more sympathetic attitude to the player.

"As you know, Michael has had two very serious injuries in the last two years, both with the national team," the 56-year-old told BBC Sport.

"Now he wants to concentrate on his club and I am sure after sometime he will come back to the national team.

"When we need him most, he will be there to lead the team the

way he knows." Rajevac revealed Essien spoke to him before making the announcement public and said there is always room in the national team for the 27-year-old. "Michael contacted me after I decided on the list for the game against Swaziland and wanted to ask for permission to be excused for a while," he said. "I understood his thoughts and of course I want to help him to get into his old form, to start playing regularly and I gave that permission.

The Black Stars have gathered in Johannesburg for the start of their 2012 Nations Cup qualifi-

ers on Sunday.

They are without Essien and Stephen Appiah, their captain of seven years who recently retired from international football. Rajevac paid glowing tribute to the 29-year-old Appiah for his contribution to the Ghana side.

"As I said so many times before, Stephen is a great player who gave so much to Ghana football," he said. "We need to respect his decision because he's had so many problems recently. "Maybe at some point he will reconsider his decision, but for now we must respect that because of everything he gave."

Saintfiet has tough route to traverse

By Kayele M. Kambombo

ONGWEDIVA - Namibia's national football coach, Tom Saintfiet has traveled to Banjul in The Gambia without most of the prominent and regular Brave Warriors' players.

Saintfiet has a tough route to traverse as his depleted squad takes on The Gambia in Group F battle for the 2012 Orange African Cup of Nations qualifiers.

It is unfortunate that four of the senior Warriors players did not make it for the trip for various reasons. Razundara Tjikuzu who plies his trade in the beautiful game of football in Turkey has requested the team's technical staff not to be included in the current squad to The Gambia.

Tjikuzu has recently signed with Kasimpasa Spor Kulubu and needed to establish his position with his new club. Meanwhile, the South African-based goal poacher, Rudolph Bester has sustained a hamstring injury while playing for his club, Maritzburg United.

The other two stalwarts, Paulus Shipanga and George Hummel have both announced their retirement from interna-



tional football, as age has caught up with them.

There are, however, seven legionnaires in the squad, the like of Collin Benjamin, Hartman Toromba, the two Risser brothers (Oliver and Wiko), Tangeni Shipahu, Sydney Plaatjies (unattached) and Henrico Botes.

The locals consist of Virgil Vries, Athiel Mbaha, Richard Gariseb, Steven Goagoseb, Jamu Ngatjizeko, Gottlieb Nakuta, Ninja Karongee, Quinton Jacobs, Edward Asino, Alfred Ndyenge and Heinrich Isaacs.

This is actually not a bad squads and pull one or two surprises. An away draw will be a cherry on the cake.

The 2012 AFCON 12th edition's final will jointly be held by Equatorial Guinea and Gabon in West Africa.

Uefa bans vuvuzelas from European matches

Vuvuzelas have been banned from all Uefa-sanctioned games such as Euro 2012 qualifiers and Champions League games. The horns



were popular at the World Cup in South Africa but critics say they drowned out fan singing and atmosphere.

The move was taken "for reasons related to Europe's football culture and tradition," said a Uefa statement.

"Uefa feels that instrument's use would not be appropriate in Europe where a continuous loud background noise would be emphasised."

European football's governing body said that "in the specific context of South Africa, the vuvuzela adds a touch of local flavour and folklore," but it then went on to make it clear they felt they were

out of place at European games. "The magic of football consists of the two-way exchange of emotions between the pitch and the stands, where the public can transmit a full range of feelings to the players.

"Uefa is of the view that the vuvuzelas would completely change the atmosphere, drowning supporter emotions and detracting from the experience of the game."

Several football teams in England and also other sporting events and musical festivals had already banned the instruments, while some others left it up to fans to decide, but Uefa is the first major footballing body to impose a ban on its members.