

Namibia Today Sport

Search for champions on cards

By Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - It is do or die in the race to find the real champions in a quadruple, world and national title encounters.

The most avoided man in boxing is probably a title that should be attached to Paulus Ali Nuumbembe at the moment in time. With that in mind we cannot deny what he has achieved through boxing, take it or leave it, he has been successful.

The main bout of the evening tomorrow, will feature Namibia's Ali "Silent Assassin" Nuumbembe who will scuffle out against Samuel Malinga of South Africa for the vacant WBO Africa Welterweight title over 12 rounds.

The Silent Assassin is the army Captain with few words. He leaves his fists to make the talking in the ring rather than being too talkative. He has vowed not to disappoint the nation and would win the fight against Malinga, willy-nilly.

"I have been training hard for this fight and am well prepared", says the Silent Assassin tena-



The Silent Assassin (centre) The Rock (l) and Ndokosho sons of the soil ready die for the Land of the Braves at all costs.

ciously.

"My promise to the nation is to win this fight. I will make sure that I win the fight to be listed in the WBO top 10."

In the mean time, Nestor Tobias, Nuumbembe's trainer and promoter, revealed that NamPower has come to the rescue in sponsor-

ing the Box and Dine partially, though the Nestor 'Sunshine' Tobias Boxing and fitness Academy will cover the biggest chunk.

Tobias still calls on more sponsors to come on board, adding that Telecom Namibia will sponsor the next Box and Dine penciled for November 21 this year.

Tobias also announced that before the main bout when the clock strikes 22h35 the auction will start. The Hitman's gloves and shoes that he used in Japan when he dethroned the then WBA Lightweight champion Yusuke Kobori will be part of the auction. The gloves of Ali Nuumbembe will also be auctioned

after fighting Malinga.

Two of the undercards that precede the main bout, will be the search for national champions that will be sought after when the Swakopmund-based Abraham "Energy" Ndaendapo and Gottlieb Ndokosho from the heart of Katutura will wrestle for the vacant Junior Lightweight national title over 10 rounds.

The undefeated Paulus "The Rock" Ambunda (7-7) will come to blows versus Tommy Nakashimba (7-4) for another vacant Bantamweight national title over 10 rounds.

Both of these encounters will test the endurance capacity of these pugilists for most of their previous fights did not exceed six rounds. This will be survival of the fittest kind of escapade.

Yet another mouthwatering undercard fight will showcase one of Namibia's hard knocking pugilists Vikapita "Beast Master" Merero (17-16-1) who would test his valor against an opponent from Zimbabwe Tinei Mharidzo (12-8-4) for a vacant WBO title fight.

Merero versus Mharidzo's rendezvous is a title bout in the category of Light heavyweight over 12 rounds.

Martin Haikali (7-3-4) will change blows against a more experienced challenger from the neighbouring South Africa Vusumzi Sonandi (11-8-3). When the tough get going, the going gets tough, one singer once sung. So let's get ready for the rumble in the commons. Julius Indongo (1-1) versus Pohamba Mandume (2-1-1) Lightweight Swinger non-title bout is a rematch after the latter was defeated by the former on unanimous point decision. Mandume and his camp felt he was a better fighter of the night, thus they requested for a second try.

The boxing fanatics enjoyed the Indongo/Mandume fight for it was very entertaining and full panache.

The two fought on July 25 this year as one of the undercards when the Paulus "Hitman" Moses, WBA Lightweight champion (135 lbs) made his first title defence against Takehiro Shimada at the same venue in Windhoek.

Peter Malakia (11-5-6) and Albin Felesianu (5-3-2) will battle it out for the Lightweight non-title bout over four rounds. This fight will serve as icebreaker to all fights. It will commence at 18h45.

Come one, come all and let's get to rumble! Go Namibia Go!

Warriors' performance under par

By Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - The Brave Warriors did not capitalize on the avalanche of the goal scoring chances in the first stanza that they utterly dominated in all departments. Its performance was ailing and needs a revamp.



Tense moment of the truth: Brave Warriors' coach Tom "The Saint" Saintfiet (far right), Tim Isaacs, Team Manager; Ronnie Kanalelo and Brian Isaacs (both assistant Brave Warriors coaches (Photos by Kayele M. Kambombo).

In a match that all and sundry predicted the Warriors to walkover the Swazi's Sihlangu, but disappointingly ended in a one apiece stalemate after conceding a silly goal and a wasted penalty that could have potted a 2-1 victory for Namibia. The two goals came from Namibia's prolific and adroit striker Rudolph Bester and Mxolisi Mthethwa of Swaziland.

In football it does not matter how you win, win is just a win whether a team has performed poorly but the Warriors' performance was way under par.

The Warriors' supporters were severely let down for they were expecting a Christmas gift that would have come handy next to no time. Many have predicted a goal galore in the range of 5-0 or more, but the Swazi's became more confident as the game wore on.

The Namibian Turkey-based legionnaire Razundara Tjikuzu was a marvel to watch as he dictated matters in the middle of the

park with his fast running; dribbling, clear-cut and grass-cutting through passes.

Tjikuzu and Collin Benjamin (Hamburg SV - Germany) made big differences on the pitch among others. One could see they are from top class leagues.

Tjikuzu is a dead ball specialist; penalty shooting, free kicks or corner kicks are like jam and butter to him. If he could have been given the penalty that Oliver Risser has squandered this time around everyone in Namibia could have been in the seventh heaven. Well, as they say everything happens for a reason.

"I do not blame Risser about the missing penalty", said the Brave Warriors' coach Tom Saintfiet. He promised fireworks in their next FIFA sanctioned international encounter billed for October.

Tjikuzu has never failed to be flawless in executing a penalty. He has sent a lot of goalkeepers in wrong directions when it comes to execute such duty. He is simply a

master in that area.

Saintfiet registered his discontent about the teams' performance particularly in the first stanza where a number of goal scoring opportunities were wasted. The Warriors' tempo immensely deteriorated in the second canto, the situation that irked Saintfiet.

It is now time to go back to the drawing boards. There no need to cry over spilt milk but to strategize the next move.

Spur-of-the-moment

Ephraim 'Shakes' Mashaba mentor of Sihlangu and former Bafana Bafana coach was sent off from the technical bench after the Angolan referee Do Rosairo Baltaza gave him the marching order (without being shown a red card: take note!) for verbally assaulting and threw a water bottle towards the Namibia fourth official Alex Tiyeho (a well-cultured gentleman of all seasons who did not react but kept his cool). He (Mashaba) was escorted from the pitch by Humphreys' security

forces to the tunnel.

The deplorable misconduct of Mashaba was triggered when the whistle man Baltaza awarded a penalty to the Warriors after Tjikuzu who mounted what seemed like a lethally attack was fouled by defender Zakhele Manyatsi inside the 18th area. Mother luck was indeed

on the side of Sihlangu as their goalkeeper Njabuliso Simelane made a brilliant save denying Risser to hammer the last nail on the visitors' coffin.

The verdict of the match was 1-1. To speak truth to power, the results were not the true reflection of what everybody has witnessed,

but, yes goals counts no matter how strong or how good football a team displays on the home or away turf. This should be a learning curve for the Brave Warriors' technical staff and players alike.

To be or not to be, that's the question! You know who said that? So do it right the next time.

Boxing fraternity congratulates Shifeta

By Kayele M. Kambombo

WINDHOEK - The boxing fraternity bestowed Deputy Minister of Sport Pohamba Shifeta with accolades for successfully occupying number 19 on the SWAPO Party list after the results were announced at the SWAPO Electoral College.

The Secretary General of Namibia Boxing Association Joe 'Umkonto Wezizwe' Kaperu congratulated the Deputy Minister of Sport for having "reached a milestone in his political career as he occupies the 19th position in the SWAPO Party list" to become a parliamentarian come March next year.

Nestor Tobias and the media also echoed the sentiments of Kaperu. Shifeta has played a significant role in the realization of staging the WBA Lightweight champion Paulus 'Hitman' Moses' first title defence in his land of birth.

Tobias called on people to "register and vote fittingly" and wished Shifeta to become a substantial Minister of Sport, the notion that was applauded by boxers and media practitioners present at the media conference this week.

Don't drink and box

A new catchphrase 'don't drink and box' for boxers to refrain from alcohol and drug abuse was coined by Kaperu, after Shifeta insisted that all sportsmen/women should refrain from alcohol abuse and street fighting. Cantankerous behaviours are always a letdown.

Shifeta encouraged sportsmen/women not to indulge into alcohol and drug abuse. Sportsmen/women have to excel in sport given the opportunity to do so while they can.

"Sport has a very limited



Deputy Minister of Sport Pohamba Shifeta and Nestor Tobias, trainer-cum-promoter and manager of Namibia's top boxing stoppers.

lifespan", speaking truth to power, Shifeta reminded those who want to listen and heed the call before the extreme takes its toll and be counted in the dust bin of history.

The effervescent Shifeta maintains that if an athlete is found to be misbehaving or get involved in a drinking spree, abusing alcohol



Joe "Umkonto Wesizwe" Kaperu

or involved in physical fights outside the boxing ring "such culprit should be brought to book".

"Where purpose is not known, abuse is inevitable", upholds Myles Munroe.

It is from this backdrop that Shifeta challenged Namibia Boxing and Wrestling Control Board to come up with a dictum that would get all alleged alcohol abusing boxers to be suspended if found guilty of an addiction to the consumption of alcoholic liquor.

The likeable, amongst boxing fraternities and soon-to-be parliamentarian, Shifeta propose that the new coined motto: "Don't drink and box" should be written in big libretto and placed in the Boxing Control Board chambers to be visible to all and sundry so that it remains entrenched in every sportsmen/women's hearts and minds.