

# Namibia Today Sport

## Young Warriors host Botswana

The national under-23 side, the Young Warriors host their Botswana counterparts on Saturday at the Sam Nujoma Stadium for the return leg of their 2012 London Olympic Games qualifier.

With a bulk of the players joining the team on Tuesday after taking part in Namibia's under-20 first ever COSAFA under-20 final in Botswana, assistant coach Ricardo Mannetti is satisfied with preparation for the crunch match. "The other guys that were not part of the under-20 team were kept fit and active by the Technical Director at home", he said.

Mannetti added that there will be no wholesome changes to the team

that went to the COSAFA but few players are brought in.

"We want to keep things moving and surely the guys that were in Botswana did well and we don't want to dismantle that team but at this level you need those other players as well and they are brought in to bolster the team".

The former Brave Warriors midfielder also stated that results against Botswana on Saturday was not their priority but building a team is.

"We have a mandate of building a strong national team, develop players who will one day don the national senior jersey with pride

and deserves to and so comes Saturday, we know the nation wants results, but just like it was in Botswana, exposure is vital and all other things will fall in place.

"you can Saturday at 16h00 and you will see great blend of football and surely beating them will be ideal as we will also lie to get to the next stage".

Botswana leads the fixture 1-0 and the winner on aggregate will meet Egypt as the road to London 2012 intensifies and the Young Zebras arrived on Wednesday in Windhoek.

"It is an advantage to us that we are visiting Namibia already

with a win over them. A draw will mean we are through to the next round," their coach, Daniel "Chico" Nare told Botswana press Enole this week.

Nare said that they intend to approach this game very cautiously, "We should not let them score first but we are going to let them come to us because they will be hungry and desperate for a win and then we will catch them on a counter attack and punish them."

The NFA has made the final decision yesterday that the entrance for the match tomorrow will be free of charge. The match will kickoff at 16h00.

## As I see it

By Kayele M. Kambombo

### 2010 best year for sport

This year was, in many respects, one of the best years ever for sports. The most attracting factor was the World Cup to be staged in Africa, particularly South Africa.

But firstly, South Africa has hosted the Fifa Confederation Cup in 2009 as an interesting dress rehearsal for 2010 Fifa World Cup.. Egypt and South Africa represented the whole African continent.

Secondly it was Angola that hosted the 27<sup>th</sup> African Cup of Nations edition. Egypt strolled through to their third successive Africa Cup of Nations final, overcoming Algeria 4-0, with their great rivals finishing with eight men. It (Egypt) eventually secured a record seventh Africa Cup of Nations title, after beating Ghana 1-0 in a tense final in Angola.

The FIFA World Cup 2010 provided a unique opportunity and platform to all and sundry as it was indeed Africa's date with destiny.

Ghana made Africa proud to have ended the only African ambassador, as the last team standing. Ghana nearly defied expectations to become the first African team to reach the World Cup semi-finals but, after being awarded a penalty with the score at 1-1, Asamoah Gyan hit the bar from the spot with the last kick of extra-time. Agonisingly for an entire continent, Ghana then lost a penalty shoot-out 4-2.

Spain won their first ever World Cup (1-0) against Holland, thanks to Andrés Iniesta's goal deep into extra-time.

At the 2010 Commonwealth Games in India, Namibia acquired three medals: boxer Jafet Utoni ended up with silver medal while Para-Olympian Johanna Benson received a bronze medal at the same event. She was named the Disabled Sportswomen of the Year and Christine Briedenham also made Namibia proud with her medal in swimming and was crowned junior Sportswoman of the Year at the MTC/NSC Sports Awards.

Namibia's national rugby team has qualified for 2011 Rugby World Cup which is due to be held in New Zealand. The team also walked away with the best team of the year award at the spectacular 2010 MTC/NSC Sports Award held in Windhoek.

Boxing is also one of the sport disciplines that have made inroads. Many champions ranging from WBO Africa light heavyweight, WBO Africa welterweight, WBO Africa lightweight and WBO bantamweight have either been won or defended with aplomb. The title holders of these belts are Vikapita "The Beast Master" Merero, Bethuel "Tyson" Uushona, Martin Haikali and Paulus "The Rock" Ambunda, respectively.

Their fights are all being promoted by Nestor "Sunshine" Tobias. Tobias and Ambunda received awards for the best WBO promoter, manager and trainer of the Year (2010) in Africa and the WBO best boxer correspondingly. This international recognition ceremony for the two Namibians was held in Colombia.

Namibia's Under-20 football team ended runners up after losing 4-1 to Zambia in the Metropolitan COSAFA Under-20 Youth Championships final. The Young Warriors comprehensively defeated Madagascar 3-0 and South Africa 2-0 to go to the final. In the previous tournament Namibia was eliminated at the hand of South Africa when they lost 9-0. This time around Namibia did tremendously well. Hopefully the team will keep the same spirit and zeal to win the next COSAFA Cup.

Namibia Today Sport wishes all its readers a Merry Christmas and fabulous New Year.



WBO Africa welterweight champion ,Bethuel "Tyson" Uushona, promote Nestor "Sunshine" Tobias and WBO Africa bantamweight champion Paulus "The Rock" Ambunda.

## NPL closes office

By Kayele M. Kambombo

The Namibia Premier League (NPL) offices will be closed from Decem-

ber 20, 2010 until January 7, 2011.

The first part of the 2010/2011 season has just come to its end last Saturday. The first match for the

second stanza of the league will start on the weekend of January the 19<sup>th</sup> and scheduled to end on the last weekend of May.

The NPL Chief Executive Officer Matthew Haikali wished all its stakeholders best wishes for Christmas and the approaching

2011.

He said: "On behalf of the staff and the management of the Namibia Premier League, we wish you and your loved ones a happy holy days and a prosperous New Year".

## Africa's TP Mazembe make history

TP Mazembe have become the first African side to reach the Club World Cup final after a surprise 2-0 win over Brazil's Internacional in Abu Dhabi.

Mulota Kabangu broke the deadlock with a superb strike in the 53rd minute.

Alain Kaluyituka produced a brilliant individual effort late in the game to extend the team from DR Congo's lead.

Goalkeeper Muteba Kidiaba pulled off a series of point blank saves to keep the African champions in the game against the Copa Libertadores winners.

Not only are Mazembe the first African side to reach the Club World Cup final, they are also the first team from outside Europe and South America to go that far in the competition.

"We are here to represent Africa and all of Africa will be proud of our work," Mazembe's Senegalese coach Lamine N'Diaye said.

"It's a day of happiness for us and also a day of pride - we have succeeded and shown that our players are of a high standard."

An appearance in the final looked unlikely given the tense start the Afri-

can side made and Kidiaba had to be at his very best to keep out a confident looking Internacional.

Even more worryingly, apart from one Kaluyituka effort, the DR Congo side also failed to create many chances in the first half.

That growing confidence was perfectly illustrated by Kabangu when he received the ball on the edge of the area, controlled it well and curled a perfect shot into the far corner, leaving Internacional keeper Renan stranded.

Mazembe continued to live dangerously - with Kidiaba constantly being called into action - but the

Brazilian side could not break through.

A double substitution, with Tinga and Alecsandro being replaced by youngsters Giuliano and Damiao, gave Internacional more impetus, but they were unable to find an equaliser.

With five minutes remaining Kaluyituka sealed Mazembe's remarkable victory as he fired home a low shot from outside the area which beat Renan at the near post.

Mazembe will meet the winners of Wednesday's semi-final match between European Champions League winners Inter Milan of

## Voting closes for BBC award

Voting has closed for the 2010 BBC African Footballer of Year award.

Asamoah Gyan and Andre 'Dede' Ayew of Ghana, Cameroon's Samuel Eto'o, and Yaya Toure and Didier Drogba of Ivory Coast are the five candidates.

Tens of thousands of football fans across the world have cast their votes and the winner will be announced on Friday 17 December on the BBC's African sports

programme Fast Track.

This is the only award of its kind to be chosen by football fans. Drogba took the award last year and other previous winners include Mohamed Aboutrika of Egypt and Togolese star Emmanuel Adebayor.

Both Sunderland striker Gyan and Marseille midfielder Ayew starred for Ghana as they reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup for the first time.

Italy or Seongnam Ilhwa of South Korea in Saturday's final.

Internacional will have to stay in Abu Dhabi to play the losers of that match-up in a play-off.

Their coach Celso Roth was philosophical about defeat at the hands of Mazembe.

"We controlled the game, but the best team is the one that wins," Roth said.

"It was time for Africa to reach the final and unfortunately it has been at our expense.

"There's no dishonour in that - African football is improving all the time and I don't see anything shameful in losing to an African team", (BBC Sport).

The 29-year-old forward Eto'o played a vital role as his Italian side Inter Milan won the Champions League and a domestic double.

English Premier League side Chelsea secured a league and cup double for the first time in their history, thanks in part to the goals of 32-year-old striker Drogba.

Meanwhile, Toure, 27, became the highest-paid footballer in English football following his move from Barcelona to Manchester City earlier this year (BBC sport).