

Namibia Today Sport

Haikali, the man to beat says Tobias

Kaye M. Kambombo

Namibia's Martin Haikali 'walked the talk' in a foreign land when he defeated his Ghanaian challenger, Sam Amoako in their WBO (Africa) lightweight championship, in the early hours of Saturday.

Haikali defended his title for the third time. His promoter Nestor 'Sunshine' Tobias showered his pugilist with all sorts of accolades.

Characteristically, the WBO (Africa) lightweight holder (11-7-4), noted for his hard-punching technique, was in an extremely somber mood. His entry lit the jam-packed Accra Conference Centre, where Vice President John Mahama was present, with intense applause.

Namibian champion, Martin Haikali was too strong for Amoako, winning on a split point decision of 116-114, 117-115 and then 113-117. Amoako's corner men conceded the defeat in good faith.

"Haikali has guts to take any challenger, anywhere in the world. He fought like a real and fearless champion from the Land of the Brave. He



THE WINNING TEAM: Front row (l-r): Tobias "Shaya" Nashilongo, Trainer of Martin Haikali (WBO Africa lightweight champion, far right at the back row), Nestor "Sunshine" Tobias boxing promoter-cum-manager of the champion, and Daniel Groves boxing fitness trainer from the United Kingdom. Back row: Imms Moses boxing trainer, and the two WBO Africa champions Vikapita "Beast Master" Merero, Bethuel "Tyson" Uushona and Haikali (photo by Kaye M. Kambombo).

is a man to beat", said Tobias in a jovial frame of mind.

Tobias congratulated Haikali for

his golden performance against Amoako that saw him retain his

title deservedly. "His showing in

the ring was boxing artistry at its best which won the admiration of all", quipped Tobias.

Tobias hopes that his (Haikali) victory will be a very strong motivation for both professional and amateur boxers in the country to follow suit and win more laurels for Mother Namibia in the near future.

Tobias will schedule a couple of fights for Haikali in Namibia and South Africa to polish his skills and improve his record.

Haikali's promoter, Tobias, said that he wants to see Haikali in the first 15 top worlds rated boxer in his category and eventually top the list.

At the ringside was Haikali's trainer Warrant Office of the Namibian Police Tobias "Shaya" Nashilongo doing his antics as he gives instructions and throwing punches and wild kicks in the air and always saying "shaya man".



Ghanaian challenger Sam Amoako



WBO (Africa) lightweight champion Martin Haikali.

Isaacs takes the mantle of the Warriors

By Kaye M. Kambombo

Brian Isaacs has taken over the mantle of the Brave Warriors after his predecessor Tom Saintfiet has suspiciously gone into self-imposed "exile" after failing to secure the mentorship position to coach the Zimbabwean national football team last year.

Isaacs as caretaker coach is deputized by Ronnie Kanalelo and Bernard Kaanjuka. The three of them are determined to bring the pride of the Warriors back to its winning ways, but only time will tell.

The entire country should stand behind them to give the necessary support they so dearly need to achieve their goal.

The Warriors will engage the Flames of Malawi in an international friendly match scheduled for this coming Wednesday, February 9.

The match is slated for Sam Nujoma Stadium at 20h00.

Both teams will use the game to prepare for the resumption of 2012 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers in March. The Brave Warriors will battle it out on away against Burkina Faso in Burkina.

The onus now falls on Isaacs and his two assistant coaches. Thirty-one players have already been contacted about the match some of whom are in training. The list will be trimmed to 18 players by Monday afternoon or early Tuesday.

Namibia's foreign legionnaires will touch down at the Hosea Kutako International Airport as from today to join the rest of the squad.

Isaacs and his assistants are determined to turn the table around. He said that his technical team has the means to transform, restore the image and pride of the Brave Warriors again as well as bring back self-confidence in our players". We are aware of the difficult task and assignment ahead but with our skill, experience and knowledge of tactics and techniques we believe we can improve and restore our national competitiveness."

Brave Warriors squad:

Virgil Vries (Eleven Arrows), Attiel Mbaha (Ramblers), Maxmilian Mbaeva (African Stars), Hartman Toromba (Black Africa), Richard Gariseb (Orlando Pirates), Steven Goagab (Ramblers) Oliver Risser (Unattached), Willem Mwedihanga (Tigers), Denis Tjetjinda (African Stars), Teberius Lombard (Tura Magic), Jamunuvandu Ngatjizeko (African Stars), Gottlieb Nakuta (Blue Waters), Ninja Karongee (African Stars), Collin Benjamin (Hamburg SV, Germany), Quinton Jacobs (Unattached), Razundara Tjikuzu (Kasimpasa Spor Kulubu, Turkey), Tangeni Shipahu (Amazulu, South Africa), Rudolf Bester (Maritzburg United, South Africa), Sydney Plaatjies (Mpumalanga Black Aces, South Africa), Riaan Cloete (Unattached), Heinrich Isaacs (Civics), Emilio Martin (Ramblers), Alfues Handura (Tura Magic) Henrico Botes (Platinum Stars, South Africa), Wilko Risser (Elversberg 07, Germany), Lazarus Kaimbi (Jomo Cosmos, South Africa), Sydney Urikhob (Ramblers), Eslin Kamuhanga (Ramblers), Pineas Jacobs (Tigers), Letu Shatimuene (Unattached), and Dumisa Janze (Unattached).

world governing body Fifa stand by its original decision.

Three former members of Fifa's ruling panel - Slim Aloulou of Tunisia, Mali's Amadou Diakite and Tongan Ahongalu Fusimalohi - are also appealing against suspensions.

Fifa's Independent Appeals Committee is chaired by Larry Mussenden, the president of Bermuda's Football Association.

Hearings are scheduled over two days, with Adamu having told the BBC that he expects a result on Thursday afternoon (BBC Sport)

Last 32 clubs gunning for glory

The annual Namibia Football Association Cup, the Leo NFA Cup returns this weekend with the last 32 clubs gunning for glory in the lucrative competition.

The flagship competition of the FA will see action at Otjiwarongo's Mokati Stadium and the Windhoek's Sam Nujoma Stadium on Saturday and Sunday with mouth-watering encounters on the cards.

Defending champions African Stars will face rivals Tigers as the same stage of the competition as last year (Stars won 2-0 that day at the SKW Stadium). This time around Stars will face Tigers at the Sam Nujoma Stadium on Sunday in the final match of the day.

Action in Windhoek will start on Saturday at 13h00 as Blue Boys take on second division side Shaluzza Chiefs. On the same day another second division outfit, Namib Colts will take on Oshakati City. In an all Premiership battle SKW face Blue Waters at 19h00.

On Sunday, action at the Sam Nujoma Stadium in Windhoek resumes at 12h00 with UNAM FC taking on Rundu Chiefs to be followed by Hotspurs and Nampol battle before the epic clash between Tigers and Stars.

At the Mokati Stadium in



Otjiwarongo, Orlando Pirates will play against relegated side United Stars while the league log leaders

Ramblers were drawn to play against Black Africa Warriors from the Great Kunene region.

In other matches at Otjiwarongo, Black Africa will play Black Buffalos and Mighty Gunners takes on rivals Golden Bees, with Volcano FC entertaining Civics.

Changing a little from the norm in this competition for the past two years, clubs will only receive playing gear at the semi final stage and for the grand finale.

"There have been some complications in the ordering and supply of the gear so we decided that with the view of bringing the game to the people without any delays, we will make this the norm for this year," said Bert Boonzaaier, the marketing brand executive from Leo.

This will be the third and final year of the current contract between Leo and the NFA.

The prize money will remain at N\$600 000 for the winners, N\$250 000 for the runners up, and N\$100 000 for the losing semi-finalists.

The Top Goal Scorer and Player of the Series will each receive N\$25 000. The money given to the teams for their traveling expenses will increase to N\$5 000.

fidentiality rules.

Should Adamu win his appeal, the 58-year-old would be eligible to re-contest his position on the Fifa executive committee when the Confederation for African Football (Caf) holds elections in Sudan later this month.

Caf holds its annual assembly on 23 February in Khartoum, where it will choose two of its four delegates to the 24-member Fifa body.

Adamu is listed as a candidate pending his appeal, with compatriot Ibrahim Galadima on standby should football's

Fifa opens 'corruption' hearings

Fifa has begun hearing appeals by five officials suspended after allegations of corruption during the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bidding races.

Executive committee members Amos Adamu and Reynald Temarii were barred from voting by Fifa's ethics committee.

Nigeria's Adamu has challenged a three-year football ban for seeking bribes from reporters who posed as lobbyists.

Temarii, from Tahiti, was cleared of corruption but received a one-year ban for breaking con-



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