Haikali, the man to beat says Tobias

Kayde 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 pupil with all sorts of accolades.

Characteristically, the WBO (Africa) lightweight holder (117-4), noted for his hard-punching technique, was in an extremely elated 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 a split points decision of 116-114,117-115 and then 113-117. Winning on a split points decision of the ring was boxing artistry at its best which won the admiration of the也能.

“Haikali has guts to take any chal- lenge, anywhere in the world. He fought like a real and fearless champion from the Land of the Brave. He always says ‘I am 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 moti- vation for both professional and amateur boxers in the country to follow suit and win more laurels for Mother Namibia in the near fu- ture.

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

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Isaacs takes the mantle of the Warriors

By Kayde 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 Zimbabwe national football team last year.

The move now falls on Isaacs and his two assistant coaches. Thirty-one players have already been contacted to bring 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. The players and his assistants are de- termined to turn the table around. He said that his technical team has the means to transform, restore the image and pride of the Brave War- riors again as well as bring back self- confidence in our players. “We are aware of the difficult task and as- signment ahead but with our skill, experience and knowledge of tacs- tics and techniques we believe we can improve and win, and our national competitiveness.”

Brave Warriors squad:

Vigil Viles (Eleven Aces), Attiel Mtuka (Ramblers), Marcelline Misurwe (African Stars), Harun Namukolo (Blue Waters), Richard Gericke (Orlando Pirates), Steven Goagab (Ramblers) Oliver Risser (Unattached), Willem Mwedihanga (Tigers), Adamu Adamu (Ramblers), Teberius Lombard (Tura Magic), Gottlieb Isack as caretaker coach is deputized by Ronnie Kanalelo and Bernard Kanka. The three of whom have been suspended for two years, with the view of bringing 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 our goal. The Warriors will engage the Flames of Malawi in an interna- tional 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 qualifier in March. The Brave Warriors will battle it out on away against Burkina Faso in Burkino.

Fifa opens ‘corruption’ hearings

Fifa has begun hearing appeals by five officials suspended af- ter allegations of corruption during the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bidding races. Executive committee members Amos Adamu and Reynald Temari were barred from voting by Fifa’s ethics committee.

Nigeria’s Adamu has chal- lenged a three-year football ban for seeking bribes from report- ers who posed as lobbyists. Temari, from Tahiti, was cleared of corruption but received a one-year ban for breaking con- fidentiality rules.

Should Adamu win his ap- peal, the 58-year-old would be eligible to re-contest his posi- tion on the Fifa executive com- mittee when the Confederation for African Football (Caf) holds elections in Sadian later this month.

Caf holds its annual assem- bly on 23 February in Khartoum, where it will choose two of its four del- egates to the 24-member Caf body.

Adamu is listed as a candi- date pending his appeal, with compatriot Ibrahim Halada on standby should football’s world governing body, Fifa, stand by its original decision.

Three former members of Fifa’s ruling panel - Slim Aloulou of Tunisia, Mali’s Amedeo Daiet and Tongan Aloungu Fuimutola - 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).