

Namibia Today Sport

Gladiators prepare for Nigeria clash

WINDHOEK - Following their success in the first round of the 2012 London Olympics Games, the Brave Gladiators have started with preparation for the more interesting clash against Nigeria's Falcons in April.

The Gladiators have been in camp for two weeks now and will continue to have camps for the ladies to ensure that they stay fit for the away match in Nigeria on April 2 with the return leg scheduled for April 16 at the Sam Nujoma Stadium.

According to Jackey Gertze, Head of Women football at the Namibia

Football Association, the ladies last weekend defeated Polytechnic of Namibia women team 3-0 and will this Sunday engage an Okahandja Secondary School Boys team at the Nu-Aib Stadium at 15h00.

"It is a programme designed by the technical team to keep the team in good shape. Remember before the Angola matches in the previous round, we had fitness issues and we want to avoid that as much as possible", Gertze explains.

Also before the fixture against Nigeria gets underway, the NFA

is closed in negotiations with the Botswana FA for a possible friendly match on March 13 in Windhoek. "The NFA are finalizing issues with Botswana soon and hopefully on March 13 we play them at home" adds Gertze.

The national women football side, the Brave Gladiators advanced to the second round of the 2012 London Olympic Games courtesy of an away goal after an aggregate 2-2 all draw against Angola at the beginning of February.

Shatimwene safes Black Africa

By Kayele M. Kambombo

Tigers football club prolific striker Letu Shatimwene did Black Africa a great "favour" to clinch on the summit of Namibia Premier League (NPL) log.

In an electrifying match played between Tigers and Ramblers on Wednesday evening at the Sam Nujoma Stadium, Shatimwene scored the only goal of the match for Tigers.

The win for Tigers shattered the hopes of Ramblers to reclaim the top spot of the log.

Black Africa is on 25 points and remain at the apex with only a point difference with Ramblers in hot pursuit.

The two teams are pitted against each other in the Leo/NFA Cup that is slated for February 26 at the Independence Stadium where they are to settle the scores of who will reach the last eight teams.

Total elimination of big guns

By Kayele M. Kambombo

The matches for the last 16 teams for the Leo/Namibia Football Association Cup were drawn and are penciled for February 26 at two different venues.

Four matches will be played in Walvis Bay at the Kuisebmond Stadium with the rest four taking place in Windhoek at the Independence Stadium.

It will be a do or die encounters as three premierships clubs will have to bite the dust and bid farewell to the lucrative cup.

The Walvis Bay-based Blue Waters, at home grounds, will host Civics while Orlando Pirates are to be at odds with Oshakati City in Windhoek.

Black Africa and Ramblers will be at each other's throats at the Independence Stadium.

The reigning Leo Cup champion

African Stars, Eleven Arrows and Blue Boys are in more comfortable positions to annihilate minnow antagonists of Hotspurs, Pescanova and Bingo respectively.

In the last round of 32 the lower divisions were thrashed



Jackey Gertze, Head of Women football at the Namibia Football Association

with terribly huge scores. This time around there is light on the side of the tunnel as two of the fish will survive the axe to reach the last round of eight.

The case in point is the Lilliputians of the like of Young Eleven versus Rundu Chiefs, with Golden Bees against Young Rangers. By the look of things, Stars, Pirates, Arrows and Blue Boys are likely to reach the next round unless a miracle happens.

Leo/NFA fixtures
26 February 2011:
Kuisebmond Stadium

Young Eleven vs Rundu Chiefs 11h00

Blue Boys vs Bingo 13h00
Eleven Arrows vs Pescanova 15h00

Civics vs Blue Waters 17h00
26 February 2011:
Independence Stadium

Golden Bees vs Young Rangers 14h00

African Stars vs Hotspurs 16h00

Black Africa vs Ramblers 18h00

Orlando Pirates vs Oshakati City 20h00

Adebayor hails Mourinho effect

Emmanuel Adebayor has hailed the impact Jose Mourinho has had on his game since his loan move to Real Madrid.

The Manchester City striker moved to the Spanish capital last month in a deal running to the end of the season.

The La Liga giants will then have an option to sign the 26-year-old on a permanent basis.

Adebayor, who had been pushed to the fringes of the City squad, has already scored twice for his new club, netting in wins over Sevilla and Real Sociedad.

"I'm very happy for scoring two goals," Adebayor told a press conference in Madrid.

"I will work hard every day to help win our games.

"It is very easy to work with Mourinho. He is an excellent person and he enhances my game.

"He has his own way of dealing with people. He tells you what he expects you to do."

The change of scenery looks to

have sparked an upturn in the Togolese striker's fortunes, and the presence of several English-speaking team-mates has allowed him to settle.

"I want to thank my team-mates for helping me adapt so easily to this league championship.

"Granero, Ramos, Ronaldo, Pepe, Marcelo... They all speak English, so they understand me and I understand them. I am very happy to be here."

Real Madrid are seven points behind leaders Barcelona in the Spanish top flight, but Adebayor vowed: "We will fight to the end to win every title."

The 26-year-old also gave an insight into the lasting impression the deadly terrorist attack on Togo's team bus ahead of last year's African Nations Cup has had on him.

"Luckily, I still have both my legs and can play football," he said.

"I sometimes mistake loud noises for bullets, but I'm over it now and ready to work."

Drogba wants 2014 World Cup shot

Chelsea striker Didier Drogba has pledged his future to the Ivory Coast until the 2014 World Cup.

Drogba will be 36 by the time the Brazil finals arrive, which could be his third World Cup.

"I'm not in the twilight of my career with the Ivory Coast," Drogba said after reports that this week's friendly against Mali could be his last game.

"I'll also play my third World Cup in 2014 in Brazil. If I am called upon, I will answer."

"I intend to participate in the next two African Nations Cups in 2012 and 2013," he added.

Ivory Coast beat Mali 1-0 in France on Tuesday, after Elephants captain Drogba assisted in Dider Ya Konan's match-winning goal after



just three minutes.

It was the Chelsea star's first match since the Ivory Coast ex-

ited the 2010 World Cup at the group stage.

"I could not leave like that,"

explained a man who led Ivory Coast to the 2006 Nations Cup final.

"The day I decide to retire internationally, I will take care to say goodbye to the fans. I would never creep away on tiptoes."

The two-time African Footballer of the Year made his international debut in 2002 and is approaching a half-century of goals after winning just over 70 caps.

Ivory Coast resume their qualifying campaign for the 2012 Nations Cup next month when they host Benin.

The Elephants currently lead Group H, which also includes Burundi and Rwanda, with maximum points from two games, four goals scored and none conceded.

Tunisia, Angola through at CHAN

Tunisia and Angola have made it through to the knock-out phase of the African Nations Championship (CHAN).

They complete the draw for the quarter-finals after victories over Senegal and Rwanda respectively.

Tunisia beat Senegal 2-0 to go through as the winners of Group D whilst Angola came from behind to beat Rwanda 2-1.

Tunisia will now meet DR Congo in the quarter-finals on Saturday, whilst Angola will face Cameroon on the same day.

Rwanda go home without registering a point in the competition.

Slama Gasdouli put Tunisia ahead in their match with Senegal in the first half, but they had to wait until two minutes from time to score the winner, through Khaled Korbi from the penalty spot.

Angola went behind to a goal from Rwanda's Jean-Baptiste Mugiraneza in the 18th minute of the game, but Arsenio Cabungula levelled the score just after the half-hour mark and Osorio Carvalho got the winner fifteen minutes into the second period