

Namibia Today Sport

Lilliputians to go all out for LEO/NFA Cup

By Kayele M. Kambombo



Barry Rukoro, NFA CEO, Bert Boonzaaier, Leo representative and Tim Isaac sporting the Leo/NFA Cup after the fully packed media conference at the NFA Soccer House on Tuesday.

WINDHOEK – At least two minnows and one NPL relegation threatened team are still in the running for the N\$600 000 cup competition.

Today, Golden Bees, Rundu Chiefs and Blue Boys are proud to

have reached the quarter final of the lucrative cup at the advantage of the top flight Namibia Premier League (NPL) and other Second Division teams that were eliminated from the Leo/NFA Cup

knockout stages - which have initially started with 32 teams.

By the look of things, the 9th of April will be an obnoxious and nightmarish weekend for Golden Bees and Rundu Chiefs that are

pitted against Black Africa and Eleven Arrows respectively at Mokati Stadium in Otjiwarongo.

Heaven forbid, the likelihood is that there will be a walkover for Black Africa and Arrows. There will be the feasts of the day at the edge of the Omatako River in Otjozondjupa Region as the Lilliputians will mercilessly be devoured by the football giants.

The encounter between the Leo/NFA Cup reigning champion African Stars and Orlando Pirates is going to be a real humdinger and a spine chilling episode.

One of the giants will have to fall willy-nilly. Stars hope to repeat its last year's feat as champions while Pirates dreams to dethrone the champs, come April 10. It will be a black Sabbath, that will produce blood, sweat and tears.

Both teams have huge followers that will undoubtedly turn the Independence Stadium in Windhoek a final look-a-like encounter.

The NFA Chief Executive Officer Barry Rukoro extolled all participating clubs for the impressive discipline they displayed throughout the various knockout stages of the Leo/NFA Cup.

"These are the kind of participants that we want to see on the field of play throughout the year," Rukoro quipped.

He further eulogized the media that "was very impressive to cover the (Leo/NFA Cup) competition", adding that "everybody has contributed a lot".

Zambia move back into top 100

Zambia have returned to the top 100 of the Fifa world rankings thanks to a 4-0 victory over Swaziland.

Their progress is at the expense of Niger (104th, down 8 places), who were defeated 3-0 by Morocco.

In southern Africa South Africa is ranked number 1, 9 in Africa and 46 in the world. Botswana is number 2 (13) (67); Malawi 3 (20) (88); Mozambique 4 (21) (93); Zambia 5 (22) (97); Angola 6 (24) (104); Zimbabwe 7 (34) (127); Namibia 8 (38) (140); Swaziland 9 (43) 9 (43) (159); Lesotho 10 (45) (168).

As expected, there are no significant moves by African teams in the latest world rankings.

Ghana's Black Stars are the only African side in the world's top 20, ranked at number 16.

They are followed by Ivory

Coast (25), Egypt (35) and Nigeria (39).

South Africa continue to make steady progress, moving up to number 46 - their highest position since October 2005.

World Cup champions Spain remain top of the monthly rankings while Argentina rise above Brazil to become South America's top dogs.

Spain lead an unchanged all-European top three from the Netherlands and Germany.

Argentina are up one place at number four and Brazil slip to fifth place.

Argentina have been rewarded for a 2-1 victory over Portugal in a friendly, while Brazil lost 1-0 to France.

Isaacs names Warriors squad for Maunsaacs names Warriors squad for Maun

Brave Warriors caretaker coach Brian Isaacs have called upon 18 players that are to travel to Botswana for the intentional friendly match at Maun on March 16.



Brave Warriors caretaker coach Brian Isaacs

The team, which comprise of mainly players that were part of the international friendly match against Malawi in February, was named on Wednesday.

The players are expected to meet for camp on Sunday march 13 at Safari Hotel in Windhoek.

The squad includes defenders Hartman Toromba and Chris Katjiukua from Black Africa and Eleven Arrows respectively.

Other new names in the team include Sport Klub Windhoek goal-minder Ephraim Tjihonge and Blue Boys striker Jordan Haimbili.

"It is vital for us to prepare well for our African Nations Cup qualifiers and surely this game in Botswana will come in handy" said Coach Isaacs.

He added that the match will allow him to try out new players with certain combinations to see who can be merged with the foreign legions for the match against Burkina Faso on March 26.

"We have a great talent in our league and it is imperative that we give players a chance and see how they can hold on and see what they

can offer. They have to add value to the national team", Isaacs said.

The Tafel Lager Brave Warriors is expected to depart for Maun on Monday March 14. The match will take place on Wednesday, March 16 and returns home on Thursday.

The Brave Warriors under Isaacs have lost 2-1 to Malawi on February 9 in Windhoek. The Burkinabe are top of the 2012 Africa Nations Cup qualifier after their 3-1 win over The Gambia last October. The Gambia is in second place after a 3-1 win over Namibia who are last.

Namibia will host Burkina Faso in May before hosting The Gambia for the return-leg in September.2011. Namibia's 18-man squad:

Goalkeepers: Athiel Mbaha and Ephraim Tjihonge

Defenders: Willem Mwedihanga, Richard Gariseb, Hartman Toromba, Jamunovandu Ngatjizeko, Chris Katjiukua, Gottlieb Nakuta and Denzil Hoaseb

Midfielders: Ninja Karongee, Emilio Martin, Heini Isaacs, Eslin Kamuhanga, Ronald Ketjijere

Strikers: Alfred Ndyenge, Jordan Haimbili, Sidney Urikhob and Pineas Jacob

Football for Health to Start in May

The Football for Health programme moved another step forward for the implementation process as FIFA Medical Assessment and Research Centre (F-MARC) officials visited Namibia last week.

Following the recent visit of FIFA's chairman of Medical Committee Jiri Dvorak, Namibia had Head of the Research Centre, Astrid Junge and Dr Coin Fuller, a Researcher with the F-MARC in Zurich and leader for the Football for Health Africa Initiative.

"We came here for the further planning of the implementation of the Football for Health program and have met our partners the NFA and government" said Dr. Fuller, after meetings with the Ministries of Sport, Education and Health and Social Services.

He added that the pilot programme will run for four month starting late May in Windhoek before it will be taken throughout the country.

"We will be back for training of the coaches in this project in the first week of May and three weeks later the pilots schools will take it on"



Dr Coin Fuller (Researcher at F-MARC), Jakes Amaning (NFA Football for Health Coordinator) and Astrid Junge (Head of the F-MARC).

explained Dr. Fuller.

Junge and Dr. Fuller will be joined in May by two coaches from Mauritius, one of the three SADC countries where the program have been implemented already, others being South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Junge reiterated the importance of support from stakeholders: "we

are glad to have received positive response from government so far because I the whole ideas is to ensure that school kids get to do physical sport and health education from early years and surely that will help them fight diseases in Africa".

The football for Health programme have eleven simple

messages on prevention of diseases, all based on scientific facts, were each linked to a specific football action and are learned in group plays:

According to FIFA, African countries have to fight poverty, hunger and infections, but also those diseases flourishing with increasing wealth. While HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are still killing millions of people every year, diabetes, hypertension, obesity and heart disease are continuously catching up.

Football, the one passion discipline that unites all African countries, could prove a most effective, feasible and low-cost tool in Africa's fight for health.

"The 11 fights for Health" in Africa: 1. Play football regularly, 2. Respect girls and women, 3. Protect yourself from HIV, 4. Avoid drugs and alcohol, 5. Use treated bed nets, 6. Wash your hands, 7. Drink clean water, 8. Eat a balanced diet, 9. Vaccinate yourself and your family, 10. Take your prescribed medication and 11. Fair Play.

Gladiators to face Botswana for Independence Day

The Brave Gladiators preparation for the Nigeria clash in the London 2012 Olympic Games qualifier receives a major boost as Namibia play Botswana in a friendly match on March 19 in Windhoek.

The match to be played as part of Namibia's 21st Independence Celebrations at the Independence Stadium will help the team prepare well for the Namibia/Nigeria clash on April 2, away in Lagos. Gladiators coach Jacqui Shipanga expressed her delight for the friendly match.

"The friendly will provide the

technical team an opportunity to work on tactical combinations. We have major game on April 2 and we have to use all available (means) to ensure that we are ready for it". The technical team has called up 24 players for camping that has commenced on Wednesday, this week.

In also welcome the services of former Brave Warriors goalkeeper and current Warriors assistant coach Ronnie Kanalelo, who will offer his expertise to the goalkeeping department in the

presence of regular coach Pappie Bonifacius.

"Ronnie will add his experience to the ladies and surely Pappie will learn from him as well", Shipanga added.

Namibia qualified for the second round of the Olympic qualifiers after they played 2-2 against Angola in their away match and drew 0-0 in Windhoek for the return leg on January 29.

Also in the squad is apologetic striker Emmerencia Fredericks. Namibia's full squad:

Goalkeepers: Sussana Eises, Merriam Swartbooi, Novata Paulus and Rejoice Tjiterua.

Defenders: Stacey Naris, Albertha Dawes, Stefany Hummel, Queen Manga, Mariana Gaebutsi, Vewe Kotjipati, Rejoice Kasaona, and Mangulukeni Hamata.

Midfielders: Stefanie Cloete, Marele Polster, Zenatha Coleman, Tomalina Adams, Magrieta Vries, Lovisa Mulunga, Ndapewa Lina Ituta and Yvonne Skrywer.

Strikers: Juliana Skrywer, Emmerenci Fredericks, Toshi Haufiku and Salome Iiyambo.