Stallions annihilate Warriors

By Kayele M. Kambombo

Becoming a boxer and a champion one day was his biggest dream ever to happen. The reigning WBO Africa lightweight champion, Martin Haikali, cognomem Tokozi, was inspired by Harry Simon (former three times WBA light heavyweight champion) during the school holiday in 1999 to realize his ambition.

During the school holiday in 1999 Haikali took a bold undertaking to Walvis Bay to realize his ambition to become a boxer. He found out the extra-time winner against Pitriopa and strikers Moumouni Dagano and Winfred Sanou who also ply their trade of football in Europe.

He made up his mind in 2004, went to represent Namibia at the Under-20 Zone IV where he won gold. The following year he repeated the same form through a second round knock out in Zimbabwe.

In 2005 Haikali joined the Soweto Boxing Club and Fitness Academy under the mentor o Tobias Naashifongo as an amatur where he fought 23 bouts in which he won 20 and lost three. A year thereafter, he started training for the entire year without any fight, eventually he turned professional in 2007. He lost his first pro fight on points against Paulus Kapia followed by a technical knock out by Jatoorora Tjigaveta. Haikali has developed his trade mark of a hard nut to crack, zealous and no-nonsense hard hitting fellow.

Through his consistency, he eventually became the WBO Africa lightweight champion, Martin Haikali lightweight champion in 2009 and defended his title three times in a row. Since then, Haikali is determined to walk tall. Haikali fought against his trade mark of a hard nut to crack, zealous and no-nonsense hard hitting fellow. Through his consistency, he eventually became the WBO Africa lightweight champion, Martin Haikali lightweight champion in 2009 and defended his title three times in a row. Since then, Haikali is determined to walk tall. Haikali fought against

In the last two rounds, Meroro was twice saved by the bell from being knocked out by the more confident Chilumba. Meroro continued the barrage of punches to him to end up round 12 got a nasty cut above his right eye that was bleeding out of control.

The final bell rang to a victory for Chilumba who got the decision from the judges. The judges’ scores were 111-117, 112-118, 110-119 all for Chilumba.

The two Namibians will definitely challenge the current champions for return matches if and when they are ready to do so, provided their promoters feel fit to accept the challenges.

Asamoah Gyan has compared his last-gasp equaliser against England at Wembley to his exploits at the 2010 World Cup.

But the Ghana striker stopped short of saying the goal made up for his penalty miss against Uruguay in South Africa.

Gyan was one of the stars of the 2010 World Cup, his three goals helping send Ghana through to the quarter-finals.

The Sunderland forward netted the extra-time winner against the United States to set up a clash with Uruguay but then missed a penalty that would have made them the first African nation to reach the semi-finals.

When asked if Tuesday’s goal made up for that disappointment, Gyan replied: “I count myself lucky because I did the same thing in the World Cup against the United States. I count myself lucky. I really thank God for that.”

Ghana lit up Wembley both on and off the field, with 22,000 of following the biggest – and possibly loudest – ever away contingent in an international against England.

Gyan added: “That could be the turning point for us because they have been waiting for this game for so long and finally it happens and I scored an important goal for the country – something historic.

“I’m the happiest guy because it’s my first time playing at Wembley. It’s been my dream to play at Wembley.

“We’ve been playing so many friendly games and they’ve been asking themselves, ‘Why are we not playing against England?’

“We had a chance against England and we scored an important goal.

“This goal is dedicated to the fans.”

He continued: “Although the English dominated the game, we are happy for this draw. Honestly, they deserved to win, because they dominated the game.

“They were unlucky. They missed a couple of chances in the first half; we also had a couple of chances” (BBC Sport).