

Namibia Today Sport

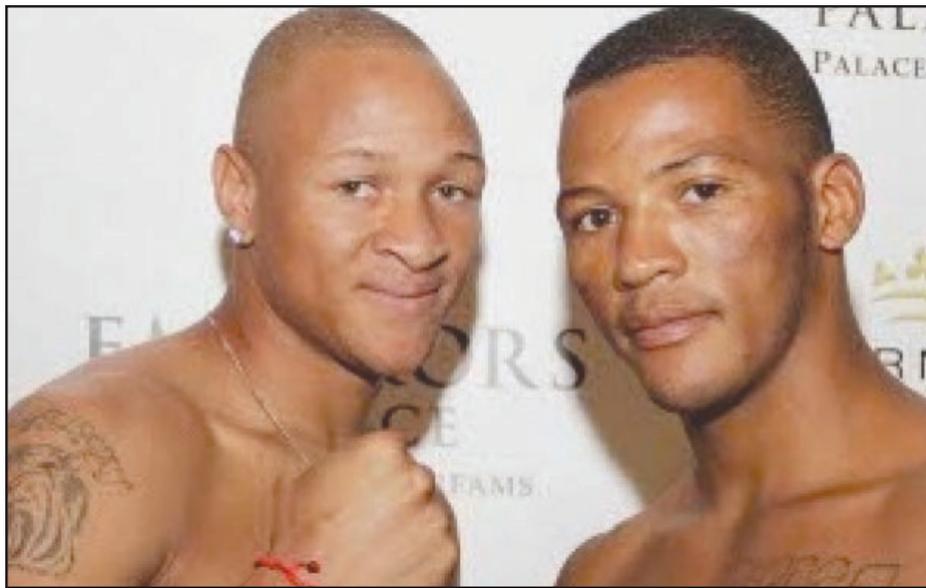
Uushona, Meroro lost fights

Denton Vassell retained his Commonwealth welterweight title with a unanimous points victory against Bethuel Uushona while Vikapita Meroro lost the vacant WBC International light heavyweight title fight against Malawian opponent, Isaac Chilemba in South Africa last weekend.

The Manchester fighter was anticipating a tough first defence of the belt he won last April thanks to a win against Lee Purdy.

And, while Uushona showed some glimpses of his capabilities, which had seen him go into the fight with an unblemished record from 23 fights, Vassell did more than enough to come out on top in Wigan with verdicts of 118-111, 117-113 and 117-112 in his favour.

On the other hand, Namibian boxer Vikapita "Beast Master" Meroro was outclassed by his Malawian opponent, Isaac Chilemba, and lost their WBC In-



WBC International light heavyweight champion Isaac Chilemba and Namibian boxer Vikapita "Beast Master" Meroro

ternational light heavyweight fight by unanimous decision at the Emperor's Palace in South Africa on Saturday. From the first round the Namibian boxer was on the back

foot after Chilemba started attacking early in the fight. Meroro looked like he never got into the

fight as he was on the receiving end of Chilemba's punches from the onset.

In the first three rounds Meroro did not give the judges any reason to award him the points and instead made it easy for his opponent to get on the score sheet when he caught a few of Chilemba's punishing right hooks.

The fight continued on the same note with Meroro only managing to land one big left hook that caught the Malawian on the face.

With the Malawian having easily won the next rounds, Meroro needed a knockout if he was going to claim the title but that was not to be as he failed to land most of his punches.

In the last two rounds, Meroro was twice saved by the bell from being knocked out by the more confident Chilemba. Meroro as a result of the barrage of punches he had to endure in round 12 got a nasty cut above his right eye that was bleeding out of control.

The final bell rang to a victory for Chilemba who got the decision from the judges. The judges' score cards 111-117, 112-118, 110-119 all for Chilemba.

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

Strict measures at BA, Stars encounter

Staff Reporter

Namibia Premier League (NPL) log leaders Black Africa FC declare "smooth operation at the gates" at tonight's game.

The Humphries Security and Namibian Police have been requested by Black Africa FC to assist in the implementation of this directive. Bonni Kandas Paulino, Chairman of Black Africa gave an unyielding caution to all and sundry that "at our Friday league match versus African Stars, and indeed at all our home matches, the following will be applicable: Only persons with valid gate entry tickets (purchased at the gates) will be allowed entrance;

"Only persons with valid NPL accredited entry tickets in their possession will be allowed (This is also applicable to match officials, other club officials etc)".

Adding that "nobody including the off-duty match officials, media, club officials, football players and etcetera will be allowed any access without valid entry tickets or accreditations".

Paulino solemnly request everybody to adhere to the request, or face embarrassment.

Dream of a champ comes true

By Kayele M. Kambombo

Becoming a boxer and a champion one day was his biggest dream ever to happen.

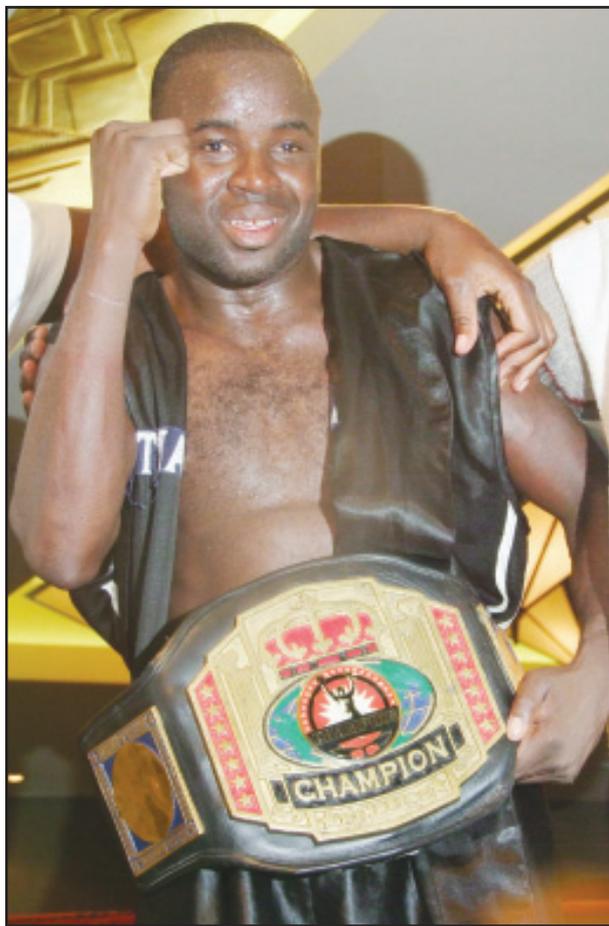
The reigning WBO Africa light-weight champion, Martin Haikali, cognomen Tokozi, was inspired by Harry Simon (former three times WBA light heavyweight champion).

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 where Simon was training and went to the gym with the intention to join his admirer. Seeing Simon intensely punching the bag he got scared and went back to his home village.

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 feat through a second round knockout in Zimbabwe.

In 2005 Haikali joined the Soweto Boxing Club and Fitness Academy under the mentor o Tobias Nashilongo as an amateur 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 knockout by Jatoorora Tjingaveta. Haikali has developed



WBO Africa lightweight champion, Martin Haikali

his trade mark of a hard nut to crack, zealous and no-nonsense hard hitting fellow.

Through his consistency, he eventually became the WBO Af-

rica lightweight champion in 2009 and defended his title thrice in a row. Since then, Haikali is determined to walk tall.

Haikali fought against

Misheck Kondwana from Zimbabwe in a lightweight non-title bout two weeks ago at the Windhoek Country Club Resort and Casino and he comfortably won by unanimous decision. The scorecards from the three Judges read: Patema Kandjengo: 54-60, Lazarus Nainda: 55-59 and Jaap van Niewenhuizen: 55-59.

Haikali was born in 1983 May 2 at his home village of Onawa in Ombalantu. He has a daughter of eight old, Monica.

Gyan savours England draw

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 sparked scenes of jubilation unprecedented on Tuesday after securing a 1-1 draw in first meeting between England and the Black Stars.

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



Gyan celebrates after equalising against England

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, their 21,000-strong following the biggest - and possibly loudest - ever away contingent in an international against England.

Gyan added: "I dedicate this goal to the fans 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).

Stallions annihilate Warriors

Staff Reporter

Namibia that thought to seek their first points as they travel to face Burkina Faso in Group F only game, but they failed dismally as they were on the receiving end.

The Stallions of Burkina Faso annihilated Namibia's Brave Warriors by four goals to nothing. The Brave Warriors have been counting on the Europe-based quartet of captain, Collin Benjamin, Oliver Risser, Wilko Risser and Razundara Tjikuzu to give them victory, but that was not to be.

The Namibian foreign-based quarter faced the tough Burkinabe side boosted by the presence of Jonathan Pitriopa and strikers Moumouni Dagano and Winfred Sanou who also ply their trade of football in Europe. Burkina Faso had 23 Europe-based players with only one local player.

Namibia still remain with two home legs against Burkina Faso and Gambia on June 6 and October 8 respectively in Windhoek. The group has been reduced to three teams after the withdrawal of Mauritania.

Minnows Botswana secured their first ever Africa Cup of Nations place on Saturday when beating Chad 1-0 in Group K of the 2012 qualifiers, making them the first team to qualify for next year's tournament.

The southern Africans are now guaranteed to finish at least second in the five-team group. Two teams from the group will qualify for the tournament to be played in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

Khomas Region Track and Field Championship

The annual Khomas Region Track and Field Championship is taking place at the Independence Stadium tomorrow.

Following the successes at the Rossing Club Championship at Swakopmund and the just ended Coca Cola National Junior Athletics Championships in Windhoek, Khomas Athletics hope to add more competition for clubs in the region.

"Our objectives is to create opportunities for athletes after school, retain potential and nurturing these athletes through club environment in the region to high-level competitions," said Vilho Namufinda, Chairperson of Khomas Athletic Region.

The competition is important to both clubs and athletes of the Khomas region as it serve as a qualification event for the National Junior and Senior Championship billed for April 8 and 9 this year. The regional event is officially sanctioned by Athletics Namibia and is scheduled to start at 08h30 till 13h00.

The regions have the following athletics clubs: Golden Cheeta AC, Katutura Road Runners, NDF AC, Police AC, Windhoek Harriers, UNAM AC, WHS AC and Welwitschia 77

For more information: Contact Vilho Namufinda at Mobile 081 129 5555 or email: khomas.athletics@gmail.com