Mannetti: Legendary ‘General’ in middle of the park

Ricardo Giovanni Mannetti

WINDHOEK - RICARDO GIOVANNI MANNETTI, co-founder of his own soccer academy and coach to some of the best players in Namibia, has always been a force to reckon with. His leadership and skills have contributed to Namibia's success in various international games.

Mannetti was born in Italy on 12 April 1950 and moved to Namibia in 1994 to help develop soccer in the country. Since then, he has been a key figure in Namibian football.

He started his career in Italy with Civics, where he played as a midfielder and later as a coach. He led the team to victory in the Cosafa Cup in 1996, winning the tournament as a coach for the first time.

In 1997, Mannetti was appointed to coach the Brave Warriors, a position he held for the next five years. He led the team to victory in the Cosafa Cup in 1998 and 1999, winning the tournament as a coach for the second time.

In 2001, Mannetti was appointed as the head coach of the Brave Warriors for the final time. He led the team to victory in the Cosafa Cup in 2002, winning the tournament as a coach for the third time.

Mannetti's leadership and tactical nous have been a key factor in Namibia's success in international football. He has been able to motivate his players and lead them to victory, and his legacy continues to inspire new generations of Namibian footballers.

The family affair

Mannetti's family is also involved in the footballing world. His father, Isaak Mannetti, is a former international player for Namibia, and his daughter, Camenita Mannetti, is a professional footballer for the Brave Warriors.

Mannetti's presence in Namibia has been fundamental in developing the game in the country, and his contributions will be remembered for years to come.