

2011 SOCCER HIGHLIGHTS

2011 SPORTS HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR

Milton Malatse Narrates the History Mbombela Stadium hosted Nedbank Final

On the 28th of May, Mbombela Stadium in Mpumalanga was voted as the best venue in the country to host the Nedbank Cup Final that attracted the multitudes of South African soccer lovers.

The "Ke Yona Cup" that is well known as a cup of upsets, once more brought a setback to the top PSL teams who are known as the power house of football in the country. The Dube Birds (Moroka Swallows) were the first to wash the jersey after falling 2-0 to baobab giant killers Baroka FC. The Phefeni Glamour Boys (Kaizer Chiefs) were also humiliated 2-1 in the last 16 stage of the tournament by the same Vodacom League minnows.

However, Orlando Pirates who is the father of both teams had to retaliate on behalf of its sons. Thereafter, they went on to beat another baobab boy Black Leopards by three goals to one at the Mbombela Stadium in the final of the tournament.

SAFA misinterpreted CAF rules

The South African National Football Association (SAFA) had acknowledged to the Mzansi soccer fans that they didn't read and understand the CAF rules of the African Cup of Nations Qualifiers prior to their game against Sierra Leone at the Mbombela Stadium in Mpumalanga.

The application of the CAF regulations rule 14.1, the authorities only considered the results of the four teams concerned. Niger had 6 points while South Africa got 5 as well as Sierra Leone. Thus Niger qualified to the finals much to the disdain of the South African football fraternity.

BOKS ATE DUST IN NEW ZEALAND

The South African National Rugby team "Amabokoboko" failed to defend their World title after losing against Australia in the quarter Finals in New Zealand. It forced the head Coach Peter Villiers to resign immediately after coming back from New Zealand.

However the Executive Council of the South African Rugby Union (SARU) have called a special General Council meeting for January 27. The meeting is to set the date to appoint the new springbok coach.

The Special General Council meeting will also generate an interest to decide on a process to identify SARU's competitions in 2013.

On the list of applicants for the position, Peter de Villiers is still the only confirmed candidate on the list. Speculation around the issue suggests that Allister Coetzee could be appointed to the Springbok's hot

seat and assisted by Rassie Erasmus. However there is growing momentum for Gert Smal. Keep closer to Khanyisa Sports to get all the updates. Sikulethela zona sishisa.

Baby Bafana missed a flight to London

The South African U23 National team failed to qualify for the 2012 London Olympic Games, which is scheduled to take part in London, England this year. Their dream to participate in the Olympics was shattered when they lost 2-0 against Egypt in Morocco. One can bring back memories of the Sydney 2000 games, where Amagluglug blasted Brazil who is the football academy in the world by 3-1 in the last group stage game under the leadership of Ephraim Shakes Mashaba.

The Sydney Olympics produced magnificent U23 players that today are still considered the most achieving football the pride of the nation. Mashaba was equipped with the following guns, Emile Baron, Fabian McCarthy, David Kannemeyer, Nkhiphitheni Matombo, Matthew Booth, Quinton Fortune, Stanton "Stiga" Fredericks, Daniel "Masarwa" Matsau, Toni Nhleko, Steve "Chippa" Lekoelea, Jabu "Nwana wa Tswenya" Pule lately known as (Jeremiah Mahlangu), Dumisa "Dumisani" Ngobe, Abram Nteo, Aaron "Mbazo" Mokoena, Siyabonga "Guga oThandayo" Nomvetho, Delron Buckley, Benni McCarthy, Brian "Spider man" Baloyi, Lebohlang Kukame, Mzunani Mgwigwi, Patrick "Mabhekaphansi" Mbuthu, Rowen Fernandez.

Coach Mashaba has highlighted that the cause of his failure to qualify to the 2012 London Olympics is due to his failure to get the services of all the players that he needed to go with to Morocco, where the stage was set for qualifications of the event. He added that he only got few key players and they arrived late in the camp in Morocco and others were not released at all by their PSL teams due to the domestic league schedule and Cup Competitions.

Baby Bafana should go back to the drawing board with their stakeholders to prepare for the next tournament but there is a saying that goes 'time wasted is never recovered.' **Should Shakes Mashaba continue with the team or resign as the U23 Coach?**

Indeed it has been a concern to all stakeholders in the football fraternity that players called up for national duty are sacrificed for the domestic league and local cup competitions. This is distracting the working schedule and performance of the national teams. **What can be done for the national coaches to get the players in time?**

Banyana to represent Mzansi in

London

The South African National Women's Football Team is to lift Mzansi's flag high at the 2012 London Olympics in England this year.

Banyana-Banyana Captain Amanda Dlamini, speaking to Khanyisa said, "We are acknowledging that we are carrying the hopes of millions of South Africans and we need to wave our flag high." The 2011 African Footballer of the Year and Banyana Banyana top goal scorer, Noko Matlou promised that, "no death no surrender, we are preparing hard for that tournament so I do not see ourselves failing in London". **What makes Banyana Team to succeed from the generation of Portia Modise who is now playing in America? Styles Phumo died**

The former Bloemfontein Celtics and Bafana Bafana Coach, April Styles Phumo died in a private Hospital in Bloemfontein after battling with Cancer. Styles guided Bafana to a bronze medal in the AFCON 2002 in Ghana and Nigeria. Rest in Peace Qhawe lama Qhawe, Hero of Heroes, your legacy will be written in the history of football in the world.

Chiefs' players off Contract

Kaizer Chiefs is expected to sign a big cheque as 16 of their top players will be out of Contract in June this year. The line up of these players is as follows: their four goalkeepers, Arthur Bartman, Itumeleng Khune, Thela Ngobeni and Kabelo Metsimetsi. Defenders Jimmy Jambo, Thomas Sweswe. Midfielders Josta Dladla, George Lebeso, Mandla Masango, Abia Nale, Tinashe Nengomasha, Siphiwe Tshabalala, Mthokozisi Yende, Strikers Steven Ncanana and Kaizer Junior. Will Chiefs manage to negotiate with all these players or they do not need them anymore? What would be the cause to stay without renewing their contracts? Did they forget to negotiate with these players or they declined to renew the contracts? If they come out of contract, Chiefs will not gain anything out of these multi-talented players because they will be free agents.

What do you know about this kind of situation in football?

Pirates lifted 5 trophies in a season

Lucky "Captain Fantastic" Lekgwathi of Orlando Pirates became the first Captain to collect all the trophies in the Premier Soccer League in a year, excluding their 10 times appearance in the cup finals and runners up in the league in a decade.

The Ghosts started their campaign of operation 'leva tudo' (take all) by winning their sponsor's cup that is played for charity. Black Label brought its sales and marketing strategy to have two fans to be the coaches of the day and the last two fans standing won R1 Million each

and half of it was to be distributed among charity organisations.

Pirates managed to defend the MTN8 this year. The Ghosts begin their journey by hosting Recreative do Libolo from Angola on the 19th of February at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium for the African Champions League.

The Buccaneers are the only team in Southern Africa that have managed to win the Champions League in 1995 in the generation of Jerry 'Leg of Thunder' Skhosana whose solitary goal in the final took Orlando Pirates to the books of the Champs in the Continent against Asec Mimosa. Others that were party of that glorious squad were, Brandon "Sgebezane" Silent, Tebogo "Tebza Nwana" Moloi, William Nwadinobi "Godfather" Okpara, Joseph "Sprinter" Ngake, Gerald "Mugababa" Raphahlela and Andres "Local is Lekker" Sebola. The Champions achieved this fit of glory under the supervision of Mike Makaab. **Can Pirates do it again? Happy Jele out for 9 months**

Quinton Happy Jele, is out for about six or nine months due to a knee ligament injury. The Middelburg born defender damaged his anterior cruciate and collateral ligaments and tore meniscus in his knee in a game against the Clever Boys in their League game at the Mbombela Stadium. It is very devastating to his football carrier because most players resigned from top flight football before their time due to this kind of injuries. Some lose their positions in the team due to the long time out of the field, while others lose confidence in challenging the attack. We saw good players in the Premier Soccer League losing their form due to this kind of injuries for example: Benson Mhlongo, Dylan Sheppard.

Krol won 3 trophies and Left

The Dutch international and former Orlando Pirates managed to revive the Ghosts from their graves by lifting three consecutive trophies in the 2010/11 PSL season and later left the team.

Ruud Krol is the third Coach to leave the Buccaneers after a successful season. The history started with Roy Barreto in 2001 under the leadership of the late Zodwa Khoza, followed by Gordon Igesund to win the league in 2003 and now it's Ruud Krol in 2011.

MZANSI TO HOST AFCON 2013

The country hasn't done well on the African Tournament except when playing as the host nation. They missed Angola 2010, now Gabon and Equatorial Guinea 2011. Perhaps they will repeat Clive Barker's miracle and bring glory on home soil.

Mzansi has once more been granted the power to host the African Cup of Nations after a 16 year drought.

Bafana hosted the AFCON in 1996 and they were glorious then under the supervision of Clive Barker and Neil 'Mokoko' Tovey's captaincy.

Nengomasha grabs 300 games with Chiefs

The Zimbabwean International and Kaizer Chiefs kingpin, Tinashe "General Washington DC"

Nengomasha has broken a record in Mzansi's football by reaching his 300th appearance in black and gold. Nengomasha joined the Phefeni Glamour Boys in 2001 and was the 2004 PSL Player of the Season. He carried Amakhosi on his shoulders from day one that he put his signature on Amakhosi's books. The man known as the 'Cool Man' has won the hearts of all soccer fans across the continent as well. Tinashe has not been in the lime light for being involved in any wrong activity. He rather has led his team with the discipline of a mature and responsible dedicated role model. He did work with various coaches in the team, especially Muhsin Ertugral with whom he managed to take Chiefs to play in the Kings Cup in Europe after defeating Athletic De Angola in Ruanda. Together they commanded Chiefs in the Putco Mafani driven vat alles (take all) 2003/4/5 campaign. The 30 year old is till eager to deliver more in the football industry as he believes that he has unfinished business.

Hunt sits 500 times in the bench

Gavin John Hunt is one of the most successful coaches in the country, winning the Premier Soccer League title three times in a row. Hunt has hit the 500 time mark seating on the bench as a coach in the Premier League.

Hunt guided Seven Stars, Hellenic, Black Leopards, Moroka Swallows and Supersport United. He was the Coach of the Year in 2002 with Black Leopards, won the ABSA Cup at Moroka Swallows in 2004, coach of the year in 2008/9/10 and the PSL Title in 2008/9/10 with Supersport United.

Pirates and Chiefs dumped standard bank for new sponsors

Father and Son who are considered as the power house of football in the Country decided to dump their financial sponsor that financed them over 10 years. This time they decided to sing sole lyrics in Football as Orlando Pirates went for Black Label and Chiefs for Hollard Insurances Company, nevertheless they still have one source of Communication network that united them (Vodacom) Looks like is Label is coming with luck at Pirates