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VOLUME 5

4-10 APRIL 2025

Munetsi:

The magic that
Wolves needed
to cruise
off relegation

DID YOU
KNOW?

DeMbare's
Gattuso
wants
more

Records
tumble under
Benza's feet



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GOALS MUNETS THE MUNETS S



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Editor's Note

Editor's Note am happy to introduce the fifth edition of the increasingly popular digital weekly soccer magazine. Here, we go beyond the story to get the story. We are glad that you continue to embrace our product, which is the reason why we are keen to continue moving. As we promised, we have now introduced a yesteryear corner where we profile the legends of the game on their achievements, wishes and the like.

We have also answered your calls on having a schools/academies section. We will continue introducing more and more sections to satisfy your needs. In this edition, we explore how Warriors vice-captain Marshal Munetsi has helped transform English Premiership side Wolves, the secret behind Herentals' 53-year-old striker Innocent Benza's longevity in the game and how former Mushowani Stars players have helped the defunct side's name to linger on. And many more

As you enjoy the latest installment, be reminded that your feedback is of paramount importance. **Get in touch with me on +263 773 809 407 Enjoy the read**



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Tadiious Manyepo'.

Tadiious Manyepo

Munetsi:

The magic that Wolves needed to cruise off relegation



■ Staff Writer

Wolves manager Vitor Pereira was absolutely right to order Warriors vice-captain Marshal Munetsi from French side Reims. The Zimbabwean star's move sailed through on transfer deadline day. But at face value, at least, Munetsi looked like he was dragging himself into some fire.

The Molineux side was sitting precariously near the relegation boundaries. They were only two points off third-placed Ipswich Town after playing 23 matches. They needed to put in the work to steer off the precipice. Pereira then started to do the unthinkable, playing Munetsi higher up the field as he believed in his athleticism and stamina. And how right he has been.

In just six league matches, Munetsi has proven to be a key cog for Wolves, involved in midfield battles, defensive work and in the strike-force where he has scored once and provided as many assists. Since the 28-year-old's arrival, Wolves have played six games, won three, drawn once and lost twice to take their tally to 29 points, 12 above Ipswich who occupy the last relegation slot with just eight games remaining.

The Mabvuku-bred star's market value has also shot up in the brief magical spell at Wolves and is now rated as the most valuable player across Southern Africa with a market value of over US\$17 million, above even Mozambique's Atletico Madrid left-back Reinildo Mandava.

Castle Lager Premier Soccer League Match-Day 5 Fixtures

Saturday 5 April 2025

Manica Diamonds  v  **Dynamos (Sakubva)**



Chicken Inn  v  **Herentals (Luveve)**

Simba Bhora  v  **Telone (Wadzanai)**

Mwos  v  **ZPC Kariba (Baobab)**

Kwekwe United  v  **FC Platinum (Bata)**

Greenfuel  v  **Yadah (Greenfuel)**

Scotland  v  **Bikita (Rufaro)**

Sunday 6 April 2025

Triangle  v  **Highlanders (Gibbo)**

CAPS United  v  **Ngezi Platinum Stars (Rufaro)**



DID YOU KNOW?

1

Only three goalkeepers Japhet Mparutsa (1981), Energy Murambadoro (2003) and Washington Arubi (2011) have won the Soccer Star of the Year accolades

2

Ngezi Platinum Stars captain Qadr Amini was still just 16 and a school kid when he won the Premier Soccer League title with Gunners in 2009

3

Ngezi Platinum Stars striker Obriel Chirinda started his career as a goalkeeper

4

Former Dynamos goalkeeper Willard Manyatera's wife is sister to his former teammate Isaac Pitamuja

5

Dynamos defender, who is a former Yadah captain Clive Mandivei was an usher at the PHD Ministries led by Prophet Walter Magaya

6

Greenfuel are unbeaten in 27 home games since 2023



The Navigator picks his route!

“

I should salute coach Maruwa for transforming me into the player that I have become. I keep on inquiring about everything from him

■ Staff Writer

Washington “Navigator” Navaya is riding the crest of the wave after breaking new ground in the local league. The Telone striker has become the first player since the turn of the century to score in each of the opening four Premier Soccer League matches. He is dreaming big thanks to the rich vein of form he has just picked. The former Highlanders forward has never grabbed the spotlight the way he has done just four match days into the current term. His has been a story of promise and nothing else.

Joining Bosso in 2021 from ZPC Munyati, Navaya was expected to deliver but he couldn’t quite settle at the Bulawayo giants for three seasons. Considered a flop of some sort, Navaya retraced his footsteps back to his Gweru hometown to join the WiFi Boys. After initially struggling to knuckle down his way as the team’s point-man for a club frantically seeking to save their Premiership status last season, the arrival of coach Herbert “Jompano” Maruwa helped change the forward’s style. “When I arrived at Telone last year, I realised that the team was not that bad. I sought to search for answers and I found out that they had that small-team-syndrome creeping around their heads. “The problem was purely mental and I

just had to take my time working on their minds.

Navaya was out of his range in terms of confidence and he had scored just once in more than 17 games,” said Maruwa. “I sat him down and told him how good he could become with extra training. He is a humble boy and he listened.” In just 13 games, Navaya hit the target five times and he has grown so confident under the mentorship of Maruwa. That means in 17 games under the former Black Rhinos and Dynamos gaffer’s tutelage, Navaya has scored nine goals and provided four assists.

“I should salute coach Maruwa for transforming me into the player that I have become. I keep on inquiring about everything from him. “He advised me to always do the extras when it comes to finishing. I have always done that and the results have been amazing. I hope to continue with the form that I am enjoying at the moment.” After scoring four goals in as many games in March, one above Highlanders’ Brighton Ncube, the 26-year-old is surely on his way to collecting his first major individual award—the PSL Player of the Month

Records tumble under Benza's feet

Staff Writer

INNOCENT BENZA has got wings. And he can fly. Turning 54 this year, the Herentals College FC president would ordinarily be into coaching, perhaps. Or something administrative. He is so much in love with coaching. Benza is officially the assistant to Simba Dedza at the dominant Women Premier Soccer League side Herentals Queens. Since undertaking to deputize Dedza back in 2022, Benza has seen Vagoni Vebasa winning the league title every season in the past three years. What is more striking is the fact that the majority of the Student Queens players come from poor backgrounds. At his insistence, those players like Alice Moyo, Shyline Dambamuromo, Polite Mabika, Lindiwe Magwede and Maudy Mafuruse have been taken in, trained and turned into big stars. "Herentals Queens is a project to support girls from poor families, giving them a chance to change their stories.

"It's a platform to have them showcase their talent and get recognized while earning a living. That is the reason why we came up with the idea to form the club in the first place. "I really enjoy coaching them and seeing them transforming into the stars they have become. "I am really happy to see them dominating the league. What I wanted originally was just to give them the stage which would help them transform their lives and that of their families. "But I see their determination helping them win trophies and being able to represent the country at continental level." But Benza is not confined to being Dedza's second-in-command. He has set and broken records in the Premier Soccer League where he plays as a striker for The Students. He played his 174th Premiership match for Herentals when they hosted Manica Diamonds last Saturday at Rufaro Stadium.

That makes him the only player across the league to have played in each and every top-flight game since 2018. That means Benza has never missed a single match for The Students since their promotion into the top-flight seven years ago. He has never been red-carded, yet alone been into the referees' book. He is the oldest player in a top-tier league, not only in Africa but across the world. But that doesn't mean he doesn't get into physical duels. "I do get involved, a lot. If you closely follow our games, you will see that sometimes I even get injured after engaging in those tussles. I am a player and I always get involved. I get a lot of satisfaction in being involved in the thick of things when I am in the field of play.

"I do know my limitations and better still I know my strengths. That's the reason why I enjoy the game and even get to score and assist goals," he said. Benza has a lot of critics around who point fingers at him saying he is only good enough to make the team because he is the owner. But the perception often changes if one gets to watch him in action. He has recorded an average of seven assists per season and manages his energy levels well. But what is his secret weapon in his being able to match the young players, some of who he dribbles past with so much ease. "I love football a lot, I want to be honest. I grew up playing the game and I was very, very good. But instead of taking the football route, I decided to venture into business. "Late on, I just decided to fulfil my childhood passion to play the game at the highest level.

"I am glad I have managed to do that and my team is actually very competitive," added Benza. "We have often finished the championship race in the top half of the table. Last year we were fifth on the log. In 2023 we were the

Chibuku Super Cup runners-up. "The progress is encouraging but the most important thing is that we are enjoying the ride. I am happy because I am feeling very well energized. I am not even thinking about retirement at this moment. "I have a personal coach, a nutritionist, a psychologist and our club gaffer who also happens to be my brother, Paul.

All these guys contribute to what you see me doing every week." Besides being the oldest player on the local Premiership debut, having made his bow at 46, Benza prides himself as the oldest goal scorer in the league, oldest assist provider and also remains the only father to play alongside his son Tino at this level of the game. Paul said Benza is easy to manage because of his dedication. "It's very easy to manage someone who is dedicated. My brother (Innocent) has some rare traits. He loves football and all he does is to learn every day. He always talks about the game and he always wants to play," said Paul.

"It's very easy to manage his energy levels and make him fit in any situation because of his ethic. He is very disciplined and that makes it easy to fit him in any formation." Benza is also a Parliamentarian and a member of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Sport. So how does he balance all that? "My schedule is very tight. I have to oversee my businesses. I don't really delegate. I have to be in my constituency and I am often there. I should attend Parliament business. There is still no problem.

"It all comes down to time management. For me, it's all about time. I make sure that if I have to be in Mutasa for constituency business at 12:03pm, I am there. "I also have a family to be part of and to head. So I would say, it all comes down to time-management. That's basically about it." As the oldest player in the league, Benza is in shape to shatter even more records. Mind you, he has already taken social media by storm after performing a nutmeg on Telone's Kuda Nyakudanga in the opening weekend of the season.





Behind Makambira's Jersey Number

Curtworth Masango

Simba Bhora winger Carlos Makambira has revealed the emotional significance behind his jersey number, dedicating it to his late father, who passed away when he was just two years old in 2005. Makambira, who joined Simba Bhora from Bikita Minerals, initially sought to wear his preferred number 13—the same number he donned during his debut season in the Premier Soccer League with Bikita Minerals.

However, the jersey was already assigned to teammate Blessed Ndereki, prompting Makambira to choose 26 instead, a deliberate doubling of 13 to maintain the tribute. "My father passed away on the 13th," Makambira explained. "I was only two at the time, and it shaped many of the challenges I faced growing up.

Wearing number 13 was my way of honoring him. When I couldn't get it here, I chose 26, still a symbol of his memory." Makambira's father, Carlos Qadioda Maunga, was a Mozambican national. After his death, the footballer adopted his mother's surname but has kept his father's legacy alive through his career. "My father was a Mozambican national and I use my mother's surname." The 20-year-old winger is expected to become a key player for Simba Bhora.



Kudakwashe Basopo re-invents self in Eswatini

Veronica Gwaze

THE arrival of Kudakwashe Basopo in a foreign land might have been exactly what the former Mighty Warrior needed to prove that she is still rocking. Eswathini side Nsingizini Hotspurs have provided her with a platform to remind the world of the lethal striker she used to be back in the day. Basopo used to be a prolific and creative striker at a trail blazing Black Rhinos Queens side about a decade ago. It is at the Zimbabwe National Army side that she made a name for herself on the field. Her goals played a crucial role in Rhinos' dominance in the domestic league earning her a spot in the Mighty Warriors fold. Here she played alongside Chido Dzingirai, Talent Mandaza, Rutendo Makore, Rudo Neshamba, Danai Bhobho and Felistas Muzongondi amongst others.

She also starred at the historic maiden Mighty Warriors' appearance at the 2016 Olympic Games held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She scored Zimbabwe's consolation goal in the 1-6 loss to Getmany in the Women's first round Group F match on August 3, 2016. The following year, she was widely expected to lead the women's national team attack during the Cosafa Women's Championships, which was held in Bulawayo. However, the Black Rhinos Queens striker found herself nowhere near the Mighty Warriors camp after coach Sithethelewe "Kwinji 15" Sibanda did not include her in the final 25-member squad. It was at point that many realised that her career was taking a downward spiral.

"It obviously was heartbreaking to be dropped at a time when you felt you still had the game at both your feet and heart but coaches have their opinions and they are entitled to their decisions," she said. "I was heartbroken for a long time but I eventually healed and moved on." It was not until 2024 that Basopo got back into the spotlight after netting crucial goals for her Black Mambas Queens. She then bounced back in the Mighty Warriors squad ahead of the COSAFA tournament. However, this was to be a false restart as she failed to make the cut in the final squad. While that might have been heartbreaking for her, a bigger surprise awaited her. Basopo attracted the interest of Eswathini's Nsingizini Hotspurs and was signed at the start of the year on a six-month loan from Black Mambas Queens. Her first assignment was the Women Ingwenyama Cup. Interestingly, she made a powerful introductory statement quickly

establishing herself as a formidable contender for the coveted top goal scorer prize.

In a dazzling display during the recent Women's Ingwenyama Cup quarter-finals against Mbekelweni, she netted a brace in the astounding 15-0 victory that secured her team a place in the semi-finals of the competition. Overall, she took her tally to seven goals in the cup contest. "As a striker, your job is to score goals and I am happy that I am here doing that. I am not a superstar but with hard work and determination, I have seen that I can do it," she said. "It is not easy playing and pleasing in a foreign land but I am happy that the club has made me feel at home and that has made my adjustment easy."

Basopo said her mission is to rediscover her old self and live up to the bar she set back then. As the competition progresses, all eyes will be on Basopo and her quest for the Golden Boot, alongside her teammates' renewed determination to make an impact in the league. "When you set a record like this, the next thing is to double your work rate and defend that position," she said in relation to the Cup competition top goal scorer spot. "However, I should not put myself under too much pressure lest it will negatively affect my performance so I should simply step on the pitch and enjoy the game by scoring for fun." "I am still in the process of understanding my teammates and things appear to be working out well so we are hoping for the best in the cup semi-finals."



Basopo attracted the interest of Eswathini's Nsingizini Hotspurs and was signed at the start of the year on a six-month loan from Black Mambas Queens



Winless Triangle pin hopes on home comfort

■ Staff Writer

Triangle coach Luke “Vahombe” Masomere is hoping to see a transformed performance from his team now that they will be playing in front of home fans. The Premiership returnees remain the only team in the top-flight yet to pick a single point four games into the season. And Masomere has always been speaking about the backside of playing their home matches away from home at the Greenfuel Arena. But their own Gibbo Stadium is now cleared to host Premier Soccer League matches and they will be hoping to leverage on that as the season gathers momentum.

“Like what I have always said, I have got a very young team. Look, about three quarters of my players are playing at this level for the first time and it’s understandable that they are making some errors which are leading to the goals which are seeing us lose matches,”

said Masomere. “The performances are never bad but the results are not coming. We are work-in-progress and I just hope to see the team improving going forward.” “I am very happy that Gibbo is now available and that is where our support is. We will be playing at home, in front of our own fans and families.

That’s a big motivation and if we can turn the home venue into a fortress, we will be able to attain our targets.” Triangle will start enjoying their home comfort this Sunday when they play Highlanders. Although they have dropped 12 points in the first four games of the season, Triangle know they can still pick themselves up the same way the now defunct Monomotapa picked themselves after losing their opening four games to win the league title in 2008.

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Jadel Academy Transforms Mbare

■ Staff Writer

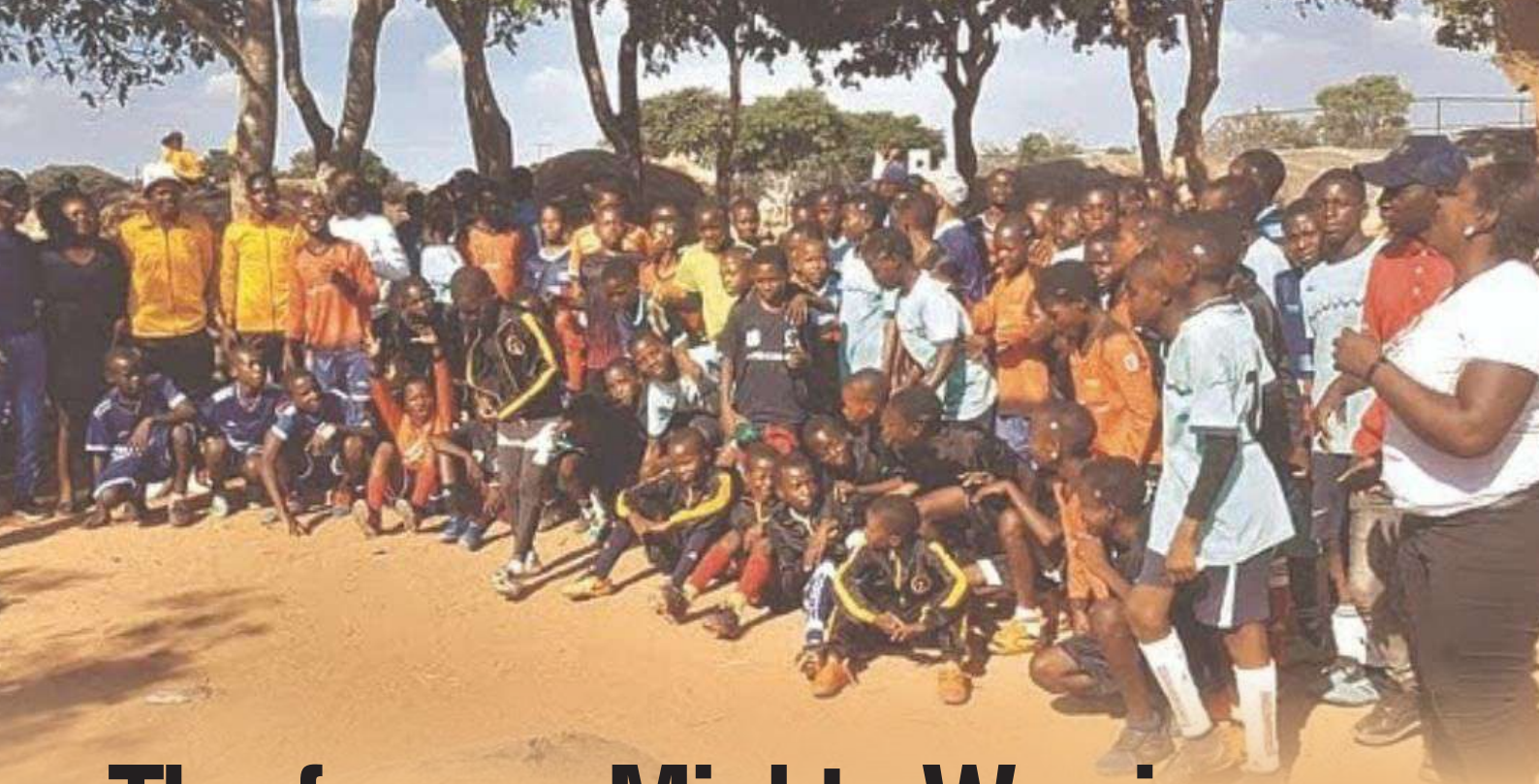
Jadel Football Academy is proving to be a key factor in the transformation of lives in Harare's oldest suburb of Mbare. Carrying their 2034 World Cup dream on the field of play, the nursery has also been making sure their players and others from underprivileged families attend school without any inconveniences.

They are paying school fees for over 100 kids and they are expecting to do the same for almost the same number of people in Bulawayo where they have since set up another football centre. And now the academy has gone beyond merely paying school fees for underprivileged kids to ensure the community's safety at night by installing solar street lights in the area. Gangs of thugs have recently been pouncing on residents, robbing and even murdering them taking advantage of darkness in certain points in the suburb. And JFA, whose founder Walter

"Ringers" Musanhu was born and bred in Mbare sought to intervene by installing street lights. The nursery poured in excess of US\$10 000 towards the project.

In an interview, Musanhu said: "I am delighted to have managed to complete this project. My heart bleeds for Mbare and seeing a spate of robberies taking place in the suburb due to darkness really touched me." "This is why we then decided to intervene in this way.

I am happy because those critical points now have solar lights. We have also assigned certain people to ensure the safety of those lights for the safety of residents. "As JFA, we feel that our mandate goes beyond just developing players but also ensuring that the community is safe and sound. That is why we also pay school fees for kids coming from underprivileged backgrounds.



The former Mighty Warrior losing her all for orphans' sake

■ Veronica Gwaze

On Tuesday morning, former Mighty Warriors striker Precious Moyo received a call that sunk her heart and sleepless nights since then. It was a call from a local boarding school, alerting her that one of her orphanage beneficiaries needed a pair of school shoes. In fact, the young Form Two girl whom she enrolled at the school on a scholarship is currently attending classes in tennis shoes. Together with 18 other beneficiaries from Moyo's benevolence, winter will be a long season for them, based on the circumstances that they are facing. "The call broke my heart, I am stranded and feel helpless," she said.

"I do not know who to turn to, the burden is becoming unbearable by the day." Apart from that, Moyo has to make sure that the more than 50 children she takes care of, under her orphanage, have adequate winter school uniforms and bedding. Of these children, 19 are enrolled at various boarding schools on scholarship. And Moyo who provides for all these children from the not-so-handsome earnings she gets from her farming business is currently running the orphanage on a shoestring budget.

"I individually fund this project, it is hard but I cannot abandon these kids, it is my desire to arrest woes that torment children in the community," she said. "I am appealing to well-wishers to assist in keeping these children's dreams alive...we were fortunate to get some of them into boarding school on scholarships. "Now they need winter wear, bedding and tuck."

Since 2013, Moyo has been singlehandedly providing for her beneficiaries. To assist orphaned and poverty stricken school drop-outs across Chegutu and rescue them from the society ills and vices, Moyo also set up junior and social football teams. She

arranges tournaments during weekends and the school holidays for the children to play for monetary gains. To get good grades in class, Moyo also helps them balance school and football. "I discovered that there were many orphans out there so I felt compelled to do more. "I started going to different communities scouting for orphaned and underprivileged children who were out of school. "The main vision is for them to be off the streets so I have to do everything I can to ensure that they are safe," she said.

Moyo also has to dig into her pockets, ensuring that the teams have refreshments and kits. Due to limited resources, she often has to buy the cheapest kits. Noting her passion, parents around the community also chip in by contributing supplies and preparing meals for the teams on match days. "They bring huge pots and cook for the teams, we feel the love and it makes us feel like a family. "I feel comfortable with them at the orphanage...at first I had to convert my family home into an orphanage, then with time, I built some structures."

Apart from the children living at the orphanage, Moyo also provides for 41 others who are underprivileged but live with their families. The difficulties she endured growing up in a poverty stricken family of seven whose breadwinner was her mother, a domestic worker, pushed her into developing a soft spot for the underprivileged. "I rescued some of these children from drug and substance abuse, and looking back, the initiative has gone a long way in keeping them away from these ills. "Providing for them is my biggest challenge, I have to go out of my way just to see them happy. "My heart is not at peace, it is already winter time and I have to find a way and make sure they are warm. "I do not wish to see them back on the streets, this is what keeps me fighting," said Moyo

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Sodbury Retain ISSA Trophy



Defending Champions Sodbury School successfully fenced off the International School of South Africa Football Tournament held in Mafikeng, South Africa over the weekend. The Mashonaland West side beat pre-tournament favourites Mmambatho 1 - 0 in a tense final courtesy of a fabulous free kick from Trent-Carlyle Musonza. Earlier they had accounted for Alma Mater 3 - 1 in the semi final and last year's finalists Sol Platjie 1 - 0 in the quarter final. It was not all smooth sailing though for the "Scorpions" in the group stages where they had lost their opening match 3 - 2 to Botswana and drew 1 all with The Kings School of West Rand.

A 10 - 1 win over Sol Platjie "B" propelled them to the knockout stage with a superior goal difference. With the win the team received a trophy and gold medals. Speaking soon after landing at Robert Mugabe International Airport, Sodbury captain Fortune "Soup" Mayeve was elated and attributed the team's success to hard work and determination. Mayeve immediately joined the Mashonaland West Athletics Team camp as he is set to run the 400m hurdles and relay at the NASH Finals in Bindura this week. Sodbury's 10 goal hero Shepherd Gono won the Golden boot whilst Denzel Bauti, who is attached to Greenfuel in the Zimbabwe Premier League grabbed the Golden glove. Zimbabwe's Samuel Centenary Academy were judged the best dressed team at the Festival which had 16 Football and 12 football teams from Botswana, Zimbabwe and hosts South Africa.



**A 10 - 1 win over
Sol Platjie "B"
propelled them to
the knockout stage
with a superior
goal difference**

Mushowani Stars are **DEAD** but still **ALIVE**



It's been six years since Mushowani Stars folded upon their relegation from the Premier Soccer League. The club, fondly known as "Mukanyairi" had lots of admirers and who always filled Trojan Stadium in Bindura when they were playing at home. However they faced acute financial challenges midway through their debut Premiership season prompting them to send an SOS. But they would quickly get a bail out after selling one of their star players Evans Katema to Dynamos with the revenue proving just enough to see off the season.

They couldn't survive the chop, however. With the franchise gone, the players never got to go by the wayside. They were and are still very competitive. Three of them, Katema, Clive Dzingai and Takunda Jeffrey have now reunited at Manica Diamonds where they are tipped as favourites to win this year's league title. Clemence Gobvu is a Herentals mainstay and until January this year, he was playing alongside ex-Mushowani teammate Stanley Murove who has now joined Harare City in the Northern Region Soccer League. Another of the lot, Eriya Mafirenyila is a mainstay at Telone who are also tipped as a top contender for the title



The Bomber, The Sniper, The Marksman



Iconic football commentator, Charles Mabika, nicknamed him “The Bomber” in 1984. He used to bang goals. Plenty of them. Three times, in 1987, 1990 and 1991, he bagged the Golden Boot. And, four times, from 1990 to 1993, he made the Soccer Star of the Year calendar. In 1994, Maronga Nyangela ended the season as the joint top goalscorer, with the late Highlanders striker Adam Ndlovu, and they each pocketed \$1 250. Yet the former Black Rhinos striker, failed to break into the Warriors ranks. His goals were instrumental in helping the army side win two league titles in 1984 and 1987.

“During my time, there were so many good strikers and for one to be called for national duty depended on the coach of that day as to which type of a striker he wanted,” said Nyangela. “There were the likes of Shacky (Tauro), Moses ‘Bambo’ Chunga and Jerry (Chidawa) among an array of other lethal strikers. “There is always a reason why some things never happen. I wasn’t really part of the national team. “In 1987, I won the Golden Boot, after scoring 29 goals in another title-winning exploit, the previous season I had scored 28 goals, but could not match Chunga, who scored over 40 goals.”

Nyangela only got a chance to play in the top-flight league after his friend, Boniface Makuruzo, convinced him to try his luck at Black Aces. Apart from Screentone, Nyangela also featured for an amateur side, Lobels, together with midfielder Moses “Gwejegweje” Chasweka, Stanford “Stix” Mutizwa, his teammate at Rhinos, describes him as one of the best strikers to play on the domestic

front. “No doubt, Nyangela was one of the most prolific goalscorers in the country,” said Mutizwa. “He is one striker who was dependable. You knew when you work your way in midfield, Maronga (Nyangela) would do justice to your work. “From a player’s point of view, I strongly believe he could fit into the senior national team and, from coaches’ point of view, I don’t know why they were not picking him.

“He had all the qualities of a striker, he was strong, his aerial prowess was inch-perfect, he could pack those powerful shots.” Mabika said Nyangela was born to score goals. “Maronga (Nyangela) for me, was one of the finest strikers ever to play in the domestic leagues,” he said. “When you talk of scoring goals, from half chances, and heading prowess, Nyangela was head and shoulders above the rest. “His speed was incredible. “I recall Black Rhinos’ CAF Champions League match against Power Dynamos of Zambia at Rufaro in 1985. “Rhinos had won in Zambia, beating Power Dynamos 2-0, a result that sent shockwaves across the continent.

“The return leg was dubbed ‘Revenge Mission’ by the Zambians and Black Rhinos deployed a defensive formation with Nyangela the lone striker. “Power Dynamos scored first and as they piled on the pressure, Japhet ‘Shortcat’ M’parutsa intercepted a cross and quickly picked Stanley ‘Sinyo’ Ndunduma who lofted the ball onto Nyangela’s path. “The latter volleyed the ball home and Rhinos were through to the next stage. “That’s how good Nyangela was.” Mabika said Nyangela had a similar style like Nyasha Mushekwi. “The only

player who played more, or less, like him is Nyasha Mushekwi,” said Mabika.

“I think Mushekwi prematurely ended his Warriors flirtation as he still has a lot to offer. “I don’t think he was being overlooked by the coaches. I think the presence of Tauro was his main problem. “He was called into the national team several times, but Tauro would always get the nod. “But, had he played in any other era, he would have played consistently for the national team.” Another former top marksman, David “Broom Boy” George, said Nyangela was just as lethal as Tauro and Peter “Thunderboots” Nyama.

“For me, Nyangela was just as good as the late Shacky Tauro and Peter Nyama,” he said. “I still don’t know why the coaches overlooked him for national duty. “He was just a deadly striker, who was a nightmare for many defenders, during his playing days.” Nyangela believes the current crop of strikers are struggling to score as they were not born as natural goalscorers. “In our generation, strikers were able to employ that element of surprise, to be able to score goals using both legs,” he said.

“We understood the purpose of the game, which is scoring and winning, and we played the game, not for fame, but because we were born strikers and loved what we were born to do. “Today’s strikers aren’t determined enough, they lack that hunger, that desire, that drive, that urge to thrive.” The Black Rhinos legend is now running academies in Mufakose and Mabvuku to try and nurture the next generation of footballers.



DeMbare's Gattuso wants more

■ Staff Writer

Tendaishe Magwaza has seamlessly filled in the gap left by the departure of two key men from Dynamos-Frank Makarati and Donald Dzvinyai. The 22-year-old was sparingly used by coach Lloyd “Mablanyo” Chigowe last season with Dzvinyai, Kevin Moyo, Makarati and Emmanuel Jalai the regular back four. He was scheduled to provide cover this season especially with Dynamos managing to retain Dzvinyai.

However the latter unexpectedly left for the UK leaving a gap at the back. But Magwaza has stepped up and is expertly delivering the goods. Dynamos are still unbeaten in the league after four games and they are only four points off leaders Ngezi Platinum Stars. “I am only trying to be better every time I step up to the turf,” he said. “I am trying to work hard every morning, afternoon and evening to improve in my game. “I am grateful to the coach who is always encouraging me to improve.”



WARRIOR PRIDE BRAND DESIGN BATTLE!



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COMPETITION DYNAMICS

1.Design Requirements:

Each submission should include:

- A brand name and icon/logo for the design.
- Description of the inspiration behind the name & design elements.
- Application of the brand on merchandise including the 3 kit types mentioned below:

1 -Home Kit: Primary colour yellow.

2 -Away Kit: Primary colour green.

3 -Alternative Kit: Primary colour white.

Colour Scope: Designs must incorporate colours from the Zimbabwe flag.

2.Submission Platform & Format:

- Designs must be digital, submitted as high- resolution images (PDF format) to the following email address: branddesign@zifafootball.org.zw

3.ADJUDICATION

- Judging criteria include creativity, adherence to guidelines, visual appeal, and incorporation of national symbols.



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