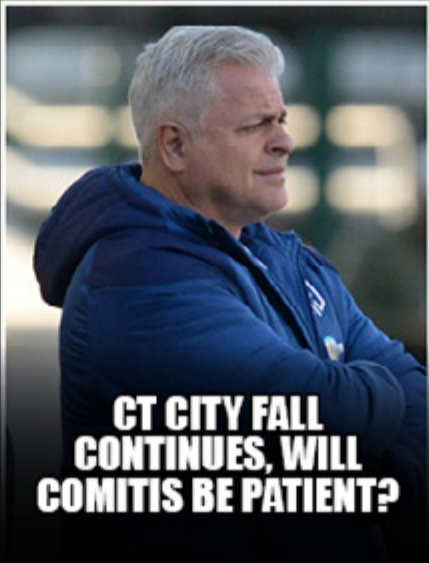




PATRICK MAYO: KHANYISA CAN SUCCEED AT CHIEFS IF...



MASHEGO KEEN TO REVIVE BAFANA CHANCES AT DURBAN CITY



THE DRAWING BOARD WITH MORITZ KOSSMANN & ACE OF THE WEEK

QUICK HOW TO GUIDE

(BUTTON EXAMPLES)

THIS SHOWS YOU WHICH PAGE YOU ARE CURRENTLY READING

CLICK THIS BUTTON TO GO BACK TO THE HOME PAGE

ITEM NAME

CLICK TO GO TO HOME

TAKES YOU TO THE PREVIOUS PAGE

TAKES YOU TO THE NEXT PAGE



CLICK TO GO BACK

CLICK TO GO NEXT



THESE BUTTONS ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

CLICKING EACH OF THESE BUTTONS TAKES YOU OUT OF THIS E-PAPER, DIRECTLY TO THE WEBSITE OR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM



[CLICK TO GO HOME](#)

THE ALL-NEW TOYOTA STARLET CROSS

OWN IT



[< CLICK TO GO BACK](#)

2

[CLICK TO GO NEXT >](#)

CLICK THE STORY YOU WANT TO READ. REMEMBER, YOU CAN COME BACK TO THIS PAGE BY CLICKING THE BUTTON THAT SAYS “CLICK TO GO BACK HOME” AT THE TOP RIGHT OF EACH PAGE

HOME PAGE



RUMOURS
LATEST FROM THE RUMOUR MILL



IDISKI TV
LATEST FROM IDISKI TV



KHANYISA MAYO
FEATURE



BRADLEY GROBLER
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



TERRENCE MASHEGO
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



CT CITY SLUMP
NEWS



MOHAMMED BENMESSAOUD
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



TRANSFER WINDOW
FEATURE



TEAM OF THE WEEK
& ACE OF THE WEEK



TACTICS CORNER
THE DRAWING BOARD

CLICK A BUTTON BELOW TO GO TO OUR WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA



CT STARLET SET FOR CHIEFS MOVE

Former Baroka and Greenwood striker Connor Jales looks poised to join Kaizer Chiefs as a free agent. The 19-year-old parted ways with the MFC outfit but went on to impress on trial with the Chiefs reserve set up in recent weeks. Indications are he is set to land a contract with the club as they look to bolster a youthful reserve squad that are the reigning champions of the DStv Diski Challenge.



AH SHENE HOLDING OUT FOR EUROPE?

Cape Town City and Amajita striker Jody Ah Shene is targeting making an impression at the U20 FIFA World Cup to land a dream move abroad. The 20-year-old looked poised to sign with Mamelodi Sundowns on transfer deadline day, with representatives of the club even spotted at the team hotel before their send-off. However, he rejected the move at the final hour, where he was expected to sign a long-term deal and spend the season on loan at AmaTuks. Currently in Chile, the talented forward is hoping a strong showing can secure his future in Europe, having previously caught the eye of Genk and Leicester City.



MBOKAZI ATTRACTING FOREIGN ATTENTION?

Orlando Pirates and Bafana Bafana sensation Mbekezeli Mbokazi is fast becoming one of South Africa's hottest properties, with several European clubs reportedly circling for his signature. The gifted defender, who only turned 20 this month, has made an electrifying impact since stepping into senior football, catching the eye of scouts from England and Belgium. Mbokazi is widely expected to marshal Bafana's defence in the upcoming World Cup qualifiers in October, and few doubt he'll be on Hugo Broos' list for the CAF Africa Cup of Nations squad come December.



DISCLAIMER. THE RUMOURS IN THE MILL HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO IDISKI TIMES BY SOURCES WITHIN THE FOOTBALL COMMUNITY AND LIKE WITH ANY HEARSAY MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

BET ON ALL THE LEAGUES AT

WORLD

SPORTS BETTING

WORLD SPORTS BETTING

BET NOW!

WORLD SPORTS BETTING

WORLD SPORTS BETTING

Operator Licensed by the Gambling and Racing Board. No person under the age of 18 years permitted to gamble. National Responsible Gambling Program Toll Free Counselling Line 0800 066 008 or via Whatsapp HELP to 076 675 0710. Winners know when to stop.



CITY SEEK SOLUTIONS TO END SLUMP?

Cape Town City's maiden campaign in the Motsepe Foundation Championship has gone from a bold reset to an uncomfortable reality check. Winless after five matches in the second tier, three draws and two losses, the Citizens already find themselves 10 points adrift of early pacesetters Casric Stars.

Saturday's 1-0 defeat away to Milford underlined how far they have to go, while their return of just two goals so far only deepens the alarm.

Stretch the lens back further and the picture becomes even more worrying: City haven't celebrated a league victory since May, when they were still in the Betway Premiership and edged Polokwane City. That was their lone win in their last 24 competitive fixtures, an extraordinary slump for a club once praised for its competitive edge and strong identity.

Dutch coach Jan Vreman arrived in the off-season as the man to steady the ship, taking over after their original target Andries Ulderink had joined Bayer Leverkusen as Erik ten Hag's assistant. Ironically, both

Ten Hag and Ulderink have since been dismissed by the Bundesliga club, leaving City with a coach whose own honeymoon period is wearing thin.

Vreman inherited a dramatically reshaped squad, with several high-profile exits offset by the arrivals of seven new recruits, including the experienced Keagan Dolly, Sifiso Ngobeni, Arthur Bwalya and Njabulo Ngcobo, but so far the pieces haven't clicked. The absence of fresh faces on the technical bench hasn't helped either, with Vreman retaining long-time assistants Diogo Peral and Lebogang Manyama.

Now the question hovering over the Mother City is how patient John Comitis will be. Does he double down and give the respected Dutchman time to mould a team in his image, or does he intervene before the gap to the top widens any further?

City may be looking for solutions, but with morale fading and the Championship proving a brutal proving ground, the margin for error is shrinking by the week.

DISCLAIMER. THE RUMOURS IN THE MILL HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO IDISKI TIMES BY SOURCES WITHIN THE FOOTBALL COMMUNITY AND LIKE WITH ANY HEARSAY MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FOLLOW OUR CHANNEL!

GET THE LATEST BREAKING NEWS, MATCH UPDATES AND A WHOLE LOT MORE!

CLICK HERE!!

GO TO IDISKITV



‘CAF SHOULD CONSIDER AN IMMUNITY FOR THE TOP-FOUR-RANKED CLUBS’

Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs are through to the second preliminary round of the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup, respectively. Pirates beat Lesotho’s Lioli FC 7-0 on aggregate, while Chiefs needed a penalty shootout to see off Angola’s Kabuscorp.

Don’t forget to catch match reaction moments after the final whistle, and more from Junior Khanye, Tso Vilakazi, Machaka, Lindo Pep, Nkululeko Nkewu and others on iDiskiTV.

Make sure you subscribe for free on YouTube, and click the bell icon to get notified as soon as new videos are released.

Chiefs & Pirates in CAF Next Round - Nkululeko Nkewu

“Well done to both Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates for making it into the next preliminary round of the CAF Competitions.

“Orlando Pirates had a straightforward

victory against Lioli, and Chiefs, a complicated match against Kabuscorp.

“I think CAF should consider an immunity for the top-four-ranked clubs, especially in the Champions League.

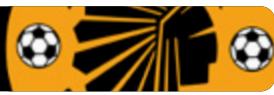
“The top-four-ranked clubs should start the tournament from the group stages.

“Most of the time, the top sides win the preliminary rounds by a huge margin. The game ends before it starts. There is no jeopardy. So protect the top sides from travel and fans from lopsided matches.

“I am happy that Chiefs get to continue in the Confederations Cup. African football builds your character as a player and as a young man.

“Africa gives our players a different challenge than our domestic football, and that’s why I would love to see all of our clubs go as far as possible in the tournament.”





‘HE ALWAYS BRAGS THAT HE’S BETTER THAN I WAS’

By Matshelane Mamabolo

When Patrick Mayo, a name etched in Kaizer Chiefs folklore, reflects on his own career, the pride is undeniable. A versatile footballer who could move from scoring goals upfront to marshalling the defence with equal ease, Mayo carved a legacy as one of the club’s most reliable servants.

Now, as he watches his son Khanyisa don the same black-and-gold jersey, the retired Bafana Bafana international

cannot help but feel both immense pride and the weight of expectation that comes with such a family connection. But for Patrick, the name on the back of the jersey is only the beginning. He believes Khanyisa has what it takes to thrive at Naturena, provided he remains grounded in humility, discipline, and the relentless pursuit of improvement.

“I told him he needs to be humble and work very hard, because pressure at Chiefs is always there,” Patrick said in an exclusive sit-down with iDiski Times at a hotel in his home city of Gqeberha. “Wherever you are, you must know that you are going to conduct yourself professionally.”

Kaizer Chiefs is not just another football club. It is an institution, carrying the hopes and frustrations of millions. Every pass, every touch, every goal is scrutinised, and few environments in South African football demand more of a player’s mental resilience. Patrick knows this well.

During his own playing days, he was part of an Amakhosi side that won trophies, built reputations, and instilled fear in opponents. Watching the modern Chiefs, he notes a difference in mentality and resilience compared to his generation, but he remains optimistic that the current group – bolstered by exciting talents such as his son Khanyisa – can turn the tide.

“Chiefs is not for the faint-hearted,” he said. “The pressure never goes away. Even if you are not on the field, you carry it. That is why I always remind Khanyisa that discipline will be the difference.”

The bond between Patrick and Khanyisa extends beyond football. They speak daily, often about the game, sometimes about life. But when the call from Naturena came, Patrick’s message to his son was simple: stay humble, stay hungry.

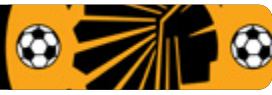
“I was very excited when he told me Chiefs were calling,” Patrick said. “But I also told him: this is where pressure doubles. At Chiefs, you can never relax. Every training session, every match, you must prove yourself. That’s why he needs to remain grounded.”

Patrick knows the dangers of the limelight. He has seen too many young stars falter under the bright lights of Soweto and Johannesburg. Talent alone is never enough; it must be matched by professionalism, humility, and a willingness to sacrifice.

Those who have followed Khanyisa Mayo’s career know that he is not merely riding on his father’s name. The 26-year-old forward has earned his stripes, developing into one of the most clinical finishers in

“CHIEFS IS NOT FOR THE FAINT-HEARTED. THE PRESSURE NEVER GOES AWAY. EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE FIELD, YOU CARRY IT.”





the Premiership. His time out in North Africa [he played for Algeria’s CR Belouizdad], though short-lived, added another layer of maturity to his game.

“He learnt a lot outside the country,” Patrick noted. “Football there is very physical; the culture and language are different, and he had to adapt. He started well in his first season, but coaching changes affected him. I won’t say he failed – he gained experience. That experience will help him here.”

Indeed, Khanyisa himself has spoken about how the physical demands in Algeria forced him to sharpen his positioning, movement, and decision-making. Now, back in South Africa and in the gold of Chiefs, those lessons will be put to the test.

It is inevitable that Khanyisa will face comparisons to his father. Patrick Mayo was a household name in South African football, and the parallels will always be drawn. But rather than shy away from the comparisons, Khanyisa has embraced them, often telling his father that he intends to surpass his achievements.

“He’s always bragging to me that he’s better than I was,” Patrick chuckles. “I tell him, as long as you are doing well, people will always talk. What matters is consistency and respect for the game.”

For Patrick, the comparisons are less of a burden and more of a challenge. He reminds his son constantly that carrying the Mayo name at Chiefs is a privilege that must be honoured through performance, not entitlement.

One of the standout aspects of Patrick’s own career was his ability to contribute in multiple positions. Khanyisa, however, is carving a reputation as a goal-scorer, particularly through set-pieces. Patrick is eager to see his son revive that speciality now that he is at Chiefs.

“I told him he must practice more set-pieces,” Patrick explained. “People know him as a free-kick specialist. Chiefs fans are waiting to see that again. He must not lose it; he must improve it.”

For Patrick, mastery of the small details – the discipline to refine a free-kick routine, the humility to keep learning – will separate Khanyisa from the rest.

South African football history is littered with cautionary tales of young stars who lost focus once they tasted the glamour of Amakhosi life. Patrick is determined that his son will not fall into the same trap.

“I don’t want him to be big-headed now that he is at Chiefs,” he said firmly. “You can’t think you have arrived. You must keep proving yourself, every week. Otherwise, you’ll be forgotten quickly.”

This advice is not just paternal concern; it is born from experience. Patrick



“NOT EVERYONE SCORES IN THEIR FIRST GAME FOR CHIEFS. IT’S A BIG DEAL. HE MUST ENJOY IT, BUT THEN HE MUST WORK EVEN HARDER.”

knows the highs of scoring for Chiefs, the thrill of Bafana Bafana caps, and the heartbreak of being overlooked despite strong performances. Discipline, he insists, is the only constant that carries a player through the storms.

For Khanyisa, Chiefs is not the endgame. It is a platform. Patrick is convinced that with regular game-time and consistent goal-scoring, his son can re-establish himself in the national team setup.

“Being home will help him,” Patrick said. “He needs to work hard, score goals for the club, and then the national team will come. But you cannot expect to play for Bafana if you are not doing well for your club.”

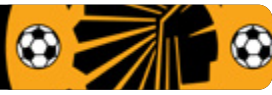
The possibility of representing South Africa at major tournaments, including the next Africa Cup of Nations and potentially the World Cup, remains alive for Khanyisa. For Patrick, the path is clear: stay fit, stay focused, and let performances do the talking.

Asked what it feels like to watch his son wear the same colours he once proudly represented, Patrick struggled to put the feeling into words.

“I don’t even know how to explain it,” he admitted. “It is a blessing. I am counted among the greats who played for Chiefs, and now to see my son there too... it is something special.”

He laughs when reminded of Khanyisa’s





debut goal celebration – the joy, the release, the pride of scoring for his father’s club. Critics may have thought it over the top, but Patrick saw it for what it was: a young man living a dream.

“Not everyone scores in their first game for Chiefs,” he said. “It’s a big deal. He must enjoy it, but then he must work even harder.”

For Patrick Mayo, the formula is simple: discipline, humility, and hard work. His son may have the talent, but talent alone does not carry players through the cauldron of Naturena. It is the daily grind, the willingness to listen, the ability to stay grounded when the spotlight shines brightest.

Khanyisa Mayo has already shown glimpses of brilliance. With his father’s guidance ringing in his ears, the stage is set for him to write his own chapter in the Kaizer Chiefs story. Whether he becomes a club legend or just another name in the records will depend not on his surname, but on how he responds to the demands of the badge.

Patrick believes in him. Chiefs’ fans are beginning to believe, too. Now it is up to Khanyisa.

As Khanyisa Mayo looks to follow in his father’s footsteps and shine in the gold and black colours of Kaizer Chiefs, iDiski Times reflects on a handful of other father/son stars of Amakhosi

KAIZER & KAIZER MOTAUNG Jnr

Chincha Guluva formed Amakhosi in 1970 after returning from the United States and played for his own club until he retired in 1976 to focus on running and managing it. A fantastic attacker, he was renowned for his dribbling skills and his cultured left-foot. His son Kaizer Jnr later turned out for the club and while he never reached his father’s heights, he had a brilliant season in 2006/07 when he top scored for Chiefs and was the Player of the Season.

ELIAKIM PRO & DOCTOR KHUMALO

Local football’s royalty was this. Arguably the most successful father/son duo the country has ever produced. A star of Moroka Swallows whom he helped win the league title in 1965, the late Pro was among the first recruits to Chiefs and became a highly influential player during their dominance in the 70s. His son came on to the scene in the 80s and no self-respecting SA soccer fan would not know of the impact Doctor or ‘16V’, as he was popularly referred to, made in the game.

JOSEPH & SIPHIWE MKHONZA

Joseph Mkhonza is more renowned as a coach of Banyana Banyana but before he traded the pitch for the bench, the man they called ‘Skheshekheshe’ was a superb player who was a nightmare to the opposition. He turned out for Amakhosi in the eighties. His late son Siphawe, on



“HE LEARNT A LOT OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. FOOTBALL THERE IS VERY PHYSICAL; THE CULTURE AND LANGUAGE ARE DIFFERENT, AND HE HAD TO ADAPT. HE STARTED WELL IN HIS FIRST SEASON, BUT COACHING CHANGES AFFECTED HIM.”

the other hand, was a solid defender who played for Chiefs between 2004 and 2007 and was part of the championship winning side of the 2004/05 season.

GOODENOUGH ACE NKOMO & MORGAN GOULD

While many would probably remember him for his exploits in the colours of Jomo Cosmos, Ace ‘Goodenough’ Nkomo also donned the famous gold and black in the 80s. Though their surnames differ, the late Nkomo is the father of retired defender Morgan Gould who truly followed in his father’s footsteps as he played for both Cosmos and Chiefs. Gould was part of that championship-winning Amakhosi side and even got to play for Bafana Bafana.

FABIAN & ADEN McCARTHY

Aden only recently made his debut for Amakhosi, following in the footsteps of his father Fabian. Both are defenders and with his dad having carved himself a reputation as a dependable centre-back during his time at the club, there is a lot of pressure on Aden to emulate his old man. And it is a case of so far, so good because McCarthy Junior is like a chip of the old block, if not better. Everything points to young Aden adding to the McCarthy legacy at Amakhosi.



RED-HOT GROBLER SETS HIS SIGHTS ON SHALULILE'S RECORD

One can feel and see the joy on **BRADLEY GROBLER**'s face when he speaks about how he is in a good place currently and enjoying his football at new side **Sekhukhune United**. The *Sniper*, as the forward is affectionately known, endured an injury-interrupted 2024/25 campaign with the now-defunct **SuperSport United**, where he only managed four goals in 15 league appearances. This season, he has eight goals in all competitions (12), six coming in the league, where he is the current joint-top goal scorer with **Iqraam Rayners** of **Mamelodi Sundowns**. The 37-year-old had a chat with **iDiski Times** journalist **LETHABO KGANYAGO** in this edition about his good start to the season, how well he is managed by the coaching staff and medical team at **Sekhukhune**. Grobler also speaks frankly about wanting to break the all-time PSL goal record set by **Peter Shalulile** this season after the **Sundowns** forward broke the record set by South African legend **Siyabonga Nomvethe** and Grobler now being just six goals shy of the new record. Grobler also admits in this interview how he'd like to return to the senior national squad, though he's not having sleepless nights about the ambition.

Lethabo Kganyago: Brad, it's always great speaking to you. Last time we spoke, you were with **SuperSport United**, that ship has since sailed, and it's no more. Let's talk about how you got to join **Sekhukhune**...

Bradley Grobler: Yeah, look, obviously, with all the stuff that was happening at **SuperSport**, my agent gave me a call to say coach **Eric [Tinkler]** was interested in me and he wanted me to join him. At the time, it was a no-brainer for me, and obviously, I had spoken to other players here and found out a bit, and coach **Eric** I have worked with him before. And if I looked at this club over the last few years and how well they have done, I believed it was a good opportunity for me, and I haven't looked back. I'm going to be honest, at the time because I didn't know what was happening with **SuperSport** it was something that was like 'am I making the right decision?' but when I look back now and where I am, the club that I'm a part of, and I have been saying the last few days it's one of the best decisions that I have made. It's a great club from the chairman, the CEO, its people that love their club, and that for me it's one of the most important things in football. They love their club, and you've got a head coach, his technical staff with **Marc [Van Heerden]** and **Paulus [Masehe]**, who I have played against, it just felt



ON CHASING SHALULILE'S RECORD: "I THINK IF I SAID NO, I'D BE LYING. I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANYBODY THAT WOULDN'T, AND YES, IT IS AT THE BACK OF MY MIND. I'VE GOT TO BE HONEST."

like the right thing. At the moment, I'm enjoying it; it's a great squad of players, and it showed over the last few years. At the moment, I think I'm as happy as I have been for a long time.

LK: I also think you look happy. Is it safe to say that your performances on the pitch are a reflection of that happiness?

BG: Yeah. It's strange, hey. A lot of people have said that to me, like watching on TV, and they say 'You look so happy'. And I must say I really am in a good space at the moment. I'm really enjoying my football. I think the style of play within the club is good,

and it's something I'm really enjoying. Obviously, you take that, you combine it with the amount of talent within the team in terms of creating chances, I think it's a good place to be and very glad I'm a part of it.

LK: Coach Eric has spoken a lot about you in terms of the importance of managing you. Do you feel he is getting it right so far?

BG: I think this last week I pretty much played three full games, which at my age is not an easy thing to do, and it's been tough games. I can't credit him and the technical staff, as well as the medical staff, enough for how well they've looked after me. I think playing games takes a lot out of me, I've got to be honest. I have been sick, obviously, coming off games, coming off niggles. At the moment, I have almost just been playing games. I have hardly done any training. I mean it goes for some of the older guys as well within the team, and by the time it comes to game day, I feel good and play 90 minutes and scoring goals in the last minute. So I really can't credit coach Eric, the technical team, as well as the medical team, enough, for how well they've managed me.

LK: Your pact with Keletso (Makgalwa), you told us he said he wants 20 assists this season, he's on five now, and you are on six goals, and you were going to help him. How's that going?

BG: It's going, and we've still got a long way to go, and I think we can still do more. We will continue doing that, and as long as I can help him and he's in the preliminary squad [Bafana Bafana], which is good for him, and I think that will give him confidence as well. But yeah, between him and the whole team, I think there is so much potential in the team to achieve great things, and I'm looking forward to it.

LK: Are you chasing the record, I mean, everyone is speaking about it....

BG: I think if I said no, I'd be lying (chuckles). I don't think there is anybody that wouldn't, and yes, it is at the back of my mind, I've got to be honest. I think I read about it more on social media, and I see it day in and day out. But if I'm being completely honest, it's not something that's weighing me down. I don't wake up with that pressure and counting. For me, it's a mindset of it's one game at a time, and for me the biggest thing now is repaying the club for the faith they have shown in me, helping the team carry on the form that we are, and I have no doubt that that record will come. So yeah, I think it's in the back of my mind, but the most important thing is the team and taking



"I REALLY CAN'T CREDIT COACH ERIC, THE TECHNICAL TEAM, AS WELL AS THE MEDICAL TEAM, ENOUGH, FOR HOW WELL THEY'VE MANAGED ME."

it one game at a time, and like I said, just got to stay on the field, and I have no doubt that I'll get there.

LK: Lastly, Brad, there are people who believe that if you continue with this form, you may just have Coach Hugo [Broos] look at you. Are you also thinking about that, and does that even speak to you?

BG: Look, as a kid, that was always my dream, and I was there for a while, and it's something I'd never give up dreaming about. Obviously, I think the national team is doing extremely well, and it's an exciting time to be a part of the team. Again, if I said I didn't want to be there, I think it would be a lie. But it's something at the back of my head. It's just that I can't see... I think if I scored a hundred goals, I don't think he'd change his mind at the moment (chuckles). But that's not to say that I wouldn't try, and I wouldn't do everything I could to be there because, like I said, I'd be lying. So it's always been at the back of my head, but at the end of the day, he's got a job to do and he's done a good job and those are his decisions to make now, not mine. But like I said, it would be an amazing thing and something I would want to work towards till the day I stop playing.

LK: Thank you, Brad and all the best.



MASHEGO HOPING LOAN CAN LEAD TO BAFANA RETURN

*Swapping a big, glamorous club for more playing time is a bold decision, one that **TERRENCE MASHEGO** made this transfer window. The Bafana Bafana defender made a loan switch from Mamelodi Sundowns to Durban City, a decision driven by his need for consistent game-time. The 29-year-old, who was part of Hugo Broos' squad that won bronze at the last CAF African Cup of Nations, recently spoke with iDiski Times' journalist **SINETHEMBA SITHOLE**, sharing insights into his move, his stint at Sundowns, his **CHAN** experience and his goal of earning a spot back on the national team.*

Sinethemba Sithole: Terrence, it's great to have you back with us! This is the fourth time you have had an interview with iDiski Times. Firstly, thank you for making the time to speak with us again. You've recently made the move to Durban City – how do you feel right now?

Terrence Mashego: It's a great feeling because I came to a good team with good players, with good structure and a good coach with experience. It's a new team, new players, it's a mix. Some players, it's their first time in the PSL's [top-flight], it's a great feeling, I'm excited for this move.

SS: Moving to a new city for your career is always a significant change, and we know it's especially tough when it means being away from your family. How have you been adapting to life in Durban, both on and off the field?

TM: Yeah, man, it's not easy, but work is work; sometimes you have to sacrifice. But I would say Durban is nice, it's got nice weather, the hotels are nice, and also being on the coast, I'm used to it

because of Cape Town. So, honestly, I'm enjoying this side, in as much as I miss my family, but I feel like work is work. And in terms of distance, I feel like Durban is closer to Johannesburg rather than many other cities, but yeah, it's not easy. But I'd say it's something that I wanted, that's why missing home isn't an issue that much.

SS: From the outside, Durban City looks like a club on the rise – well-organised with new sponsors coming on board. While we know things aren't always perfect, especially with the club having just been promoted from the Motsepe Foundation Championship, how do you feel about their setup, knowing that you want to be part of a well-run team?

TM: Honestly, it's a well-structured team. I think it's because of the chairman, with his experience of running a professional team, Maritzburg United. Even though it's a new team but it's well structured, we are training in a nice facility, and everything is proper. I don't want to lie, even how things are run in the team, the programme, everything is professional and well-organised, you can tell that this is a well-structured team. Even my transition from Sundowns to Durban City, I couldn't feel much difference because of how the team is well-structured, the professionalism and everything.

SS: I was watching your first game at the Chatsworth Stadium. I felt you had a solid performance there. I felt it kind of showed the hunger you have to play. What were your thoughts?

TM: I think what really helped is the **CHAN** [tournament] because remember, before I joined Durban City, I played **CHAN**. Getting that game-time really



helped me, so when I joined Durban City, I didn't struggle that much because I have some minutes in my legs. And also in my first game, I thought it was a fair game for me, even though I had mistakes here and there, but I could at least push.

SS: We know Gavin Hunt is someone who often gets personally involved in bringing players to his club. Can you tell us if he was a big influence on your move? If he was, what was that conversation like?

TM: We had a chat, he called and told me about the team, the ambitions and also what he is trying to achieve there. I also saw it's a great opportunity because I also need game-time, and I hadn't been playing for a while. Also, seeing that it's a new team, it could help me get back to where I was in terms of my level. And I was like, let me join the team, cause we had a good discussion.

SS: He is a veteran coach in South African football with a remarkable record, including four league titles. What are your thoughts on him as a coach, and what's it like to play under someone with his level of experience?

TM: I don't wanna lie, it's been so good because he has a winning mentality. I think it's one thing I've learnt about him, and he knows how to bring out that winning mindset. It's easy to buy into his winning mentality; that's what I've noticed. He's a very professional coach, and he's very passionate about winning. He's a good person, he's someone you can talk to and you can joke around with, he's that person.

“MY TRANSITION FROM SUNDOWNS TO DURBAN CITY, I COULDN'T FEEL MUCH DIFFERENCE BECAUSE OF HOW THE TEAM IS WELL-STRUCTURED, THE PROFESSIONALISM AND EVERYTHING.”

SS: When you get into a plane from Johannesburg to Durban, what specific goals did you set for yourself in terms of what you wanted to achieve?

TM: When I got the message from the Sporting Director Flemming [Berg], telling me that they had agreed on terms with Durban City, I also got a call from the chairman of Durban City, sending me a message, I thought, let me just drive. Honestly, I was waiting for that message because after CHAN, I trained with Sundowns for a week or two. So, I was waiting for that moment to say, 'Okay, I'm either staying with the team or going out on loan to Durban City'. When I got that message, I was like God has answered my prayers, I was like, 'Let me go and try to enjoy my football'. That was one thing that was on my mind to say: go there and enjoy football.

SS: You participating in the CHAN tournament, do you feel that could be

something that clears the path for you to go back to the Bafana first team since you were part of the team that played the AFCON in Ivory Coast in 2024?

TM: The CHAN was a good experience, honestly, playing for the national team is always great. It's a different feeling because the experience you get there is something that you can't compare with what you get in the PSL. So, I remember even Malibongwe Khoza, I told him that whenever you get a call-up, whether it's CHAN or the COSAFA Cup, make sure you honour it, just play because the experience is different. Once you are in that set-up, it becomes easier to get a call-up in the first team because now you have experience. I feel like it's something that prepares you for the first team. When I went to AFCON, I wasn't playing that much at my club, but because of the experience I had with the national team before, it gave me an upper hand. That's why I say you need to honour CHAN and COSAFA Cup call-ups. The experience is the same, it doesn't matter.

SS: How big are the ambitions of going back to the first team with the 2025 AFCON and 2026 FIFA World Cup coming?

TM: One of the reasons I even decided to come to Durban City, I knew there's AFCON and the World Cup coming up. With me sitting on the bench, not playing won't help me. But me coming here, getting minutes and helping the team to win, it would also give me that advantage that I'm doing well, and they might call me again to the national team. I'm hoping to go back because I've been part of that set-up since from the beginning with coach Hugo Broos. So, I'm ambitious to go back because it's something I've been wanting. I believe it's possible as long as I'm playing.

SS: The stint at Sundowns, tell me about it, having been there since 2022. Obviously, being there means constantly dealing with pressure and playing in big competitions. How has it helped you as a player?

TM: Sundowns have really developed me as a player. I have a lot of experience now. When I joined Sundowns, I was already playing for the national team, but also Champions League is a different experience. So, for me to be there to play the Champions League games, it has also helped me to develop and grow mentally as a player. And also to win the league with Sundowns three times, it has also taught



“EVERYONE IS WAITING FOR THEIR OPPORTUNITY, SO IT'S DIFFICULT TO PLAY FOR SUNDOWNS. BUT I'D SAY, AS A PLAYER, IT HAS HELPED ME TO HAVE THAT EDGE TO COMPETE.”

me to understand what it takes to win the league in terms of what is required from me as a player and from the team. So, I have the experience to share now with guys how the league is won, the sacrifices you make and so forth. So, I have had a good experience there.

SS: How tough is playing for Sundowns, considering the competition each position has?

TM: It's tough because you need to compete everywhere, whether it's training or during the game. Whatever opportunity you get, you need to make sure you compete because it's tough. We have had about four left-backs, but before I left, there was even six left-backs. So, given the opportunity, you need to use it because if you mess up or do something [wrong], it's a problem; you need to go back there because it's a queue. Everyone is waiting for their opportunity, so it's difficult to play for Sundowns. But I'd say, as a player, it has helped me to have that edge to compete. Each and every training session, I know I have to take it serious because I know I have to compete.

SS: Thanks, Terrence.



SA, MOROCCO & EGYPT ARE THE LOCOMOTIVES OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL

Over the last few years, South African coaches have begun to claw their way back with the international qualifications, steadily ticking off their CAF badges and licences. Yet, by comparison to Morocco, widely acknowledged as Africa's benchmark for coach education, they remain a step or two behind. In this week's edition, iDiski Times' ROB DELPORT chats with MOHAMMED BENMESSAOUD, a 42-year-old CAF Pro Licence holder who has patrolled the dugouts of several Botola Pro League clubs, including recent spells at Mouloudia Club of Oujda, Union Sportive Musulmane d'Oujda and AS Salé, and built his reputation on tactical structure and the Moroccan commitment to coach education. Having just completed a doctorate, Benmessaoud offers a rare, inside look at the country's model: a system driven by planning, investment and a belief that properly qualified coaches are the key to unlocking African football's potential.

Rob Delport: Thanks for having this chat, Mohammed. Just to start with, you're a CAF Pro Licence holder and have worked at several clubs in Morocco. Could you maybe walk us through some of your coaching journey and some of the key milestones?

Mohammed Benmessaoud: By the grace of God, I passed the CAF Pro during the second session held in Morocco, a session which contained 25 candidates from all over the African continent. Concerning my career, I started with the U21 of the RSB [RS Berkane] where we finished third in the Moroccan Championship, after I was assistant coach with MCO [Mouloudia], and since then, I have taken the helm of several clubs, including MCO, the former club of

Abdeslam Ouaddou, and USMO [Union Sportive Musulmane d'Oujda], the club with which we finished third in the Championship, and we had a very good run in the Throne Cup.

RD: Morocco has invested heavily in coach education and infrastructure over the past decade. From your perspective, what's been the biggest driver of this success?

MB: The main driver of this success is, of course, the vision of His Majesty Mohammed VI, who is putting all the means in place at the FRMF to make this project a success. Obviously, with a talent like Mr Faouzi Lakjaa, the coach and player training project is on the right track. Regarding the training of Moroccan players, the Mohammed VI centre has been inaugurated, which has begun to produce big names in world football, such as Ounahi and Naciri. In the clubs, according to the new specifications, all clubs now have a real academy where players pursue their academic careers and football training with high-level facilities. In this regard, I invite you to come and invite [you to visit] an academy to Morocco and see the successful progress. Currently, all the complexes, whether for first teams or youth teams, have European-level facilities and infrastructure, simply because Morocco has understood that we have great human potential that we must invest in. Returning to the success of coach training, everyone has seen the number of Moroccan coaches who are successful either in Morocco or in the countries of the Gulf, notably Jamal Sellami, who has just achieved a historic qualification with Jordan for the World Cup.

RD: How do Moroccan clubs approach



youth development and coach education differently from other African nations you've observed?

MB: Although the difference is simple, its implementation requires the involvement of all football components in the country. Currently, coach training in Morocco is at a high level, under the supervision of the national technical director and in the presence of FIFA trainers. Regarding the training of young people, the approach was clear: it was investment in real academies with high-level infrastructure and with the training of educators, especially for the training of young people.

RD: You've been head coach most recently at Mouloudia Club of Oujda, but also Union Sportive Musulmane d'Oujda, AS Salé, Widad Temara and Wydad Athletic de Fès. What were the most valuable lessons from each stop?

MB: After my modest experience, I can deduce that the success of a football project of a club requires the commitment of all these components. For example, with USMO or WAF, the two clubs with which I finished third in the Championship, I had the support and the confidence of all the components of the club, something which allowed me to restore my football philosophy.

RD: The Botola League is highly competitive and passionate. How has working in this environment shaped you as a coach?

MB: As you just said, the Moroccan Championship is very competitive. Any coach likes to live this experience. For me, as a Moroccan, the Moroccan Championship is where we grew up, so I would always like to have a good project here.

RD: You have connections with coaches in South Africa, like Luc Eymael and Abdeslam Ouaddou?

MB: Luc Eymael is a great friend of mine; he's someone with whom I share a lot about football. First of all, Luc never stops saying very good things about football and specifically about the South African Championship. As for Abdeslam Ouaddou, it's true that we're not close, but for me, he remains a very respectful Moroccan coach who is having a good career. After he left the Championship, I coached his former club, MCO.

RD: How do you see Morocco and South Africa learning from one another when it comes to player development and coaching methodology?



“LUC EYMAEL IS A GREAT FRIEND OF MINE; HE'S SOMEONE WITH WHOM I SHARE A LOT ABOUT FOOTBALL. FIRST OF ALL, LUC NEVER STOPS SAYING VERY GOOD THINGS ABOUT FOOTBALL AND SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHAMPIONSHIP.”

MB: Currently, Morocco and South Africa, along with Egypt, are the locomotives of African football. Certainly, cooperation between our two countries will help us grow and succeed together, especially in training coaches and players.

RD: We've seen Rulani Mokwena at Wydad and Fadlu Davids, who was Joe Zinnbauer's assistant at Raja in 2023/24. What did you take away from those encounters?

MB: They are close to the different schools, and when you watch their teams, you can take from each idea or think of your own football ideas, and this is what makes the competitive tournament strong, as you find many football schools.

RD: From your vantage point, what are the most important steps African federations can take to produce more world-class coaches?

MB: In this aspect, the key lies solely in the training and ongoing development of coaches. It is important to note that all federations must adhere to the volume and content of training programs. It is clear that self-training can help a coach stand out.

RD: How important is investing in local coaches, rather than only looking abroad, for the long-term success of African football?

MB: We must take Walid Regragui and his achievements with the Moroccan national team as a reference. It should be mentioned that Mr Regragui received his CAF Pro license in Morocco, so he was trained in Africa. If we start

from there, we can quickly understand that if the African coach finds the right conditions, he will do good things.

RD: How do you see the role of technology, data and modern training techniques in shaping the next generation of African players?

MB: Personally, I have just completed my doctorate on the profile of players in the Moroccan Championship. It is a work that I could not carry out without using data, which allows us to have the maximum analysis, whether technical, physical or tactical, of the player during the match. Regarding player development, data has facilitated the coaching staff through video analyses, which make explanations and demonstrations easier and more concrete.

RD: Do you believe a continental network for coach exchanges, internships and knowledge-sharing could help African football evolve faster?

MB: During my CAF Pro training, there was a mix of Moroccan coaches and others from other African countries [Egypt, Tunisia, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, etc.] During this training, there was a very interesting sharing of training methodologies, from which I noticed that each country has tools and ideas that can help us develop. So I deduced that if we share our knowledge and exchange our experiences, we will undoubtedly succeed.

RD: Looking ahead, what are your ambitions as a coach? Are you aiming to work outside Morocco at any point?

MB: I can impart in Morocco or elsewhere. Currently, I am looking for a clear and motivating project. Of course, there are Championships that interest me and motivate me, such as the South African Premier League, where I have some friends who train there and who talk a lot about the good atmosphere and the good level of your Championship.

RD: Finally, what advice would



“THERE ARE CHAMPIONSHIPS THAT INTEREST ME AND MOTIVATE ME, SUCH AS THE SOUTH AFRICAN PREMIER LEAGUE, WHERE I HAVE SOME FRIENDS WHO TRAIN THERE AND WHO TALK A LOT ABOUT THE GOOD ATMOSPHERE AND THE GOOD LEVEL.”

you give to young African coaches aspiring to reach the level of CAF Pro Licence and work in top-tier clubs?

MB: You have to continue working on yourself, to develop your intrinsic skills. My advice is that you should never pick up a club just to work on it; you have to choose the right project to succeed later.

RD: Thanks, Mohammed. Maybe we’ll see you coaching in South Africa one day.



FOLLOW OUR CHANNEL!

GET THE LATEST BREAKING NEWS, MATCH UPDATES AND A WHOLE LOT MORE!

CLICK HERE!! 





REBUILDING, REINFORCING, REIGNITING

South Africa's transfer window slammed shut last week, and for once, the off-season hustle matched the hype. Compared with recent years, it was one of the liveliest shopping sprees in domestic football — deals being inked, squads overhauled, and a few eye-catching moves from unexpected quarters.

The Big Movers

No clubs were busier than newly-promoted Durban City and perennial reshufflers Chippa United. Both sides hauled in 16 new recruits apiece, essentially assembling two entirely new dressing rooms. If there's a tie-breaker, the nod goes to Chippa, not just for the volume of arrivals but for the revolving door on the touchline. Within a month, the Chilli Boys cycled through head coach Sinethemba Badela and assistant Musa Nyatama before settling on their current

bench configuration with Luc Eymael in charge, echoing the annual chaos in Gqeberha.

Durban City's spree was more about survival planning. Back in the big league, they've gone for a blend of seasoned PSL operators and ambitious youngsters, hoping that numbers and competition for places will give them a fighting chance in the Betway Premiership.

Keeping It Tight at the Top

At the opposite end of the spectrum, defending champions Mamelodi Sundowns were the model of restraint. Only four new faces came through the door at Chloorkop, a sign of confidence in a squad already overflowing with depth and quality. While rivals scrambled, Sundowns fine-tuned, choosing continuity over chaos. It's a luxury only serial winners can afford.

A Soweto Rivalry

Who won the transfer tug-of-war this season, Orlando Pirates or Kaizer Chiefs? The Soweto giants both dipped deep into the market, unveiling a host of new faces that sent their respective fan bases into overdrive.

On one side, Pirates' recruitment already has silverware on the shelf. The Buccaneers, under new leadership too, lifted the MTN8 trophy barely weeks into the new campaign, a statement that their new arrivals are slotting in well and adding steel to an already talented squad.

On the other hand, Chiefs' rebuild feels like a slow-burning epic. Amakhosi fans have been crying out for a fresh spark after several frustrating seasons, and the club's recent signings hint at a long-term vision rather than a quick fix. There's a sense of anticipation around Naturena, of players still to be unleashed, of the possibility of a real revival once the pieces click. But the big question is now who will lead this new generation after Nasreddine Nabi's exit.

A Global Market with a Twist



In total, 25 players arrived from abroad in this window. Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe and North America were all tapped, but for the first time in years, not a single player came from South America, recently a rich market for South African clubs. Whether that's down to scouting shifts or stylistic changes remains to be seen.

The Numbers Behind the Frenzy

All told, more than 150 player movements were registered over the entire window. For some clubs, it's about replacing the old guard with fresh legs; for others, it's simply a survival mechanism. The sheer churn is also a reflection of how tight the margins are in South African football; a couple of good signings can transform a season, and a couple of poor ones can leave a club fighting relegation.

Who Signed Whom?

Below is the full list of incoming players for every club. From high-profile captures to under-the-radar bets, here are the players at each club, their ages, and where they played last season.

AMAZULU (7 new signings)

Compared to previous seasons, Usuthu kept a relatively low profile in the transfer market. Arthur Zwane's side have focused on building from last year's foundation, quietly adding a handful of talented and promising recruits. If these new faces settle quickly, they could provide the spark needed to lift the team to the next level and turn a solid base into a genuine challenge this season.

- Thandolwenkosi Ngwenya (22) - FC Platinum, Zimbabwe
- Keegan Allan (24) - Richards Bay
- Ryan Moon (28) - Golden Arrows
- Darren Johnson (27) - Chippa United
- Athini Maqokola (23) - JDR Stars
- Thapelo Matlhoko (22) - Kruger United
- Liam Bern (22) - Cape Town Spurs

CHIPPA UNITED (16)

Another sweeping squad overhaul has rolled through Gqeberha, and now it's Luc Eymael's task to mould the newcomers and holdovers into a unit capable of climbing the table. On paper, the talent appears to be there, flashes of quality that hint at far more than their current position suggests. But transforming potential into points will demand every ounce of Eymael's tactical nous and man-management. The coming months promise to be a fascinating test, not only on the field but behind the scenes, as the club tries to forge stability from yet another period of upheaval.

- Goodman Mosele (25) - Orlando Pirates (LOAN)
- Abdoulaye Mariko (23) - Orlando Pirates (LOAN)
- Azola Tshobeni (23) - Orlando Pirates
- Sammy Seabi (30) - Polokwane City
- Bandile Dlamini (21) - Royal AM
- Thulani Mini (21) - Stellenbosch
- Somila Ntsundwana (28) - Richards Bay
- Justice Figueiredo (27) - Richards Bay
- Nathan Fasika (26) - Cape Town City
- Elson Sithole (24) - Cape Town City

- Ruzaigh Gamildien (36) - Durban City
- Harold Majadibodu (30) - AmaTuks
- Banele Hlophe (24) - JDR Stars
- Khaya Mfecane (24) - Cape Town Spurs
- Thamsanqa Magwaza (21) - FC Ravens
- Keabetswe Ramotsei (24) - Venda Football Club [ALREADY RELEASED]

DURBAN CITY (16)

Gavin Hunt's reputation as a masterful squad-builder remains firmly intact, as he has swiftly reshaped the Motsepe Foundation Championship winners into a side brimming with potential. The club has welcomed some exciting talent, and Hunt now faces the challenge of blending them into a cohesive unit. With a promising start already on the board, the next few months will be a test of his ability to build a team capable of making serious waves this season.

- Thabo Nodada (30) - Cape Town City
- Darren Keet (35) - Cape Town City
- Haashim Domingo (29) - Cape Town City
- Patric Autata (20) - Cape Town City
- Luphumlo Sifumba (20) - Cape Town City
- Taahir Goedeman (25) - Cape Town City (LOAN)
- Kyle Jurgens (21) - Stellenbosch (LOAN)
- Fezile Gcaba (26) - Richards Bay
- Terrence Mashego (29) - Mamelodi Sundowns (LOAN)
- Liam De Kock (24) - Stellenbosch
- Brooklyn Poggenpoel (25) - SuperSport United
- Frederick Asare (26) - Asante Kotoko, Ghana
- Jean Lwamba (23) - TAFIC FC, Botswana
- Letsie Koapeng (33) - Orbit College
- Bokang Mokwena (24) - Upington City



- Siphelele Mthembu (20) - KZN Academy

GOLDEN ARROWS (10)

Sede Dion is shaping up to be a real coup for Manqoba Mngqithi, and the coach has also bolstered his ranks with two other bright young Ivorians, adding fresh flair and potential to the mix. While the overall haul may seem modest, there's plenty to get excited about, not least a redemption arc for former Mamelodi Sundowns prospect Jerome Karelse, who now has the chance to reignite his career at the top level.

- Sede Dion (31) - AmaZulu
- Oumar Comara (24) - FC San Pedro, Ivory Coast
- Isaac Cisse (18) - SO Army, Ivory Coast
- Sanele Radebe (24) - Royal AM
- Osborn Maluleke (26) - Kruger United
- Philani Kumalo (24) - Midlands Wanderers
- Ntando Mabaso (21) - Midlands Wanderers
- Sboniso Madonsela (21) - Midlands Wanderers
- Thokozani Khumalo (30) - Mkhambathi
- Jerome Karelse (23) - Hout Bay

KAIZER CHIEFS (11)

This latest crop of signings is brimming with promise, a mix of proven talent and intriguing potential that could transform the season if they click quickly. Several new arrivals are still waiting in the wings, which only heightens the anticipation around Naturena. Supporters are eager to see how these fresh faces slot into the system, what new dimensions they'll add, and whether this revamped squad

finally has the firepower and balance to give the Amakhosi faithful the kind of campaign they've been longing for.

- Khanyiso Mayo (27) - CR Belouizdad, Algeria (LOAN)
- Flavio Silva (29) - Persebaya, Indonesia
- Siphesihle Ndlovu (28) - SuperSport United
- Thabiso Monyane (25) - Orlando Pirates
- Paseka Mako (31) - Orlando Pirates
- Etiosa Ighodaro (24) - Mamelodi Sundowns (AmaZulu on loan)
- Lebohang Maboe (30) - Mamelodi Sundowns (SuperSport United on loan)
- Nkanyiso Shinga (25) - Alverca, Portugal
- Ethan Chislett (26) - Port Vale, England
- Asanele Velebayi (22) - Cape Town Spurs
- Luke Baartman (19) - Cape Town Spurs

MAGESI (10)

On paper, these new recruits add real bite to a team that famously punched above its weight last season, with their Carling Knockout triumph standing out as one of the biggest surprises of 2024/25. Yet, while the attack looks sharper and the midfield deeper, questions linger about whether every position has been adequately reinforced. Defensive solidity, in particular, remains a concern.

- Wonderboy Makhubu (28) - Sekhukhune United
- Kgothatso Mariba (25) - Sekhukhune United
- Kgomotso Mosadi (26) - Sekhukhune United
- Banele Gama (25) - Sekhukhune United (LOAN)
- Thabang Sibanyoni (29) - Mamelodi Sundowns
- Kabelo Mahlasela (34) - Royal AM
- Sphelele Majola (22) - Royal AM
- Nkanyiso Zungu (29) - Pretoria Callies
- Curtley Napier (25) - Thames Football Club
- Reagan van der Ross (26) - n/a

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS (4)

Miguel Cardoso's side may have only brought in four new faces, but this feels like a textbook case of quality over quantity. The headline grabs belong to the Portuguese duo Nuno Santos and Miguel Reisinho. Both arrive with glowing résumés and a reputation for technical polish, instantly stirring excitement among the club's faithful. Then there's Fawaaz Basadien, arguably the most consistent performer in South African football over the last few seasons, whose arrival brings reliability, versatility and a steadying influence. And rounding off the quartet is Ntsabeleng, a fascinating capture from the USA, where he spent several productive years.

- Miguel Reisinho (26) - Boavista, Portugal
- Nuno Santos (26) - Vit. Guimarães, Portugal
- Fawaaz Basadien (28) - Stellenbosch
- Tsiki Ntsabeleng (27) - FC Dallas, USA

MARUMO GALLANTS (9)

Gallants appear to have made some smart moves for their young coach, even managing to lure a couple of former stars back home to strengthen the squad. While the start to the season has been patchy, there are encouraging signs that the team is beginning to click, with flashes of cohesion and competitive spark hinting that they could soon become a competitive team.



Phillip Ndondlo (30) - Orlando Pirates
Katlego Otladisa (29) - Orlando Pirates
Darrel Matsheke (26) - Kruger United
Bongolwethu Siyasi (22) - Mamelodi Sundowns (Venda Football Club on loan)
Teboho Motloung (25) - Golden Arrows
Mbakondja Tjahikika (24) - African Stars, Namibia
Jaisen Clifford (29) - Sportist Svoge, Bulgaria
Bheki Mabuza (22) - Leruma United
Simo Luthuli (26) - n/a

ORBIT COLLEGE (9)

In their debut season in the top flight, much of the spotlight will naturally fall on the surprise loan signing of Monnapule Saleng. But the squad holds a few hidden stories that are equally captivating, none more so than Life Science teacher Cameron Chweu, who has traded chalk and whiteboards for the bright lights of the Premiership.

- Monnapule Saleng (27) - Orlando Pirates (LOAN)
- Thuso Moleleki (25) - Orlando Pirates (LOAN)
- Yanga Madiba (23) - Orlando Pirates (LOAN)
- Katlego Mkhabela (29) - Sekhukhune United
- Thato Mohlamme (26) - Richards Bay
- Mbulelo Wagaba (28) - Marumo Gallants
- Sbhongakonke Gamede (27) - Hungry Lions
- Lucky Mahlatsi (19) - Lerumo Lions
- Cameron Chweu (31) - n/a

ORLANDO PIRATES (13)

Sekhukhune might be shouting from the rooftops about Bradley Grobler as the Signing of the Season so far, but over in Soweto, the Buccaneers have a compelling counter-argument in Oswin Appollis. The live-wire attacker has hit the ground running in the famous black and white, instantly looking at home and giving Pirates a new attacking dimension. And he's far from the only success story; the first few names on this list have already stamped their authority on the campaign, hinting at even greater things to come.

- Oswin Appollis (23) - Polokwane City
- Sihle Nduli (29) - Stellenbosch
- Sipho Mbule (27) - Mamelodi Sundowns
- Lebone Seema (22) - TS Galaxy
- Kamogelo Sebelebele (22) - TS Galaxy
- Tshepang Moremi (24) - AmaZulu
- Sinxolo Kwayiba (25) - Chippa United
- Yanela Mbuthuma (23) - Richards Bay
- Nkosikhona Ndaba (22) - Richards Bay
- Masindi Nemtajela (23) - Marumo Gallants
- Abdoulaye Mariko (22) - Djoliba AC, Mali
- *Abdoulaye Mariko (23) - Djoliba AC, Mali
- *Tshepo Mashiloane (23) - Baroka

POLOKWANE CITY (10)

Rise and Shine have stayed true to their trademark approach of mining the lower divisions for hidden gems, and early signs suggest that pipeline is still flowing smoothly. Whether they've truly managed to fill the void left by Oswin Appollis remains the big question, though. Coach Phuti Mohafe certainly believes they have, but as ever in football, the proof will be in the pudding once the season's grind reveals who can really shine under the top-flight spotlight.

- Levy Mashiane (29) - Royal AM

- Mashudi Makhavhu (23) - Black Leopards
- Thabelo Tshikweta (25) - Venda Football Club
- Rudzani Thobo (31) - Venda Football Club
- Ayanda Ngwenya (25) - The Dolphins
- Moremi Seketso (27) - Pretoria Callies
- Keorapetse Sebone (27) - Pretoria Callies
- Keagile Malepe (21) - Pretoria Callies
- Mpho Mvundlela (27) - Pretoria Callies
- Sapholwethu Kelepu (26) - AmaTuks

RICHARDS BAY (7)

The Natal Rich Boyz didn't exactly break the bank this window, but the acquisition of Gabadinho Mhango is a masterstroke that immediately catches the eye. A proven goal-getter, Mhango brings experience and firepower that could be decisive this season. Some of the other signings have also made encouraging starts, showing glimpses of what they can offer, yet lingering questions remain.

- Gabadinho Mhango (32) - Marumo Gallants
- Lindokuhle Mtshali (27) - Sekhukhune United
- Halalisani Vilakazi (27) - Orbit College
- Thabani Zuke (26) - Golden Arrows
- Siyabonga Nzama (21) - Milford
- Kitso Mangolo (26) - Centre Chiefs, Botswana
- Mbulelo Nombengula (19) - Sinenkani

SEKHUKHUNE UNITED (12)

At 37, Bradley Grobler might just be proving that age really is only a number. Two months into the new campaign, the veteran striker already looks like a contender for Signing of the Season, delivering exactly what Eric Tinkler's



side needed to seize an early lead in the league race. And it's not only Grobler making waves. The club's recruitment department appears to have struck gold elsewhere, too. New arrivals like the industrious Tsepo Matsimbi and the dynamic Medupi Thokolo are emerging as key contributors, adding fresh energy and depth across the pitch. Together, they're giving Tinkler a squad that feels revitalised, balanced and dangerous, the kind of foundation that can sustain a title challenge beyond the early-season buzz.

- Tshepo Mashiloane (23) - Orlando Pirates (LOAN)
- Ronaldo Maarman (25) - Chippa United
- Sphiwe Mahlangu (30) - TS Galaxy
- Toaster Nsabata (31) - ZESCO United, Zambia
- Bradley Grobler (37) - SuperSport United
- Manuel Sapunga (32) - Polokwane City
- Tsepo Matsimbi (25) - Black Leopards
- Sydney Malivha (24) - Baroka
- Olerato Mandi (22) - Pretoria Callies
- Malekgene Mampuru (21) - AmaTuks
- Medupi Thokolo (23) - Casric Stars
- *Banele Gama (25) - Venda Football Club

SIWELELE FC (10)
(excl SSU recruits)

The newly-formed club has hauled in 10 fresh faces to strengthen the squad, a recruitment drive that, at least on paper, should hopefully lift them clear of trouble. Yet football is never played on paper alone. Stability off the pitch is just as crucial as talent on it, and



that's where Siwelele have already hit a wobble. Boardroom jitters, shifting structures and off-field uncertainty have left a side brimming with potential still searching for its footing.

- Zakhele Lepasa (28) - Orlando Pirates
- Wayde Lekay (27) - Churchill Brothers, India
- Happy Mashiane (27) - Kaizer Chiefs (LOAN)
- Samkelo Zwane (23) - Kaizer Chiefs (LOAN)
- Tebogo Potsane (31) - Kaizer Chiefs
- Chibuike Ohizu (28) - Sekhukhune United (LOAN)
- Relebogile Mokhuoane (30) - Sekhukhune United
- Thabo Makhele (30) - Chippa United
- Buhle Mkhwanazi (35) - Highbury
- Siphelele Luthuli (30) - n/a

STELLENBOSCH (7)

Although their league start has been underwhelming, Steve Barker can still be quietly confident about the MTN8 finalists' prospects. The club has kept things relatively low-key in the transfer window, yet a few additions they've made are already turning heads. Henri Stanic has impressed, as has Mthetheleli Mthiyane. If these sparks can catch fire, Barker's side could quickly turn early-season frustrations into momentum for a strong campaign

- Henri Stanic (22) - Balzan FC, Malta
- Turan Manafov (27) - Kapaz Peşakar, Azerbaijan
- Thapelo Mokobodi (22) - Marumo Gallants
- Mthetheleli Mthiyane (24) - Milford
- Siviwe Nkwali (20) - Cape Town Spurs
- Muzo Khanyi (26) - Hungry Lions
- Dublin Boon (20) - Wellington, New Zealand

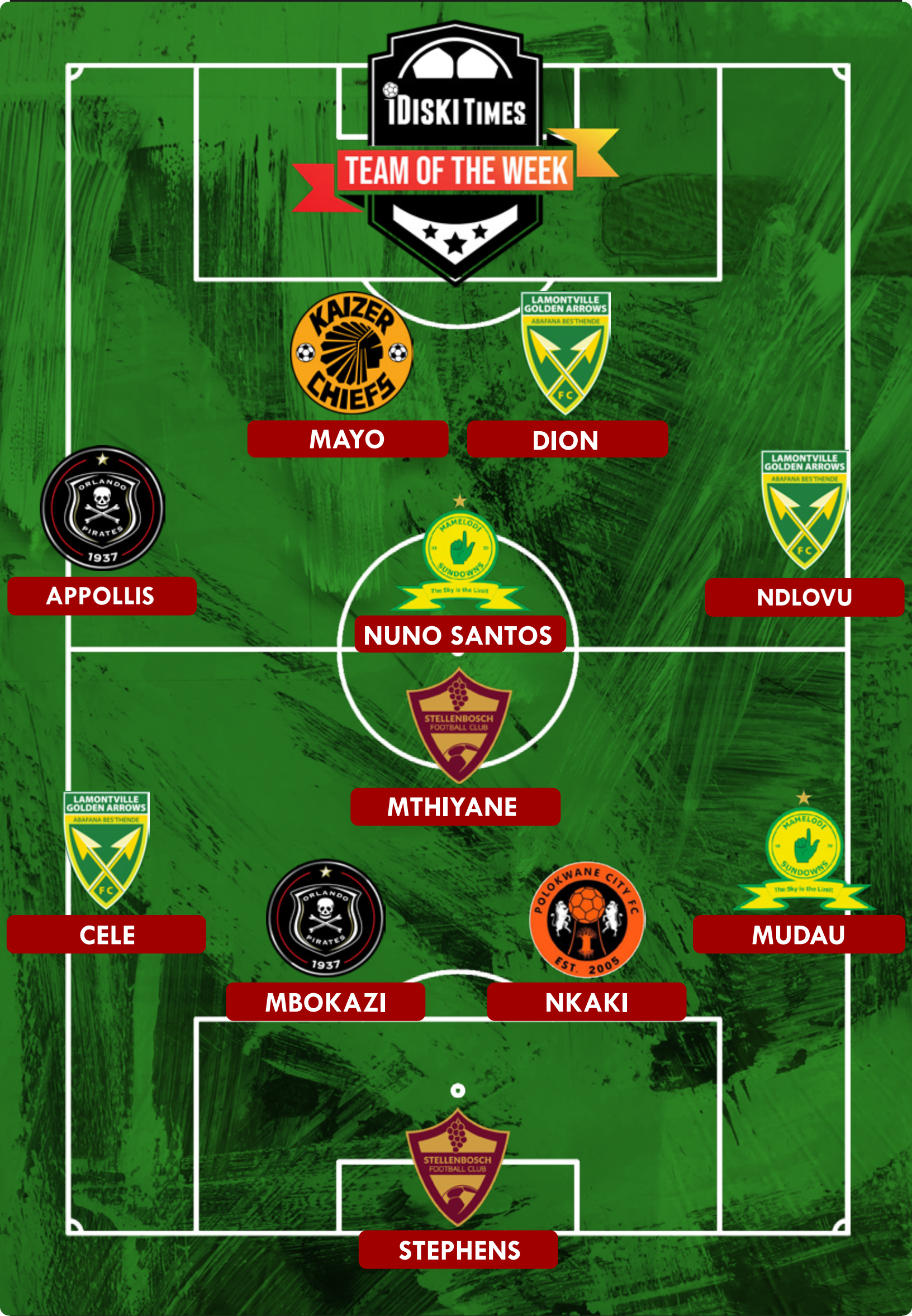
TS GALAXY (14)

Forced to kick off the campaign under a FIFA transfer ban, Galaxy had to make do with what they had, and to their credit, they did it brilliantly. Now, with the shackles off, the club has wasted no time in splashing into the market and could still have more business up its sleeve. Despite that rocky start, Galaxy have opened the season impressively, showing grit and adaptability. The challenge now is weaving their fresh recruits into the fabric of a squad that has already seized its opportunities, hoping the new arrivals can elevate rather than disrupt the momentum they've built.

- Ezra van der Heiden (21) - Vitesse, Netherlands
- Mehdi Ouamri (26) - Union Omaha, USA
- Mory Keita (29) - n/a
- Junior Zindoga (27) - Marumo Gallants
- Veluyeke Zulu (30) - Marumo Gallants
- Patrick Fisher (22) - Cape Town City
- Jeffrey Dlamini (34) - Royal AM
- Mpumelelo Ndaba (20) - Orlando Pirates
- Ntandoyenkosi Nkosi (20) - Kaizer Chiefs
- Sedwyn George (33) - Highbury
- Anslyn Williams (26) - JDR Stars
- Onke Moletshe (25) - Venda Football Club
- Siyabonga Nguessan (20) - Pretoria Callies
- Matome Mmolai (19) - JDR Stars

* Loaned out after signing

IDISKI TEAM OF THE WEEK (PREMIERSHIP - 23-28 SEPTEMBER)



ACE OF THE WEEK:
SEDE DION

Our iDiski Times Ace of the Week is none other than Golden Arrows' in-form hitman, Sede Dion, who delivered a double-dose of heroics for Manqoba Mngqithi's side this past week. The towering Ivorian striker found the net in back-to-back matches, and crucially, both ended in victory for the KwaZulu-Natal outfit. First came a seismic midweek upset, as Arrows toppled log-leaders Mamelodi Sundowns 1-0, with Dion heading in the killer blow. Then, at the weekend, he opened the scoring again in a commanding 3-0 win over Orbit College. At 31, Dion is proving age is just a number, already tallying five goals since his move from neighbours AmaZulu and quickly cementing himself as the heartbeat of Arrows' attack.



The Drawing Board with Moritz Kossmann

This week, we continue The Drawing Board series with iDiski Times' coaching guru MORITZ KOSSMANN.

Born in Germany, but having spent most of his life in South Africa, he came to the fore while working at the Ubuntu Football Academy. Moritz was then the head coach of Cape Town City's DStv

Diski Challenge team for the 2023/24 campaign and also in charge of the club youth's department. In June 2024, Kossmann became part of the technical team at the Austrian club SV Ried.

His columns have proved increasingly popular, and have been republished (and translated) worldwide. He has also provided content for one of the world-leading tactics blogs - spielverlagerung.com.

Expert Interview Yiannis Tsalatsidis Part 2

This week, we continue speaking to coach Yiannis Tsalatsidis. Yiannis is a coach from Canada who has extensive experience of working at all levels of the game, men's and women's football, boys and girls, senior and development. Yiannis most recently worked with NK Domzale in Slovenia and before that with FC London in Ontario in his native Canada. We will benefit from his extensive knowledge by asking questions around various coaching topics.

Having worked on different continents and across an incredibly vast range of different levels and age groups. What are some of the key lessons you have drawn from these different experiences?

YT: Football is universal. The game is the same everywhere, and the game doesn't change. What changes are people and the spaces in which they interact. I've learned a lot about identities.

Where do these stem from? How do we acquire them? Do we get to choose this? What I've found is that we become the stories we tell ourselves. And it's these stories that become the lens or filter through which we see the world.

So before stepping into a new context or culture, we must do our very best to understand the deep-rooted stories that the people in your sphere of influence are telling themselves, and where did they originate from. From here, you can develop shared understanding and empathy. This is the starting point for change.

When we talk about change it is also key to note that the head coach (or leader of the organisation) is often the greatest bottleneck, if you're currently in this position, be aware that you are the main catalyst for flow of energy and ideas in the organisation.

Another one is to be humble or be humbled. The universe has a funny way of bringing you repeat experiences; things don't change unless you hear the signal and take the lesson it's trying to reveal to you. Lastly, don't expect to reach your dreams if you don't help others reach theirs.

One classic question we always ask here is for coaches to share one of their favourite practices with our readers. Can you please share a signature, Yiannis Tsalatsidis, with us?

YT: When you prepare a player to have autonomous selective perception and you create training exercises that speak for themselves, training becomes the most beautiful thing there is.

If you see a coach jumping around the field and explaining, you know that the training isn't well-prepared. It's very easy to design training if you know precisely what kinds of behaviours you want to elicit –the diagnosis is more than half the battle, defining the problem we wish to solve is the most vital aspect in training



design. This can be done in cooperation with the team, using reflective coaching with players to establish the 'What's at both the team and individual level'.

Next, we define the game phase, constraints, implicit, and number of players we will use in exercises to help the players experience the situations. If the learning process occurs actively through reference coaching, players will eventually reach a level of autonomy where they can optimise their own actions as well as the actions of other players through coaching. If we have such an approach and situational coaching where players have to find solutions on their own, it's inevitable that an autonomous player will emerge. I see the future of session design to include even greater variability; imagine changing zones on the pitch, goals that subtly change locations and angles.

Just imagine what effect this would have on behaviours. I will share this basic exercise here. It's not new, but it's one that really provokes diagonality as well as a key behaviour we want in our 'visiting width' rhythm. Simply, using an "X" field shape, play any variation of a transfer game. In the example, I have 8v8+2. Points are only awarded when the ball is transferred from end to end diagonally in the same sequence. The end zones each have 2 sides where the target player can position, meaning the adjacent side is open. When the ball is transferred, an immediate pressure zone will emerge from the defending team, and the speed at which the alongside and back angle support is offered due to the shape creates really cool dynamics.

Add your own twist to it. I'd recommend playing it in 4-6 sets and varying the scoring system, incentives, or provocation rules in each game to promote higher variability. One set could be played entirely with the 1-touch rule. You can add additional points for sequences that find the target player after a 3rd man. You can do a round where both sides in

each end zone have a target player, and once one of them is found, they must play inside and join inside on one touch, and a new teammate fills the end zone. This is a really fun rule that promotes dynamic combinations on the run.

Finally, what is next for you on your journey, Yiannis?

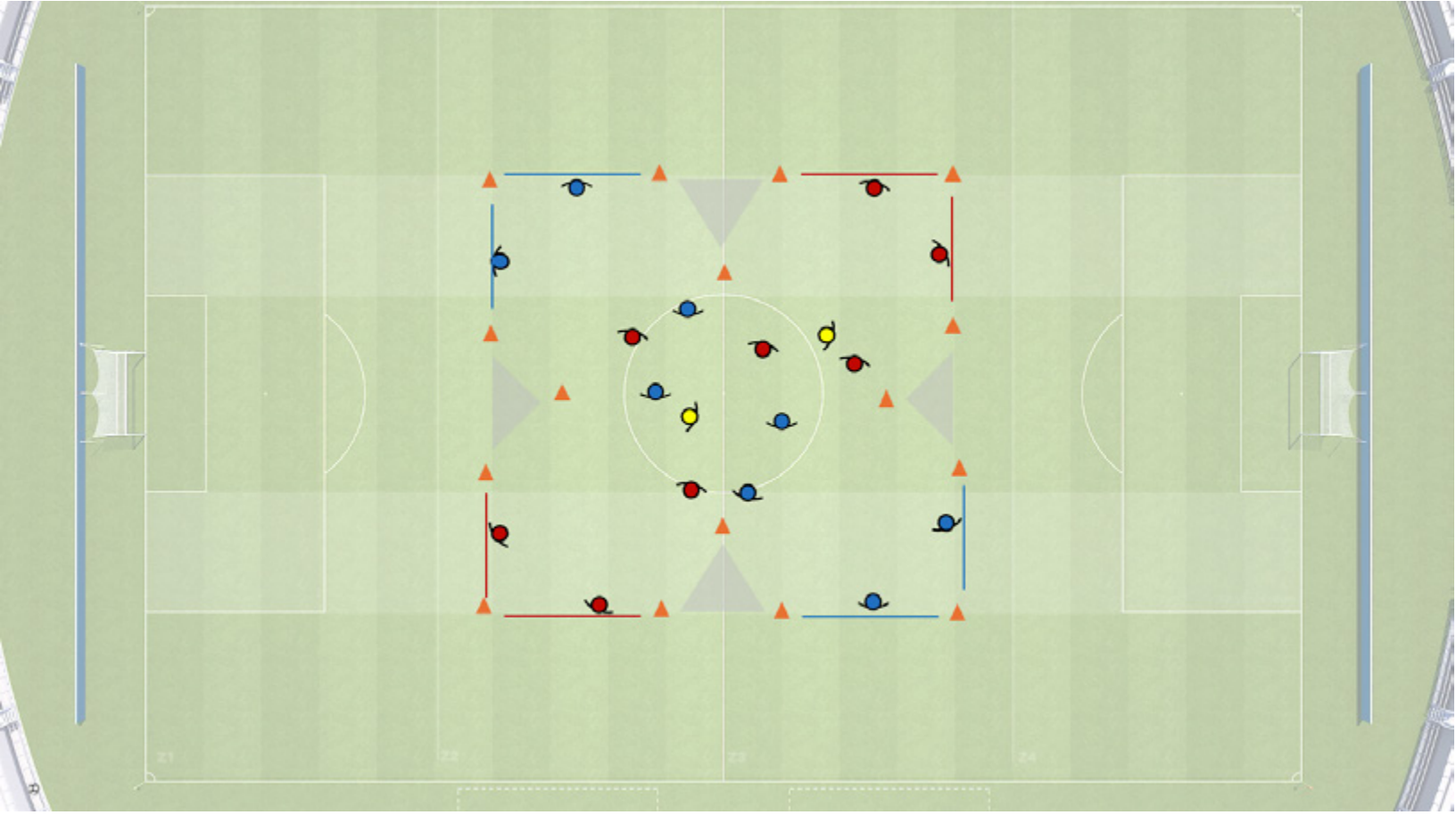
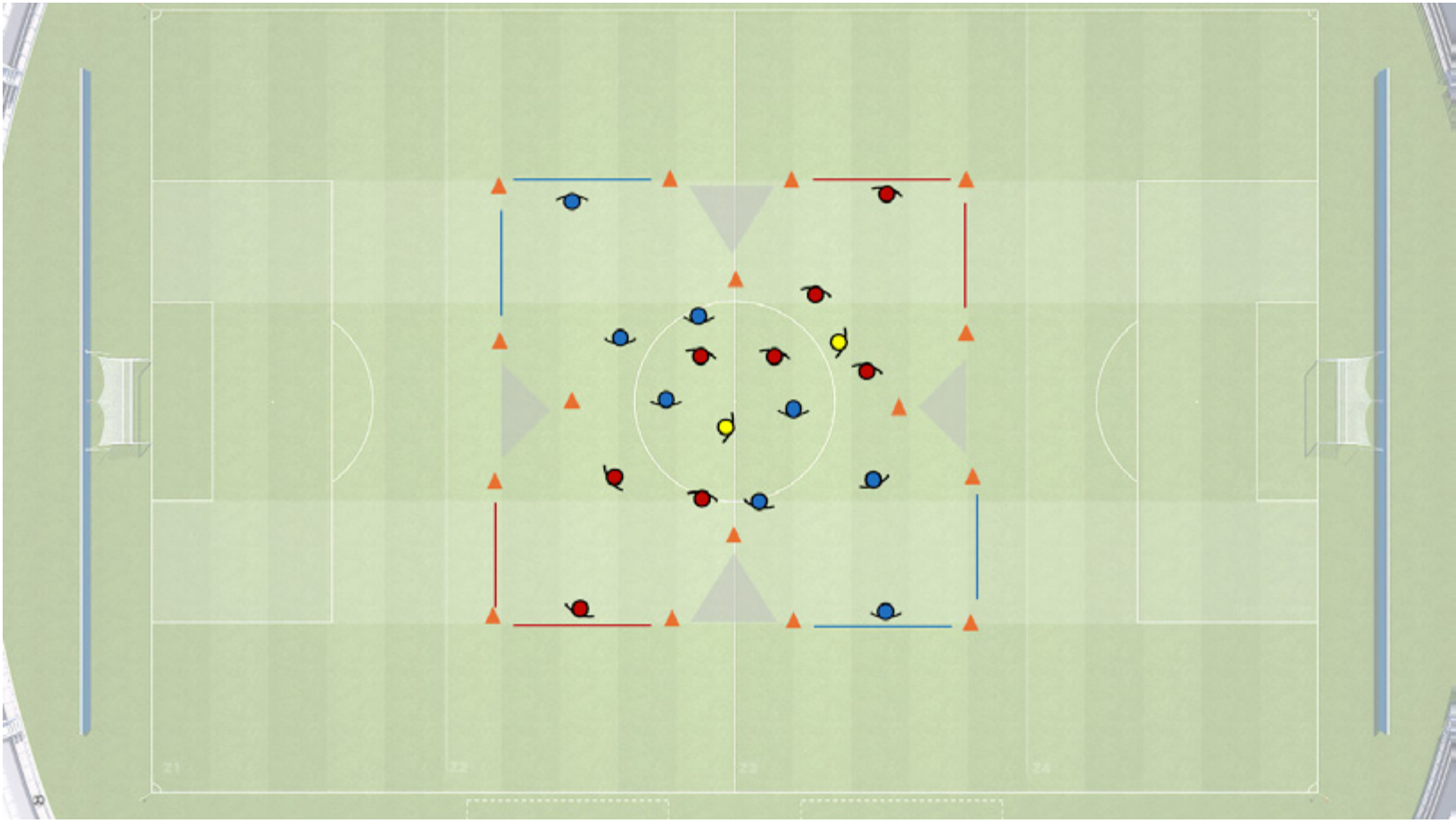
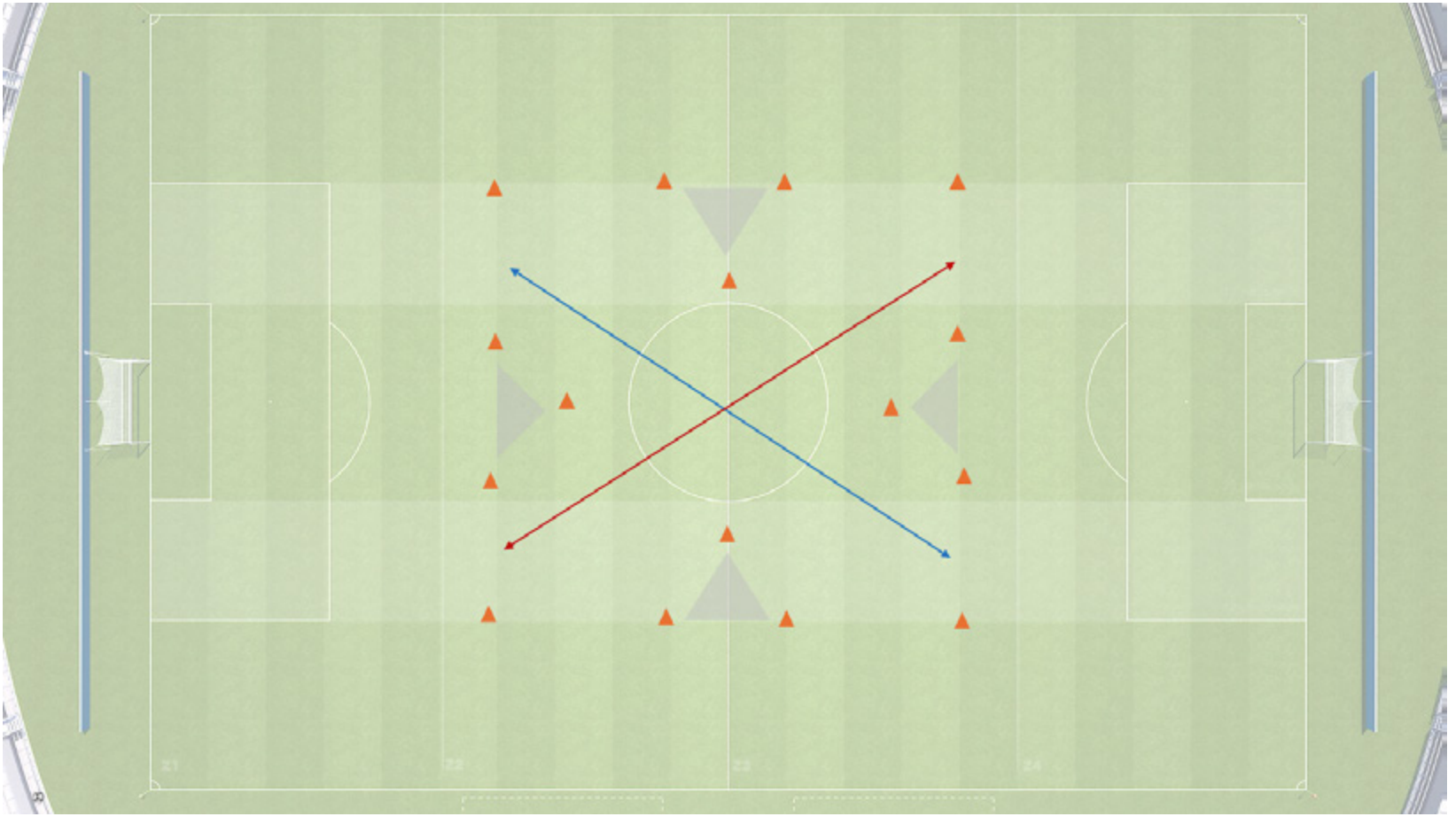
YT: I'll be finishing my club visits this month, and the horizon calls for bold action. I am eager to step into a new project with big vision. Ultimately, I'm seeking a visionary club or sporting director who recognises

untapped potential and empowers me to ignite a new era of excellence.

I've met many hungry young coaches with world-class potential who I would love to all see together in a football centre of excellence, just imagine what could happen when the right people get together in the right roles at the right time!

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/yiannis-tsala-027252206/>

X: https://x.com/Yiannis_Tsala





FIRST DEPOSIT MATCH

R20 000



BET WITH THE BEST

T&C's APPLY. Operator Licensed by the Gauteng Gambling and Racing Board. No person under the age of 18 permitted to gamble. National Responsible Gambling Program Toll Free Counselling Line 0800 006 008 or via Whatsapp HELP to 076 675 0710. Winners know when to stop.