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## CATHERINE PHIRI'S FORGOTTEN FIGHT FINALLY RECOGNIZED BY BOXREC

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*By Lucky Chama*



Chipasula, who scored twice at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola on Saturday, emphasized the importance of prioritizing teamwork over individual brilliance when speaking before the match.

Kanyemba mentioned that the players are mentally prepared and

“But what we are keeping in mind is that we coaches have done our job. Technically, tactically, we’ve given the players the information that they need. From the first game that we played, the errors that we had, we created a lot of chances. We missed out on a lot of opportunities, so we’ve been telling the girls to believe in themselves and have confidence and make the right choices, and we’ve worked more on the finishing part, which was our area of concern.”

*By Lucky Chama*



**GOALKEEPERS**  
Levison Banda (Zesco), Eric  
Makungu (Chirundu United),

Andrew Mulenga (Portal Vitoria FC-Brazil, Bonephanse Phiri (FC Locomotive Tbilisi-Georgia), Eliya Mandanji (Kafue Celtic), Danny Bwalya (Nchanga Rangers), Philimon Chilimina (Green Buffaloes).

**2025 ABSA CUP**  
**Semi - Finals**  
**SAT 26 APRIL**

	<b>Zesco United</b>	<b>vs</b> 12:25 CAT Ch 225	<b>Nkana FC</b>	
	<b>RED Arrows</b>	<b>vs</b> 14:55 CAT Ch 227	<b>Power Dynamos</b>	

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# NKANA FC HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR STADIUM VANDALISM AFTER KITWE DERBY CHAOS

By Lucky Chama



Nkana Football Club has been held accountable for the damage done to 506 seats during the Kitwe derby, according to Minister of Sports Elvis Nkandu.

This was revealed when the minister called an urgent meeting consisting of the Zambia Premier League, Absa Bank Zambia, the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ), the National Sports Council of Zambia, and officials from ZESCO United, Power Dynamos, Red Arrows, and Nkana Football Club.

During the Kitwe derby between Nkana and Power Dynamos at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium, there were regrettable instances of vandalism and hooliganism that made the meeting necessary.

Red Arrows will play Power Dynamos in the early kickoff of Saturday’s 2025 Absa Cup semifinal doubleheader at the stadium, followed by Nkana vs ZESCO United at 15:00.

According to a statement released by the Ministry, Nkana Football Club have also been directed to cover the cost of repairing the 2,300 seats that had previously been damaged, as part of their overall duty to maintain the sporting facilities.

Meanwhile, the ministry has announced that it has implemented measures to prevent any more vandalism and hooliganism during Saturday’s Absa Cup semifinals.

To ensure safety at the venue, security has been reinforced by over 300 personnel who will be deployed to prevent further disorderly conduct.

Furthermore, restrictions will be enforced on the types of alcohol containers allowed. However, alcohol sales will not be completely prohibited; only plastic cups will be allowed inside the stadium. Bottles and cans are strictly prohibited due to safety concerns.

In the long term, CCTV systems will be installed to assist in identifying and deterring misconduct. These systems will be important for reviewing matches after they end and evaluating security.

# ZAMBIA U17 AIM FOR BACK-TO-BACK WORLD CUP SPOTS

By Joseph Tembo



Zambia U17 Women’s National Team coach Carol Kanyemba says her side is ready to fight for a second consecutive FIFA U17 Women’s World Cup qualification when they take on Benin in the return leg of the final qualifier this Saturday in Lomé, Togo.

Zambia heads into the match with a narrow 2-1 lead from the first leg played in Ndola. Despite the advantage, Kanyemba acknowledges the pressure on her squad to deliver once again, especially after their historic appearance at the previous tournament.

“There’s a lot of expectation from fans and the team itself,” she said. “We’ve focused on improving our finishing and reminded the girls to stay confident and make smart decisions.”

Although the match is being held on neutral ground, Kanyemba admits Benin could benefit from being closer to home and will be eager to make history with their first-ever

World Cup appearance. Still, she believes her team has prepared well, both tactically and mentally.

“We need to avoid conceding and be more clinical in front of goal,” Kanyemba added. “The away goal we gave up in Ndola makes this match even more critical.”

The coach also emphasized the importance of game management and using substitutions wisely to shift momentum when needed.

Beyond Saturday’s result, Kanyemba believes back-to-back World Cup appearances would be a major boost for women’s football in Zambia. She pointed to the example of captain Mercy Chipasula, who has since moved up to the senior Copper Queens and is now making headlines on the international stage.

“Seeing Mercy’s growth shows young girls across the country that hard work and dedication can take you to the top,” she said. “That’s what this journey is about—hope, belief, and opportunity.”

# TRIDENT FC LANDS \$64,000 SPONSORSHIP AHEAD OF SUPER LEAGUE BID

By Lucky Chama



Trident Football Club secured US\$64,000 in sponsorship after a successful Sponsors Engagement Meeting aimed at securing sponsorships, held on Thursday, 24th April 2025, at Iridium Lodge in Kalumbila.

The Conquerors, currently seeking promotion to the Super League, secured sponsorships from three major mine contracting firms:

Rocktech, Handvic, and Intertrek. Rocktech pledged US\$22,500 to support club operations and continue sponsoring the Man of the Match award for the 2025/2026 season.

Handvic contributed US\$24,000, while Intertrek pledged US\$20,000 towards club operations.

Trident Football Club Vice-

President Sapalo Kachiwala mentioned that the contributions will greatly strengthen the club’s operational capacity and improve its competitiveness on and off the field.

“All sponsorship funds will be managed through our main sponsor, Trident Foundation Limited, to ensure transparency, proper governance, and CSR recognition for our partners,” Kachiwala said.





# BARBRA BANDA INSPIRES ORLANDO PRIDE COMEBACK WIN OVER ANGEL CITY

By Joseph Tembo



Copper Queens captain Barbra Banda scored the crucial equalizer as Orlando Pride staged a stunning comeback to defeat Angel City 3-2 at Inter&Co Stadium.

Banda was in the starting lineup alongside her compatriot Prisca Chilufya, who was making her first start for the Pride since joining the club.

The match got off to a rough start

for the home side, with Riley Tiernan putting Angel City ahead just nine minutes in, beating goalkeeper Ana Morehouse with a low shot at the near post. Katie Zelem then doubled Angel City's lead shortly before halftime, capitalizing on a poorly cleared corner with a powerful strike.

However, the Pride roared back in the second half. Brazilian icon Marta sparked the turnaround, volleying the deficit and lift the team's spirits.

home a cross from Oihane to halve

Minutes later, Barbra Banda rose to the occasion, meeting a well-placed cross from Pickett with a glancing header that struck the post and bounced in, leveling the match at 2-2.

The quick-fire comeback completely shifted the momentum, setting the stage for Orlando Pride's eventual victory.

# CATHERINE PHIRI’S FORGOTTEN FIGHT FINALLY RECOGNIZED BY BOXREC

By Lucky Chama



Christopher Malunga, the manager of Oriental Quarries Boxing Promotions (OQBP), has confirmed that the missing record of former WBC bantamweight champion Catherine Phiri for the international boxing tournament held on October 19, 2019, has been added to BoxRec.

In the international tournament, Phiri fought against Flora Machela in the main event, while Lemmy Simbeye faced Joseph Chewes, and

Alfred Muwowo challenged Juma Fundi.

Additional bouts on the scorecard included David Mwale versus Phillimon Hara, Gifty Kanjunga against Rose Besa, and Mombela Mukuni facing Benard Mwangi.

Malunga explains that the bout records were not documented on BoxRec due to a communication breakdown between the promotion

and the records company.

Malunga mentions that OQBP provided all required evidence to authenticate the tournament.

“Unfortunately, these bouts were not recorded on BoxRec due to a breakdown in communication between our late board secretary, Mr [Expendito] Chipalo, and BoxRec at the time,” he said.

“While attending the WBC Convention in Germany, I had the opportunity to present this matter directly to BoxRec CEO Marina Sheppard. I submitted all the necessary evidence to verify that the tournament did indeed take place.

“I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Boxing Board for their continued support. The fight records of the listed boxers have now each been updated with one additional bout.”

He concluded, “BoxRec remains a vital platform for everyone involved in the sport, and we appreciate its importance in maintaining the integrity and visibility of boxing records worldwide.”



Chipolopolo captain Lubambo Musonda scored his first goal in the Germany second tier for FC Magdeburg against Hertha BSC in a match which ended 1-1.

Magdeburg are third in the standings and in contention for promotion to the Bundesliga. [Kaumba Chikenge]

# ZAMBIA HANDBALL EYES CONTINENTAL GLORY

By Lucky Chama



The Zambia Handball Association (ZHA) has set qualifying for the IHF Continental Championship and the Africa Cup of Nations as the main targets at the upcoming Zone 6 IHF Trophy games in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The tournament, which will attract nine countries in the Southern Africa region, will run from 28th April to 3rd May 2025.

ZHA Secretary General Josab Changa confirms that Zambia will participate in both the Under-17 and Under-20 age group categories.

Changa states that the girls’ national teams have been in camp for two months, during which the players have responded positively to the training.

“So far the Girls Handball National Teams have been in camp for two months and all athletes have been positively responding to training hence giving the association confidence that we will emerge victorious,” Changa said.

He also revealed that the association has expanded the selection pool,

with players sourced from various towns such as Limulunga, Livingstone, Kasempa, Lusaka, and the Copperbelt province.

“The Handball Association of Zambia is proud that the composition of the national teams bears the national character as we have athletes from far places such as Limulunga, Livingstone, Kasempa, Copperbelt, Lusaka,” he stated.

“I would like to appeal to the Zambian people to rally behind the Girls as we continue creating platforms for our young people to actively participate in sport and more importantly the Girl Child.”

The IHF Continental Championship and the Africa Cup will both be held in Algiers, Algeria, in September 2025.

The participating teams are Mozambique, Malawi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and the host, Zimbabwe.

The Zambian teams are scheduled to depart for Harare Zimbabwe on Sunday, 27th April 2025.



# SUNDOWNS STUN AL AHLY TO REACH CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL ON AWAY GOALS

By CAF



Mamelodi Sundowns booked their place in the final of the TotalEnergies CAF Champions League after a tense 1-1 draw against Al Ahly at the Cairo International Stadium on Friday night, progressing on the away goals rule.

Following a goalless first leg in Pretoria, the second leg promised drama — and it delivered. Al Ahly started brightly and took control of the game early on. Their dominance paid off in the first half when Taher Mohamed opened the scoring with a thunderous strike from outside the box after being set up by Emam Ashour.

With the home crowd in full voice, the Egyptian giants pushed for a

second to put the tie beyond doubt. But despite their control, Al Ahly couldn’t capitalize further and left the door open for the South Africans.

Sundowns, known for their resilience and discipline, stayed patient and waited for their chance. It came in the 80th minute when a dangerous low cross into the box caused chaos in the Al Ahly defense, leading to Yasser Ibrahim accidentally turning the ball into his own net under pressure from Peter Shalulile.

The equalizer gave Sundowns the away goal they needed to take the advantage, and they defended with everything they had in the closing minutes. Al Ahly poured forward in

desperation, but Sundowns’ backline, backed by a determined team performance, held firm to see out the draw.

The result means Sundowns extend their impressive unbeaten run against Al Ahly to nine matches and move one step closer to continental glory. They now await the winner of the second semi-final between Pyramids FC and Orlando Pirates in what promises to be an all-southern African final.

For Al Ahly, it was a painful exit on home soil as their dream of lifting a record-extending CAF Champions League title ended in heartbreak.

# LIVERPOOL HAVE 'BIG RESPONSIBILITY' AT ANFIELD

By BBC



Liverpool manager Arne Slot says his team have a "big responsibility" to secure the club's 20th top-flight title by getting a point against Tottenham at Anfield on Sunday.

Arsenal's draw with Crystal Palace on Wednesday means the Reds need just a point against Spurs to win the Premier League with four games remaining.

Liverpool last secured the title in 2019-20 under former manager Jurgen Klopp during a time when fans were not allowed into stadiums because of the Covid pandemic.

The Reds lifted the trophy in an empty Anfield as they claimed their

first top-flight win in 30 years.

"First of all, that's a big responsibility because we are aware that the last time this club won the league it was Covid time so everybody is looking forward to Sunday but we know that there is still a job to be done and that's at least one point," said Slot.

"That's what we know and, hopefully, our fans know as well and they support us in the best possible way they can - like they have all season - and are aware of the fact that we still need a point.

"We are definitely aware of that. It's a nice game to look forward to but

it's also a responsibility we have for Sunday."

Tottenham are without a win at Anfield since 2011 and come into the game having lost 18 league games this season and with their primary focus on a Europa League semi-final first-leg against Bodo/Glimt on Thursday.

Liverpool have been beaten just twice in the league this season - once at Anfield - and have the best home record in the top flight, having earned 41 points from 16 games.

# SINNER DOES NOT EXPECT EASY ROAD ON RETURN FROM DOPING BAN

BY SuperSport



Jannik Sinner held onto his world No 1 ranking ahead of his return from a three-month doping ban, but the Italian does not expect his comeback to be as smooth when he takes to the court again at the Rome Masters next month.

Sinner has not played since winning the Australian Open at the start of the season and accepted a ban in February following a deal with the World Anti-Doping Agency, which had challenged a tribunal's decision to clear him after two positive tests.

The 23-year-old was allowed to return to training on April 13 and his suspension will end on May 4, before his competitive return at the Italian Open, which gets underway three days later.Sinner, who spent time building fitness mindful of the French Open starting on May 25, was assured of retaining the top ranking for his home tournament after his closest challenger Alexander Zverev crashed to an early defeat in Monte Carlo.

"We're training very hard. Hopefully we'll get some momentum going again ahead of the clay season. It certainly won't be easy for me," Sinner told broadcaster ORF Sudtirol.

"The first games will be really difficult. But hopefully I'll be able to get back into the rhythm and then we'll see how it goes."

Sinner, who trained with Britain's world No 6 Jack Draper at the Tennis Club de Beaulieu in France recently, said there were plenty of positives from his enforced absence from the tour.

"I think at the beginning of the three months, it was quite nice," Sinner added.

"A bit of time away from all the grind, I spent time with family, with friends. I was doing new things and getting to know myself better, finding out where I stand.

"I think it helped me a lot."

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VDWWW

Liverpool

27 April  
16:30 BST

Spurs