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SIERRA LEONE U-20 COACH KAMARA TARGETS HISTORIC WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION AHEAD OF ZAMBIA CLASH

Sierra Leone Under-20 head coach Mohamed Lamin Kamara has set his sights on qualifying the team for their first Under-20 FIFA World Cup.

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MULWANDA RALLIES JUNIOR CHIPOLOPOLO AHEAD OF U-20 AFCON OPENER DESPITE LIMITED INTEL ON SIERRA LEONE

By Lucky Chama



As the Zambia Under-20 national team prepares for Sunday's Group A match at the U-20 Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt, head coach Boyd Mulwanda says he hasn't watched Sierra Leone's games.

The Junior Chipolopolo are in Group A alongside host Egypt, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, and South Africa.

The tournament, scheduled to run from 27 April to 18 May 2025, will feature 13 nations battling for continental supremacy and four qualification spots to the FIFA U-20 World Cup, Chile 2025.

Zambia will open their campaign on Sunday at 17:00 at the Suez Canal Stadium.

In a pre-match conference, Mulwanda revealed that he has not watched Sierra Leone's team in action but has prepared the team for the opening match.

Mulwanda emphasized that securing a victory in the opening match would boost the team's confidence for the later stages of the tournament.

“We've prepared adequately for this game, and we know the importance of it. Being the first game, that is the one which is going to determine how far we're going to go in this tournament. So, we've told the boys that we have to go all out and win this match,” Mulwanda said.

He states that most of the teams at youth tournaments usually come with new squads.

“I think we haven't watched it, Sierra Leone. But we know that being youth teams, all the teams are new that have come here. And what is important is how best we prepare the team,”

Mulwanda believes that the tournament is a life-changing opportunity for the players, adding that they should replicate the performance of the 2017 squad that won the title on home soil.

“That is the message that we'll be preaching to the boys to say – the 2017 boys went all the way to the World Cup and won the Afcon, which we feel, even you guys, we can do. And the boys, they are very positive, and they are going to give it all to make sure that the Zambians are happy. And we've told the boys this is their platform to change their lives by doing their best.”

SIERRA LEONE U-20 COACH KAMARA TARGETS HISTORIC WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION AHEAD OF ZAMBIA CLASH

By Lucky Chama



Sierra Leone Under-20 head coach Mohamed Lamin Kamara has set his sights on qualifying the team for their first Under-20 FIFA World Cup.

On their maiden appearance at the Under-20 Africa Cup in Egypt, the Shooting Stars are drawn in Group A alongside the host, Egypt, Zambia, South Africa and Tanzania.

Their inaugural match will be against 2017 winner Zambia on Sunday at 17:00 CAT.

Speaking ahead of Sunday's match, Kamara revealed high expectations on the team back in their country.

Kamara says the expectations will serve as motivation to strive for success and qualify for the global showpiece.

“We are here to perform at our best as a team because there's a high expectation back home. Our people are there; the whole country is behind us,” Kamara said.

“I want to look at certain things,

and one thing I'm going to carry on is we have to qualify for the global [World Cup]. And, if you can get anything more than that, that's really good. But that's our ultimate aim of being here, and we're here to give a very good fight. And we're still focusing on our goals.”

Kamara has described Zambia as a strong side but that he has previously watched and analysed their strengths and weaknesses.

“Zambia, there is a strong side. I watched them play against South Africa in their own zone there. We know that there should be a very good side when it comes to this category. And we're coming here for the first time. I think we have nothing to lose. We're going to fight for our country,” Kamara disclosed.

"But we know their weakness. I'm going to work against that. And for the game, for their strength, watch their team again and notice their strength, and we've been working to counter their strength and ensure that we carry the day after ninety minutes.”

2025 UNDER-20 AFCON

(Sunday, April 27 - Sunday, May 18, 2025)

Zambia's Group A Diary

Sunday, April 27, 2025// 18:00hrs CAT	
ZAMBIA	VS SIERRA LEONE
Venue: Suez Canal Stadium, Ismailia	
Saturday, May 3, 2025// 21:00hrs CAT	
EGYPT	VS ZAMBIA
Venue, Suez Canal Stadium, Ismailia	
Tuesday, May 6, 2025// 18:00hrs CAT	
ZAMBIA	VS TANZANIA
Venue: Suez Canal Stadium, Ismailia	
Friday, May 9, 2025// 21:00hrs CAT	
SOUTH AFRICA	VS ZAMBIA
Venue: 30 June Stadium, Cairo	

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RED ARROWS SOAR TO ABSA CUP FINAL WITH 1-0 WIN OVER POWER DYNAMOS

By Lucky Chama



After a 1-0 win over Power Dynamos at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola on Saturday afternoon, the defending champions Red Arrows have qualified for the final of the 2025 Absa Cup.

In the final, the Airmen will face ZESCO United, who defeated Nkana Football Club 1-0 in the other semifinal at the same venue.

A skillful play by Angel Lubamba, who outmaneuvered his opponent and delivered a precise pass to Alassane Diara, led to a goal by striker Joseph Phiri from close range.

Red Arrows, in their second consecutive final, aim to defend the title after relinquishing the lead in the MTN Super League earlier this season.

Power Dynamos head coach Oswald Mutapa expressed disappointment with the result. However, he acknowledged that the team played well.

Mutapa lamented the missed scoring opportunities despite the team creating numerous chances throughout the match.

"It's a game where we had the chances. We controlled the game. They just got a goal. And, you know, in football, you miss a lot of chances, and they get a goal. Final result: this is a knockout stage, and we are out," Mutapa said.

"This is a game where we missed chances. They got theirs. That's all. I don't think those that watched the neutrals that watched would say Arrows were in control of the game.

"I'm just from talking to the boys. There's no way they will look down. This is the only team that has gone 12 games unbeaten. No other team. So why should we be disappointed? Yes. Disappointed with the result, but not disappointed with the way we played."

And Red Arrows assistant coach Kalililo Kakonje said his team was ready to face any team in the final.

"We plan for games as they come. This was a cup game. We obviously planned for it differently from any game. So, we are only happy that whatever we planned, what we prepared for in this game, we could see it, and eventually it got us the win," Kakonje said.

"It's not up to us to choose the team that we have to play in the finals; whichever team that we meet in the finals, we just have to prepare well and take it like that."

In the other match, Peter Musukuma gave ZESCO United a vital win to boot out Nkana Football Club.

Zega Mambo, who are the record winners of the competition, will be aiming to beat Red Arrows to clinch their seventh Absa Cup title.

The winner of the 2025 Absa Cup will pocket a whopping K1 million, while the runner-up will get K400,000.

COPPER PRINCESSES SOAR TO BACK-TO-BACK WORLD CUP BERTHS WITH THRILLING 4-1 WIN OVER BENIN

By Joseph Tembo



The Zambia Under-17 women's team has qualified for the 2025 FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup following an emphatic 4-1 win to complete a 6-1 aggregate over Benin on Saturday afternoon.

In 2024, the under-17 women qualified for the FIFA World Cup in the Dominican Republic and will be going to the tournament for the second consecutive time and the third time overall.

The match took place in the Togolese capital of Lome, with the team led by Carol Kanyemba holding a 2-1 advantage from the first leg played at the Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola a week earlier.

Mercy Chipasula made a strong start for the Copper Princesses at the 25,000-seater Stade de Kegue, scoring twice within the first ten minutes.

However, Benin responded by scoring a goal in the 14th minute, as Ismath Kouta reduced the deficit on the day.

In the second half, Zambia, which produced some magic in the closing 10 minutes, saw Victoria Mbali and Ruth Mukoma score two goals in quick succession, in the 80th and 82nd minutes, respectively.

This outcome signifies that Zambia, along with host Morocco, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, and Nigeria, will join other nations to represent Africa at the global showpiece scheduled for 17 October to 8 November, 2025.

The President of the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ), Andrew Kamanga, has congratulated the team for securing a historic back-to-back FIFA World Cup qualification by defeating Benin 6-2 over two legs.

Kamanga stated that the team's qualification for the World Cup aligns with the association's 2025 targets for national teams.

"On behalf of FAZ and the entire football fraternity, I would like to congratulate the Zambia Under-17 Women's National Team for qualifying for the World Cup and doing it in style," he says.

"Congratulations to the players and technical bench for achieving this historic back-to-back qualification which assures them a special place in our game. Thanks to the Zambian football community for supporting our national teams, the FAZ secretariat staff and clubs for being part of this success."

ZPL MATCH ABANDONED AMIDST CONTROVERSY: MPULUNGU HARBOUR AND KAFUE EAGLES TRADE BLAME

By Lucky Chama

A rescheduled week 32 ZPL National League match between Mpulungu Harbour Football Club and Kafue Eagles Football Club was on Saturday afternoon abandoned in unclear circumstances.

The home side was leading 1-0 at the time of the halt.

The two clubs issued different statements explaining why the match was abandoned at the Muzabwera Ground, the home of Mpulungu Harbour, who are placed 12th on the table with 39 points after 32 matches.

Kafue Eagles, who are in 15th place

with 35 points, have reported that the home supporters became violent towards their players and injured their captain Jimmy Sondashi and goalkeeper coach Peter Kasembe.

According to Eagles, the match was stopped in the 77th minute.

"The game is abandoned in the 77th minute after Mpulungu Harbour supporters stoned and injured the goalkeeper, coach and team captain Jimmy Sondashi," the club posted on its official Facebook page.

Meanwhile, Mpulungu Harbour has reported that the match was ended early in the 88th minute after

Kafue Eagles attacked their team manager and refused to resume the match following an interruption in play.

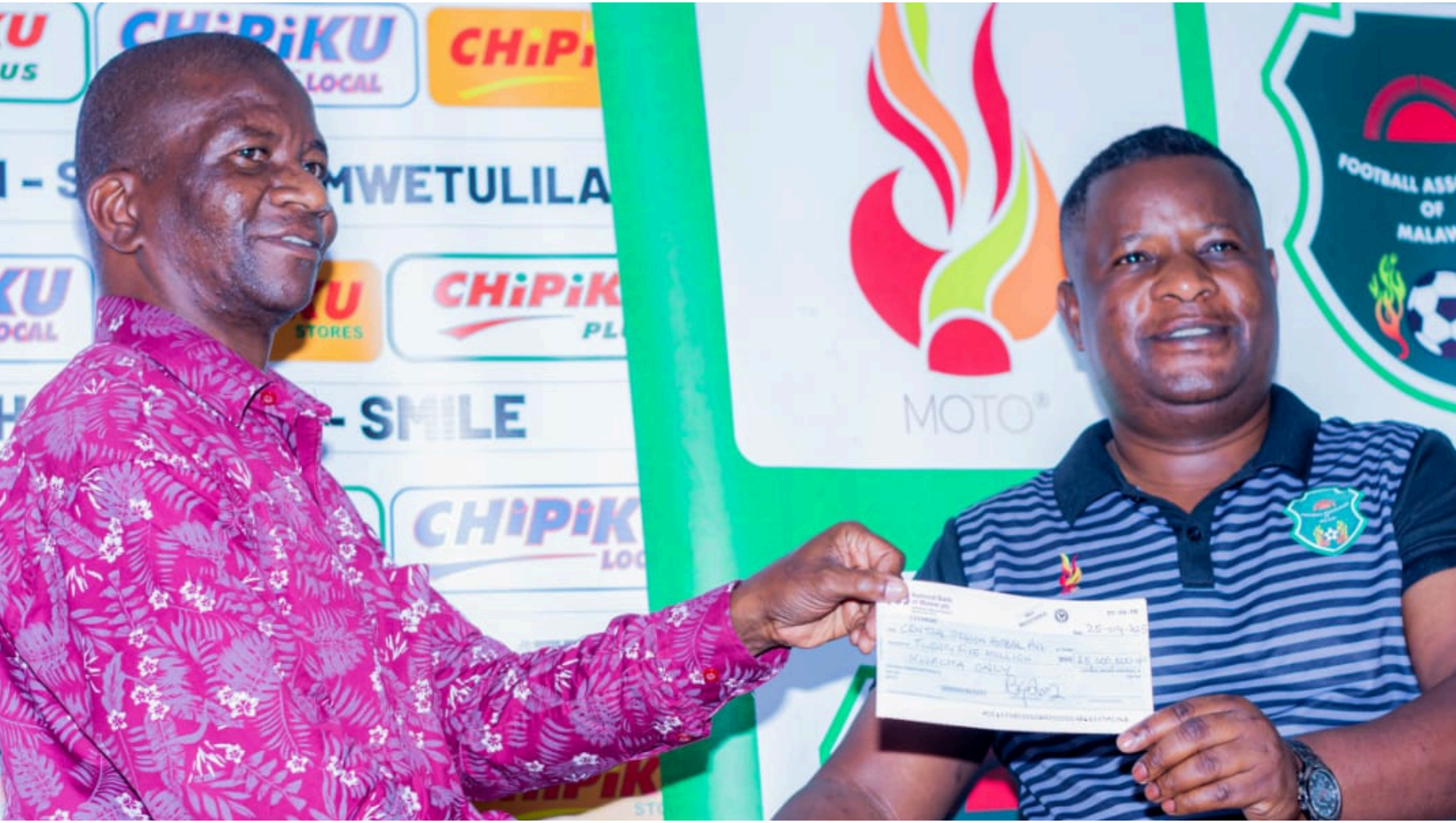
"The technical bench from KAFUE EAGLES FC beat up our kit master, who wanted to pick up the ball. After that, the referees wanted to start the game, but again, all the players and technical staff never wanted to finish the game, which was declared full time by referees, and that incident happened in 88 minutes," the club posted on its Facebook page.

The Zambian Premier League was yet to issue a statement on the abandoned match.



CHIPIKU INVESTS K25 MILLION INTO 2025 CRFA PREMIER DIVISION LEAGUE

By Edwin Mbewe



Malawi's Central Region Football Association (CRFA) Premier Division has received a major boost ahead of the new season, with long-time sponsor Chipiku Stores increasing its sponsorship package from K19.8 million to K25 million.

The announcement was made on Friday, April 25, 2025, at the CRFA offices located at Bingu National Stadium in Lilongwe, by Chipiku Stores Regional Administrator, Brown Mkangama.

"After observing the current global challenges, we, at Chipiku, sat down and agreed that for CRFA to effectively execute its duties and for the sponsorship to gain further visibility, there was need for an increase," said Mkangama. "We are pleased with how CRFA has been managing the league—with transparency and accountability. This season, we want to see a strong

emphasis on fair play and professional presentation from all teams."

CRFA General Secretary Antonio Manda expressed gratitude for the enhanced support, noting that the increment represents a 28.6 percent rise from the previous package.

"We had proposed a K35 million sponsorship, but we understand that companies have their internal strategies when it comes to such decisions," said Manda. "Nonetheless, we are delighted with this support."

Manda further revealed that the increased sponsorship will significantly raise the level of competition among the 16 participating teams. This season's league champions will walk away with K8 million, up from K5 million in 2024. The runners-up will receive

K3 million, third-placed team K1.5 million, and fourth place K1 million.

In another major development, matches will now be officiated by five match officials: a centre referee, two assistant referees, a match assessor, and a fourth official. This is a shift from previous seasons, where only three officials were used.

Additionally, the league will be the first regional competition in Malawi to adopt the Competition Management System (CMS), further enhancing professionalism and transparency.

The 2025 CRFA Premier Division League will feature 16 teams, down from 24, following the Football Association of Malawi's (FAM) harmonisation drive. The season is scheduled to kick off in May.

IBF THROWS SPANNER IN WORKS FOR DUBOIS-USYK REMATCH, ORDERS MANDATORY FIGHT AGAINST CHISORA

By Lucky Chama



The IBF has thrown a wrench into Daniel Dubois' plans for a potential rematch with Oleksandr Usyk, ordering him to defend his heavyweight title against mandatory challenger Derek Chisora first. Dubois and Chisora have until May 22 to reach a deal for the fight, or it will head to purse bids, with Dubois entitled to 65% of the winning offer and Chisora receiving 35%.

A potential rematch between Dubois and Usyk, currently in discussions for July 12 at Wembley Stadium in London, may be delayed as a result. Dubois lost to Usyk via knockout in their first meeting last August, but a controversy surrounding a potential low blow by Dubois that felled Usyk remains a talking point.

Chisora, ranked No. 2 by the IBF, became the mandatory challenger after beating Otto Wallin in an eliminator and benefiting from Martin Bakole's decision to fight Joseph Parker, which disqualified him from the IBF eliminator against Efe Ajagba.

BETPAWA BETS TO MK389 MILLION WOMEN'S FOOTBALL LEAGUE TO MALAWI REGIONAL

By Edwin Mbewe



The Football Associationwith of Malawi (FAM) has secured a landmark MK389 million sponsorship deal with BetPawa Malawi to support the Women's Football Regional Leagues.

The sponsorship was officially unveiled on Friday, April 25, 2025,thanks during a ceremony held at Sunbird Capital Hotel in Lilongwe.

Speaking at the event, BetPawa's West Africa and Southern Africa Regional Manager, Nii Armah Ashong-Katai, underscored the company's dedication to promoting sports across the continent—especially women's football.

"At BetPawa, we are passionate about growing sports in Africa, and women's football is a key focus for us. This isn't just a ceremony—it's a commitment. We want to support young girls and make their football journey unforgettable," he said.

Ashong-Katai added that BetPawa was inspired by the enthusiasm players show when rewarded financially for their performances.

"Through the Locker Room Bonus, we aim to empower players and teams by rewarding their hard work and dedication directly."

Also in attendance was Kuwina Limited Country Director, Douglas Kamwendo, who hailed women's football as one of Malawi's greatest sporting assets.

"We have top players competing internationally, and that's why we're proud to support this initiative. We want to empower female athletes and ensure resources directly benefit the players."

FAM Vice President Madalitso

Kuyera, speaking on behalf of President Fleetwood Haiya, described the sponsorship as a transformative moment for women's football in Malawi.

"This is more than just funding—it's a message that the world is watching. We are immensely grateful to BetPawa for this bold and commendable step."

Kuyera also noted that with international stars like Tabitha and Temwa Chawinga, Malawi has the potential to produce more exceptional talent through initiatives like this.

"This partnership is a game-changer. We're committed to attracting more sponsors, and we urge league administrators to maintain professionalism to protect both the sponsor's and the league's image."

"In Malawi's tough economic climate, BetPawa's investment shows a real passion for uplifting women's football. We'll ensure they get value for their money."

The MK389 million sponsorship will run for one year, with the potential for extension. It includes: MK90 million in club subventions, with each of the 30 participating teams receiving MK3 million, MK8.7 million allocated for end-of-season awards and MK17.5 million dedicated to league administration

MK273.24 million set aside for players and technical staff as part of the "Locker Room Bonus" initiative

Under the bonus scheme, the winning team in each match will receive MK1,012,000, which will be directly shared among 23 players and three technical staff members—each from the winning team will earn MK44,000.

CELTIC'S SUCCESS SHOULDN'T FEEL 'NORMALISED'

By BBC



Celtic's dominance should not be "normalised" after winning a 13th Scottish Premiership title in 14 seasons, says manager Brendan Rodgers.

The Parkhead club clinched a fourth successive top-flight crown by thrashing Dundee United 5-0 at Tannadice, and a win in next month's Scottish Cup final would ensure a sixth domestic treble in nine campaigns.

Saturday's victory also brought an emotional Rodgers a fourth league triumph.

"It feels like it's been normalised when it really isn't," said the Northern Irishman, who is now the club's third most successful manager.

"It's such a hard thing to do. From the first day of pre-season right the way through until the end, we're going to push and fight to win as many trophies as we can."

"We wanted to raise the flag for Celtic today and we've done that. We want to also perform well and the players were outstanding in that job as well."

MARUMO GALLANTS STUN CHIEFS WITH COMEBACK WIN

By Joseph Tembo



Marumo Gallants secured an impressive 2-1 comeback victory over Kaizer Chiefs in a Betway Premiership clash at the FNB Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

Chiefs took an early lead in the 10th minute when Makabi Lilepo cut inside from the left and fired a long-range shot into the corner, with a slight deflection off defender Vusi Sibiya wrong-footing goalkeeper Washington Arubi. Despite trailing, Gallants continued to show greater fluency in attack and were eventually rewarded just before halftime.

In the 41st minute, Chiefs goalkeeper Bruce Bvuma failed to deal with a shot from Daniel Msendami, palming the ball into the path of Trevor Mathiane, whose tame effort found the net to make it 1-1.

Both sides made changes at halftime to try to wrest control of the match. Chiefs introduced Sibongiseni Mthethwa and Nkosingiphile Ngcobo, while Phathutshedzo Nange came on for Gallants. Chiefs had a golden opportunity to retake the lead in the 64th minute when Wandile Duba's shot beat Arubi but hit the upright, and Ashley du Preez failed to capitalize on the rebound.

That miss proved costly as Gallants claimed the winner in the 70th minute. Msendami's in-swinging free kick from the left bypassed everyone in the box and bounced awkwardly into the top corner, giving Bvuma no chance.

Chiefs pushed for an equalizer, with Edson Castillo forcing a save from Arubi late on, but Gallants held firm to secure all three points.

The victory extends Gallants' unbeaten run to five matches and moves them up to 11th place, six points clear of the relegation playoff zone. Chiefs, meanwhile, are now winless in six league outings and remain eighth, but face pressure from Chippa United, Gallants, Golden Arrows, and Magesi FC in the race for a top-half finish.

Kaizer Chiefs will now turn their attention to a high-stakes Soweto Derby against Orlando Pirates next weekend, while Gallants will next be in action on May 17 when they host Chippa United.

BAYERN ONE VICTORY AWAY

BY BBC



Bayern Munich moved one victory away from winning back the Bundesliga title as they beat Mainz at home.

Leroy Sane slotted into the bottom corner from close range to put Vincent Kompany's side in front. Michael Olise jinked inside and fired a low finish past Robin Zenter in the Mainz goal as Bayern increased their lead before the break.

England international Eric Dier rounded off the victory in the closing stages, heading in Olise's corner.

Bayern would have won the league on Saturday if last season's champions Bayer Leverkusen had dropped points.

However, Xabi Alonso's side were 2-0 winners against Augsburg as the eight-point gap between the two sides remained intact.

Prior to Leverkusen's unexpected success last term, Bayern had won 11 consecutive Bundesliga titles. Mainz had a chance to reduce their deficit at Allianz Arena when Nadiem Amiri attempted to curl an effort into the top corner, but Jonas Urbig dived to his right to beat it away.

The victory margin could also have been greater. Bayern's Sane bent a strike wide of the far post before sending a delicate chip over the advancing Zentner and against the post, as the home side dominated. Thomas Muller came on with six minutes remaining to make his 500th Bundesliga appearance, with the Bayern legend departing the club in the summer.

Regardless of Leverkusen's result next weekend, victory for Bayern away at RB Leipzig (Saturday, 14:30 BST) would seal their 33rd Bundesliga title.

