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# ZAMBIA U-20 EYES CRUCIAL VICTORY AGAINST EGYPT

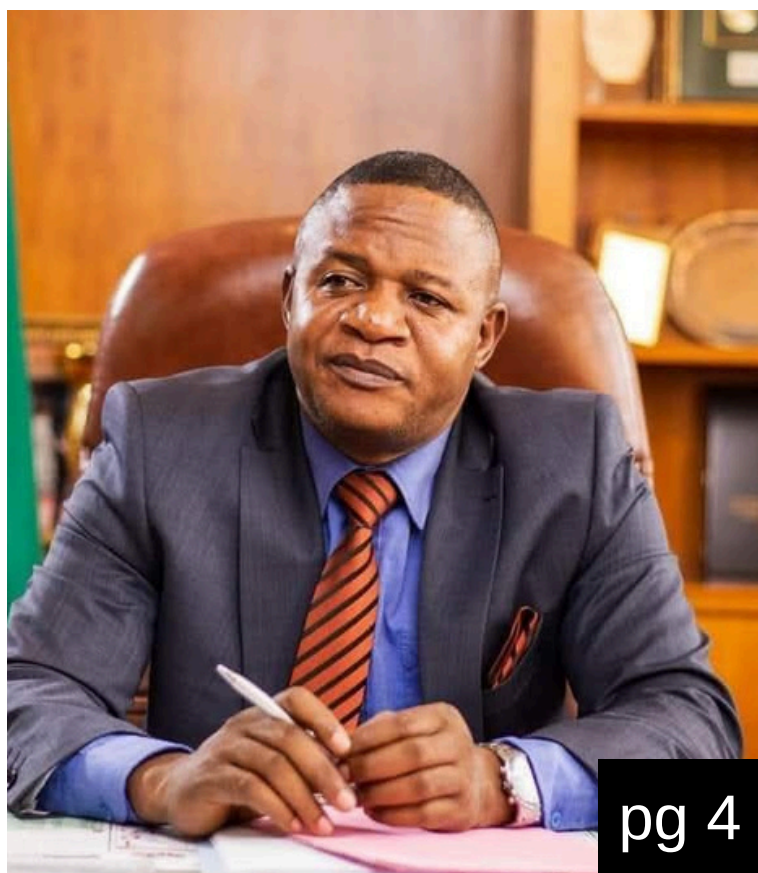
Zambia's Under-20 national team is gearing up for a pivotal clash against hosts Egypt in the TotalEnergies Egypt Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) U20 tournament this Saturday at 20:00 Central Africa Time (CAT). The encounter ...

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## BARBRA BANDA NAMED TO NWSL BEST XI FOR APRIL AFTER STANDOUT PERFORMANCES



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Zambia Gears Up for Historic WBC Bantamweight Bout

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# BARBRA BANDA NAMED TO NWSL BEST XI FOR APRIL AFTER STANDOUT PERFORMANCES

By Joseph Tembo



Zambian star shines in U.S. top flight as Orlando Pride push for back-to-back titles.

Orlando Pride forward and Zambia national team captain Barbra Banda has been named to the NWSL Best XI of the Month for April, presented by Amazon Prime, after an outstanding run of form in the American top-tier women’s league.

Banda netted two goals and registered 11 shots across three appearances during April, helping the Pride stay on course in their quest for a second consecutive NWSL Shield. Her explosive speed, physicality, and finishing instinct have made her a nightmare for defenders and a

driving force behind Orlando’s attacking success.

“Barbra Banda continues to prove why she’s one of the best strikers in the world,” said an NWSL analyst. “She brings energy, precision, and star power to every match she plays.”

This recognition adds to Banda’s growing list of accolades since arriving in the U.S. and highlights her rapid adaptation to the league’s pace and physicality. It also brings international attention to Zambia’s emerging influence in global women’s football.

Banda joins a list of elite performers in the April Best XI, including Esther

González (Gotham FC), who claimed the Player of the Month title after scoring seven goals, and Aubrey Kingsbury (Washington Spirit), who led all goalkeepers with 13 saves and two clean sheets.

The NWSL Best XI of the Month is selected by the NWSL Media Association and the league’s broadcast team, recognizing standout players based on regular season performances.

Barbra Banda’s inclusion is more than personal recognition—it’s a proud moment for Zambian fans and a sign of bigger things to come in her NWSL journey.

# ZAMBIAN FOOTBALL UNITES IN GRIEF AS HAZEL NALI’S FATHER, SGT. EVANS NALI, LAID TO REST

By Lucky Chma



The Zambian football fraternity has joined Copper Queens goalkeeper Hazel Nali and her family in mourning the passing of her father, Sergeant Evans Nali, who passed away on April 29, 2025, at the age of 51.

The late Sergeant Nali was laid to rest at Mutumbi Cemetery and Remembrance Park in Lusaka, following a solemn church service held at the Army Chapel, where he was accorded a three-volley salute in recognition of his service.

Born on June 28, 1973, Sergeant Nali is survived by his wife and children. His daughter, Hazel Nali, a celebrated figure in Zambian women’s football, delivered a moving tribute to her father, highlighting his

unwavering support and encouragement throughout her career, particularly during challenging times such as injury setbacks.

In her heartfelt eulogy, Hazel expressed profound gratitude for having him as her father.

“I am grateful to God for giving me a father like him. He was a father who loved his children very much, if God gave me another chance to choose a father, I would still choose you my big Nali,” she said.

Drawing strength from her father’s memory, Hazel made a resolute promise: “I promise to get back on the field again and make you and the nation proud, rest in peace my commando.”

Her words underscored the profound impact her father had on her life and her determination to honor his legacy through her continued achievements in football.

The burial ceremony was attended by a wide array of mourners, including representatives from the Zambia Army, members of the Copper Queens national team, the Green Buffaloes Women Football Club led by their coach Charles Haalubono, members of the broader sporting community, and the general public, all gathered to pay their respects.

Representing the Football Association of Zambia (FAZ), General Secretary Reuben Kamanga conveyed heartfelt condolences to the Nali family on behalf of the entire Zambian football fraternity.

“We stand with the Nali family during this difficult time. Sergeant Nali raised a national icon whose contribution to Zambian women’s football will never be forgotten,” Kamanga stated.

Kamanga further assured the Nali family of FAZ’s unwavering support during their period of grief. “As FAZ, we remain committed to walking with the family through their time of grief,” he affirmed, highlighting the solidarity of the football community with one of their own.

# FASHION SAKALA SHINES IN AL-FAYHA’S DRAW AMID EUROPEAN AND SAUDI TRANSFER INTEREST

By Joseph Tembo



Zambian international Fashion Sakala played a decisive role in Al Feiha’s 2-1 victory over Damac in the Saudi Pro League, registering a key assist that helped secure a vital three points for his side. The former Chipolopolo striker featured for the entire 90 minutes and was instrumental in the attacking third, recording a 78% pass completion rate and one key pass. His performance earned him a match rating of 6.7.

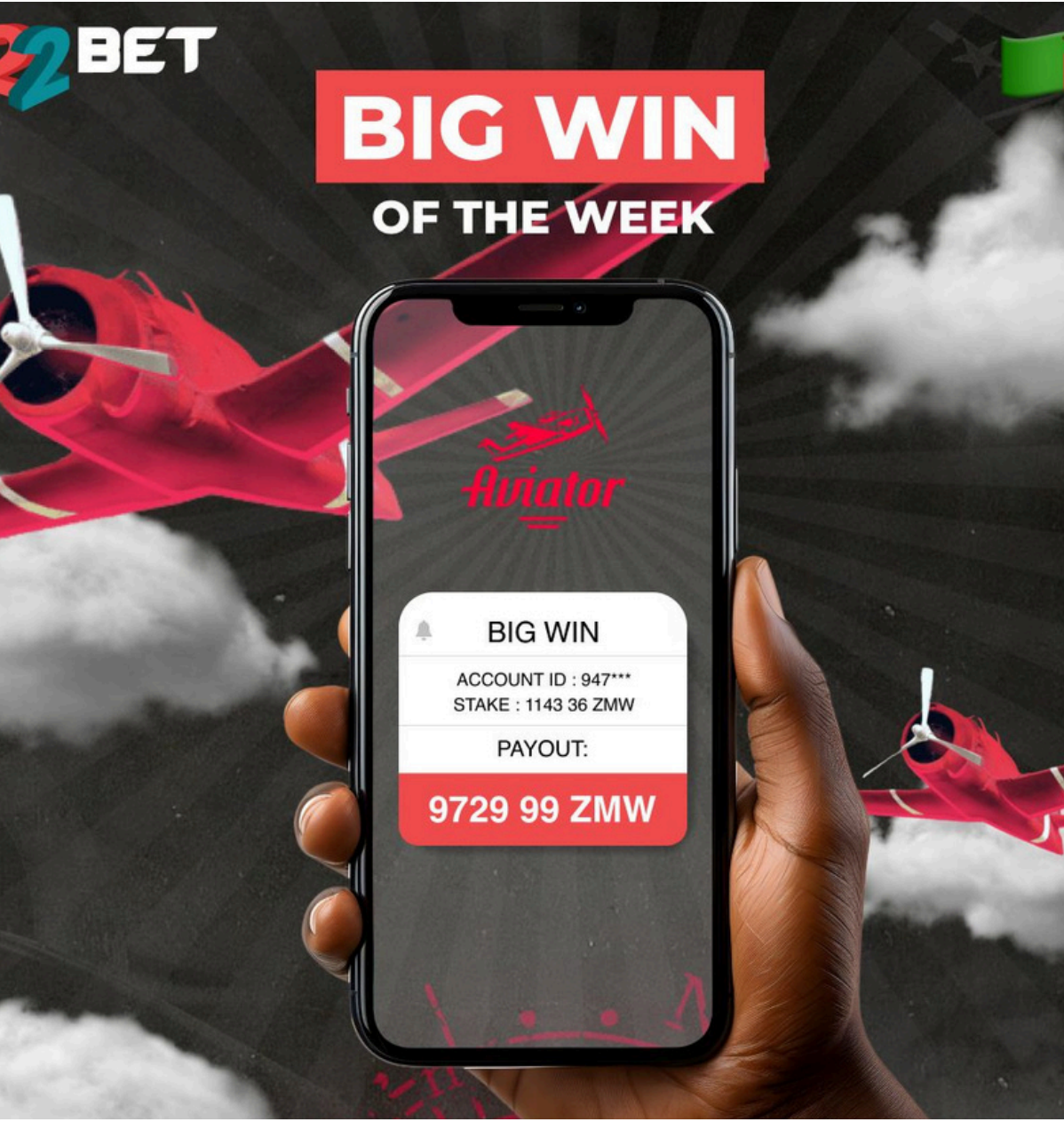
The win lifts Al Feiha to 33 points from 30 matches, with a season record of 9 wins, 12 draws, and 11 losses. While it’s been a mixed campaign for the club, Sakala has consistently provided bright moments with his energy and creativity in the final third.

Off the pitch, the 27-year-old forward is now at the center of growing transfer speculation. Sources close to the player suggest that Sakala is weighing two major options: a return to Europe or remaining in Saudi Arabia with a potential move to league giants Al-Nasr.

English Premier League side Brighton & Hove Albion and French Ligue 1 outfit LOSC Lille are reportedly keeping tabs on the Al Feiha star, viewing him as a strong addition to bolster their forward lines. Meanwhile, Al-Nasr, one of the Saudi Pro League’s biggest clubs, is said to be keen on acquiring Sakala’s services to enhance their attacking depth.

Having previously featured in Europe for Rangers and KV Oostende, a return to top-tier European football would mark another major chapter in Sakala’s career. However, the allure of continuing in Saudi Arabia, possibly with a title-contending team like Al-Nasr, presents an equally tempting prospect.

As the summer transfer window approaches, Sakala’s next move is expected to draw significant attention both locally and abroad. For now, his focus remains on delivering for Al Feiha as they navigate the final stretch of their league campaign.





# ZAMBIA U-20 EYES CRUCIAL VICTORY AGAINST EGYPT

By Lucky Chama



Zambia’s Under-20 national team is gearing up for a pivotal clash against hosts Egypt in the TotalEnergies Egypt Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) U20 tournament this Saturday at 20:00 Central Africa Time (CAT). The encounter is shaping up to be a crucial fixture for both sides, each with contrasting starts to their campaigns.

The Junior began their tournament journey with a hard-fought goalless draw, against Sierra Leone. Meanwhile, Egypt will be eager to bounce back after a heavy 4-1 defeat in their second group stage match on Wednesday against the Shooting Stars, leaving them under pressure to secure a positive result on home soil.

Speaking to the media ahead of the highly anticipated match, Zambia’s Under-20 coach, Boyd Mulwanda, acknowledged the challenge his team faces against a wounded Egyptian side.

“When the team is coming from a loss, they’ll try and recover from that loss. So playing against that team, it’s not easy because they know that they’ve lost the game. So, they have to make amends and win the next match”.

However, the Zambian gaffer expressed confidence in his team’s readiness and fighting spirit. “But, looking at the way the boys have been preparing. I think everyone is ready, and they’re going to fight for the team,” he affirmed, highlighting the squad’s commitment to securing a positive outcome.

Coach Mulwanda also emphasized the motivational impact of their opening draw.

“The point will motivate the boys to go and fight and get a win. We need to win in this tournament. We have checked from the previous edition that we came here. We never won a

game. But this one, at least, we have to tell the boys that we have to win a match in this competition,” he asserted.

The upcoming match against Egypt presents a significant opportunity for the Zambian youngsters to build momentum and solidify their position in the group. A victory against the host nation would not only provide a crucial three points but also inject immense confidence into the squad as they navigate the remainder of the tournament.

Football fans across Zambia will be keenly following the progress of their Under-20 team, hoping that Coach Mulwanda’s charges can deliver a memorable performance and secure a vital win against Egypt in this weekend’s AFCON showdown. The stage is set for an intriguing battle as Zambia aims to once again make their mark on the continental stage.

# DYNAMOS EYE SUPER LEAGUE CROWN IN DECISIVE SHOWDOWN VS GREEN EAGLES

By Lucky Chama



The MTN Super League is set for a potentially decisive weekend as it enters Matchday 33, with all eyes firmly fixed on the Arthur Davies Stadium in Kitwe. League leaders Power Dynamos stand on the cusp of clinching the coveted title and could be celebrating championship glory with a victory over Green Eagles on Saturday afternoon.

Having maintained a strong grip at the summit of the league standings, Power Dynamos are within touching distance of securing the Super League crown. A win against a lackluster Green Eagles side on their home turf would confirm their triumph, sparking celebrations amongst their loyal supporters.

Elsewhere on Saturday, the action promises to be equally compelling across various grounds. FC MUZA will play host to Nkana FC at the Nakambala Stadium in Mazabuka in what is expected to be a fiercely contested encounter. Meanwhile, at the other end of the table, the battle for survival intensifies as relegation-threatened Forest Rangers face off against outgoing champions Red Arrows in Ndola. Forest Rangers will be desperate for points as they fight to retain their Super League status against a Red Arrows side that will be aiming to finish the season strongly.

Adding to the relegation drama, Zanaco, also battling to escape the

drop, will welcome Mufulira Wanderers to Sunset Stadium in a crucial fixture. Every point will be vital for Zanaco as they strive to secure their place in the top flight for the next season.

Saturday’s packed schedule also includes Green Buffaloes taking on Nchanga Rangers, Lumwana Radiants locking horns with NAPSA Stars, and Indeni FC facing Atletico Lusaka in other intriguing matchups across the country.

The Super League action will continue into Sunday with two more matches on the cards. Mutondo Stars are set to host ZESCO United, while Kabwe Warriors will square off against Nkwazi, concluding what promises to be a pivotal weekend in the Zambian football calendar.

With the title potentially being decided and the relegation battle reaching a critical juncture, Matchday 33 of the Zambian Super League is a must-watch for football fans across the nation. The outcome of Power Dynamos’ clash against Green Eagles will undoubtedly be the headline story, but the results from the other matches will also have significant implications for the final standings of the league. Football enthusiasts are bracing themselves for a weekend filled with excitement, tension, and potentially season-defining moments.

# 'I'VE SHOWN I CAN STILL PLAY HERE' - IS DE BRUYNE LEAVING TOO SOON? BBC



As the White Stripes hit Seven Nation Army pumped out over the Etihad Stadium speakers at full-time on Friday night, Manchester City supporters sang the name of hero

Kevin de Bruyne to that very tune.

The midfielder is bidding an emotional farewell after 10 trophy-laden years at the club, and the

Belgian soaked up the acclaim by taking the long route around the pitch before heading down the tunnel.

The 33-year-old will be disappearing for good when his City contract expires in the summer, but here he was able to enjoy another deserved moment in the limelight - his penultimate game at the Etihad.

De Bruyne struck the only goal in the 1-0 Premier League victory against inform Wolves, which may ensure City play Champions League football next season.

The midfielder said last month he was surprised not to be offered a new contract - and wanted to make a point about his abilities after the game. "I don't know about the future unfortunately," a serious-looking De Bruyne told Sky Sports. "I have shown I can still play here, otherwise I don't do what I do these last four or five weeks. "A lot of team-mates have spoken to me, they are sad also that I have to go. It goes like this in life, but the way I am performing is the way I should be. "I just try to play as well as I can. I have one game left here. I try to do my job as always and I did that. I am proud of what I am doing."

MEN'S LONG SPRINTS	
200m RESULTS	
	POINTS
1. Jereem Richards	12
2. Alexander Ogando	8
3. Muzala Samukonga	6
4. Steven Gardiner	5
5. Ryan Zeze	4
6. Jacory Patterson	3
7. Matthew Hudson-Smith	2
8. Bryce Deadmon	1



# ZAMBIA GEARS UP FOR HISTORIC WBC BANTAMWEIGHT BOUT

By Lucky Chama



The stage is set for a thrilling night of international boxing as Zambia prepares to host the prestigious World Boxing Council (WBC) International Bantamweight Championship on May 24th, 2025, at the Government Complex in Lusaka.

The official budget launch for the landmark event took place on Friday, with the Minister of Youth, Sport, and Arts Elvis Nkandu delivering an impassioned address highlighting the significance of the upcoming tournament.

The Minister emphasized the importance of the bout which will see Zambia’s own African Boxing Union (ABU) Bantamweight Champion, David Mwale, step into the ring against Ghana’s Michael Decardi Nelson. This highly anticipated clash headlines an exciting card featuring a total of 11 international bouts.

“This prestigious event will showcase Zambia’s African Boxing Union (ABU) Champion, ‘David Mwale’, against ‘Michael Decardi Nelson’ from Ghana,” Nkandu stated. “The championship will feature 11 international bouts, bringing together talented boxers from Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Ghana, with esteemed officials from Spain, Tunisia, Ghana, South Africa,

Namibia, and Zambia.”

With a substantial budget of K1,200,000.00 allocated to the event, the Minister assured that this will be a “landmark occasion in Zambian sports,” promising a spectacle of high-caliber boxing action for fans.

Drawing a powerful parallel to Zambia’s rich boxing history, Nkandu invoked the memory of Lottie Mwale’s iconic victory over Ray Acquaye in 1990.

“This event holds historical significance, echoing the legacy of Lottie Mwale’s victory over Ray Acquaye in 1990. Today, David Mwale will uphold Zambia’s honor in the ring,” he declared.

The Minister reiterated the government’s unwavering commitment to sports development, recognizing the profound contribution of boxing to Zambia’s national identity and spirit.

“The Ministry of Youth, Sport, and Arts prioritizes sports development, recognizing boxing’s contribution to national pride,” he affirmed. “Boxing is more than just a physical contest; it’s a test of mental toughness, strategy and heart. Our athletes push themselves to the limit, demonstrating remarkable resilience and determination.”

Looking towards the success of the event and the future of Zambian boxing, Nkandu further made a direct appeal to the corporate world.

“I therefore invite esteemed companies and organizations to consider sponsorship packages prepared by Oriental Quarries Boxing Promotions,” he urged. “As promoters, you play a vital role in bringing these exceptional fighters to the forefront, providing them with opportunities to showcase their skills.”

The Minister concluded with a strong call for collaboration, emphasizing the collective effort needed to make this historic moment a resounding success. “Your support will ensure the event’s success and promote Zambian athletes globally. Let’s collaborate to make this historic moment a triumph for Zambian sports,” he stated.

The upcoming WBC International Bantamweight Championship is poised to be a major highlight on Zambia’s sporting calendar, offering not only thrilling boxing action but also an opportunity to showcase the nation’s sporting prowess on an international stage. All eyes will be on David Mwale as he aims to etch his name alongside Zambian boxing legends.

# ZAMBIA U17 AND U20 GIRLS HANDBALL TEAMS STORM INTO FINALS OF ZONE 6 IHF TROPHY

By Joseph Tembo



Zambia’s Under-17 and Under-20 Girls Handball National Teams have powered their way into the finals of the Zone 6 International Handball Federation (IHF) Trophy, currently underway in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The finals are set for tomorrow, May 3, 2025, at the Chitungwudza Aquatic Sports Complex, where both Zambian sides will face off against regional rivals Zimbabwe in what promises to be thrilling back-to-back showdowns for gold.

The week-long tournament, which kicked off on April 28, has brought together nine Southern African nations — Mozambique, Malawi, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, and host nation Zimbabwe — to compete in the prestigious youth championship.

The Zambian girls have displayed exceptional skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the

tournament, defeating formidable opponents to earn their places in the finals. The teams now have their eyes firmly set on claiming the Golden Trophies in both categories.

Speaking ahead of the finals, team officials expressed pride in the girls’ performances and confidence in their ability to go all the way.

“The girls are determined, focused, and ready to bring the trophies home,” said a team spokesperson. “Their journey so far has been inspiring, and tomorrow is their moment to shine.”

The finals will not only determine the champions of the Zone 6 IHF Trophy but also serve as a showcase of the rising talent in African women’s handball.

Zambia now hopes to write history with a double victory and cement its position as a powerhouse in regional youth handball.

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Season 2024/25 - Week 33

3rd May, 2025

Power Dynamos

15:00 hrs

Arthur Davies

Green Eagles

Forest Rangers

15:00 hrs

Dola Hill Stadium

Red Arrows

Green Buffaloes

15:00 hrs

Edwin Imboela Stadium

Nchanga Rangers

Indeni

15:00 hrs

Indeni Sports Complex

Atletico Lusaka

Lumwana Radiants

15:00 hrs

Lumwana Ground

Napsa Stars

FC Muza

15:00 hrs

Nakambala Stadium

Nkana Fc

Zanaco FC

15:00 hrs

Sunset Stadium

Mufulira Wanderers

4th May, 2025

Kabwe Warriors

15:00 hrs

Railway Stadium

Nkwazi FC

Mutondo Stars

15:00 hrs

Arthur Davies

Zesco United

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# BHIKA URGES CLINICAL EDGE AS ZAMBIA PREPARES FOR BATTLE OF THE ZAMBEZI SHOWDOWN

By Lucky Chama



Zambia National Rugby Team captain Ali Bhika has urged his teammates to be clinical against Zimbabwe in this Sunday’s Battle of the Zambezi in Harare.

The Copper Eagles will meet the Sables at the Harare Sports Club.

In an exclusive interview, Bhika attributed the defeat in the last meeting between the sides to a lack of cutting edge from the Zambian team.

Bhika said the Zimbabweans were more clinical in their finishing compared to Zambia, which made a lot of unforced errors.

He also said the team has prepared adequately for the first leg of the Zambezi Series.

“The team is well-drilled; we began our preparations well, most guys were put into camp on time, and this time around we don’t have any

players carrying any knocks or injuries. The guys are fit; we are at a high-intensity training session through training sessions throughout the week, and we are very much ready for the encounter.” Bhika said.

“Last year the differences weren’t that much between us and Zimbabwe, but the major difference or the small difference was just the clinicality. Zimbabwe were more clinical, and we had small errors or unforced errors that we made that cost us the game in the last minutes. We need to be more disciplined and avoid unforced errors.”

With the team comprising experienced and new players, the captain also revealed that the newcomers have settled in well.

“We’ve encouraged them, we’ve made them feel welcome in the camp, and we’ve asked them to just express themselves. There’s a reason

why they’re called into camp and selected for this game. They have a certain skill set, and we’ve encouraged them to feel free and just express themselves to the benefit of the team,” he stated.

The captain also encouraged rugby fans to rally behind the team.

“We’ve got a fantastic fan base, both local and outside Zambia. All the fans, through thick and thin, they’ve supported us, and we’re really grateful. We enjoy having their support, and we just want to urge them to keep supporting us as we enter this amazing challenge, and we’re promising to do whatever we can do to make sure we come up with a positive result.”

The much-anticipated Battle of the Zambezi between Zambia and Zimbabwe will kick off at 14:30 this Sunday.

# NSCZ CEO APPLAUDS ZAMBIA POOL UNION FOR TRANSPARENT COACH RECRUITMENT PROCESS

By Lucky Chama



Sombwa Musunsa, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Sports Council of Zambia (NSCZ), has commended the Zambia Pool Union for advertising the position of national team coaches.

Zambia Pool Union has advertised the position of national team coaches for the 2025 season. Requirements for the positions have also been added to the job advert, prescribing the minimum qualifications required for one to apply.

In a Facebook post monitored by FullTime, Musunsa states that the development is commendable as it will put the right person in the position.

Musunsa also adds that advertising for the positions is a sign of transparency and credibility in the selection process.

“The move by the union is highly commended and comes at a time when we need to see more qualified persons leading NFs. This development must be emulated by all NFs in our quest to reach a critical mass of competent coaches training our athletes,” Musunsa said.

Musunsa also recommended that the Union consider employing a full-time coach.

He adds, “Advertising for such jobs guarantees transparency and credibility in the selection process. Kudos to the ZPU leadership. Next time, please get someone who can be paid a salary on a full-time basis.”

Meanwhile, earlier this week, scores of pool enthusiasts were treated to a number of tournaments and friendly matches that took place in Kafue, Lusaka and Kalulushi.

An Under-23 friendly pool match between Kafue and Lusaka districts took centre stage at Eagles Pool Parlour. The event featured a variety of formats, including individual, doubles, and team games. Kafue District emerged victorious with an impressive 10-point margin.

Garage Pool Club walked away with a K12,000 cash prize and the trophy in the Kalulushi District pool tournament, sponsored by Member of Parliament Kampamba Mulenga and Curtis Goss of Garage Pub and Grill.

In Lusaka, Billiards Cafe hosted a singles pool tournament that drew regional attention, with Uganda’s Ssetumba Geoffrey, popularly known as “Fire”, triumphing at the end of the competition.

The pool tournaments were held on April 28 to commemorate Kenneth Kaunda Day.

# RECORD-BREAKING KANSANSHI MARATHON PUTS SOLWEZI ON GLOBAL SPORTING MAP

By Lucky Chama



A record-breaking 2,300 runners will compete in the 2025 Kansanshi Marathon this weekend in Solwezi, Zambia, making it the biggest public sporting event to ever take place in the North-Western Province. Beyond being a race, this year’s edition signifies a significant move towards inclusivity and international recognition. For the first time in Zambian marathon history, the event will feature two dedicated race categories for persons with

disabilities. With 28 athletes with disabilities registered, the marathon is breaking barriers and setting a new standard for accessible sports in the region. Runners from nine countries—including Zambia, France, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Canada, Kenya, the DRC, the United States, and Zimbabwe—will participate, showcasing the increasing international participation in the Kansanshi

Marathon and enhancing Solwezi’s reputation as a developing center for international sport.

Additionally, Zambia’s elite athletes, Elizabeth Mukoloma and Edward Mwale, will use the 42-kilometre marathon as part of their final preparations for the prestigious Comrades Marathon in South Africa. Their presence brings prestige and anticipation to this already ground-breaking event.

“This year’s Kansanshi Marathon is more than a sporting fixture—it’s a celebration of inclusion, international friendship, and community spirit,” said Eugin Kasempa, Kansanshi Mine’s Community Sports Officer. “We’re not just hosting a marathon—we’re reshaping what competitive sport looks like in Zambia.”

With the help of Kansanshi Mining PLC, the event was organised and is a shining example of health, opportunity, and unity, demonstrating the transformative power of sport in society.

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