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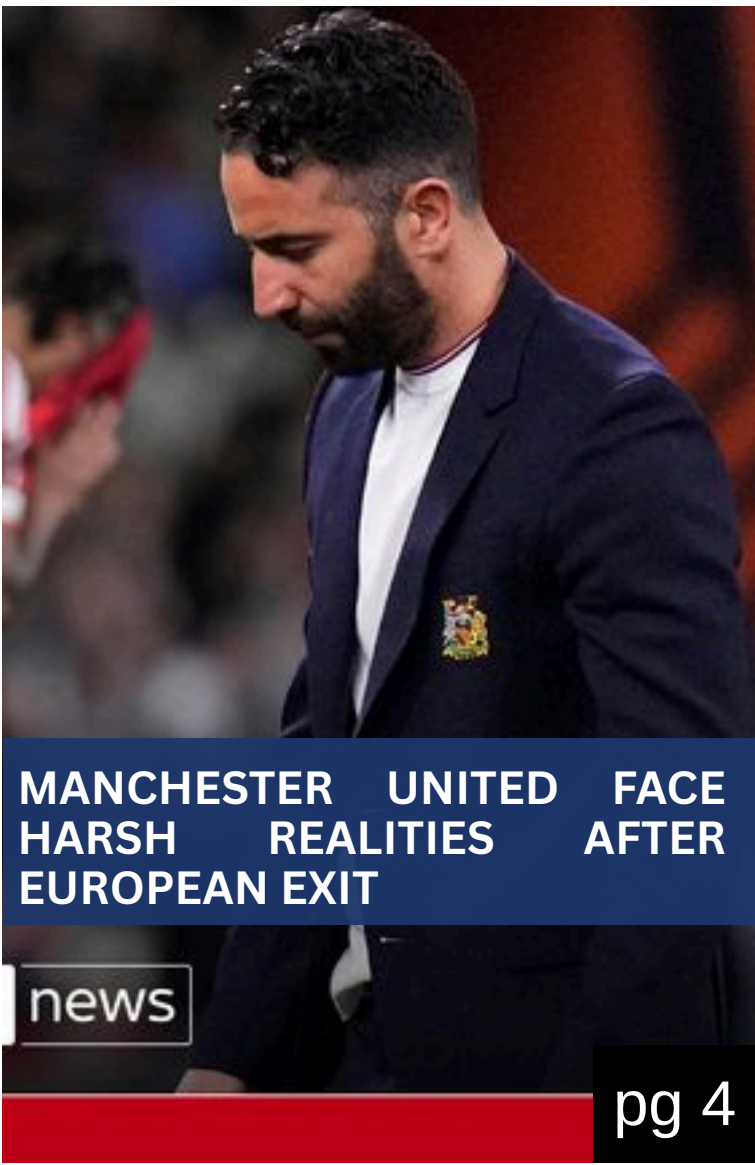


ZAMBIA NAMES SQUAD FOR COSAFA

Zambia has announced a 35-man provisional squad for the upcoming 2025 COSAFA Cup, with the tournament set to take place in South Africa from June 3 to ... pg 3



ZAMBIA VOLLEYBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE 2025 LADIES RESULTS(WEEK 1)				
DATE	MATCH		VENUE	
Saturday, 17-05-25	GREEN BUFFALOES	3-0	NKWAZI	OYDC
Saturday, 17-05-25	UNZA	0-3	RED ARROWS	OYDC
Saturday, 17-05-25	FALCONS	3-0	SOLWEZI ACKERS	OYDC
Saturday, 17-05-25	CHRIDGERS	0-3	PRISON LEOPARDS	OYDC
Saturday, 17-05-25	SOLWEZI ACKERS	1-3	UNZA	OYDC
THRILLING START TO ZAMBIA VOLLEYBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE 2025 LADIES SEASON				
Sunday, 18-05-25	SOLWEZI ACKERS	3-1	CHRIDGERS	OYDC
Sunday, 18-05-25	PRISON LEOPARDS	3-2	GREEN BUFFALOES	OYDC

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ZAMBIA NAMES PROVISIONAL 35-MAN SQUAD FOR 2025 COSAFA CUP

By Lucky Chana



Zambia has announced a 35-man provisional squad for the upcoming 2025 COSAFA Cup, with the tournament set to take place in South Africa from June 3 to 15. The Chipolopolo will be looking to bounce back from a disappointing campaign in 2024 as they prepare to battle Comoros and Botswana in Group D.

The squad, seen by FULLT:ME Sports, features a vibrant mix of seasoned campaigners and exciting young talent drawn exclusively from the domestic circuit, including the MTN Super League, the ZPL National League, and the Lusaka and Southern Province Division One leagues.

The team is expected to be led by head coach Wedson Nyirenda, with the selection reflecting a clear strategy focused on squad depth, positional balance, and youthful energy, qualities crucial ahead of Zambia’s African Nations Championship (CHAN) participation in August.

Goalkeeping Department

Zambia has called up four goalkeepers: Lawrence Mulenga (Power Dynamos), Mangani Banda

(Kabwe Warriors), Charles Kalumba (Red Arrows), and Victor Chabu (Nchanga Rangers), all of whom have impressed in the domestic league.

Defensive Setup

The defensive unit is bolstered by a mix of experience and rising stars. Central defenders include Happy Nsiku (Red Arrows), Kilian Kanguluma (Kabwe Warriors), Dominic Chanda (Power Dynamos), and Jackson Phiri (Barts FC). On the flanks, Kedrick Mumba (Nkana) and Fred Mwiche (ZESCO United) provide cover on the left, while Mathews Banda (Nkana), Fredrick Mwimanzi (ZANACO), and Rodgers Lukonde (Kansanshi Dynamos) offer depth at right back.

Midfield Engine Room

The midfield sees the inclusion of key performers such as Owen Tembo (Power Dynamos), Collins Makungu (Mufulira Wanderers), Luka Mutoshi (Nkwazi), and Kelvin Kapumbu (ZANACO) in central roles. Creative flair comes from Harrison Chisala (Nkana), Fredrick Mulambia (Power Dynamos), and Anthony Chiyuka (ZESCO United), who are expected to drive the team’s

attacking transitions.

Attacking Line Wingers and Wide Play

On the wings, Zambia boasts an abundance of speed and skill. The right wing is covered by Kenneth Kasanga (Nkwazi), Charles Zulu (Nkana), Ackim Mumba (Red Arrows), and Martin Nweemba (Barts FC). On the left, the options include Timothy Sichalwe (Atletico Lusaka), Abraham Siankombo and Kelvin Mwanza (both ZESCO United), Golden Mashata (Green Buffaloes), and Elliot Kampukesa (Nchanga Rangers).

Leading the line up front are strikers Andrew Phiri (FC Muza), Evans Kayombo (NAPSA Stars), Joseph Phiri (Red Arrows), Simon Mulenga (Green Eagles), and Kenani Phiri (Makeni All Stars). Supporting them in second striker roles are Titus Chansa (Power Dynamos) and Kelvin Mwanza (FC Muza), both expected to bring versatility and goal-scoring threat.

With preparations in full swing, Chipolopolo fans will be hoping this new-look squad can mount a serious challenge and restore national pride in the regional showpiece.

MULUTULA, MWANZA AND NAMBEYE SHINE AS NCHANGA RANGERS HOSTS END-OF-SEASON GALA

BY Lucky Chama



The spotlight was on top scorers Maxwell Mulutula, Laurent Mwanza, and Ivy Nambeye at the 2024/2025 Nchanga Rangers Football Club end-of-season gala, held in grand style at the Icon Hotel in Chingola on May 21st. The celebratory evening brought together club officials, sponsors, local leaders, and supporters to honor both the men's and women's teams for their resilience and achievements during the just-ended football season.

Mulutula and Mwanza shared the Golden Boot for the men's team after each netting five goals, with the award proudly sponsored by SL Milling Company. Their contributions were pivotal in helping the team secure a mid-table finish and avoid relegation in the MTN Super League. For the women’s team, prolific striker Ivy Nambeye claimed the Golden Boot with a staggering 20 goals, earning her award courtesy of Quick Smart General Dealers. Although she was unable to attend the event, her impact on the pitch spoke volumes.

Beyond individual accolades, the event marked a celebration of collective progress. The men’s team finished 11th in the MTN Super League with 42 points, while the women’s side secured an impressive 6th place with 53 points, underlining the club’s commitment to excellence across both squads.

Guest of Honor, Chingola Mayor Johnson Kang’ombe, praised the teams' determination and paid tribute to sponsor Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) for their consistent backing. “We want you to continue making the Chingola residents happy,” Mayor Kang’ombe said. “When you win, the mood in the town changes and it positively affects the business environment.”

He also encouraged KCM to maintain their support, stating, “It’s evident that the team is well-motivated, and we urge the sponsor KCM to ensure Nchanga Rangers remains a Super League team.”

KCM’s Vice President of Human Capital Management, Prudence Chisakuta, echoed this sentiment and linked sporting success to the company’s broader goals. “When you win, the impact on copper production is felt. That’s why positive results on the field are very important to us,” she said.

Club President Eng. David Mukumbuta Mukelabai also took the opportunity to applaud both teams for maintaining their top-tier status, expressing confidence in their continued development. “Our Exco is confident that both teams will compete favorably in the upcoming season,” he said, promising full support from the club’s leadership.

Eng. Mukelabai also highlighted the strategic importance of youth development, calling it “the cornerstone of Nchanga Rangers Football Club,” and emphasized the club’s long-term vision built on nurturing talent.

A special moment of the evening came with the presentation of the Chairman’s Award to Bowas Luganda, the dedicated driver for the men’s team. The award recognized his unwavering commitment to duty and was personally handed over by the Club President.

As the curtain falls on the 2024/2025 season, Nchanga Rangers’ focus shifts to building on this momentum, with sponsors, supporters, and officials aligned in pursuit of greater achievements in the upcoming campaign.

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GENTS DIVISION OPENS ZAMBIA VOLLEYBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE 2025 WITH EXPLOSIVE WEEK 1 ACTION

By Fulltime Desk

Saturday, 17-05-25	FALCONS	3-0	SOLWEZI ACKERS	OYDC
Saturday, 17-05-25	RED ARROWS	1-3	FALCONS	OYDC
Sunday, 18-05-25	UNZA	0-3	FALCONS	OYDC
Sunday, 18-05-25	NAPSA	3-0	CHALUBE	OYDC
Sunday, 18-05-25	NKWAZI	3-0	UNZA	OYDC
Sunday, 18-05-25	PRISON LEOPARDS	3-0	NAPSA	OYDC

DATE	MATCH		VENUE
Saturday, 17-05-25	CHALUBE	0-3	GREEN EAGLES
Saturday, 17-05-25	WOLVES LUSAKA	0-3	PRISON LEOPARDS
Saturday, 17-05-25	GREEN EAGLES	3-0	WOLVES LUSAKA
Saturday, 17-05-25	CITY OF LUSAKA	2-3	NAPSA
Sunday, 18-05-25	PRISON LEOPARDS	0-3	GREEN BUFFALOES
Sunday, 18-05-25	CITY OF LUSAKA	1-3	RED ARROWS
Sunday, 18-05-25	WOLVES LUSAKA	0-0	CHALUBE
Sunday, 18-05-25	SOLWEZI ACKERS	1-3	CITY OF LUSAKA

The Zambia Volleyball National League 2025 Gents Edition kicked off with a bang over the weekend, treating fans to thrilling matches across two venues—OYDC and UNZA. With teams showcasing tactical finesse and raw power, Week 1 set the stage for what promises to be a fiercely contested season.

Green Buffaloes opened the campaign with a commanding 3-0 win over Nkwazi at NASDEC on Friday, while UNZA stamped their authority with a double victory—beating Solwezi Ackers and Nkwazi in straight sets across Saturday and Sunday.

Falcons were equally clinical, brushing aside both Solwezi Ackers and UNZA with identical 3-0 scorelines. Prison Leopards also made a strong statement, sweeping NAPSA and Wolves Lusaka without dropping a set.

NAPSA, however, bounced back

with an impressive 3-0 win over Chalube, and narrowly edged City of Lusaka 3-2 in one of the weekend’s most dramatic matches.

Meanwhile, Green Eagles maintained a flawless record with back-to-back victories against Chalube and Wolves Lusaka, both ending in 3-0 sweeps.

Weekend Results Summary:

Friday, 16 May 2025 (NASDEC):

- Green Buffaloes 3–0 Nkwazi

Saturday, 17 May 2025 (OYDC):

- Solwezi Ackers 0–3 UNZA
- Nkwazi 0–3 Red Arrows
- Falcons 3–0 Solwezi Ackers
- Red Arrows 1–3 Falcons

Sunday, 18 May 2025 (OYDC):

- UNZA 0–3 Falcons
- NAPSA 3–0 Chalube

- Nkwazi 3–0 UNZA
- Prison Leopards 3–0 NAPSA

Saturday, 17 May 2025 (UNZA):

- Chalube 0–3 Green Eagles
- Wolves Lusaka 0–3 Prison Leopards
- Green Eagles 3–0 Wolves Lusaka
- City of Lusaka 2–3 NAPSA

Sunday, 18 May 2025 (UNZA):

- Prison Leopards 0–3 Green Buffaloes
- City of Lusaka 1–3 Red Arrows
- Wolves Lusaka 0–0 Chalube (score not recorded)
- Solwezi Ackers 1–3 City of Lusaka

With standout performances from Falcons, Green Eagles, and Green Buffaloes, and intense battles such as NAPSA vs City of Lusaka, Week 1 has lit the fire for a promising 2025 season. All eyes now turn to Week 2, where the stakes only get higher.

THRILLING START TO ZAMBIA VOLLEYBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE 2025 LADIES SEASON

By Fulltime Desk

DATE	MATCH		VENUE
Saturday, 17-05-25	GREEN BUFFALOES	3-0	NKWAZI
Saturday, 17-05-25	UNZA	0-3	RED ARROWS
Saturday, 17-05-25	FALCONS	3-0	SOLWEZI ACKERS
Saturday, 17-05-25	CHRIDGERS	0-3	PRISON LEOPARDS
Saturday,17-05-25	SOLWEZI ACKERS	1-3	UNZA
Sunday, 18-05-25	UNZA	1-3	NKWAZI
Sunday, 18-05-25	RED ARROWS	0-3	FALCONS
Sunday, 18-05-25	SOLWEZI ACKERS	3-1	CHRIDGERS
Sunday, 18-05-25	PRISON LEOPARDS	3-2	GREEN BUFFALOES

The Zambia Volleyball National League 2025 Ladies season kicked off in electrifying fashion over the weekend at the Olympic Youth Development Centre (OYDC), with fans treated to high-octane action across two days of intense matchups.

Green Buffaloes set the tone early on Saturday with a dominant 3-0 victory over Nkwazi, while Red Arrows mirrored that performance with a straight sets win over UNZA. The Falcons were equally ruthless, dispatching Solwezi Ackers 3-0 in a powerful statement of intent.

Prison Leopards also impressed with back-to-back wins. They first swept aside Chriders 3-0 on Saturday before edging Green Buffaloes in a thrilling 3-2 encounter on Sunday, marking them as early contenders for the title.

Solwezi Ackers had a mixed start, falling 0-3 to Falcons but bouncing back strongly with a 3-1 win over Chriders on Sunday. UNZA, despite suffering losses to Red Arrows and Solwezi Ackers, managed to pull off a hard-fought 3-1 win against

Nkwazi on Sunday.

The match between Solwezi Ackers and UNZA on Saturday provided a dramatic battle, ending in a 3-1 win for UNZA, showcasing the fierce competitiveness of this year's league.

Weekend Results Summary:

Saturday, 17 May 2025:

- Green Buffaloes 3–0 Nkwazi
- UNZA 0–3 Red Arrows
- Falcons 3–0 Solwezi Ackers
- Chriders 0–3 Prison Leopards
- Solwezi Ackers 1–3 UNZA

Sunday, 18 May 2025:

- UNZA 1–3 Nkwazi
- Red Arrows 0–3 Falcons
- Solwezi Ackers 3–1 Chriders
- Prison Leopards 3–2 Green Buffaloes

As Week 1 wraps up, Prison Leopards and Falcons emerge as the teams to watch, while others will be eager to regroup ahead of next weekend’s fixtures.

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MANCHESTER UNITED FACE HARSH REALITIES AFTER EUROPEAN EXIT

BBC



Manchester United departed Bilbao on Thursday with heads held high but with little to show for their optimism, following a 1-0 defeat to Tottenham that sealed their fate: no European football next season. While the club maintains public support for head coach Ruben Amorim, significant challenges now loom, financially, on the transfer front, and in the dressing room.

Amorim, under pressure after a dismal run of form, reaffirmed his commitment post-match but also made it clear he would leave “the next day” if unwanted by fans or ownership. Despite this, United remain behind him, for now.

The loss in Spain adds to a growing list of concerns, not least of which are financial implications estimated to cost the club £100 million. A second wave of staff redundancies is expected, this time within the football department—impacting scouts, medical staff, and performance analysts. Club owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe is determined to streamline operations, eliminating luxuries like free staff lunches and overseas scouting trips.

Financial Fallout

With third-quarter results to be shared on the New York Stock Exchange soon, the club will have to address lost revenue. United face a £10m cut from their 10-year £900m Adidas deal after failing to qualify for the Champions League. The hit may seem manageable on paper, but continued absence from Europe’s top competition could lead to deeper financial wounds.

Premier League prize money is also an issue. Sitting 16th, United could earn £33m less than they would finishing in fifth. Additionally, they’ve lost potential Champions League gate receipts and prize money. With each home match

bringing in roughly £4.3m, the missed opportunities stack up quickly.

Transfers and Budget Constraints

Although United insist that funds will be available for summer reinforcements, they are encumbered by £272m in outstanding transfer obligations—£156m of which is due this summer. With total losses of £113.2m reported in June 2024, plus £14.5m spent sacking former manager Erik ten Hag and his staff, cash flow is tight.

One major move may be imminent: Wolves’ Matheus Cunha is reportedly heading to Old Trafford, thanks to a £62.5m release clause. However, it’s expected that player sales will be necessary to balance the books.

Much hinges on United’s ability to sell quickly and at value. The club still bears the scars of the chaotic 2022 window that saw expensive, underperforming additions like Casemiro and Antony, signed in a panic after failing to land Frenkie de Jong.

Who’s Leaving?

The days of “untouchables” at Old Trafford appear over. Even captain Bruno Fernandes may be on the table if a suitable offer arises. Victor Lindelof and Christian Eriksen will leave as their contracts expire.

Marcus Rashford is unlikely to feature under Amorim again but is not actively pursuing a transfer. Barcelona have shown interest, though financial constraints could complicate negotiations. Meanwhile, Jadon Sancho’s return from loan looms, and Alejandro Garnacho’s social media missteps have raised further tensions with the manager.

Rumors swirl around goalkeeper

Andre Onana and several high-earners, including Casemiro, Harry Maguire, and Luke Shaw. The club may also consider moving on from recent recruits like Mason Mount and forgotten figures such as Tyrell Malacia. The futures of young forwards Rasmus Hojlund and Joshua Zirkzee, both reportedly on Italian clubs’ radar, also remain uncertain.

Amorim Under Pressure

Despite public backing, Amorim’s position is under increasing scrutiny. Six league wins in 26 games is not a return any elite club can tolerate indefinitely. While tactical improvements are noted, such as clever positional plays during the Tottenham match, results remain poor.

Internally, concerns persist over a coaching staff that in some cases is younger and less experienced than the players they manage. Amorim may be safe for now, but patience is wearing thin.

What’s Next?

After Sunday’s match against Aston Villa, United depart for a two-game tour of Asia, reportedly set to generate up to £10m in much-needed revenue. A friendly against fellow European dropout AC Milan is likely on the cards.

Without European commitments, Amorim has more time to reshape the squad and tactics on the training ground. However, fewer fixtures mean increased media scrutiny, and any unrest behind the scenes will be harder to mask.

Manchester United may not be what they once were, but they remain a club that commands attention—both for what they are and what they’re not.

MODRIC TO LEAVE REAL MADRID AFTER CLUB WORLD CUP

SuperSport



Real Madrid's Croatian midfielder Luka Modric said on Thursday he would leave the Spanish giants after the Club World Cup this summer.

"Everything in life has a start and an end... on Saturday I will play my last match at the Santiago Bernabeu," said Modric, 39, in a post on Instagram, as he reaches the end of his contract with Los Blancos.

"I'm leaving with a full heart, filled with pride, gratitude and unforgettable memories.

"And even though, after the Club World Cup, I'm no longer going to wear this shirt on the pitch, I will always be a Madrid fan."

The Croatian has played nearly 600 games for Real Madrid since joining from Tottenham in 2012, winning the Champions League six times, the Copa del Rey twice and four LaLiga titles among 28 trophies in total.

Modric struggled at the start of his Madrid career after a move worth around 35 million euros (\$40 million) but quickly found his footing and developed into one of the world's best midfielders.

Modric, who became Madrid captain last summer, won the Ballon d'Or in 2018 for his performances with Madrid and also his country, as Croatia finished as runners-up at the World Cup in Russia.

"Throughout these years I've experienced incredible moments, comebacks that seemed impossible, finals, celebrations and magical nights at the Bernabeu," continued Modric.

"We won it all and I was very happy. Very, very happy."

Modric signed a one-year contract extension until June 30, 2025 last summer, but may stay a few days beyond that if Madrid progress from their Club World Cup group as expected.

The tournament finishes on July 13.

"Real Madrid and our captain Luka Modric have agreed to end an unforgettable era... after the Club World Cup that our team will compete in from June 18 in the United States," said Madrid in a statement.

"Real Madrid want to show their gratitude and affection to someone who is one of the biggest legends at our club and in world football...

"Modric is one of the five players who, in the whole of football history, has managed to win six European Cups, and he is the player with the most trophies in 123 years of Real Madrid's existence."

The midfielder scored 43 goals for Madrid in 590 games, and is the club's ninth-highest appearance maker. Former striker Raul is first with 741 games.

"Modric will always stay in the hearts of all Madrid fans as a unique and exemplary footballer, who has always represented Madrid's values," said Madrid president Florentino Perez.

"Madrid fans and all fans in the world fell in love with his football, his legacy will remain forever." Tributes from his teammates past and present poured in on social media.

"The only thing outweighing my sadness right now is the gratitude I feel for having had the honour of being your teammate," wrote Real Madrid midfielder Jude Bellingham on Instagram, sharing a picture of himself and Modric.

"You're a constant reminder of everything that is beautiful about football."

"Legend," wrote Madrid's Brazilian winger Vinicius Junior under Modric's post.

Real Betis playmaker Isco, who played alongside Modric at Madrid for nine seasons wrote: "To be loved by everyone is the most difficult thing and you have achieved it with your football and the way you are."

Modric's impending departure is another blow for Madrid, who were already lacking in midfield after Toni Kroos retired last summer.

Los Blancos have however already signed defender Dean Huijsen from Bournemouth and are set to bring in Liverpool right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold at the end of his contract.

