



Mazwi 'Nuku' Shongwe accepts soccer boots from Terrence Zwane.



'Nuku' with ZSPORTS Academy's coach Pamela Ncube known as 'Coach P' upon arrival in Pretoria yesterday.

Terrence fulfills ZSPORTS Academy promise to youngster

BY XOLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - WOODLANDS FC's exciting winger Mazwi 'Nuku' Shongwe has left the country for a two-month training camp with ZSPORTS Academy in South Africa.

The camp started yesterday and will go on for two months.

Shongwe was named the young player of the tournament during the TZ Msunduzi Festive Soccer Tournament, where he won soccer boots worth E4 200.

As part of his great performance during the tournament, the sponsor Terrence Zwane, who is a Liswati living in the United States of America (USA), made it possible for the player to attend the two-month training camp with ZSPORTS Academy.

Zwane said he was so impressed with 'Nuku's' talent during the tournament and had to raise funds through various initiatives to ensure he honed his skills with one of the top football academies in South Africa.

"After the tournament, I made a

promise to take him to one of the academies in South Africa. He was happy with the idea and we have been in constant communication after I returned to the USA," he said

Zwane said he was happy that 'Nuku' had finally left for SA.

"I have no doubt he will impress during the two-month training camp. I do not want to put him under pressure, but I wish him all the best," he elucidated.

Thanked

Zwane, the philanthropist thanked Shongwe's mother for allowing him to attend the training camp.

"I am merely trying to help where I can. I just saw a great talent in this boy and I thought I should try and help him realise his dreams. I just hope all will go well," Zwane said.

He also thanked ZSPORTS Academy for accepting the player, and was hoping more of Eswatini youngsters would consider enrolling with the SA academy.

"They have good facilities and I am certain he is in good hands. Let us see how it goes and we will take it from

there," he said.

Meanwhile, the youngster thanked Zwane for availing such a great opportunity.

"I do not know how to thank Zwane, but I am grateful for the opportunity. I will do my best here and also represent the country well by behaving as expected. I hope to learn a lot from the academy. I am already at ZSPORTS Academy, where I received great reception," he said.

The youngster said he was looking forward to cooperation with other players inside the field of play while in the foreign land.

His teammates at Madongolwane as Woodlands FC is affectionately known, have wished him well.

"We know how talented 'Nuku' is and we have no doubt he will represent us well and open doors for other players," said Banele 'Bello' Shongwe.

ZSPORTS Academy is situated at KwaMhlanga in Mpumalanga and a branch of this international brand.

The main wing is in Alabama (USA) where the ZSPORTS Academy is headquartered.

More misery for Hub Sundowns in MRFA

BY MELUSI MLOTSI

SOCCER - HUB Sundowns' misery continued as they suffered a 0-3 defeat at the hands of Swazican in the Manzini Regional Football Association (MRFA) Super League.

The loss has left the former Premier League outfit flirting with relegation.

Moyeni United made great strides on the log table as they are now second after beating Colani United 12-

0 at Ludzeldz Sports Ground.

Stumbo XI moved four points clear at the top after they got the better of Maliyaduma Community, winning 2-1. Uche FC dropped crucial points after they succumbed to 0-1 defeat by Young International. Louis XIV and Nsenga Comrades shared the spoils at Mangineni Sports Ground.

Other games saw Mankayane United beating Nsuka United 2-0 while Giant Clockwork played a 2-2 draw



Manzini Super League week 14 results:

Louis XIV	0 - 0	Nsenga Comrades
Nsuka United	0 - 2	Mankayane United
Giant Clockwork	2 - 2	Mphola Celtics
Swazican United	3 - 0	Hub Sundowns
Uche FC	0 - 1	Young International
Moyeni United	12 - 0	Colani United
Maliyaduma Community	1 - 2	Stumbo XI

Replays

Nsuka United	1 - 1	Hub Sundowns
Colani United	1 - 2	Nsenga Comrades

MRFA Super League log standings:

Teams	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1. Stumbo XI	15	10	4	1	25	8	17	34
2. Moyeni United	15	9	3	3	33	11	22	30
3. Mankayane United	15	9	3	3	26	13	13	30
4. Young International	15	7	5	3	20	15	5	26
5. Louis XIV	15	7	4	4	19	10	9	25
6. Maliyaduma Community	5	8	1	6	24	24	0	25
7. Uche FC	15	6	4	5	24	17	7	22
8. Swazican United	15	7	0	8	20	23	-3	21
9. Milling Hotspurs	13	4	6	3	18	0	23	18
10. Nsenga Comrades	15	4	5	6	21	23	-2	17
11. Nsuka United	15	4	4	7	16	23	-7	16
12. Mphola Celtics	15	4	3	8	16	25	-9	15
13. Colani United	14	4	3	7	21	39	-18	15
14. Hub Sundowns	15	3	5	7	18	21	-3	14
15. Giant Clockwork	15	3	4	8	13	20	-7	13
16. Kholwane Birds	14	1	2	11	14	38	-24	5

Netherlands fans impressed by Moneni Pirates

BY MGCINI DUBE

SOCCER - GOING international!

The 'Sea Robbers' classy game of football got international recognition as Netherlands supporter Tony Jasen says they were impressed with the way Moneni Pirates played on the day.

Jasen was full of praise for Pirates after witnessing their impressive performance against Sidwashini United, where they eventually won the game 2-0 to further improve their log standings.

Jasen, who was visiting Eswatini, decided to take in a local match and was thoroughly entertained by the experience.

"I really had an amazing time here, Pirates played very good ball

and scored beautiful goals. The atmosphere was great, and the people around were so amazing. The breath-taking match provided a refreshing change from the football I am accustomed to back home," he said.

Jasen and his companions then decided to purchase Moneni Pirates replicas as a memory highlight of their trip, the international supporters who fell in love with team paid over E4 000 on the kits purchased on the day.

"We will keep our beautiful shirts; they will give us great memories back home. This was also to support the team that had a beautiful stall displaying quality kits," he said. Jasen's enthusiasm for Moneni Pirates and Eswatini football was clear, suggesting that his visit had left a lasting positive impression.



Netherlands nationals during Moneni Pirates game on Sunday.

'We are not in title race'

BY XOLISILE SACOLO

SOCCER - FOLLOWING Moneni Pirates' impressive victory over Sidwashini United, head coach Caleb Ngwenya has emphasised that his team was not focusing on the title race at this stage of the season.

He acknowledged the significance of the win, praising his players' hard work and commitment on the pitch. However, he highlighted the importance of maintaining a grounded approach, saying they were focusing on the next games.

"We are taking things one game at a time. There is still a long way to go in the season, and it is crucial that we remain focused on our immediate goals rather than getting caught up in the title conversation. We are not in the title race, but we will do our best to maintain our winning streak for positive results," he said.

He said his philosophy reflects a reasonable understanding of the challenges that lie ahead. With

the league being highly competitive, Ngwenya said he knew that consistency and a strong mentality were key to navigating the various ups and downs that teams faced throughout the campaign.

As Moneni look to build on their recent success and climb further up the table, Ngwenya's leadership will be crucial in ensuring that the players remain focused and collectively strive for improvement, one match at a time.

The fans will undoubtedly be hoping this measured mindset will translate into continued progress as the season unfolds.



Moneni Pirates head coach Caleb Ngwenya.