

Shange eager to boost Eagles

Midfielder itching for action

By **Sihle Ndebele**

Royal Eagles midfielder Philani Shange remains positive that he will make his mark at the KwaZulu Natal-based outfit regardless of limited game time under Kosta Papić's stewardship.

The midfield maestro endured the agony of an injury that sidelined him for the better part of last season at Chippa United, who released him in August. Since he joined the National First Division (NFD) side in January, the 32-year-old has made only three appearances.

"I have not been playing but am not discouraged by that. I will continue to work hard because I believe my experience can help the club gain promotion to the Absa Premiership," the former Golden Arrows and AmaZulu midfielder told Sowetan.

"The team is doing well and that makes it hard to crack the match-day squad.

"I cannot force the coach to play me but I must show him that I am ready to help the team by being professional and through hard work."

Fourth-placed Eagles are 12 points behind leaders Thanda Royal Zulu.

"It will be difficult to catch Thanda. From now on we must play for a second place to qualify for the promotional play-offs at the end of the season.

"If you look at the teams behind and ahead [of] us, every one has a chance to be number two or three," noted Shange, who hopes to feature when Eagles host fellow promotion hopefuls AmaZulu in a KwaZulu-Natal derby at the Harry Gwala Stadium tomorrow (3pm).

NFD log

Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
1 Thanda	23	13	9	1	41	18	48
2 Leopards	23	11	6	6	35	28	39
3 Stellenbosch	23	10	7	6	28	24	37
4 Eagles	24	10	6	8	47	36	36
5 Bucks	23	8	12	3	34	27	36
6 AmaZulu	23	10	5	8	36	29	35
7 Spurs	23	9	6	8	39	29	33
8 Kings	23	8	7	8	32	28	31
9 Cosmos	22	8	7	7	25	22	31
10 AmaTuks	23	8	5	10	27	35	29
11 Mbombela	23	7	7	9	27	25	28
12 All Stars	22	5	10	7	17	22	25
13 FCCPT	23	5	9	9	29	38	24
14 Milano	23	7	2	14	28	45	23
15 Magesi	24	5	7	12	24	39	22
16 Santos	23	3	9	11	14	28	18

WEEKEND RESULTS

Cosmos 1, Thanda 1;
AmaZulu 3, Magesi 0;
AmaTuks 0, Eagles 1;
Leopards 1, Kings 2; FC
CPT 2, Milano 3;
Stellenbosch 2, Spurs 1;
Mthatha 1, Santos 0; CPT
All Stars 0; Mbombela 0.