



# Now De Nobrega needs to read Santos the riot act

MIKE DE BRUYN

SANTOS, Cape Town's oldest football club, face relegation from the NFD.

One too many negative results is going to come back to bite The People's Team.

Losing 1-0 at Mthatha Bucks at the weekend left the men from Lansdowne bottom of the standings.

They have seven games to beat the drop, and avoid being one of the two bottom teams that will be relegated.

Santos must beat AmaTuks at Athlone Stadium today (3pm kickoff) and then bag a second three-pointer against Real Kings at the same venue on Sunday to improve their cause.

The problem is that they've only man-

aged three wins from 23 games. That said, the players can still rise to the challenge and correct matters.

After all, their careers are on the line.

Scoring goals has been Santos' Achilles heel, as they've only managed 14 this season, the lowest in the division, while collecting just 18 points from a possible 66 is courting disaster.

Coach Tony de Nobrega was brought in at the end of last year to help Santos fight off relegation. He must now be more worried than before. He has mentioned during these troubling times how focused and committed the players have been, but surely now he needs to read them the riot act.

Meanwhile Stellenbosch FC, by far the best placed of the five Cape teams,

strengthened their claims for a playoff spot by beating in-form Witbank Spurs 2-1 on Saturday, a result that keeps them in third place.

A big away win over Mbombela United today (3pm kickoff) could lift them up into second on the log. Mbombela in 10th spot were held to a goalless draw at lowly Cape Town All Stars on Friday.

Milano United's 3-2 derby win at FC Cape Town left them in the 14th place, four points clear of second from bottom Magesi FC.

**Today's other NFD fixtures:** Witbank Spurs v FC Cape Town; Thanda Royal Zulu v Black Leopards; Royal Eagles v Amazulu; Magesi FC v Jomo Cosmos; Real Kings v Cape Town All Stars.

