



NFD leaders Thanda favourites to seal elite league spot

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BARRING a sudden meltdown, Thanda Royal Zulu should stay on course for promotion to the Absa Premiership after a 1-1 outcome with closest rivals Black Leopards in Richards Bay yesterday.

With six games to play, Thanda enjoy a nine-point lead over Leopards.

Mhlengi Cele opened the scoring up the coast before Leopards equalised in the first half.

The result kept the top two sides intact, while they also benefited from the chasing pack dropping points in yesterday's other fixtures.

Fifth-placed Mthatha Bucks' unbeaten run was halted at five matches.

The Eastern Cape outfit came unstuck 2-0 at Milano United for their fourth defeat.

Stellenbosch, who were third before yesterday's round of action, failed to capitalise on Leopards' draw when they lost 2-1 at Mbombela United.

That means Leopards still enjoy a two-point lead over the new third-placed team, Durban giants AmaZulu, who registered the highest score of the round when they walloped provincial rivals Royal Eagles 3-1 in a KwaZulu-Natal derby at the Harry Gwala Stadium.

That lifted them above Mthatha Bucks, Eagles and Stellenbosch to third place, the final play-off position.

The top team earns automatic promotion to the PSL, replacing the side that finishes

at the bottom of the elite division. The teams that finish second and third qualify for a three-team play-off, against the side that finishes 15th in the Premiership. The winner of that mini competition will enjoy top flight status.

Elsewhere, rookies Real Kings went three matches unbeaten with a goalless outing against Cape Town All Stars, while Magesi FC, picked up a 2-0 home win over Jomo Cosmos. Santos lost 2-0 at home against University of Pretoria.

