



Eagles deserved a draw, says Seanego as side go down 3-1 to AmaZulu

NONDUMISO ZAKWE

ROYAL Eagles midfielder Maselaelo Seanego believes a draw would have been a fair result for his side's efforts in their National First Division clash against local rivals AmaZulu at the Harry Gwala Stadium yesterday afternoon.

The Pietermaritzburg outfit, who saw their 11-match unbeaten home run in the league halted, fell to their first defeat of the season on home soil as they went down 3-1 to Joey Antipa's side. As a result Usuthu climb to third position on the league standings, while Kosta Papic's men drop to fifth on the log, with 36 points after 24 games.

However, "Shakes", who scored the consolation goal for the home side, believes his side deserved something out of the clash as he feels they matched the visitors in terms of chances created.

"We gave it our all but I guess it just wasn't our day. We had everything planned out tactically. I thought we deserved at least a draw. It was an equal game in terms of the chances created. We stuck to the game-plan but it just wasn't to be. I'm disappointed with the result. I think as a team we fought well. We still have another derby on Saturday. We just need to pull up our socks and make

sure we're at our best on the day. Today just wasn't our day," the visibly dejected player told *The Witness*.

Roggert Nyundu opened the scoring inside the opening minutes to give AmaZulu an early lead. The hosts came back into proceedings as the half wore on and created a few half chances but nothing of real consequence until Seanego's 45th minute volley caught the defence napping and punished the hesitant Energy Mrambadoro just before the half-hour mark.

The scoreline was 1-1 at the break. Eagles came back and applied pressure on Usuthu's defence with second-half substitute Raymond Monama looking lively upfront, after coming on as a replacement for Tumisang Mathlolwa's in the 55th minute.

Augustine Ramphele and Ovidy Karuru netted the second half goals for the visitors as the Durban side continued to look dangerous on the counter. Usuthu find themselves placed third on the league standings with 38 points from 24 matches.

Caretaker coach Joel Masutha was holding down the fort in the Serbian mentor's absence, with the 56-year-old currently in his home country to have his second spine surgery. Papic is only expected back after a recovery period of up to three weeks, meaning he will miss Saturday's fixture against leaders Thanda Royal Zulu who were



Royal Eagles midfielder Maselaelo Seanego scored his first goal since joining the club last season as the side suffered their first home defeat of the current season. **PHOTO: ROYAL EAGLES FACEBOOK**

held to a 1-1 draw by Black Leopards.

The 56-year-old's coaching staff, including assistant coach Schoeler Eduardo and Branislav Grahovac, will assist Masutha until he returns. Meanwhile, the Pietermaritzburg side have

appointed Angelo Tschilas as chief technical adviser.

NFD RESULTS

Yesterday
Santos 0-2 AmaTulks
Spurs 1-1 FC Cape Town

Thanda Royal 1-1 Leopards

Eagles 1-3 AmaZulu

Mbombela 2-1 Stellenbosch

Magesi 2-0 Cosmos

Kings 0-0 All Stars

• nondumiso.zakwe@witness.co.za

