



THEMBINKOSI LORCH **FEATURE**



(Above) Lorch has finally found his feet at Mayfair.

Sadly, he arrived at Pirates when the club was struggling with Augusto Palacios at the helm, following Muh-sin Ertugral's dramatic resignation.

Kjell Jonevret then took over, with the side needing time to adjust to the Swede's methods.

"For now, we are playing for a top eight place," Lorch says. "It is really difficult because things were going well for me at Chippa, and when I got here the team was not doing well, so I've had to push to help keep the team in a better position.

"I really have to work hard. There was a time when I was even asking myself why I had to come here during this difficult period, but I left it all in God's hands. I just have to fight.

"I think the team hasn't really gelled well as yet, considering the number of coaching changes that have happened, which has a confusing effect on players.

"When a coach comes, it means you have to adjust. The coaching changes have played a huge role in the team's struggles, but I feel all will be well eventually because coach

Kjell is calm. Even though the team is not doing well, he is relaxed because he knows that all will be well eventually. We just need to keep working together."

From the glimpses Lorch has shown, there is no doubt his trickery on the ball, mobility and ability to slice open defences stand out as the reasons he has been able to impose himself at all the clubs he has played for.

Lorch argues that, in as much as he can still do the tricks, he doesn't have the license to play the way he used to in the amateur ranks.

"Most people who know me from my days playing in the lower divisions have asked why I'm not playing

the way they have always known.

"They have always known me as a player who takes on the opponent, but I tell them that things are not the same anymore because I have to play according to the coach's instructions and the system that he wants to use.

"My friends ask why I don't deliver the magic I used to show them, but my reminder to them is that this is not 'Kasi' football, where you have the freedom and have nothing to lose.

"Here you are playing for the fans, the coach and your salary because this is work and you have to respect that. Tactical discipline is key in professional football," he explains.

For now, not many will have complaints about what they have seen of Lorch – born to a middle-class family and playing for his father's team Mountain Eagles, from where he was scouted by Morena Ramoreboli to Maluti.

Along the way he also had unsuccessful trials with AmaTuks, but was still courageous enough to hold on to his dream – a dream that he is now living. **NO**

i **Full name:** Thembinkosi Lorch
Born: 22/7/93 in Bloemfontein
Source: Mountain Eagles (amateur)
Professional debut: Maluti FET College 0 Santos 0 (28/9/13) **First goal scored:** Witbank Spurs 1 Maluti FET College 2 (22/9/13)
Pirates debut: Platinum Stars 0 Orlando Pirates 0 (8/2/17) **First goal scored:** Orlando Pirates 1 SuperSport United 1 (7/3/17) **International debut:** South Africa 1 Lesotho 1 (18/6/16, COSAFA Castle Cup) **Honours:** Two Full International caps; Under-23 International

SEASON	CLUB	GAMES	GLS
12/13	Maluti FET College, Div. 2	No data available	
13/14	Maluti FET College, Div. 1	24	4
14/15	Maluti FET College, Div. 1	24 (+1 sub)	7
15/16	Cape Town All Stars (loan)	23 (+1 sub)	5
16/17	Chippa United (loan)	17	3
	Orlando Pirates	9	2
Totals:		97	21

Correct as at 13/4/17. League and cup matches. Charity games and friendlies not included.

