

Publication: SundaySunGauteng (Sport) Publication Date: 30 Apr 2017 Page: 31

Boikanyo Komane

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AVE: 16207.18 Circulation: 77038 Part: 1 of 1

## By MENZI MAGUBANE

THANDA Royal Zulu coach Roger Sikhakhane says it's important for his lads to respect every opponent they come across.

The head coach was talking ahead of his side's National First Division (NFD) home clash against relegation-threatened Magesi FC this afternoon at Umhlathuze Sports Complex in Richards Bay, KwaZulu-Natal (3pm).

The log leaders have drawn their last three matches, two away and one at home.

With struggling Magesi next, Sikhakhane edged his boys to show them respect.

Said Sikhakhane: "We intend playing this match the way we've been playing the entire season. There are no small teams and there are no easy games for Thanda. So, it's important for us to treat Magesi with the kind of respect we've shown all other teams.'

Magesi's recent run alarmed the former Chippa United mentor.

The Limpopo-based side had won both its last matches, but still remained down in the relegation zone

Although their recent run had caught Sikhakhane's attention, Amabhubesi coach believed his team would succeed. "I've said before that we'll need

nine more points to wrap up the league. I still maintain that,"

Sikhakhane said. "We have five games left and need to win three. We need those three wins as early as our next match against Magesi."

Amabhubesi are sitting pretty at the top, with 50 points. They still have 15 more points to play for, and lead their second-place neighbours AmaZulu by nine points. Black Leopards and Stellenbosch FC, both on 40 points, are behind by 10 points in third and fourth place,

respectively. Midweek, Amabhubesi will host Stellenbosch at the same venue they host Magesi. But before that match on Tuesday, Usuthu will face Milano United in the only match at Athlone Stadium in Cape Town

(3pm). Wednesday Fixtures (all 3pm kick-off): Santos v Jomo **Cosmos** (Athlone Stadium), Royal Eagles v Black Leopards (Harry Gwala Stadium), Mbombela United v FC Cape Town (Kanyamazane Stadium) Magesi FC v Cape Town All Stars (Old Peter Mokaba Stadium). Mthatha Bucks v University of Pretoria (Mthatha Stadium), Real Kings United v





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