



Everything to play for

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It does not get any better than this. The National First Division (NFD) league is going down to the wire this afternoon – at the top and at the bottom.

While Thanda Royal Zulu have already booked their place in the Absa Premiership, and Black Leopards are guaranteed a place in the promotional play-offs, the contest today is not only about who will join Leopards in the play-offs, but who will join the already relegated Santos in the ABC Motsepe League.

Two Cape sides could go down, with FC Cape Town and Milano United in danger of joining the People's Team.

There is all to play for going into this afternoon's final round.

Amazulu are in pole position to join Leopards in the remaining play-off spot.

Usuthu need to win their final game away at FC Cape Town, with Stellenbosch and Royal Eagles breathing down their neck; any slip-up would bring the last two back into the equation.

Amazulu are just a point ahead of Stellenbosch – who host Santos in a Cape Derby – and two points ahead of Eagles, whose promotion hopes took a huge knock following a stalemate at home to Mbombela United.

After hammering Jomo Cosmos 5-1 at home on Wednesday, Amazulu should be favourites to join Leopards.

It won't be easy away in the Mother City, however, as FC Cape Town are fighting for survival.

The side needs to beat Amazulu and hope that Magesi, Milano and All Stars drop points to ensure their safety.

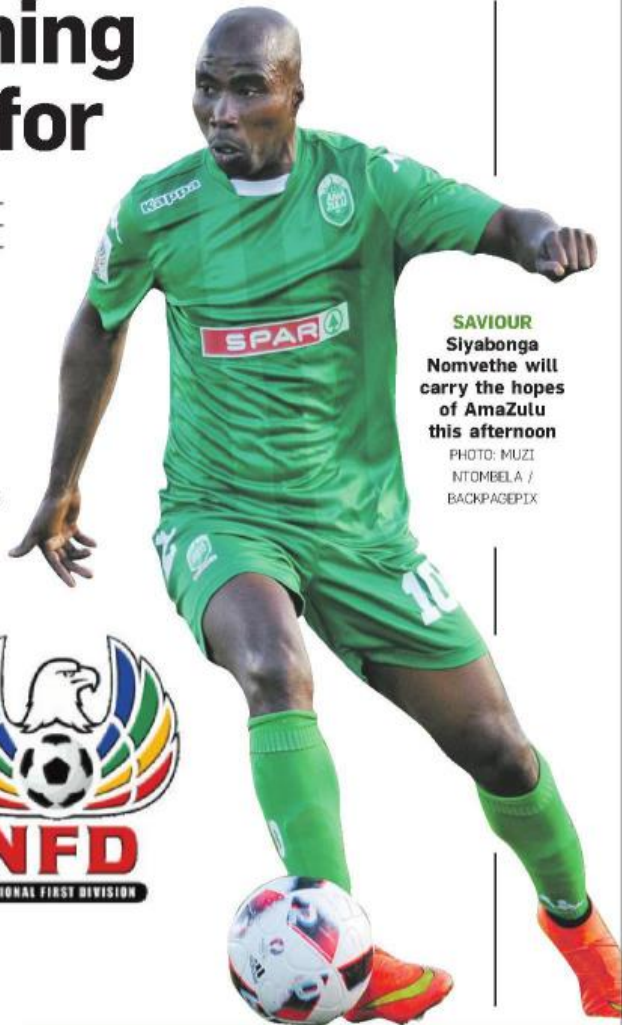
Any of these sides could still go down if they fail to win their matches today.

Magesi did their chances of surviving the chop a huge favour when they thumped Real Kings 6-0 to overtake All Stars.

But it is not over yet, as they will have to beat Mbombela United to guarantee their survival.

While all this will be playing out, Thanda will be officially declared champions when the PSL hands over the NFD trophy to them at the Sugar Ray Xulu Stadium in Durban after their KwaZulu-Natal derby against Real Kings.

Leopards will use their game against Mthatha Bucks to prepare for the PSL final on Saturday.



SAVIOUR
Siyabonga Nomvete will carry the hopes of Amazulu this afternoon

PHOTO: MUZI NTOMBELA / BACKPAGEPIX



NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION FIXTURES

TODAY – 3pm

- Black Leopards vs Mthatha Bucks (Thohoyandou Stadium)
- Jomo Cosmos vs University of Pretoria (Tsakane Stadium)
- Witbank Spurs vs Royal Eagles (Puma Rugby Stadium)
- FC Cape Town vs Amazulu (NNK Rugby Stadium)
- Stellenbosch FC vs Santos (Athlone Stadium)
- Cape Town All Stars vs Milano United (AFC Parow Park)
- Mbombela United vs Magesi FC (KaNyamazane Stadium)
- Real Kings FC vs Thanda Royal Zulu FC (Sugar Ray Xulu Stadium)

NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION LOG

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
●1	Thanda Royal Zulu	29	16	11	2	50	23	59
●2	Black Leopards	29	14	8	7	44	34	50
●3	Amazulu	29	14	5	10	52	36	47
4	Stellenbosch FC	29	13	7	9	38	29	46
5	Royal Eagles	29	12	9	8	49	36	45
6	Witbank Spurs	29	12	8	9	39	36	44
7	Mbombela United	29	11	8	10	40	30	41
8	Mthatha Bucks	29	9	13	7	36	36	40
9	Real Kings FC	29	9	9	11	35	38	36
10	University of Pretoria	29	10	6	13	32	39	36
11	Cape Town All Stars	29	8	11	10	23	27	35
12	Jomo Cosmos	29	9	8	12	30	36	35
13	Milano United	29	10	2	17	34	55	32
14	Magesi FC	29	8	7	14	34	43	31
●15	FC Cape Town	29	7	10	12	34	49	31
●16	Santos FC	29	4	10	15	16	39	22

● Champions: Promoted to the Premiership

● Play-offs positions

● Relegation positions