

Barker, Sammy meant for each other

The coaching duo's chemistry bearing fruit for Stellenbosch

By **Sihle Ndebele**

Some people believe that you cannot have two bulls in one kraal, but National First Division (NFD) club Stellenbosch have shown that teamwork is what matters most.

A good working relationship between Sammy Troughton and Steve Barker is beginning to yield positive results and proving critics wrong.

When Barker joined the "Stellies" in December last year, it was speculated that the Western Cape-based side were plotting to replace head coach Troughton with his old pal – but that never happened as the duo has since guided the club into the promotion play-offs.

The pair enjoys a well-documented history of working efficiently together. They are also no strangers to shepherding NFD clubs into the three-team play-offs and further help them gain promotion to the Premiership.

In 2007, Barker was Troughton's deputy at the University of Pretoria when AmaTuks failed to clinch a play-offs berth after losing the spot to AmaZulu.

Five years later, the duo would make up for that misfortune as they were at the helm of the same Tshwane side, who secured automatic promotion into the Premiership in 2012.

"Our experience of promoting teams from the NFD to the Premiership will stand us in good chance to help Stellenbosch get into the top flight. We complement each other very well. It was him [Troughton] who recommended me to Stellenbosch management," said Barker.

"Troughton was also part of the coach-

ing staff at Mpumalanga Black Aces when they won promotion via play-offs [in 2010].

"Finishing third will count for nothing if we fail to realise our goal of getting into the Premiership," said the 50-year-old.

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