

# Bucks battle to break free of losing rut

## SOCCER

### Mthatha side fall as Mbombela take full control

By MFUNDO PILISO

**M**THATHA Bucks' troubles continued this past weekend after they were beaten 2-1 by Mbombela United at Kanyamazane Stadium to mark their third consecutive loss.

Bucks have since been on a losing streak after losing six games, winning only three, with four draws, meaning they were still on 13 points on the log-standings so far. Last week they were brutally hammered 4-1 at home by struggling bottom of the league dwellers Ubuntu CT at the Mthatha Stadium. Meanwhile Tingwenyama are currently on fourth position on the log, with five wins so far, six draws and two losses on 21 points.

Assistant coach Sibusiso Mapompo said they expected to have got a point or even bagged an away win.

"The boys were really fighting in that game and I believe we could have stolen three points. But you know when you are on a losing streak you lose every game in front of you, even those ones you might be winning on the field.

"I was happy with the boys' performance. They really outdid themselves during the whole 90 minutes, because after losing to the Ubuntu CT at home by that score, I'm sure everyone thought we'd lose with a big margin away to stronger team. But the boys gave it their best shot and I'm proud of them."

Mapompo said having Lucky Mathosi in the striking department was conducive for Amathol'amnya, and that it took the attention away from the usual suspect.

"If we can stop putting the pres-

sure on Mpho Erasmus and lay some of the responsibility to Lucky, we would be doing ourselves a favour. Because that boy is also talented as Erasmus is. It's just that the fans don't seem to understand him yet.

"He scored during this game because I think he felt free since our fans were there to boo him. Because when we playing at home and he commits one silly mistake the fans get on to him and start booing him. And I noticed that he is conscious of how he plays at home and that is what slows him down."

Mapompo said he respected their fans and understood their frustrations, but he was sure that the tide would soon turn.

"We know our fans love their football and we love them too, but we need to support all the guys and not just one player like Mpho. We need to be sure that the team feels good in front of their fans here at home so they can give us a good spirit to fight in the field of play."

Mathosi said even though they lost they still managed to play a balanced game.

"We both had our chances to score but then they took their chances well.

"But for us it was a bit challenging because of the many changes we had in the team. But we just wanted to turn our luck around and we were just fighting for a positive result."

The former AmaTuks striker said he was happy with their performance. Mathosi said the "negative vibes from the fans is killing the team. They have their own players who they like but I came here to play and if I can't the pressure that comes with it, then I should quit and it only makes me stronger.

"My game is gradually showing now that I've scored twice in two games back-to-back.

"So the fans should be supporting us regardless of who's playing and that. Because every team in football goes through that rough patch, but this will get better."

