

Lechesa takes over at struggling Bucks

Well-travelled coach to help Amathol'amnyama

By **Sihle Ndebele**

New Mthatha Bucks coach Duncan Lechesa banks on his National First Division (NFD) knowledge and experience to turn the tables for struggling Amathol'amnyama who are win-less in their last six league fixtures.

Their latest defeat was the 3-1 hammering by log leaders Highlands Park at the weekend.

Before Lechesa's appointment on Friday, Mondli Fumanani and Sibusiso Mapompo had been in charge as interim co-coaches.

Lechesa is no stranger to the NFD, having previously guided teams like Cape Town All Stars and Royal Eagles.

"It will not be easy because the team is not in a good position but I have been there [in the NFD] before.

"I believe that I will change things for the better. I have the experience of coaching in this league," Lechesa told Sowetan yesterday.

"I started training the team today (yesterday). My first task is to lift the spirit of the players. They are very low in confidence because they have not been winning of late.

"I think after losing coach [Ian] Palmer, some of them started to despair and it is my job to lift them up again."

As much as he is confident that he can inspire the Eastern Cape-based side to greater heights, Lechesa says he was not going to accept Bucks' offer if they wanted him to challenge for promotion this term.

"I would not have taken the job if they said I must win promotion when the team is struggling like this.



Duncan Lechesa./AUBREY KGAKATSI/BACKPAGEPIX

NFD log

Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
1 Highlands	14	9	2	3	21	8	29
2 Cosmos	14	7	4	3	24	13	25
3 AmaTuks	14	7	4	3	19	15	25
4 Mbombela	14	7	2	5	17	16	23
5 Stellenbosch	14	5	7	2	11	10	22
6 Kings	14	5	6	3	15	10	21
7 Tshakhuma	14	5	4	5	13	20	19
8 Spurs	14	3	9	2	15	13	18
9 Leopards	14	4	6	4	11	10	18
10 CPT All Stars	14	5	3	6	11	12	18
11 Uthongathi	14	3	7	4	10	11	16
12 S Eagles	14	4	4	6	11	16	16
13 Bucks	14	3	4	7	13	21	13
14 R Eagles	14	2	6	6	17	21	12
15 Ubuntu	14	1	7	6	11	15	10
16 Richards Bay	14	1	7	6	8	16	10

NFD Results

Cosmos 2, Royal Eagles 1; Ubuntu 1, Uthongathi 1; Kings 5, Tshakhuma 1; Stellenbosch 0, Mbombela 0; Super Eagles 1, Richards Bay 0; Bucks 1, Highlands 3; Leopards 0, Spurs 0; CPT All Stars 1, AmaTuks 2.

"My job is to make sure that we remain in the NFD at the end of the season and try to do something better next season. We also have to reinforce the squad in January," added the well-travelled tactician.