

# Ngoma eager to start playing

**RODNEY REINERS**

Cape Town

IT HAS been a long, hard and frustrating slog, but Cape Town City winger Aubrey Ngoma can't wait to be back in action.

The 28-year-old, who has played such an influential role in the Cape side's rise to prominence, has not played since May this year. He sustained a knee injury while training with the Bafana Bafana Cosafa Cup squad.

Ngoma is likely to play some part when City resume PSL duty against log leaders Baroka FC at Cape Town Stadium on Tuesday, and he is determined to hit the ground running. Head coach Benni McCarthy is delighted to have the winger fit and available again, though it's not yet clear whether he will use Ngoma from the start or off the bench. Either way, the player is ready.

"The recovery has been a long road for me," said Ngoma. "But I've healed well and worked hard off the field to get myself back to full fitness.

"I am looking forward to getting back to playing again. It has been a few months without football for me, which is something no player wants to go through. My hunger for the game has always been there, especially now that I'm this close to getting back on the field. I feel ready to take the leap and get back to playing."

Ngoma started his junior career at community club Bolton Wanderers. He was then recommended to Sammy Troughton and Steve Barker. Ngoma quickly made an impression and, by the time he turned 18, he was in Tuks' NFD squad.

In 2015, after a move to Mpumalanga Black Aces the winger was to find his form again after failing to impress at Orlando Pirates. And, after the purchase and relocation of Aces to the Mother City, Ngoma continued in the same vein for the new Cape club, developing a match-winning attacking partnership with Lebogang Manyama.

But, back now from injury, the City star has an opportunity to elevate his name and presence back into the league and national picture again.

And there is, of course, no better way to do it than in a top-of-the-table clash when City take on surprise leaders Baroka.

A few weeks ago, Baroka knocked City out of the Telkom Knockout Cup, so there is also likely to be a whiff of payback in the air.

The league pacesetters, though, are a difficult team to face: they are unorthodox in approach and committed to the hilt, which means the Capetonians will have it all to do if they are to see off their opposition.

