



Not a good weekend for Cape Town trio

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HIGHLANDS PARK are the form team in the National First Division.

Last weekend's 3-0 drubbing of Stellenbosch FC in a top-of-the-table bout left the men from Johannesburg in pole position a third of the way through the season.

The former PSL outfit's fourth victory from five outings (drew the other) increased their points tally to 19, good enough for a one-point lead over another former top-tier club in the form of the University of Pretoria, who continued their climb up the 16-team table after edging lowly Uthongathi FC 1-0 last weekend.

Rounding off the podium after round 10 is Jomo Cosmos, another former PSL side who have seen their fortunes rise in recent times.

As for the Cape's three-pronged challenge, it was a poor set of returns for the trio, with former frontrunners Stellenbosch, who spent six weeks at the summit, now down to fifth spot after going four games without a win, while Cape Town All Stars' up-and-down season continues (four wins, four losses, two draws) and bottom side Ubuntu FC still winless from 10 outings (five losses, five draws).

All Stars, after two away games, returned home and came off second best when beaten 1-0 by KwaZulu-Natal raiders Real Kings, the winners moving to mid-table and the Cape side down to ninth.

Ubuntu's 1-0 defeat at Tshakhuma Tsha Madzihandila left them on five points from a possible 30.

Two teams will be relegated



and Ubuntu must know that time is running out although a couple of three-pointers would help their cause immensely.

And while Highlands Park lead the field during the international break, clinching league honours is anything but a done deal.

Winners of the league gain automatic promotion to the PSL, so expect a bunch of sides to stake a claim for that reward, and as things stand, all of eight teams are just five points adrift of the pace setters.

Mpho Erasmus (Mthatha Bucks) and Sabelo Nyembe (Witbank Spurs) are the leading goal scorers with five apiece.

As far as coaches go, eight have been fired or moved on.

The two latest casualties are Ian Palmer of Mthatha Bucks and Black Leopards' Jean-Claude Losciuto, the duo departing this week after amicable agreements were reached with their clubs.

Before them, Allan Freese (Royal Eagles), Roger Sikhakane (Richard's Bay), David Kannemeyer (Cape Town All Stars), Thierry Mulonzo (Highlands Park), Roger Links (Ubuntu FC) and Petrus Chauke (Mbombela United) were replaced.

