

Laidback Matsi is key cog for City

He loves stalling opposition moves

By **Gomolemo Motshwane**

Midfielder Mpho Matsi is definitely a key cog in the Cape Town City machinery. Many might not immediately realise this but his ability is missed when he's not in the team.

His absence was most evident in the last eight games of the Blue and Gold Army last season as they settled for third.

With Matsi, 27, out injured with a groin strain, Cape Town City conceded 14 goals in eight games. The team conceded a total of 35 goals the entire season.

The Mamelodi-born workhorse has been a dependable piece of the puzzle in the team since his Mpumalanga Black Aces days during the 2015/2016 season.

The Cape Town City enforcer works like an automated hammer that crushes every midfield attack from his opponents - bones and all.

Similar to his character on the pitch, Matsi's personality away from the game is that of a quiet and unassuming person.

"I'm used to it. I like to do things quietly. I think people tend to appreciate people they can depend on, people who are reliable.

"I'd like to believe also my teammates see me in that light, that I am not one to let them down," Matsi told Sunday World.

"My job on the pitch is to stop any attack from the opposition. I'm okay with doing my work quietly without any hype.

"I like simple things in life. I don't believe in complicated things, even when I play football; that is my mindset.

"I'm just a chilled person

who believes that your actions will speak louder than words.

"As you can imagine, at home as well, I have a family that I need to take care of that depends on me. I don't have a problem with responsibility."

Matsi has come a long way since his days in the National First Division with University of Pretoria, where after years of struggle they gained promotion to the Premiership in 2012.

Last season he achieved his biggest milestone to date in top flight football after winning the Telkom Knockout title with the Cape side.

After enjoying great success under Eric Tinkler, Matsi hopes new coach Benni McCarthy will help the team pick up from where they left off last season.

It appears as if McCarthy has taken to the job like a duck to water after his surprise appointment in June.

Despite his inexperience as a head coach, McCarthy has impressed Matsi in the first few weeks of working together.

"We have been enjoying training with him [McCarthy]. All the people listen to him, even the senior guys in the squad.

"He has shown that his experience in Europe has been very useful."

Cape Town City will kick off their league campaign away to Wits at the Bidvest Stadium on Friday at 8pm.

"I don't believe in complicated things, even when I play football"



Mpho Matsi is the destroyer in Cape Town City's midfield. / BackpagePix