

East London star extends stay at Wits

SOCCER

By MFUNDO PILISO

ONE of the top graduates from Carlos Soccer Youth Development Academy (CSYDA) in East London, Msingathi Qokweni, will be spending another season at Bidvest Wits development in Braamfontein, Johannesburg.

This after Qokweni, 21, from Litha location, just outside King William's Town, impressed Wits development head coach Ashley Makhanya

last season when the club signed the young lad on a year's contract.

Makhanya said he saw Msingathi had great potential and the development side would help him reach his goals.

"We are bringing him back to the team because we can see he has potential, and we will see how this season turns out for him.

"We want to see him improve even more, because every player we see potential in we try and bring them back to develop them even more.

"And if a player gets season number two at this level they are definitely going to make it big in the future. They just need to keep improving."

Qokweni said the news gave him butterflies when he was told that he would be returning to the development side as he didn't expect it would happen so soon.

"This took me about two and a half years, because I got CSYDA in 2014 and I stayed two years there training under coach Carlos, and then he took me to the trials at Wits and

that's where I got the chance to impress the Wits development management."

Qokweni said the support from his parents kept him going even when things looked bleak, and the support he got at CSYDA made a huge difference to his fitness.

"Before I came to CSYDA they [parents] never even saw me play, but they never discouraged me.

"Coach Carlos also played a very important role in me getting this chance to play professionally. He helped me a lot. He would even wake up as early as 5am everyday to start preparing me for the trials so that I would be in the same fitness levels as the other guys in Jo'burg."

The young lad said he wants to play at Kaizer Chiefs and eventually make it to the senior national team.

CSYDA director, Carlos Mtshamba said there was an abundance of talent in the province, especially in the rural areas.

"This boy is very talented and hard working because usually in the professional development clubs they just give them a one-year contract where they can be released easily.

"To get him back to the set up shows the boy is doing something right.

"I watched them playing [Orlando] Pirates and I was shocked how versatile he had become. We sent him there as a striker and to my surprise during that game he was playing as a winger."



TALENTED: Carlos Soccer Youth Development Academy founder and coach, Carlos Mtshamba, centre, with Morgan Tebbutt, who trained with University of Pretoria's first team, and Bidvest Wits development player Msingathi Qokweni

Picture: MFUNDO PILISO