



New recruits will get expert advice – Mere

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PLATINUM Stars captain Vuyo Mere wants Dikwena's veteran players to help new arrivals settle in quickly for the sake of the team.

When Stars kick off the season, they will not only have new players but also have a new look technical team.

The team will be under the guidance of new coach Peter Butler, assisted by former Baroka FC coach Milton Dlamini.

The pair replace Cavin Johnson and Willem Jackson who parted ways with the club following a ninth-place finish from last season.

While Butler is still waiting for his work permit, Dlamini led the side in the CAF Confederation Cup clash against Mbabane Swallows.

Stars crashed out of the continental tournament as they finished at the bottom of group B without a single victory.

The club also parted ways with players Kobamelo Kodisang, Ndumiso Mabena, Henrico Botes, Tintswalo Tshabalala and Solomon Mathe.

"It's the nature of the game, coaches come and go and players as well. We have to face it because it's the reality. We have to take this brand forward with everyone who is here," Mere said.

"There is always going to be that feeling that we are missing some players who have left the club because we were used to each other, we were like family. If one family member leaves it is always going to be sad.

"But life goes on and we can only wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavours.

"We are now looking forward to the next season."

Dikwena has confirmed signing Sibusiso Mthethwa from the University of Pretoria, also landing the service of Maboke Matlakala from Baroka FC.

Thobani Kunene, who was on loan with National First Division outfit Real Kings, has been recalled.

Mere said it was the responsibility of all the players who have been in the team from the past season to instruct the new recruits of the culture at Dikwena.

"My part is to do my job on the field and motivate the younger ones, whatever else happens is really none of my business," Mere said.

"We have to try and help those that are new to the team. Make them understand what the objective of this club is. It is definitely not about individuals – it's about the progress of the team."

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