



Derbies galore in NFD!



Jomo Sono's club, Cosmos, will be back in action next month.

By MTHOKOZISI MKHONZA

THE upcoming 2017/18 National First Division (NFD) season is expected to be one of the most exciting, with four former Absa Premiership clubs in contention.

The highly-anticipated new season kicks off on 18 August, with some interesting fixtures, that includes four derbies in the opening round.

It will be the toughest season to predict which team will be joining the top flight at the end.

But the former Premier Soccer League (PSL) sides – Black Leopards, Jomo Cosmos and University of Pretoria – are expected to raise the bar as they want a ticket back to top flight football.

In the opening fixtures there will be two derbies from Cape

Town and the other two will be from KwaZulu-Natal.

New kids on the block Uthongathi FC, Ubuntu Cape Town FC and Richards Bay FC will get baptism of fire on their NFD debut.

Uthongathi from Durban were promoted to the NFD from the ABC Motsepe League, alongside Super Eagles, the only team from Free State in the NFD.

Other new clubs, Ubuntu bought franchise of FC Cape Town, while Richards Bay were formed after the sale of Thanda Royal Zulu, who sold their Absa Premiership ownership to AmaZulu FC.

Stellenbosch FC will visit Ubuntu Cape Town at Athlone Stadium.

The following day, Richards Bay will host Real Kings, who are on their second spell in the NFD.

In the other two derbies, Milano United will be up against Cape Town All Stars, while Uthongathi will entertain Royal Eagles.



AmaTuks coach Shaun Bartlett is ready for the coming season.
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First round 2017/18 NFD fixtures:
Friday, 18 August:
 Ubuntu Cape Town FC vs Stellenbosch
Saturday:
 Richards Bay vs Real Kings
 Highlands Park v Jomo Cosmos
 Mbombela vs Black Leopards
 University of Pretoria vs Mthatha Bucks
 Uthongathi vs Royal Eagles
Sunday:
 Milano United vs Cape Town All Stars
 Witbank Spurs vs Super Eagles

