

Too close to call in the NFD



SABELO NYEMBE
Picture: Gallo Images

TIGHT: BOTTOM SIDE 11 POINTS BACK

Sibongiseni Gumbi

There have been no runaway leaders in the National First Division (NFD) this season with two teams who have previously led the race quickly running out of steam.

As things stand, just 11 points separate the top from the bottom team which means any of the 16 teams may still make a run for promotion.

The division's top-of-the-table clash between Stellenbosch FC and University of Pretoria failed to live up to their fans' expectations this weekend, at least in terms of goals as both teams drew a blank.

Their draw opened a gap for Highlands Park to push to the top where they are tied on 16 points with Stellenbosch. Highlands beat Black Leopards 1-0 in Thohoyandou courtesy of a first-half goal from Mthobi Mvala.

Amatuku are in third, level on points with Mbombela United and just a point behind the joint leaders - Shaun Bartlett's side could be back on top if they win their

next match at home to Uthongathi FC on Sunday and the much anticipated top-of-the-table clash between the Lions of the North and Stellenbosch on Saturday ends in a draw.

Witbank Spurs came back into contention as well after scoring a win over provincial neighbours Mbombela in an Mpumalanga derby.

Sabelo Nyembe was the hero on the day as he netted twice to hand Siyavutha the three points to move up to seventh.

But while the race remains wide open at the top, it seems Cape Town may suffer another setback again with the axe falling on one of their teams if things don't improve at Ubuntu Cape Town FC.

The team have been struggling for results which lead to the sacking of coach Roger Links but this has not had an immediate effect as the side continued to drop points with a 1-1 draw against fellow strugglers Richards Bay FC last Friday.

The Rich Boys have also been stuttering which led to the firing of three-time NFD winner Roger Sikhakhane, but the downward spiral has not ended.

