

# Uthongathi' coach's Gabriel has faith in his young squad

Rookies suffer first NFD loss since promotion

By **Sihle Ndebele**

Despite having a relatively inexperienced squad, Uthongathi coach Ronnie Gabriel is positive that the NFD rookies will do well in their maiden season in the second tier.

Uthongathi suffered their first defeat when they were beaten 2-0 by fellow newcomers Super Eagles at Goble Park in Bethlehem, Free State, on Saturday.

"It is no train smash. We will not dwell on it because we know what we want to achieve. It is still early and we are still trying to find our feet in the NFD."

When they were promoted from the ABC Motsepe League in June, the Cane Cutters did not strengthen their squad with experienced players apart from Siyabonga Vilane, who had turned out for AmaZulu, and former Polokwane City player Jabulani Nene.

"I trust my players a lot. We did not want any big names because we wanted to give these boys an opportunity to showcase their potential at a higher level."

## NFD RESULTS

Kings 1, Ubuntu 1; Stellenbosch 2, Leopards 1; Super Eagles 2, Uthongathi 0; Bucks 1, Spurs 1; Cosmos 1, Richards Bay 0; Highlands 1, Tshakhuma 2; AmaTuks 2, Royal Eagles 1; CPT All Stars 1, Mbombela 3

## NDF log

	Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
1	Stellenbosch	4	2	2	0	6	4	8
2	All Stars	4	2	1	1	5	5	7
3	AmaTuks	4	2	1	1	5	8	7
4	Cosmos	4	2	0	2	6	2	6
5	Mbombela	4	2	0	2	6	4	6
6	Bucks	4	1	3	0	4	2	6
7	Spurs	4	1	3	0	6	5	6
8	Kings	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
9	Highlands	4	2	0	2	5	5	6
10	Tshakhuma	4	2	0	3	2	4	6
11	Uthongathi	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
12	Leopards	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
13	S Eagles	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
14	Ubuntu	4	0	3	1	4	5	3
15	R Eagles	4	0	2	2	4	6	2
16	Richardsbay	4	0	2	2	1	3	2

