



# Bacela is back

By **KGOMOTSO SETHUSHA**

ALMOST forgotten Orlando Pirates striker Lennox Bacela is set to emerge from the wilderness when he turns out for Steenberg United in the Nedbank Cup this weekend.

Steenberg face Orbit College in their round of 32 match at Parow Park on Saturday, in one of several Ke Yona cup fixtures this weekend.

Nothing was heard from Bacela after his brief stint with the University of Pretoria two years ago, until he resurfaced at third tier league side, The Magic FC, last season.

And the former *Bucs* striker had practically retired when Steenberg came knocking, looking to bolster their squad with his experience.

"We have agreed terms with Lennox and he is training with the team," said Steenberg coach Mike Lukhubene.

"We are not sure if his registration will be completed before this weekend's match. But we are hoping to have him for the game."

A proven goal poacher, Bacela could play a crucial role for Steenberg in their quest for national recognition in the Ke Yona tournament.

The 34-year-old last played competitively at the highest level with *AmaTuks*, following his mid-season switch from the *Bucaneers* in the 2015-16 season.

Established 14 years ago, Steenberg are no newcomers to the Nedbank Cup, although they



**Steenberg FC have revived Lennox Bacela's fading career.**

*Photo by Backpagepix*

have never really made a mark.

They come up against Orbit College in a match which has no prospects of upsets, as the two teams play in the ABC Motsepe League.

But a place in the lucrative Last 16 round and possibly a quarterfinal spot is at stake for the clubs who have no major financial backers.

The tournament is also fertile ground for scouts looking for rough diamonds hiding in the lower leagues.

Egos are often shattered in the Ke Yona cup, with upsets often the order of the day in SA's version of the English FA Cup.

The upcoming edition not only promises to be another exciting instalment in competition's 11-year run, it could also revive Bacela's career.

