



EAGLES BACK TO ATTACK AFTER DEFENSIVE PLAY FAILED

ROYAL Eagles head coach Kosta Papić has opted to go back to his tried-and-tested attacking style of play as his struggling National First Division side prepare for a trip to the Mthatha Stadium to tackle Mthatha Bucks on Saturday.

The 57-year-old tactician adopted a defensive approach against Mbombela United last weekend in a bid to prevent his side from conceding goals, but his tactics backfired as they went down 4-3 to the Nelspruit outfit in front of a packed Harry Gwala Stadium. As a result, the Pietermaritzburg-based outfit remained 14th on the NFD table with 15 points, just two points above the relegation-zone.

They have conceded an alarming 27 goals from 16 matches this term, with 24 goals have been scored in the other direction.

The Serbian mentor would rather

risk conceding goals while playing to win than dropping further points in a negative stance.

"We tried to play defensive football because we are letting in too many goals, but that didn't work. So, we will go back to our normal formation and attack. The most important thing is to try and score more goals than your opponents."

Eagles 'naughty boy' Masibusane Zongo was back to his old tricks after failing to pitch up for training on Monday afternoon.

The midfielder is said to have since returned at the club, but it remains to be seen if he will be on the match-day squad to travel to the Eastern Cape.

Meanwhile, the local club have been charged with failing to submit their security operational plan to the Premier Soccer League at least five

days before their recent match against the University of Pretoria as stipulated in the NSL Security Manual.

Eagles were fined R40 000 of which R20 000 was suspended for a period of 12 months and have been ordered to pay a proportional share of the costs of the sitting. SR.

NATIONAL FIRST DIVISION

FIXTURES:

Saturday

Highlands Park v Real Kings
Richards Bay v Stellenbosch
Mbombela United v Ubuntu Cape Town

Pretoria University v Super Eagles
Mthatha Bucks v Royal Eagles
Witbank Spurs v Uthongathi

Sunday

TTM v Black Leopards
Jomo Cosmos v Cape Town All Stars

***All matches start at 3.30 pm**

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Highlands Park	16	10	3	3	24	8	33
Jomo Cosmos	16	8	4	4	26	15	28
Real Kings	16	7	6	3	19	12	27
Mbombela United	16	8	3	5	21	19	27
Pretoria Univ.	16	7	4	5	21	22	25
TTM	16	6	5	5	18	23	23
Stellenbosch	16	5	7	4	12	15	22
Black Leopards	16	5	6	5	16	12	21
Witbank Spurs	16	4	9	3	19	16	21
CT All Stars	16	5	5	6	13	14	20
Uthongathi	16	3	8	5	11	13	17
Super Eagles	16	4	5	7	14	22	17
Richards Bay	16	3	7	6	12	18	16
Royal Eagles	16	3	6	7	24	27	15
Mthatha Bucks	16	3	5	8	16	25	14
Ubuntu CT	16	2	7	7	15	20	13

