



Kapini hopes promotion opens Highlands eyes in the top division

They only need to draw against Tuks

By **Sihle Ndebele**

After dropping down to the NFD last season, Highlands Park could make a return to the Absa Premiership as early as this weekend.

Highlands Park host unpredictable University of Pretoria at Makhulong Stadium tomorrow (3pm), and by the look of things, the Lions of the North will put the NFD season to bed by clinching promotion in

front of their supporters.

Coach Owen da Gama's side need only one point to gain automatic promotion with five games to spare.

In their rookie campaign in the Premiership, the Lions of the North finished 16th and subsequently got relegated.

Now on the verge of bouncing back to the elite league, Highlands hope to keep their top-flight status for longer.

Goalkeeper Tapuwa Kapini believes the club's bosses are now well-equipped to prevent last season's failures, such as the club firing then head coach Allan Freese five games

into the season.

"Next season we want to keep our status and avoid relegation. I hope management also learnt from what happened last time around," Kapini told Sowetan yesterday.

AmaTuks beat Highlands Park 2-1 in the first round, but Kapini said they were not thinking about avenging that defeat tomorrow.

"We have prepared for them the same way we always do. We know that only one point will see us win the league but we want the maximum points, especially because we are playing at home," he said.

NFD fixtures (all at 3pm)

- **Tomorrow** : Super Eagles v Ubuntu, Goble Park; Stellebosch v Royal Eagles, Athlone; Highlands v AmaTuks, Makhulong; Real Kings v Mbombela, Sugar Ray Xulu; Leopards v Uthongathi, Thohoyandou.
- **Sunday**: Bucks v Richards Bay, Mthatha; CPT All Stars v Spurs, Parow Park; Cosmos v Tshakhuma Tsha Madzivhandila, Vosloorus.

NFD log

Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
1 Highlands	25	17	5	3	51	10	56
2 Leopards	25	11	8	6	33	17	41
3 Cosmos	25	11	6	8	37	29	39
4 Kings	25	10	9	6	29	21	39
5 Spurs	25	8	12	5	29	26	36
6 Tshakhuma	25	10	6	9	27	36	36
7 CPT AllStars	25	8	11	6	22	18	35
8 AmaTuks	25	8	8	9	27	33	32
9 Mbombela	25	10	5	10	28	35	32
10 Stellenbosch	25	7	9	9	20	28	30
11 Royal Eagles	25	6	9	10	36	39	27
12 Uthongathi	25	5	12	8	17	21	27
13 Richards Bay	25	6	9	10	21	31	27
14 S Eagles	25	6	9	10	21	32	27
15 Ubuntu	25	5	10	10	23	33	25
16 Bucks	25	4	8	13	24	36	20

pressreader.com +1 604 278 4600

