



Nontuthuko Khomo (right) of the Kingdom Stars is challenged by Elihle Phahl of the Diamonds during their Brutal Fruit Premier League match at Ellis Park Indoor Arena at the weekend.

PHOTO: GAVIN BARKER

## KZN's Kingdom Stars stun teams in netball clash

### SITHEMBISO DINDI

KWAZULU-NATAL representatives in the Brutal Fruit Netball Premier League, Kingdom Stars, had an excellent start to the competition as they convincingly won their two opening matches.

Stars defeated the usual whipping girls of the tournament, Northern Cape Diamonds, by 59 goals to 34 on Friday and claimed a 54-30 win over Eastern Cape Aloes on Saturday at Ellis Park Indoor Arena in Johannesburg.

Stars' impressive start to the Premier League, which has a total of 10 teams competing for top honours, saw them end Week One second on the log table with four points from two outings.

They are level on points with defending champions, Gauteng Jaguars, Gauteng Golden Fireballs and Free

State Crinums. Coach of the KZN side Madri Maritz was obviously thrilled with her team's start, considering they were without some of their top players such as Precious Mthembu and Bongzi Msomi.

"I am very happy with our start. We were without some of our top players, but we are focusing on developing talent, and our team is an ideal blend of youth and experience," said Maritz.

"And I am very pleased to see the youngsters giving the senior players a run for their money."

Mthembu is out with an unspecified injury, while Msomi is currently playing for the Adelaide Thunderbirds in the Suncorp Super League in Australia.

Jaguars defeated Diamonds 80-12 and Southern Stings 51-43 to start their mission to keep the title on a good note.

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