



Former Kaizer Chiefs striker Stanton Lewis with his brother Steven and youngsters from their academy called The Soccer Factory.

Lewis builds future football stars

By **Sihle Ndebele**

Former Kaizer Chiefs striker Stanton Lewis is moulding the next generation of footballers through his football academy, The Soccer Factory.

Many assume Lewis, 31, has hung up his boots because of his disappearance from top-flight football, but he insists he has not retired.

Lewis's career was ravaged by a severe knee injury while at Golden Arrows in 2013. He underwent three knee surgeries, making it difficult to recover quickly. "First of all, I have not retired! My focus has been on my academy, The Soccer Factory. We are based in Panopani

ma [on the West Rand]. The academy was established last year," Lewis said.

"I am working hard to produce future stars. The academy is open for both boys and girls from five to 12. My brother [Steven Lewis] is helping me because he did a sports management course. I also have Safa D [coaching licence]."

Lewis refuses to give up on his football career. "I still feel fresh. I have fully recovered. I train with Nike legends in Soweto. Last year I was close to joining Tuks, but the move was disrupted by the fact that Shaun Bartlett left the club. I want to play for at least three years," he said.