



INGWE

Official AFC Leopards E-Newsletter

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AFC Leopards unveils its new brand identity



AFC Leopards unveiled a new identity that combines its past and future by expressing the Club's tradition, history and values. The cosmopolitan, powerful identity reflects

the Club's strong heritage and also expresses in a unique and distinctive way what is our vision for the new era. The sharpness of its design evokes the renowned character and values of the club. The brand strategy and identity is part of a structured process, aimed at continuing to increase ingwe's role and influence on the development of football in

Kenya and the region. It will be a symbol, personification, and emblem that will express who we really are in all manifestations. This does not mean that our preceding emblems were less effective. Each of them symbolizes an era providing a strong sense of history, culture and direction of the team and the spirit of the AFC community.

AFC LEOPARDS KPL Fixtures

- Feb 8th
Nairobi City Stars (Hope Ctr)- "Away"
- Feb 14th
Western Stima (Bukhungu) - "Away"
- Feb 22nd
Bandari (Coca-Cola National Stadium) - Home
- Feb 28th
Gor Mahia FC (City) - Away
- Mar 7th
Sofapaka (Coca-Cola) - Home

Articles By
Victor Bwibo
Bertil Murunga

Leopards back from Purgatory

For AFC Leopards, the season in the abyss is over, and for the supporters and players who were involved; it marks the savory return to top-flight football they had been longing for, the football the club is accustomed to before the historic 2006 KPL scandal dismantled a dynasty and crippled the club sending them straight down to the depths of the lower tier. It was a period of the club's history which the faithful have no problem forgetting, 24 months; with 12 months in the courts and the next rooted in second tier for the only time in ingwe's glorious his-

tory. Now there is 2009 season to look forward to and the club has laid the foundation from which they can build in the coming years. In the darkest hour the club depended on some of its old guard to guide them, and they were able to lean on them to help get back to where ingwe belongs. Even so the squad is stockpiled with young talent throughout their ranks. Upon their awaited return to the KPL, no remaining members of the squad that suffered through the humiliation of playing a season in the Nationwide have forgotten. They will

remember with every touch of the ball where they came from, and they will play with a vengeance. With a varied pot of expectations from the fans, many who have circled the fixture against arch-rivals Gor Mahia and current champions Mathare Utd, still believe the boys are capable of producing the same type of intimidating fear they imposed previously; and convince pundits of their championship caliber especially that its significant that almost **all KPL clubs have at least one player whose skills were at one time honed at AFC.** Days in the dungeon may be over for ingwe as they look forward to the premiership, and make their faithful content.

Q & A with Team Manager /Assistant Coach—Edward Manoaah



the Kenya Premier League brings out the strong character of Kenyan players

Q. Briefly tell us about your playing career

A. I actually started playing at the age of 17 when I signed up for Nakuru's Abeingo FC in 1983. Then the following year I moved to Blue Rangers (Gilgil), then I have also featured for Mvuke of Naivasha (1986), and also Thika's CMB and finished my playing career at KTM (1993)

Q. So when did you venture into coaching?

A. I ventured into coaching in 1995, after breaking my leg in 1994. I first coached Municipal Council of Nakuru team and then moved to Oserian where I stayed until June 2002. Then in August that year is when I first joined AFC Leopards and helped them avoid relegation. Then in 2003/04 season I was at Chemelil ,AFC (2006), Ulinzi (2007) and now again at AFC since mid last year. I was also the head coach for the South Rift under 17 teams between 1996 and year 2000.

Q. What are your views on the club?

A. AFC Leopards at the moment are a strong team, especially if they retain the momentum they have ; and I also request the fans to maintain patience; and if the club administration maintains the positive plans it has embarked on, then we will have a strong and cohesive outfit keeping in mind that we have some very talented players.

Q. As a coach which was your toughest match?

A. The match against Al-Ahly of Egypt. We were leading one nil, but our Egyptian hosts equalized and scored the winning goal in the stoppage time, to win by two goals to one.

Q. and What was your most disappointing game?

A. that's when we were beaten 5 nil by APR of Rwanda in CECAFA Club Championships in 2002. Also the 2001 CAF Cup tie against Etoile-du-Sahel of Tunisia we beat them by 4 goals to 2 in the return match at home but we were eliminated since we'd lost 2 nil in Tunisia. The sad thing is that we missed a penalty in the dying minutes.

Q. what is your opinion on local coaches?

A. Our coaches strive a lot and produce relatively good results ,considering that they work under strenuous circumstances.

Q. What accolades have you earned as a coach?

A. Twice the Premier League Champions in 2001, and 2002 with Oserian Fastac. Won the Moi Golden Cup in 2003 with Chemelil plus being Premier League runners up in 2003 and 2004 with Chemelil, as well as the losing finalist in the 2001 CECAFA Club Championship with Oserian.

Q. What is your assessment of the domestic soccer scene, especially the Premier league?

A. Despite the bickering in the local soccer administration circles, the premier league is good as it brings out the strong character of Kenyan players. Additionally, in spite of poor organization and wrangles, the players haven't given up and thus the league has become competitive considering that there is exposure for our players some of whom have had an opportunity to move abroad. This places us in a strong position to fight for a spot in the 2010 Africa Nations Cup in Angola.

ON TARGET

Charles Okwemba (in picture playing for SC Villa in the Tusker Cup in Mwanza) is an exciting playmaker and a commanding midfielder and is simply one of the best at dictating and controlling the run of play from the centre of the park. Playing as a creative attacking midfielder; he is blessed with close control plus mesmerizing skill that he uses to great effect. This creativity and strength has made him to be considered as a midfield maestro and one of the best players in Kenya and the region. He made his debut in the top flight with Eldoret KCC in 2000. In 2001, he moved to AFC Leopards, and was a crowd favourite, and also part of the squad that won the Moi Golden Cup; in 2003 he joined Tusker FC . Okwemba also played club football for Uganda giants SC Villa and rayon Sports of Rwanda before moving to the Middle East where he played for Al-Hilal of Oman. However, he returned to AFC Leopards in 2008 playing a significant role for the team enabling it to earn promotion back to the premier league. He has also featured for the national team –Harambee Stars- where he remained a consistent starter in 2001 and between 2005 to 2006.



Okwemba's creativity and strength has made him to be considered as a midfield maestro and one of the best players in Kenya.

PITCH FEVER

Juma Ngaiywa is perhaps the most traveled soccer fan in Kenya alive having attended numerous competitive soccer games involving AFC Leopards and the national team. Juma's trademark uninterrupted topless dance to the tune of energized Isukuti drummers has positioned him as a celebrated cheer leader consequently earning him a lot of respect from admirers who consider him a God send during crucial matches.

He traces his origin from Mumias district in Western Kenya, the bedrock of his team AFC Leopards . Additionally, as part of his social responsibility, he communicates various topical issues on his bare body through catchy gravity that normally gets the attention of the mainstream media. He is on record as having claimed that he poses some super natural powers that he can evoke to qualify for a win for his team. His charms, consistence and pitch antiques have earned him sponsorship from various quarters including a free travel deal with Molo Line Road Service plying the Nakuru- Nairobi road.

He has on various occasions accompanied the national team to international assignments to inspire the home boys. Although his demeanor might deceive one to think that he is a teenager, Juma is in his forties, married with kids. [If you know any real supporter of the Club \(Dead or Alive!\) or someone who did something crazy, please send your contribution](#)



THE BIG MATCH: *Second round; The Africa Cup Winners Cup, 1986*

AFC Leopards1 FC Kalamu (Zaire)... ..1

AFC Leopards second half substitute, Wellington Lidonde saved his team's blushes when he headed home a 57th minute goal to enable his team force a 1-1 draw against FC Kalamu of Zaire in the second round first leg of the Africa Cup Winners Cup match at the Nyayo National Stadium.

Leopards who played their hearts out, dominating the show down throughout the 90 minutes should have won the match with a big enough margin had their forwards utilized all the chances that came their way.

Lidonde, who has always saved his team in crucial matches ended the misery of home fans when he soared high everybody to head home an equaliser 12 minutes into second half. The goal, which saved the sunken souls of the home sides came after Leopards had laid a long siege on the FC Kalamu goalmouth immediately after the interval.

Peter "Zimbo" Owade chipped a cross which Lidonde headed home with the Kalamu defender Monka Ngamala desperately trying to clear but the ball had already crossed the goal line.

The goal inspired Leopards as they raided FC Kalamu and a minute later Owade, Lidonde and Wilberforce Mulamba missed a gilted chance when they didn't know what to do with the ball at the Kalamu goalmouth.

Kalamu, playing a purposeful game leaning on their swift mid field shocked the home team in the 29th minute when their menacing centre-forward Nzoko Tsotso completed an indirect free kick taken by Tondo Sambo from the edge of the box. But the goal came after Leopards had forced six fruitless corners against three. In the 35th minute the crowd went wild as David Akoi unbelievably failed to beat Kalamu "keeper Nselemo Kabadi after beating the visitor" offside trap.

As the crowd yelled for a goal, Francis Kadenge, later replaced by Bernard Musuku, blew up the chance of the afternoon when he thundered wide a gilted opportunity in the 38th minute. Leopards who had never lost a continental match at home returned in the second half a rejuvenated side ploughing holes in the visitor's rear guard time and again.

The Leopards lost 1-3 to Kalamu in the second ILEG in Lubumbashi, Zaire.

Contributed by Bertil Murunga

AFC LEGEND



Joe Kadenge is the Kenya soccer maestro whose magic never tarnished with fleeting seasons and is regarded as the finest footballer ever produced by the country. He starred for Abaluhya FC, who later became AFC Leopards, helping it to a very successful run in the 1960s when it regularly won silverware in local and regional competition. Kadenge also represented the national team for 14 years. Despite retiring from the game in 1968, Kadenge is today still held in high regard by all Kenyans, a legendary figure in the history of soccer in Kenya and such was his influence that one of the most famous football sayings in Kenya remains "*Kadenge na mpira shuti goal!*" He started playing football at an early age when kids would roll dry banana fibers into a ball and, combined with tal-

ent, gave him an edge over others. Born in 1935 in Western Kenya, Kadenge's soccer career began at Musingu Intermediate School where he undertook his early education. He, however, started playing competitively in 1957 when he turned out for a Nakuru Combined team in one of the earliest Inter-District tournaments during the Remington Cup. After leaving Musingu, he spent some time with North Nyanza before moving on to Nairobi to join Maragoli United Football Club where he stayed for one season in 1963. He then left and joined Abaluyia Football Club (AFC Leopards) until 1975. Kadenge made his debut for the national team during the 1957 Gossage Cup competition held in Zanzibar. One year later, his career took a turn for the better when he inspired Kenya to a 2-0 victory over Uganda in the Gossage Cup final. Apart from scoring the first goal, he made provided the pass for the second in a thrilling performance, which left the fans impressed with his ball control and dribbles. He hang up his boots in 1965 only to make a comeback with a bang and steered the national team—Harambee Stars to victory in the inaugural East and Central Africa Challenge Cup the same year. He quit the national team for good in 1970 preferring to go into coaching. He was later appointed coach of the national team, Harambee Stars, where he has also been the manager. Kadenge boasts a sporting family and Evans, Francis and Oscar have stood out to emulate their father. Presently, he operates a taxi business in Nairobi .

Joe Kadenge is the Kenya soccer maestro whose magic never tarnished with fleeting seasons and is regarded as the finest Kenyan footballer .
