

IMPROVED SWARAJ

DAILY NEWS. 29/4/

CRUISE TO WIN

SWARAJ of Johannesburg, cruised to an exciting 2-0 win over the much-fancied Manning Rangers in the R7 000 Mainstay League match at Currie's Fountain yesterday.

Swaraj, their first win in three games, were a most improved side. Their story did not depend on individual effort. It was team spirit, from back to front, that won the match. Flicker to the ball, the visitors kept up the pressure and it soon came evident that the Rangers were in trouble.

Rangers' game was somewhat erratic, and they took to robust tactics that earned a good game at times. Up front only Molen Murugen, Dodo Naidoo and Deena Naidoo had some punch, but stopper and former Orlando States centre-half, John Mck Mkwati, was the hero and spoilt every move of Rangers.

Buick, Kola and skipper Ngil Padayachee controlled the defence significantly, and never let a foot wrong in their minutes play.

Swaraj in their first year in professional soccer played a very high standard of football, and are

all set to end somewhere near the top.

Swaraj's goalkeeper Baboo Kalicharan came out with flying colours after his fine display.

The goalscoring trio of Smiley Moosa, Gona Padayachee and Dan Twala kept Rangers defence of Lenny Nelson, Sugar Singh, Chicko and Mickey Pillay on their feet, working overtime. Jaya Naidoo in goal, was also kept very busy.

A beautiful goal by Smiley Moosa gave Swaraj a 1-0 at halftime. Rangers shaken by this goal, went into the attack in the second half, and on two occasions the wood work came to the rescue of Swaraj. Rangers had their chances, but they appeared too sluggish in front of the goalmouth.

In the closing stages of the game Dan Twala dribbled past two defenders and sealed the game for Swaraj with a good goal.

In the same competition, played in Johannesburg, Glenville at Cape Town beat Dynamos United 2-1 in a drab match at Enslin Stadium.



● SMILEY MOOSA, who had an outstanding game for Swaraj, scored the opening goal and had the goalkeeper well beaten with his shot in the 26th minute. Jaya Naidoo, Rangers goalkeeper, sees the ball fly into the net and defender Mickey Pillay stands helpless. Swaraj beat Rangers 2-0 in a thrilling game at Currie's Fountain yesterday.

Soccer talent on show

SUNDAY EXTRA 29/9/74

By RONNIE GOVENDER

WITH one or two exceptions the cream of Natal and Transvaal pro-talent will be on view on Wednesday at Currie's Fountain when the two provinces meet under floodlights.

The main game will be preceded by a second division curtain-raiser at 6.30 between Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Both games which are the first floodlight fixtures at Currie's after many years promise rousing entertainment as they feature well balanced sides.

A major surprise in the Transvaal side, and one that could be to its advantage is that Louis Jeevanantham — who is also the captain — will be playing in the forward line.

His true brilliance suffered this season because Bells' used him as a half and all his footballing genius was wasted on a team that seemed to lack spirit.

Apart from being a clever footballer Louis can be a devastating and dazzling ball juggler.

What a combination he should make with that

other great schemer, Smiley Moosa.

The Natal defence is a very strong one from Burri Martin in goal to Daya Maistry at centre-half.

On the whole the Natal selectors had a difficult job, but the disregarding of Vincent Pillay and Cassim Seedat, in particular, was a mistake. However, we should see some exciting play from both Deena Naidoo and Clive Dewaal.

Natal appear to have a stronger half-line and they will certainly not be wanting to secure the mid-field.

● The Transvaal team reads: Joofre Swartz; Baboo Kallichuran, Sam Reddy, Allan Moonsamy, Kenneth Trumpeter, Buick Mkwati, Gona Padiachee, Anthony Julius, Dan Twala, Grooving Moloke, Prega Thandrind, Smiley Moosa, Louis Jeevanantham.

● Natal: Burri Martin; Nassim Benefeldt, Lennie Nelson, Paul Bishop, Mike Samuels, Mickey Perumal, Daya Maistry, Duda Moonsamy, Charles Carey, Archie Andrews, Deena Naidoo, Trever George, Clive Dewaal, Wally Shaik, Pat Blair.

Soccer

LAND DAIRY MAIL

27/9/74

Big weekend

By AMEEN AKHALWAYA

IT WILL be the season's outstanding programme at the Lenasia Stadium this weekend with a quarter-final cup-tie between Dynamos and Berea, and a local derby between arch-rivals Swaraj and Bluebells United.

Tomorrow, Dynamos face a Berea side that scored an unexpected but exciting win against high riding Manning Rangers in the previous round of the Coca-Cola Shield competition.

The fact that several Dynamos players were fasting probably accounted for their mediocre performance against Maritzburg last week, but if they display the same famine of ideas this time, they can expect no respite from Berea.

Success for Dynamos will mean a money-spinning semi-final against Swaraj. Cape rivals Spurs and Glenville contest the other semi-final.

The biggest crowd of the

season is expected on Sunday for the Swaraj-Bluebells encounter. When the sides met earlier this season, Swaraj triumphed by the odd goal in three.

Officials and supporters have never made secret of the fact that there is little love lost between the clubs. The outcome of the game should settle the argument of which is Lenasia's leading team.

On paper Bluebells have easily the more talented line-up, with free-scoring Prega Thandrind leading the attack. In Smiley Moosa, however, Swaraj possess a potential match-winner.

Still, Bluebells, by virtue of their fine form in recent games, will start slight favourites.

Transvaal have named 12 players and a reserve goalkeeper for their interprovincial match against Natal at Currie's Fountain on October 2. The team is: J. Swartz, S. Reddy, A. Moonsamy, K. Trompeter, B. Mkwati, B. Moloche, D. Twala, G. Padiachee, P. Thandrind, S. Moosa, L. Jeevanantham (capt.) and A. Julius. B. Kallichuran is the reserve goalkeeper, and the side will be managed by Mr Ivan Naidoo.



Swartz



Kallichuran



Reddy



Moonsamy



Padiachee



Mkwati



Trompeter



Dan Twala



Molupe



Thandrind



Moosa



Jeevanantham



Julius

SOCCER UNDER LIGHTS

6/10/74 POST

SOCCER under lights will return to Durban's Currie's Fountain on October 2 when Transvaal First Division Eleven, take on a Natal first squad in an exhibition clash.

Both teams, selected this week, show they're not at full strength because of a few players withdrawing as the month of fasting enters its final stages.

The Transvaal team will be led by Louis Jeevanantham, the dribbling star of Bells.

Mr Ivan Naidoo, former Jo'burg City chief, will be the manager.

The team is: Joofre Swartz (Dynamos), Sam Reddy (Swaraj), Alan Moonsamy (Bells), Goona Padiachee (Swaraj), John "Buick" Mkwati (Swaraj), Kenny Trompeter (Bells), Dan Twala (Swaraj), Baldwin "Grooving" Moloche (Bells), Prega Thandrind (Bells), Smiley Moosa (Swaraj), Louis Jeevanantham (Bells), Baboo Kallichuran (Swaraj) and Anthony Julius (Bells).

THE blue-hooped men from Lenasia beat arch-rivals Swaraj 1-0 at the Lenasia Stadium, Johannesburg, on Sunday.

Bells sole goal, scored by master schemer Archibald Andrews, got their fans celebrating till the small hours of Monday morning.

Match report

They were magnificent in victory. Commented manager Mr Zanoff Ramden: "What a morale booster."

In the other dressing room, Swaraj players were merry and showed no emotional signs of disappointment.

Mr. Ivan Naidoo, the man they say has the football brain that is as fantastic as a computer, laughed and joked.

He told Sports POST: "Why must my boys be dejected? I think the game of football was the final winner."

Added the tough-talking

boss: "We lost the game but did not lose our respect for the noble principles of non-racial soccer by fielding an unregistered defaulter. My boys are fine and we hope to go from this ship to the great shores of success."

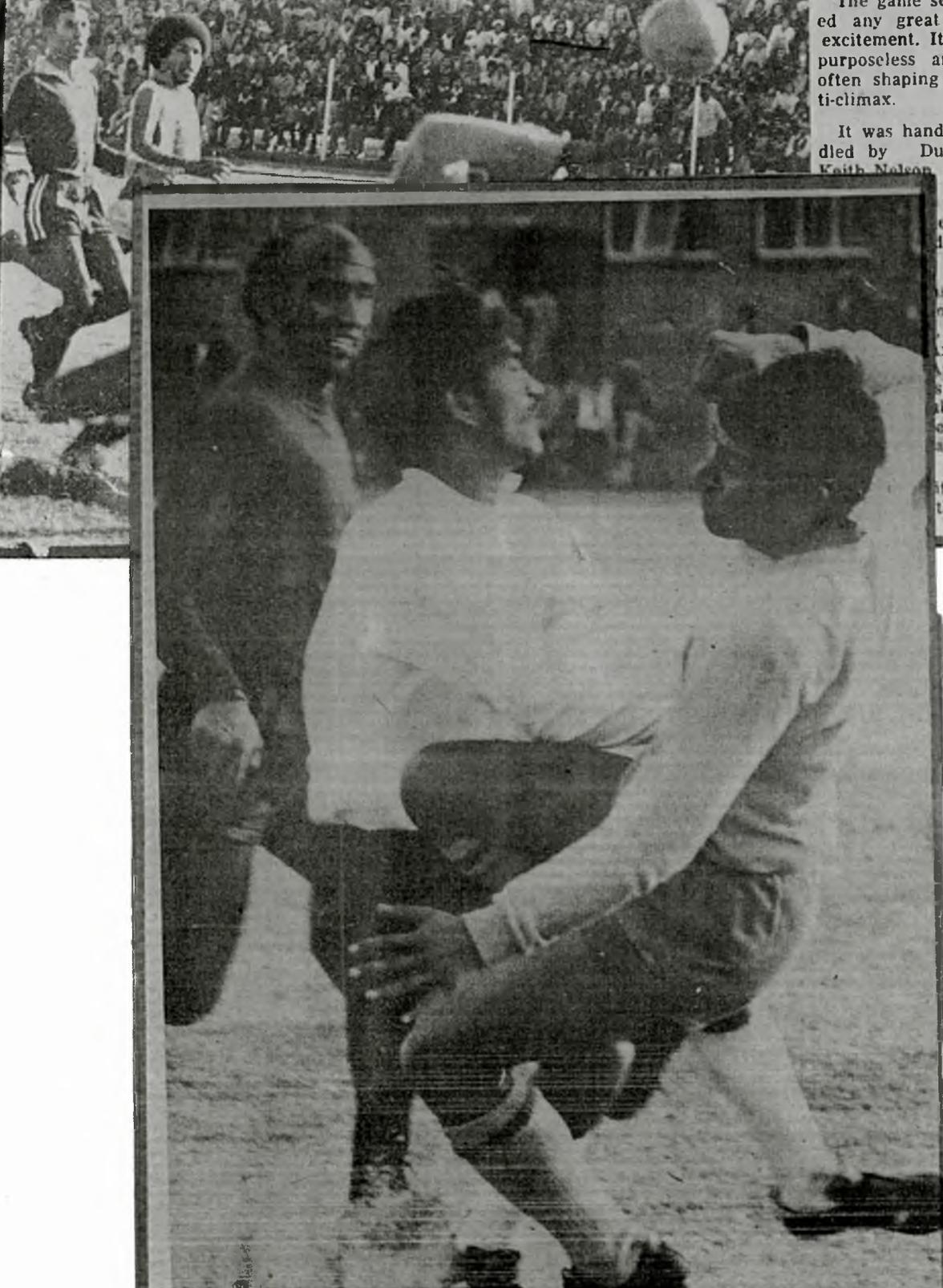
The game seldom reached any great heights of excitement. It was aimless, purposeless and far too often shaping into an anti-climax.

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● Dancing in the Highveld sun . . . that's what Swaraj 'keeper Raboo Kallichuran seems to be doing. Running into him is Beread's Sadeek Valley (in white jersey). On the left is bald-headed Swaraj defender Nayna Moodley. Swaraj and Beread drew 2-2 at the Lenasia Stadium on Saturday. (See Page 20/21)

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But there can be no mistaking the fine mid-field play and pattern-like passing.

Both teams, with Johannesburgans, Louis Jeewananthan, Thandrin, Archibald Andrews and Anthony Julius for Bells and Gona Khumalo, Xaba and Gona Padachee for Swaraj, moved the ball beautifully. However, it was overdone and this led to aimless play.

● The star of the Bells-Swaraj derby clash at the Lenasia Stadium on Sunday was Swaraj keeper Baboo Kallichuran seen here. Running in (left) is Gona Padachee and Anthony Julius (right, Bells). Bells won 1-0.



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● Dancing in the Highveld sun... that's what Swaraj keeper Baboo Kallichuran seems to be doing. Running into him is Bera's Sadek Valley (in white jersey). On the left is bald-headed Swaraj defender Noyna Moodley. Swaraj and Bera drew 2-1 at the Lenasia Stadium on Saturday. (See Page 11/70)



Bluebells can win epic Lenasia battle

18-5-75 Sunday Express

DERBY DAY is here again. Transvaal's two crack teams, Bluebells United and Swaraj, meet in a first-round Mainstay League clash that should leave every red-blooded soccer fan hoarse at the Lenasia Stadium this afternoon.

Many wagers are being made on the outcome of this grudge game and I am going to put my shirt on Bluebells — even though the form books say I will be shopping around for a new one tomorrow.

But I am not relying on fate. It should be apparent to anyone who has watched Bluebells that they have it in them to pull it off today.

There is no need to tell me that out of four games, Bells have lost three and drawn one, whereas, Swaraj have beaten PE, held Cape Town Spurs to a draw and were beaten by Manning Brothers.

I also know that Swaraj upset the odds last year — they went into their first encounter as the underdogs and pulled off a great 2-1 win.

However, I maintain that, department for department, the team formed by manager Zanoff Ramdin and shaped by coach Billy Morgan have the edge.

Bluebells have a reputation for positive thinking and their defeats did not stem from lack of ideas, but rather

By **GOOLAM MAJAM**

from complacency. In the three games in which they were defeated, they were two goals up and lost their advantage by relaxing the pressure.

However, with Billy Morgan back at the helm, there will be no repetition of this. His instructions will be 90-minutes of hard football.

The back four of Bluebells — Alan Moonsamy, Louis Jeevanantham, Kenny Trompetter and Antony Julius — look more solid than Sam Reddy, Thakor Singh, Lucas Oranje and Virgil Padayachee, of Swaraj.

The midfield of Baldwin Malope and Soondram Moodley has a better balance. Ace striker Prega Thandrind has always been a player who responds to big occasions.

Bells have other potential match winners in Leroy Fortuin, Alan van itheeder and Archiblad Andrews. This front line has greater penetration than Stanley Tshabalala, Junior Kumalo, Roy Harry and Victor Kowa.

The one player who spells danger for Bulls is Goona Padayachee, who is playing better than ever. He is the sort of man who will run till he drops. If allowed leeway, this talented footballer can split the defence with his fluid moves.

However, Bluebells, better than anyone else, should know how to counter the threat from Goona, a former Bluebells player.

Another of Swaraj's great assets is Baboo Kalichurren, their goalkeeper. He can be exceptional. It cannot be denied that Kali's reflex saves in games this season have made him the leading keeper in the Transvaal.

The man with the whistle is vital if this game is to reach great heights. Last year, Chong Meyer handled Swaraj and Bluebells with professionalism.

He was on the spot to see every infringement and used his authority effectively to ensure that matters did not go out of hand. However, I am told that Meyer has refused to officiate this year and, because Ismail Bhamjee is in Swaziland, there is a dearth of good referees in the Transvaal.

Perhaps league officials will supply a neutral referee from Natal for today's game. This would defuse the partisan Lenasia crowd.

CAPE UNITED GO TO LENS

By BOETI ESHAK

ONE OF the most unpredictable teams in the Fed. Pro League, Cape Town United, travel to Lenasia to take on high riding Swaraj, in a first round encounter at the Lenasia Stadium on Saturday.

United have had a see-saw time of late. One week they are riding the crest of success and the next week they are at their lowest ebb. In their last three games they have lost 2-7, won 5-0, and lost 1-4. Their topsy-turvy performances indicate their 'unpredictability'.

Richard Hoffman, United's acquisition from neighbours, Cape Town Spurs will be seen in his new team's colours for the first time in Lenasia. This 'cat' between poles played a great part in Spurs' victories last year. Will he be able to perform the same wonders for United?

His counterpart in the Swaraj goal, Baboo Kallichuren, is having one of his best seasons. This man, together with Hoffman will hold the key to the outcome of this game.

BALL ARTISTES

Both teams possess some fine ball artistes. Jonathan Joseph, James George and Joey Lawrence will prove to be the thorns for the Swaraj camp.

Goono Padyatchi, Paradise Legodi and J. C. Xaba will provide the main threat to the United defence.

Mr Adam Seedat, an executive member of Swaraj was quite confident that his players would break the victory drought. "Our players realise that victory is very important in

this particular match. The supporters are clamouring for goals and the players just have to give it to them."

On paper the two sides look evenly matched and it will be a ding-dong affair. Victory will be close but what the spectators will not be starved of will be entertaining football dished out by two fine teams.

SOCCER

19-5-75 Rand Daily Mail

Bells grab win

A WELL-EXECUTED goal by Archie Andrews in the 48th minute gave Bluebells United a 1-0 win over arch rivals Swaraj before a capacity crowd at the Lenasia Stadium yesterday.

In a hard, uncompromising battle, there was plenty of tension but little football of a high quality.

The game was marred by stoppages for numerous petty infringements and some vicious fouls. Kola Padyachee, of Swaraj, was booked, but a couple of players from both sides

were fortunate not to follow suit.

In the end, it was Bluebells' midfield superiority which told. Swaraj twice hit the woodwork through JC Xaba and Roy Harry, and Goona Padyachee missed a sitter early in the second half. This was offset by some flying saves by Baboo Kallichuren in the Swaraj goal.

On Saturday, Berea moved to the top of the Mainstay League with a 2-0 win over Dynamos at Lenasia. Scampé Bissessor scored both goals.



Swaraj lost 1-0 to Bluebells in a Mainstay League match at Lenasia Stadium last weekend, but their goalkeeper, Baboo Kalichurren was not disgraced. He made many breathtaking saves and here he takes no chances as he goes full stretch for a ball that is off the mark.

THESE TWO HOLD THE KEY

IT'S DERBY day again at the Lenasia Stadium on Sunday.

The Swaraj-Dynamos United Mainstay League battle is wobbling on a tightrope.

There's much at stake — and the team that plays with greater determination will be the winner.

Struggle

Both Dynamos and Swaraj are grand footballing combinations. Both teams are playing attractive soccer and both teams will fight a tenacious struggle to taste the sweetness of victory.

But there can only be one winner. Who will that be?

It's a question that hangs over the heads of two men — and both are goalkeepers.

Swaraj 'keeper Baboo Kallichuran and Dynamos' agile Jofre Swartz hold the key to victory or defeat.

On present form, how-

ever, there appears to be little to choose between them.

Kallichuran is at his brilliant best and Swartz is in scintillating form.

Perhaps the only difference between them is the fact that Swartz is more experienced.

If the 'keepers hold the key to the story of success or failure, then the centre play will determine who's the better side.

In the reckoning comes Swaraj's Goona Padiachee and Junior Khumalo and Dynamos' Rosie Francis and Eddie Fisher.

These four forwards will unlock the gates of a stalemate situation.

They are of vital significance to the game. Look at each one: Goona is a schemer and has struck top form.

Junior Khumalo is brainy. He is fast and adventurous.

Rosie Francis is the mastermind. He is as elusive as a fish in the water. He moves with ease and his pinpoint passing is as dangerous as TNT.



JOFRE SWARTZ DYNA-
MOS 'KEEPER.



BABOO KALLICHURAN,
SWARAJ 'KEEPER

SWARAJ HOLD THEIR OWN WITH SPURS

SUPER Swaraj have done it again! They held a powerful Cape Town Spurs side 1-all in driving rain at the Athlone Stadium, Cape Town, on Monday night.

The Lenasia lads were well worth their solitary point. And had Goona Padiachee not ballooned a ball over the bar late in the second half, they would have emerged victors.

Although Swaraj were in a terrific playing mood, Spurs can consider themselves unlucky.

And perhaps the unluckiest man of the night was Spurs striker, Munsoor Abdullah, who tried everything in his power to get the ball past Swaraj keeper Baboo Kallichuran.

But Abdullah did get a goal. It came in the second half when Kalli-

churan was blown-up for over-carrying.

George van Niekerk took the kick — and slipped the ball backwards to Abdullah. The Spurs striker crashed it home.

Swaraj equalised through Roy Harry with 15 minutes to go to full time.

The wet surface made the game a struggle in aimlessness. Both teams were at times fumbling and as the raindrops kept falling harder, play deteriorated.

Swaraj manager-coach Mr Ivan Naidoo was happy with his team's performance. He told POST's man in Cape Town: "I think it was a good game and with a little bit of luck we could have grabbed both points. Considering the weather, we did pretty well against a good footballing side like Spurs."

'Keeper Neville Chadwick made his first appearance for his new club. He played a grand game. Commenting on the goal that rocketed past him, he said: "I just don't know how that ball managed to slip through."

Hapless Spurs held

Cape Town Spurs 1,
Swaraj 1

CAPE Town Spurs suffered yet another setback in their uphill struggle to retain the league honours when brilliant goal keeping by Babu Kallichuran and countless missed chances by Spurs saw Swaraj (Transvaal) hold the Mainstay champions to a 1-1 draw after a goalless first half at the Athlone Stadium last night.

About 2 000 spectators braved the typical Cape winter's night and considering the heavy going and rain which came pelting down in the second half were treated to some thrilling soccer.

Munsoor Abdullah shot Spurs into the lead in the 63rd minute with a scorcher from the edge of the box after George van Niekerk had back passed from an indirect free kick. (1-0).

Abdullah played a bustling game but luck evaded him as he squandered about half a dozen chances.

Neville Chadwick, making his debut for Spurs, had an indifferent game in goal and in the 76th minute dived over a right footed drive from Virgil Padayachee 1-1

There were thrills galore as Spurs piled on the pressure but were thwarted by a keen Swaraj defence.

However, Nettle Londt, Terry Paulse and Abdullah squandered chances which may not come their way again.

Sam Reddy (Swaraj) and Bernie van Niekerk (Spurs) prevented the game from going either way when they both cleared off the goal line in the dying minutes with their respective goalkeepers way out of position.

It's bubbly all the way for Vaal valiants

THERE are enough ifs about Sunday's R5 000 Coca Cola Shield Semi-Final Knock Out clash between Swaraj and Berea at Durban's Curries Fountain to fill a book.

But when you brush all the nonsense aside you can come to one conclusion — Swaraj must start as favourites.

My bet is that by Sunday night Bila Singh's team of gladiators will be slipping bubbly in their dressing room.

Yes, make no mistake about it, Swaraj will win the semi-final clash by an odd goal.

Determined

Before Berea fans start accusing me of bias, let me tell them that Swaraj are determined to bring glory to the Vaal.

They are bubbling with confidence . . . all they have to do is to get fit

**By
Zaf Mayet**

the many casualties they suffered during the brawling clash with Glenville last Saturday.

Swaraj have just got to win. They have the ability to sink Berea.

Fighting

The four injured men, 'keeper Baboo Kallichuran, left back Thakur Singh, defender Kola Padiachee and Smiley Mootsa will be fighting to get fit.

Then there's still Gonna Padiachee and Dan Lourie on the injured list.

You can see just why Bila Singh will have to work overtime to have his men fit for Sunday.

Swaraj recently lost to Berea 1-0. They were angry at the result "because the referee sold us."

Fairness

"We've lost too often because of poor refereeing," said a Swaraj official. "We hope this time we get some fairness."

Swaraj have the all round ability to chalk up victory — and sip the bubbly they'll take with them.

They have the match-winners.

Meanwhile, Swaraj official Mr Ebu Norsarka has chartered a "luxury" bus to transport fans to Durban.

Mr Norsarka can be contacted at Lenasia 500.

NOW SUBURBS FACE SWARAJ

"Leader" Reporter

IF VERULAM Suburbs want to maintain the image they have built-up this season, they will have to be at their very best when they meet Swaraj at Curries Fountain on Sunday in a Mainstay league match.

At the time of writing Suburbs are still unbeaten but will take some doing to hold Swaraj who aim to return home with at one point.

This season Suburbs have not put a foot wrong and presently they are riding high with a number of victories to their credit.

Suburbs have toppled some of the league's top sides this season and at present they are at the top of the log. Cape Town Spurs and Cape Town United were each defeated 2-1 by Suburbs.

MATCH-SAVER

Suburbs have some useful players in Gona Arumugum, Paul Bishop, Abdul Aziz Salojee and Lou Landers in defence and Vincent Pillay, Charles Subban, Preston Julius and Gopi Naidoo up front. In goal Burri Martin is a real match winner.

A spokesman for Suburbs was confident his team would take both points from the match. "In the matches we have played so far we have proved ourselves as the league's most feared side and we will continue to be a threat right up to the end of the season."

OLD SCORE

He said that all Suburbs players are keenly waiting to meet Swaraj because they had a score to settle.

Swaraj too, have shaped well

after striking a bad patch at the beginning of the season.

Swaraj will be travelling to Durban with a depleted side because most of their star players were injured in their match against Blue Bells United last week. They are expected to go through a late fitness test.

According to Mr Charlie Padarath three of the Swaraj's players are badly injured and are not expected to make the team. The players are 'keeper Baboo Kalicharan, defender, Thakur Singh and centre forward, Gona Padayachee.

Mr Padarath told 'The Leader' that most of the Swaraj players were injured in their bruising encounter against their arch rivals Blue Bells United at the Lenasia Stadium last Sunday.

KEEPING GOAL

In the even of the three players mentioned not making the team Rajman Fredricks will keep goal for Swaraj while Morgie Padayachee will replace Sirg and Paradise Legodi will come in for Gona Padayachee.

"We have the greatest respect for Suburbs performance this season. But we are going to exploit one loop-hole that no team in the federation have yet noticed. This is the factor that is going to decide the end result," said Mr Padarath.

Going by both teams' recent performances I take Suburbs to win by a narrow margin, particularly as they have home ground advantage.

Verulam Suburbs (from left): Burri Martin, Abdul Aziz Salojee, Gona Arumugum, Edwin Patricks, Paul Bishop, Lou Landers, Bob Williams, Vincent Pillay, Gopi Naidoo, Charles Subban, Preston Julius and Vishnu Govender.

Swaraj (from left) Baboo Kalicharan, Thakur Singh, Morgie Padayachee, Sam Reddy, Lucas Aronje, Virgil Padayachee, Kola Padayachee, Jacob Xaba, Roy Harry, Gona Padayachee, Junior Khumalo, Randolph Fredricks, Rajman Fredricks and Paradise Legodi.

Scrape win in derby

A SNAP goal in the 36th minute of the second half gave Bluebells United a lucky 1-0 win over Swaraj at the Lenasia Stadium on Sunday.

This lucky goal by Archibald Andrews the Bells right winger, was the only goal in this emotion charged, tension-filled local derby.

Referee Keith Nelson and lines men, Lingiah Moonsamy and Amanullah Khan were 'imported' from Durban for this derby and they handled the game admirably.

Constructive soccer was forgotten as the two teams battled for duptrmsvy.

Swaraj missed three glorious opportunities when shots by Gona Padayachy, Roy Harry and Junior Khumalo hit the goalposts, on three different occasions in the first half.

Gona Padyachy was unfortunate when his clear run was foiled by Dan Maistry, the Bluebells goalkeeper.

REF WARN

Leroy Fortuin and Kola Padayachy were warned by the referee for retaliatory moves.

Bluebells fielded an unregistered player in the name of Johannes Kholoane, of Kaiser Chiefs. Before the kick off Swaraj lodged a protest with the referee, against Bells on a matter of principle.

In the 36th minute of the second half, a through ball from Kholoane got to Andrews on the wing. A defensive blunder allowed the ball to snap past Kallichuren for the only goal of the match.

Kallichuren of Swaraj and Hoosen Gani of Bluebells were two outstanding players on the field.

BAN DISCUSSED

On Saturday before the game at a meeting presided by league

chairman Mr R. K. Naidoo, the teams were told that no player who participated in the recent multi-national Champion of Champions would be allowed to play for any Fed. League team.

Bluebells defied the league and played Kholoane, a player who was in the Kaiser Chiefs squad in the multi-nationals.

The final decision of this match will be made know in the board room of the League.

SWARAJ PINCH POINT OFF SPURS

SWARAJ WERE WELL WORTH the one point which they earned from their one-all draw with Cape Town Spurs at the Athlone Stadium on Monday night. This Mainstay league match was at times played in pouring rain.

The unluckiest man of the night was the Spurs striker, Munsoor Abdullah, who tried everything to get the ball past the Swaraj 'keeper but to no avail.

The slippery surface reduced the game to a seemingly aimless struggle.

An error in the Spurs defence in the 20th minute saw Jacob 'JC' Xaba, the former Pubs striker, pick up the ball and send it across to Gona Padayachee — who ballooned it over the crossbar with Chadwick far out of position.

Then Spurs saw two attempts saved by Babu Kallichuren. The home side now played more

positively, but Thakur Singh, Sam Reddy and Kola Padayachee held out.

Swaraj were building up their attacks beautifully. But at the other end Londt twice headed over the bar from passes from Ralph Ontkruid.

George van Niekerk had a free kick deflected off a defender. Abdullah sent the ball past the 'keeper but it hit the far upright — and the first half was goalless.

The first goal came when 'keeper Kallicherun was blown up for over-carrying. George van Niekerk took the kick—backwards — and Munsoor Abdullah crashed it home. This was Abdullah's first

goal for Cape Town Spurs.

The visitors equalised in the 30th minute, Roy Harry beating Chadwick with a snap shot through a narrow gap.

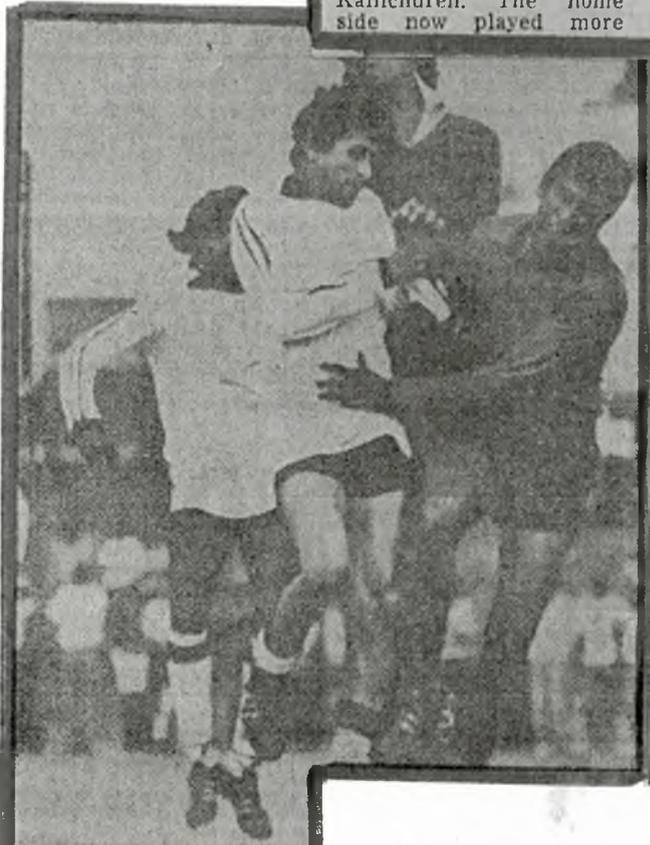
After-match comments:

Ivan Naidoo, the Swaraj trainer: 'It was a good game and with a little bit of luck we might have had both points. Considering the weather, we did well against a good footballing side like Spurs.

Neville Chadwick, making his first appearance for Spurs: 'I just don't know how that ball (the sole Swaraj goal) managed to slip through.'

Cape Town Spurs: N. Chadwick, P. Sables, B. van Niekerk, C. Davies, S. Abass, A. Solomon, N. Londt, G. van Niekerk, T. Paulsen, M. Abdullah, R. Ontkruid.

Swaraj: B. Kallicharen, T. Singh, S. Reddy, K. Padayachee, V. Padayachee, L. Oranje, J. 'JC' Xaba, J. Kenals, R. Harr, G. Padayachee, V. Kowa. Reserves: R. Fredericks, A. Nabe.



Kola Padayachee, of Verulam Suburbs, outreaches Gopi Naidoo and Cyril Smith in this raid on the Swaraj goal mouth, but keeper Baboo Kallichurran is there to keep the ball out.

IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR SWARAJ

SUNDAY EXTRA

13/10/74

By GOOLAM MAJAM

FRED EAGLE'S hopes of completing the season with a win ended with a shock 4-1 defeat for Glenville at the hands of a well-drilled Swaraj at the Lenasia Stadium yesterday.

The Cape team's defeat puts Manning Rangers and Berea in with a chance of being runners-up in the league provided they win all their remaining games, but if Bluebells can prove to be a stumbling block for Spurs at Athlone tomorrow night, then the league race will be thrown wide open.

Swaraj's victory comes at a time when they needed a morale booster for the all-important semi-final Shield clash against Berea next week. Berea can take a warning right now — Swaraj will be no push-over.

Glenville played enterprising football, but failed to finish off good moves. The game was marred by too many fouls and a punch-up between Smiley Moosa and Mervyn Hawyn seven minutes from time left a bad taste.

Glenville opened the scoring in the 12th minute. Van Reenen outstripped a lethargic Swaraj defence to score a neat goal. Dan Twala equalised five minutes later from a goalmouth melee.

In the 20th minute Swaraj were the victims of a bad decision when referee Ahmedie awarded Glenville a penalty. Van Reenen scooped the ball over the crossbar and from here on the game took a different pattern.

Ten minutes later a lovely through pass by Boyce had the Glenville defence out of position and Twala ran

through for an opportunist goal. Glenville tried harder for the equaliser, but Kalicharan was in top form as he dived first to his right and then to his left to pull off two magnificent saves.

After the changeover Smiley made it 3-1. He dived straight as an arrow to meet Twala's cross from the right to score a spectacular header that brought the crowd to its feet.

After the punch-up Smiley's pinpoint pass

found Boyce unmarked for the winger to make it 4-1.

● Berea and Dynamos clash in a vital league game at the Lenasia Stadium this afternoon. The game was in danger of being called off because of the Sunday Observance Act, but late yesterday it was officially announced that the match will definitely take place.

● For Maritzburg Cup final result see **STOP PRESS.**

from the bottom in the league log they possess a formidable squad ably skippered by Smiley Moosa who had stints in England and Holland last season. 13/10/74

Moosa has infused tremendous spirit and the will to win in each and every player in the squad. Swaraj's new found power playing approach was ably demonstrated last month when they knocked out Maritzburg City 2-0 from the Coca Cola cup competition.

According to manager Bill Singh, the Swaraj line-up will be the strongest fielded against a Durban side this season. With former Zulu Royals right winger, Dan Twala, in top form and Moosa himself at his best, the Swaraj forward line should be a force to contend with.



SMILEY MOOSA

The defence is also manned by some of the best men in the business in former Orlando Pirates stopper Buick Mkwati, Sam Reddy, Ismail Rawat and keeper Baboo Kalicharan.

The Padayachee brothers — Kola and Goona — and cousin Virgil might also be included in the line-up. Virgil, brother of former star Links Padayachee, has all the potential of a rising star and if included in the line-up should be a menace to Daya Maistry and company in the Berea defence.

After last week's magnificent performance, Berea are all set to establish a good win over Swaraj. Skipper Charles Carey promised the Berea fans that his players would be making an all out bid to topple the Rand side.

The bundle of diminutive dynamite Duda Munsamy, who had an excellent game against Rangers last week, should come out on top again on Sunday. Together with Carey, Duda should make the openings for striker Scampy Biseswar, inside-Pat Blair and right-winger Sadeck Ebrahim to bulldoze the Swaraj defence.

Dynamos United, who are riding the crest of the wave in the Transvaal at the moment, take on Blue Bells United in the second round of the Mainstay league match at the Lenasia stadium on Saturday.

Log leaders Cape Town Spurs meet Verulam Suburbs, also in the second round, at Athlone Stadium on Monday night. Suburbs beat Spurs 3-0 in the first round at Currie's Fountain.



AFTER facing the might of Manning Rangers last week, Berea have another tough schedule ahead against Johannesburg's high-riding Swaraj in the Mainstay league match at Currie's Fountain on Sunday.

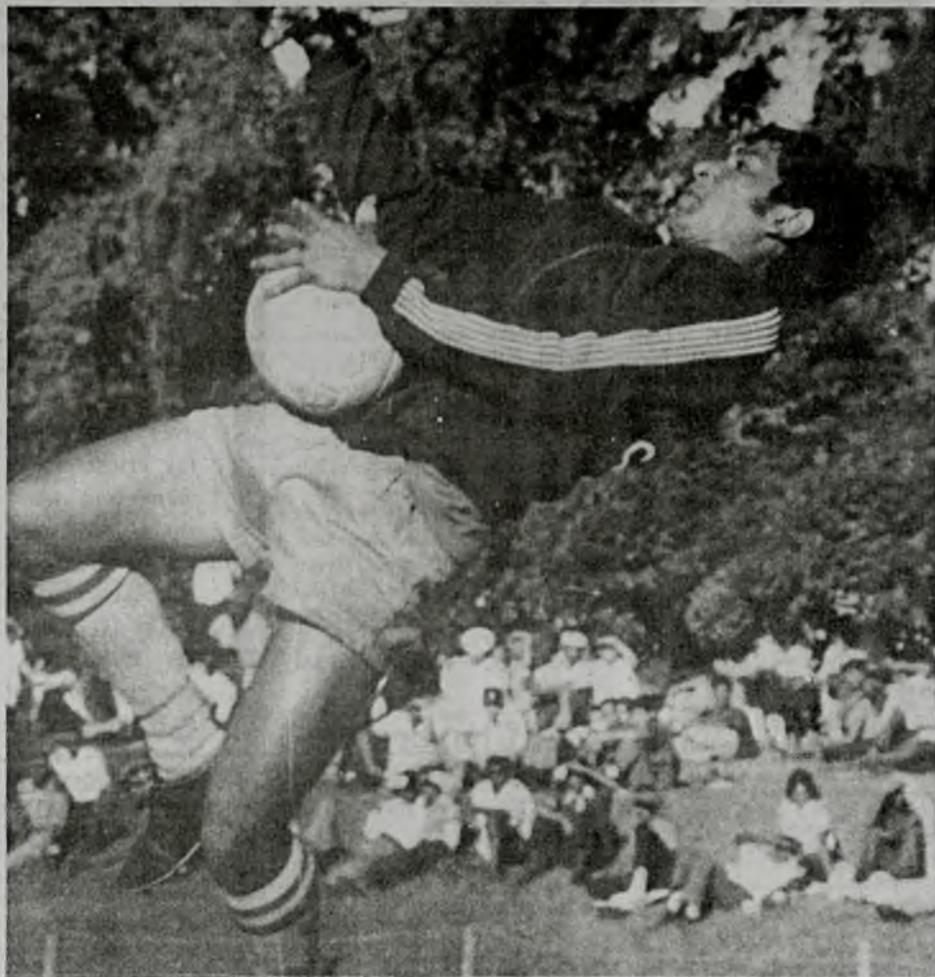
Although Swaraj are lying second

SWARAJ'S goalkeeper Baboo Kalicharan makes a dramatic save under pressure. Watching the goalkeeper's defender Lucas Arenje, Suburbs and Swaraj drew 1-1 at Currie's Fountain yesterday.

'Rough stuff' couldn't rattle

MANNING

Post 5-5-1974

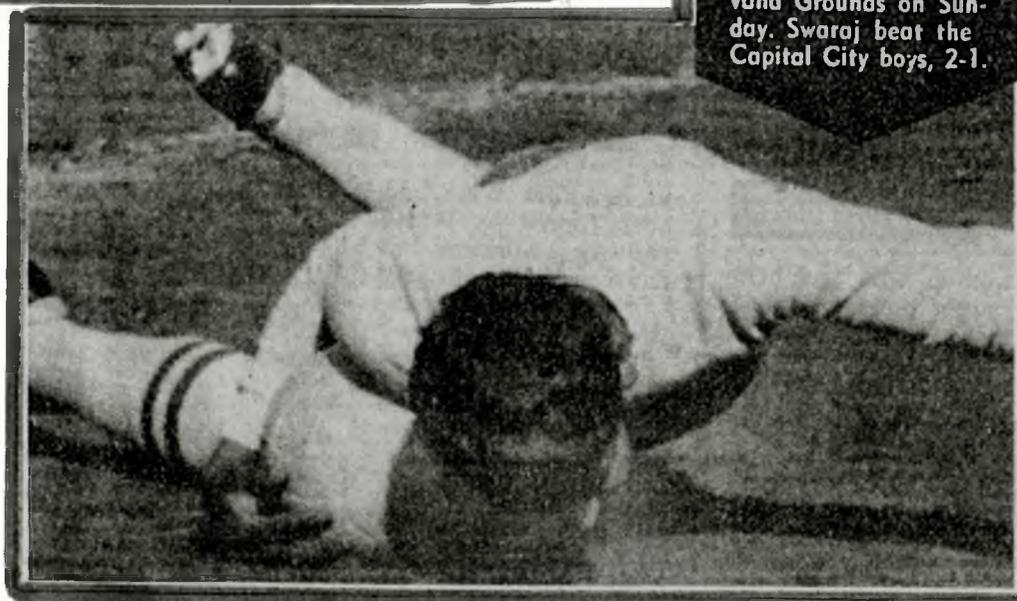


● Baboo Kalichuran, the Swaraj keeper who looked shaky stopped this "cert" from Brian Gobi who let rip a first timer.

Biting

the dust!

● Swaraj goalkeeper, Baboo Kalicharan, gathers this one during his team's clash against star-studded Sundowns at the Nirvana Grounds on Sunday. Swaraj beat the Capital City boys, 2-1.





BABOO KALICHURAN



SAM REDDY



ANTHONY JULIUS



L. JEEVANANTHAN



ARCHIE ANDREWS

Tension rises for Lens 'derby'

THE big match of the year! That is what people are saying about this weekend's derby between Bluebells United and Swaraj, at the Lenasia Stadium on Sunday.

This is one match that every soccer lover in the Transvaal would like to see. It has all the ingredients of a cup final. It is comparable to the Rangers-Celtic matches in Glasgow or the Santos-Sporting games in soccer crazy Brazil.

Ever since the date of this clash was announced, supporters of either club have been betting, arguing and debating about the outcome of this game. There are others who are regulars but have made it known that on this particular day they will not witness the game because they fear that rival supporters may clash and violence may erupt.

But the fanatical supporters will be there to cheer their team to the most sought after victory.

Thorough preparations have been made by the two teams together with the Lenasia Football Association for this great clash — one of the six times in the year that the turnstiles will really click.

Police control is priority number one. There will be adequate police both inside and outside the ground. Fans who get unruly will be evicted from the ground.

There is the need for these measures at this rival clash arises from the fact that there have been negotiations between the two clubs about the transfers and counter-transfers of players. These transfers will no doubt, add fuel to the partisanship of some of the supporters.

Heads of both teams are wary of predicting the outcome of this game. "Anything can happen in a derby," the Bluebells boss Mr Vincent Naidoo told me. "It is difficult to forecast a result. The game can go either way."

"But I would like to appeal to our supporters, in particular and the spectators in general to be on their best behaviour. They must remember that the eyes of every soccer lover and administrator is on this game and nothing should mar it."

His counterpart in the Swaraj camp, Mr Korky Singh also appealed to everybody to be on their best behaviour. "Last year many people expected trouble. But what happened? Nothing. This year, too, there will be no trouble if everybody behaves themselves. And, we appeal to

everybody to behave. Let us not besmirch the good name of the Federation by allowing soccer put us all nearer to each other."

ELECTRIFYING

The match itself will produce thrills a plenty. And the atmosphere will be electrifying. The soccer produced is bound to be hard and fast with no quarter asked or given.

Both teams possess very good material and some fine individual talents.

In 'Bells goal, Dan Maistry is having a good season but his defenders have let him down on numerous occasions. With Anthony Julius back in the side after asking to be transferred to Swaraj, and Kenneth Trompeter playing well, the blue and white defence have been strengthened after their dismal performance against Berea.

These two backs will have to hold the fast moving wingers of Swaraj, Jacob Xaba and Victor Kowa. Xaba made a dream debut for Swaraj against Port Elizabeth United, thrilling the crowd with canny footwork and ball control.

The Bells midfield of Louis Jeevananthan, Alan Moonsamy

and Jeff Maistry, is quite strong. But will they be able to withstand the onslaught of Junior Khumalo, Stanley Tababalala and Goona Padayatchi?

MAIN POINT

The resistance of the 'Bells half line against the attack of the Swaraj forwards will be the main point of the game. Moonsamy and company can keep a tight rein on Goona and forwards then half Bluebells' battle will have been won.

The 'Bells attack of Archibald Andrews, Leroy Fortuin, Prega Thandrid, Soondrum Moodley and Sayed Bano is power packed. Moodley was out of the Bells line up for their first four games and it is now apparent that he is back with them.

This forward line is capable of giving the Swaraj defenders a headache. Prega Thandrid is an opportunist forwards and whoever marks him must keep a tight hold on him as he has the knack of scoring when least expected.

Sam Reddy, Thakur Singh, Lucas Aronje, Virgil Padayatchi and Roy Harry will have to pull out all the stops in the game to hold the powerful attack of Bluebells. These Swaraj defenders are quite good but they tend to be shaky at times. If they crack under the pressure then 'Bells will collect two valuable points.

SAFE HANDS

The man in the last line of defence for Swaraj Baboo Kalichuran is quite safe but a lot will depend on the support he receives from his defenders.

Now that Rattin Padayachee is back on the books of Bluebells, it seems likely that the other 'former' players will also return. Johannes Kholoane, who is now playing for Orlando Pirates is likely to return to Bells for Fed. league fixtures. Another player who will come from Hungry Lions in the Ellerines League will be Bluebells former stonewall defender, Meshack Nkosi.

With Baldwin Molepe, Ralph Mthimkulu these other African players have been playing dual roles. Molepe is suspended but the others were not reported for playing in the rival associations.

The referee who has not yet been appointed will have to keep an eagle eye on some of the players on either side for their rough tactics. Alan Moonsamy, Louis Jeevananthan and Dan Maistry have a tendency of 'delicately' fouling opposition players. Kola Padayachy, of Swaraj is another that needs watching.

FEVERISH ACTIVITY

Feverish preparations are taking place in both camps. Their trainers and coaches are keeping their changes under constant training for this vital clash. Both sides want to be prepared for this great derby.

Betting amongst supporters has reached alarming proportions. One Bluebells fanatic was seen offering odds of 6 to 1 on Bells victory. Last year thousands of rands changed after each clash. It seems that this year it will be repetition with the amounts being higher.

Security will be at a premium. The "lizards" will be there as usual. The "lizards" are the people who are too petty and sordid to pay the 50c admission fees to watch a game of football. Instead they sit on the wall surrounding the stadium and on roof tops of houses surrounding the ground.

Then, there are others who park their big trucks on the outside wall of the stadium and charge people 5c or 10c to stand on their vehicles. The traffic police on duty seem to neglect this aspect. All they have to do is ticket a couple of vehicles for parking on the pavements and that will be the end of half the story.

All in all this game has everything that a derby should have. And thousands of people will cram the inadequate stadium to witness this clash.

SECOND HALF BLITZ—AND SWARAJ ARE KING

23-6-74

SWARAJ are kings of Lenasia. A 10 minute half brought them two glorious goals to give over their arch-rivals, Bluebells. The prize was presented at the Lenasia Stadium just as the Springboks at Pretoria yesterday.

Bells had their chances, but they failed to do the most important thing—score the goals.

It was a day of emotion as the biggest crowd in the history of Federation Football witnessed a full-blooded game pushing nerve and talent to the limit in a pulsating 90-minute ordeal.

It was a memorable game, with both sides producing one of the finest performances of their histories.

Nobody, least of all coach Roy Poole, could explain what happened to Swaraj to lift them so spectacularly in the second half to bring them a glorious victory.

But somehow they were able to summon the spirit that had their supporters somersaulting in ecstasy. For the players it was like a triumph at Wembley in the FA Cup. It may not have been Wembley but the spirit, colour, grandeur and drama was certainly there.

By
COOLAM
MAJAM

*Smiley
was a
ball of
fire*

Whether in bitter disappointment — with all the ifs and buts—or with the joyous expression of a child having a long-awaited desire fulfilled, the fans will talk about



Ward w
"Walk

With 15 points from nine games, Spurs are in the chase for league honours. Although Glenville have 19 points they have played 12 games; so, with full points from their next three games, Spurs can overtake them. The Spurs form in their drawn game against Rangers makes it possible. Few will forget their brilliant forays and the clever attacks by James George which were thwarted only by the excellent goal-keeping of Mike Stoodley. On the run of play in the second half, the game belonged to Spurs. Recalling Seraj Abbas, playing a third-back role.

Points

ILL-LUCK HITS TVL'S SWARAJ

SWARAJ returned home an extremely disappointed side on Sunday after losing their Mainstay League match to Berea on a disputed first-half goal.

When the controversial goal was scored in the 15th minute, the Berea forward Pat Blair seemed to be completely offside.

In the 25th minute Lady Luck again turned her back on Swaraj. Gona Padaychee failed to score the penalty which was awarded when centre-half Daya

Maistry handled the ball.

Both teams got down to business from the first whistle. Ball-juggler Smiley Moosa created several opportunities for his team-mates but sturdy Daya Maistry and goalkeeper Naziem Beneveldt took the sting out of their raids.

Berea bagged their disputed goal much against the run of play. Pat Blair shot at goal and the ball hit the bar. But he was right on target with the rebounder. Swaraj's goalkeeper

Baboo Kallichuran looked clearly confused when the goal was awarded to Berea.

Soon after Berea lost the opportunity of increasing their tally to two when Scampie Bisseswar shot the ball over the bar. Berea fluffed another opportunity five minutes before the end of the first half when Sadeck Ebrahim shot wide from close range.

The second half saw both sides enjoying a fair share of the game but neither team scored.



THIS was the controversial goal scored in the 15th minute of the first half. Pat Blair, (right) who scored it, is seen standing next to Swaraj's goalkeeper Kallichuran.

Berea held to a draw

By GOOLAM MAJAM

Fresh from their recent triumph against Cape Town United, Berea failed to press home their advantage and ended their Federation Professional League fixture with a 2-2 draw against Swaraj at the Lenasia Stadium yesterday.

After last week's violent outbreak on the field, where the linesman, Mr. Yunus Mayat, was assaulted — and referee Harry Kara threatened with violence — the Transvaal's panel of referees and linesmen refused to officiate in Swaraj's fixture and one saw Mr. Abdul Bhamjee, vice-president of the professional league, in the uncharacteristic role of a referee.

"I was faced with a situation with nobody wanting to referee the

The home team went into a two-goal lead in the first half, against the run of play. Berea have themselves to blame for allowing Swaraj to salvage a point from this game.

Any team that enjoys 80 per cent possession of the ball and yet fails to score the goals, can not expect to emerge as winners.

And here Berea's inside left Pat Blair must shoulder most of the blame. He was completely off form and off target and hesitant in front of the goals.

Baboo Kallichuran was Swaraj's hero in goals. He thwarted the Berea attack time after time with his magnificent saves.



Hotel Mercury 16/9/74

Goal dispute, but Berea march on

By RAJENDRA CHETTY

A CONTROVERSIAL goal in the 15th minute of the first half saw Berea snatch another lucky victory at Currie's Fountain yesterday when they beat Swaraj 1-0 in an FPL league game.

Pat Blair was completely offside when the ball sailed over and keeper Kallichuran looked at the linesman and then at referee Lingiah Moon-samy as Pat slammed the ball towards the net. It hit the bar and Pat made no mistake with the rebounder.

In the 25th minute Swaraj fluffed a wonderful opportunity to draw level when a penalty was awarded to them after centre-half Daya Maistry handled the ball. Gona Padayachee hit the upright.

Both sides went into the attack with Swaraj having the decided edge. Dribbling wizard Smiley Moosa carved brilliant openings but Dava

Maistry and Nazim Beneveldt (in goals) thwarted all their efforts.

In the fifth minute Smiley beat the defence and keeper Beneveldt but just failed to use his foot to advantage as the ball slipped past the post.

HASTY

It was much against the run of play that Berea got its controversial goal. Berea could have got another a minute later but Scampy Bissessor was too hasty and lobbed the ball over the bar.

After Gona Padayachee had failed to convert a penalty in the 25th minute, Berea stormed

into attack and the ball moved from side to side. Five minutes before the end of the first half, Scampy moved in from the midfield and placed a perfect sitter for Sadeck Ebrahim. Sadeck mistimed the shot.

A minute later Smiley Moosa was almost responsible for a goal when he tried to juggle the ball and found it moving in the wrong direction. It was picked up by Sadeck but Kallichuran's anticipation was brilliant and he saved beautifully.

The second half was as exciting as the first but although Swaraj had a good deal of the ball, neither side was able to score.

YESTERDAY'S clash between Berea and Swaraj was highlighted by brilliant goalkeeping by both Nazim Beneveldt (Berea) and Babu Kallichuran who is pictured above making one of his many saves.

POOR SHOW BY SUBURBS

IN A game that rarely reached any great heights, Verulam Suburbs and Swaraj played out a goalless draw in a Mainstay league match at Currie's Fountain yesterday.

The game lacked the professional touch. Suburbs must blame themselves for not taking the two points. Suburbs, who are strong challengers for the league title this year and are unbeaten in their last seven outings, put up a very poor show.

Joint leaders with Berea with 11 points, they must shake up their ideas and produce a high standard of football — as they did against Berea last week when they drew 2-2.

Swaraj, third from the bottom of the league log, gave Suburbs a hard time. Whereas the visitors made some effort to add punch into the lacklustre game, Suburbs were a poor side with no ideas whatsoever. Many passes went astray and Swaraj forwards often

ran into their off side trap.

Both sides missed a number of chances. In the 20th minute Jacob Xaba missed a sitter for Swaraj and Junior Khamalo missed some open goals through his inaccurate shooting. Just before half time a shot taken by Preston Julius met the head of Vincent Pillay and Swaraj goalkeeper made a brilliant save.

After the resumption both sides got into the game, and in the 27th minute Lucas Aronje handed the ball in the box. Errol Martin took the spot kick which was well saved by Baboo Kalicharan. This missed penalty by Suburbs robbed them of victory.

The Transvaalers, inspired by the goalkeeper and the defence which was well marshalled by Virgil Padayachee and Lucas Aronje, took the initiative of the game and gave the Sugarbush Boys some overtime in the closing stages. Kola Padayachee took a bullet that hit the cross bar and was saved.



BABOO KALICHARAN, the Swaraj goalkeeper, leapt high with defender Virgil Padayachee to save from header by Vincent Pillay, while Gopi Naidoo, Suburbs striker, is ready to attack. In a drab game Suburbs and Swaraj yesterday drew 0-0.

SUBURBS FAIL TO IMPRESS

THOUSANDS of supporters who flocked to Currie's Fountain on Sunday expecting Verulam Suburbs to teach Swaraj a lesson or two left the ground a disappointed lot.

Apart from the Transvaalers proving themselves to be a tough bunch, the standard of Suburbs' performance was hardly in keeping with their present status in the Mainstay League competition. At the most, Suburbs succeeded in keeping their unbeaten record intact by ending their match in a goalless draw.

What became of the Suburbs who fought so ferociously in their thrill-a-minute encounter against Berea in Durban only a week ago? After seeing Suburbs give a display which was not even a shadow of last week's performance, one begins to have grave doubts about their league chances.

While Swaraj were the superior side, the match as a whole was an untidy affair. Passes often went astray and the moves were rarely constructive. And to make matters even worse Suburbs' players, despite playing in strong wind, often ballooned the ball instead of playing it on the ground.

Suburbs would have possibly pulled off a victory if they had not blundered with a penalty in the 28th minute of the second half. Errol Martin kicked confidently but the Swaraj goalkeeper, Baboo Kalicharan, who had an outstanding game through the first half, saved well.

Suburbs also found the Swaraj defence of Sam Reddy, Vergil Padayachee and Lucas Orange a tough lot. Those men played a vital role, especially in the first half, by taking the sting of their opponents' attack, initiated mainly by Vincent Pillay, Gopi Naidoo and Gerald Williams.

While one does not deny that Errol Martin is one of the most outstanding goalkeepers in the league, his time-wasting tactics were most unnecessary. He tended to hold on to the ball too long instead of getting it to his teammates with the least loss of time.

Suburbs' off-side trap often frustrated the efforts of men like Junior Kumalo and Jacob Xaba but it hardly helped to liven up the game.

Midway through the second half new signing Roy Harry replaced Junior Kumalo and Charles Subben replaced Gerald Williams.

Why Bobby Naidoo is sweating

VERULAM SUBURBS' manager Bobby Naidoo has been sweating over Sunday's all important game against much-improved Swaraj at Curries.

Suburbs and Berea met in a floodlit game and Naidoo's big worry was

injuries.

"If all the players come through unscathed, then its fine but if there are injuries we are going to be in trouble," he said.

Suburbs, who ran through five games unbeaten since Naidoo took over, are in for a tough afternoon.

Swaraj have suddenly hit form and are now considered the main Rand threats for honours. The fact that they were able

POST Reporter

to come away with a point from Spurs is proof of their new-found strength.

The man who ought to prove the stumbling block to a Suburbs victory will be their agile 'keeper Baboo Kallichuran who is in fine form this season.

The Swaraj forwards on the other hand are not going to find Burri Martin

easy to beat as well. They will have to fire from all angles if they hope to score.

Back for Suburbs will be their talented left winger Charles Subben who combines well up front with Gopi Naidoo, Preston Julius and Vincent Pillay.

Curries fans will once more witness a hard-fought game but it is up to the respective forwards to clinch the points.

Drab Suburbs chase shadows

By RAJENDRA CHETTY

VERULAM SUBURBS thrilled a capacity crowd at Currie's Fountain four days ago but kept chasing shadows yesterday and in a lack-lustre game managed to salvage another point in a drawn game against Swaraj of Johannesburg.

The teams drew without score after Burri Martins penalty shot was brilliantly saved by Swaraj's Baboo Kalichuran.

It is difficult to believe a team's performance could take such a dive in four days. Suburbs certainly looked championship material against Berea but yesterday, strangely enough, just about everything went wrong for them.

There was hardly much action saved for a brief spell after Suburbs' Burri Martin had failed to convert that penalty.

Swaraj swarmed over the Suburbs defence and attacked strongly but faded out a short while later.

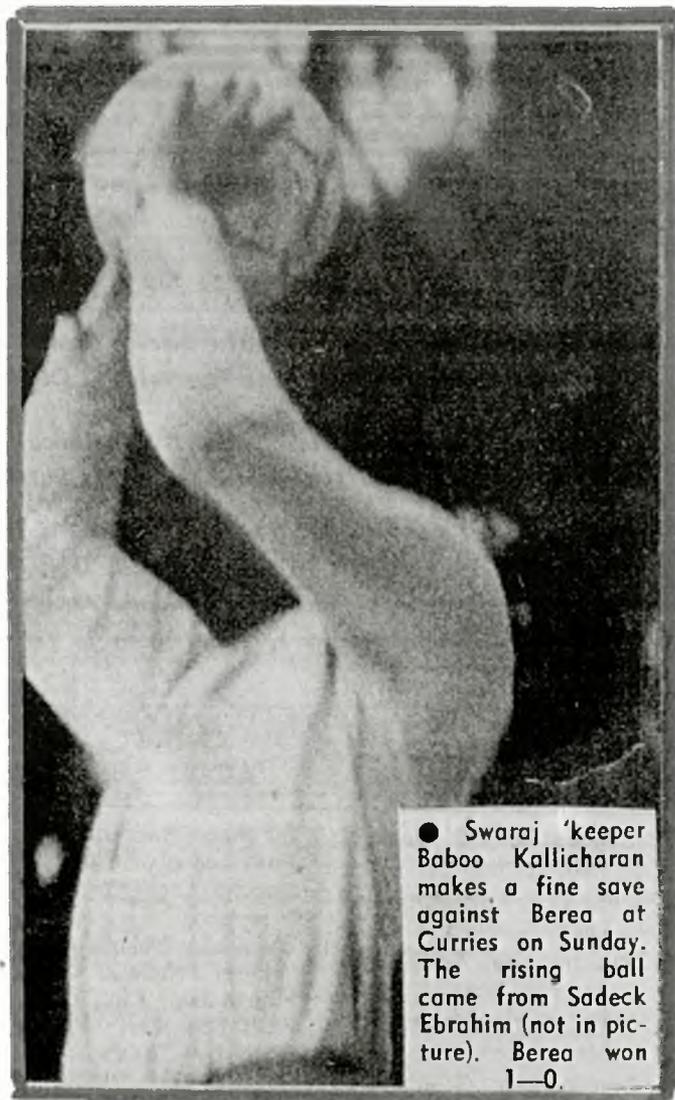
The Johannesburg team must have been satisfied with a point and full credit must be given to their goalkeeper, Baboo Kalichuran and defenders Virgil Padaychee, Lucas Aronje and Sam Reddy for neutralising all the good moves by the Suburbs forwards.

It was in the 27th minute of the second half that Lucas Aronje accidentally handled the ball and with Suburbs supporters rooting for a win, Burri Martin left his berth in goal and very confidently took the kick. Baboo saved and then Swaraj put everything into attack.

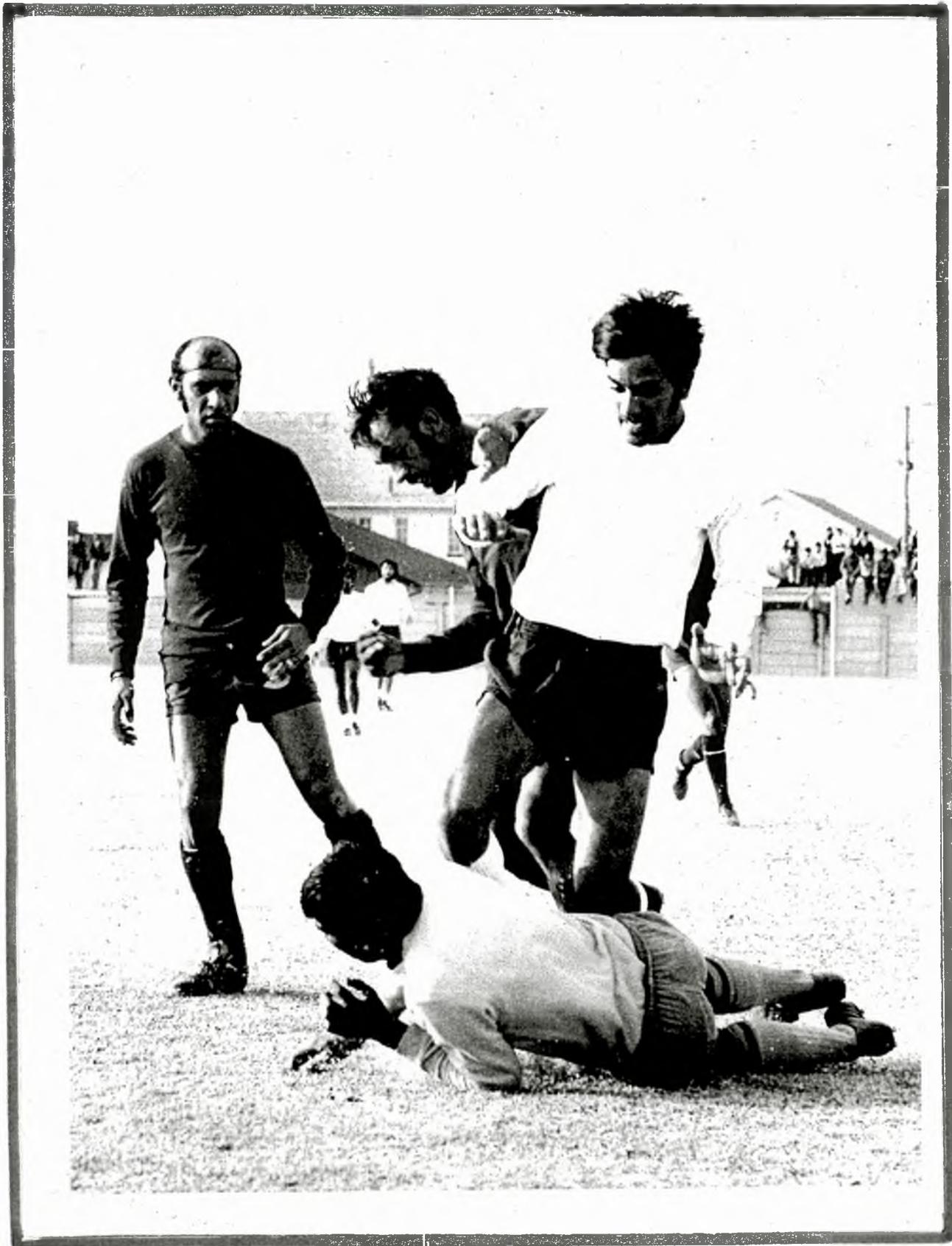
Roy Harry replaced Junior Khumalo for Swaraj and Charles Subben replaced Bob Williams for Suburbs.



● Baboo Kally of Swaraj just manages to push this one out as Suburbs Henry Oliver tries to tap it in after defender Beukes Mcquati makes a slip.



● Swaraj 'keeper Baboo Kallicharan makes a fine save against Berea at Curries on Sunday. The rising ball came from Sadeck Ebrahim (not in picture). Berea won 1—0.





Athman Kalichuran: Principal bows out with grace...and some style

Mems Moosa reports

After having served in the teaching profession for over 40 years, Athman Kalichuran (63) bowed out of the education sector even as the new year began, at the close of January.

Kalichuran - who once played soccer professionally for Swaraj FC – told the *Lenasia Sun* he had no definite plans for his 'retirement' and would wait to see what the future held for him.

He would, however, continue pursuing his interest in all matters sporting, especially swimming and soccer.

"In the mean time," he said, "I plan on starting off this extra-long sabbatical from the education sector by pursuing my love and interest in animals."

We found out a bit more about this esteemed Lenz headmaster...

Athman matriculated at Roodepoort Indian High and then went on to complete his teaching diploma at the then-Transvaal College of Education. Upon graduation, he started his teaching career with a posting to Standerton High School as a level one Afrikaans and Geography teacher. After his one-year tenure at the school

though, he quit the profession and assumed employment (for four years) as an estimator for SA Canvas.

"But I felt that my true calling was indeed with the education sector," he smiled, "and so I returned to the teaching profession, securing a post at MH Joosub where I remained for the next 13 years, under the guidance of M Valla, who was the principal at that time." Athman's upward mobility continued, first with his appointment as a HOD (Head of Department, Afrikaans) at Azara Secondary School, where he served for six years. He was later promoted to the position of deputy principal at Athlone Boys High, in Bez Valley. After a year at Athlone Boys, and now armed with the requisite experience, Athman rose to the position of principal at Ennerdale Secondary School, 'where the environment offered a different set of interesting challenges'.

"After my time at Ennerdale, I applied for a transfer to be nearer to home," he said, "and so was able to continue in this great profession, as principal at Flamingo Primary, for the next 17 years!"

Athman continued: "The highlight of my

career has always been the fact that I get to teach children! It is fantastic for me! And also, since the dawn of democracy in our country, to be able to interact and educate children from different backgrounds. "But of all my postings, I'd say my years at MH Joosub were the most challenging and interesting overall."

If he had a future wish as regards education, Athman said, "I would like to see the workload of teachers reduced. Currently, there are many chores, involving paperwork, that need to be completed as per request of the Department of Education." He continued, "Parents also need to acknowledge the work and efforts of educators, often under trying circumstances, and especially with children coming from diverse socio-economic backgrounds." His message to those he now left behind was: "Continue the good work and reach greater heights! And to those I still like to refer to as 'my teachers', keep up the excellent and high standards set by yourselves!"



Athman Kalichuran.







SWARAJ F. C.

Standing Left to Right: R. Padayatchi, D. Le Roux, H. LeRoke, L. Padayatchi, V. Padayatchi,
S. Rampersadh, L. Oranje, G. Padayatchi, D. Twala.
Sitting Left to Right: A. Nkosi, T. Singh, S. Reddy, B. Kallichuran, J. Mkati, Pro. Ariel.





BEATEN, but still league champions! Swaraj players proudly display the cup they earned for winning the Federation League soccer championship. Even though they lost 1-2 yesterday to Manning Rangers, Swaraj were still one point clear on the log.

Rangers end league on a high note

MANNING Rangers ended their Mainstay league programme on a high note when they beat the newly crowned league champions Swaraj 2-1 at Currie's Fountain yesterday.

This win not only placed Rangers in fourth position in the league and a bigger slice of the prize money, but also gave them a big morale booster to their cup final against Bells on Sunday.

Although Swaraj lost, they are the new champions and it is the first time that a Transvaal team has won the league title.

The game was played in difficult conditions after soaking rain and yet there were thrills galore for a crowd of about 5 000.

Rangers resting three of their key-players Chicken Price, Dave Forsyth and Sadeck Ebrahim for the Cup final, put up a fine performance.

The game got off to a grand start with Swaraj's danger-man and the league's highest goalscorer Jimmy Joubert closely marked by Mike Samuels.

Clive Daniels, Rangers' winghalf, was the star of the match. He was a spoiler in nearly every Swaraj move while Pravesh Mothiram and

Ken Haggety also had a fine game in the defence for the home side.

Rangers, who dominated the scene in the second half, missed numerous chances. Twice Sugar Singh's shots hit the crossbar and were saved. Once Victor Govindsamy's header was almost in when defender Gona Padayachee saved on the line.

Seconds from half time a Sugar Singh pass found Victor and the player beat a defender and shot into the corner of the net to give Rangers a 1-0 lead.

The visitors tried hard in the second half but the Rangers solid defence kept them at bay. Rangers went further ahead with a fine goal by Sugar Singh before Victor Howa pulled one back for Swaraj.

Final league log for 1977.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swaraj	20	13	3	4	53	19	29
Berea	20	13	2	5	35	19	28
CT Spurs	20	12	3	5	49	29	27
Mann Rangers	20	9	4	6	27	29	22
Dynamos Utd	20	8	5	7	39	26	21
Blue Bells	20	7	6	7	33	27	20
PE United	20	8	4	8	34	39	20
V Suburbs	20	6	6	8	24	31	18
Sundowns	20	5	6	9	30	32	16
Mbg City	20	2	6	12	23	51	10
Glenville	20	2	5	13	26	60	9

BURRI'S BOOB

01/06/1975

BURRI MARTIN, Verulam Suburbs' ace 'keeper, couldn't be blamed if he was seen trying to jump into Durban Bay after last Sunday's crucial Mainstay League game against Swaraj at Curries.

For the crack man in black boomed with a penalty that could have given his unbeaten side two valuable points in the race for honours.

The game ended in a goalless draw so that missed penalty, which Burri kicked into the hands of his diving opposite number Baboo

Kallichuran, could have sealed the game for the North Coast side.

It came in the 78th minute when Suburbs had Swaraj under pressure. It was bow-legged Charles Subben, brought in as a substitute for an

By **R Brijlall**

off-form Bob Williams, who started the vital move. He swung the ball to Cyril Smith, signed from Rangers only 24

hours before and his shot was handled in the box by Lucas Aronje.

Suburbs' supporters held their breath and so did players and officials of Swaraj. Up strode Burri. He placed the ball and as ref Dawood Kader blew, Burri shot only to see Baboo well positioned to make a grand save.

The Swaraj 'keeper, who improved with every game, had made the save of his life and got his side a valuable point.

Suburbs' hard 2-2 game against Berea last Wednesday night took its toll. They looked stale in the first half but made some excellent moves in the second.

Penalty drama that cost

01/06/1975



● Post's chief photographer Ranjith Kally was on hand to capture the penalty drama at Curries between Verulam Suburbs and Swaraj. Here Burri shoots and Baboo Kallichuran gets ready to save.

①

Suburbs a vital league point

01/06/1975



● Baboo pounces on the ball which he let run loose in the scrimmage that followed.



● Burri has another go at goal but Baboo boots the ball away. The match ended in a goalless draw.



● Post's chief photographer Ranjith Kally was on hand to capture the penalty drama at Curries between Verulam Suburbs and Swaraj. Here Burri shoots and Baboo Kallichuran gets ready to save.

①



Laudium soccer stars of tomorrow!

When it comes to news, we keep ahead of the pack. And in sports, we are also setting the trend and raising the bar!

Now that you've read your way to the back of the *Laudium Sun* for this week and are up to date with the latest news and happenings, it's time to take a peek into tomorrow... So, just who can you expect to see on the playing fields of tomorrow?

Well, we've got another pair of talented Laudium lads to introduce you to this week: Muhammad Dayyaan Ismail and Huzaifa Ismail. And just remember, you read it in the *Laudium Sun* first...of course!

Name: Huzaifa Ismail

Date of birth: May 9, 2000

School: Tshwane Muslim School

Grade: Six

Current team: Birds FC

Position: Left midfielder

Dominant foot: Left

Fave international side: Barcelona

Fave international player: Messi

Goal: I was selected for the district team last year and I hope that this is a sign of better things to come. I want to ensure that my football career is as bright as I can make it.

Role model: That would be my mother, Mariam Ismail

BTW: Under favourite food, you can write hot wings...any time! And as far as dream cars go, well, I'll pick Ferrari and Bugatti, each time and every time!

Huzaifa says: I have been with Birds FC from the time I was an under six player and I like to think that I have played an important role in my club's success over the years.

I've been told I have what they call 'an educated left foot' which allows me to deliver some outstanding crosses for my team mates, good enough so that they can put that ball in the back of the net!



Name: Muhammad Dayyaan Ismail

Date of birth: January 13, 2000

School: Jacaranda Primary

Grade: Seven

Current team: Birds FC

Position: Central midfielder/defender

Dominant foot: Right

Fave international side: Manchester United

Fave international player: Messi

Goal: My current aim, in the matches I play, is to ensure that the defence is not breached...not ever!

Role model: Can I name two? My big brothers...Bilal and Hamzah...

BTW: My favourite food is pizza, that really gets me going, and keeps me on the go! And my favourite car is a Camaro! Yeah!

Dayyaan says: I feel that I play a vital role in my team by protecting the goals, guarding the defence. I am able to show composure in distributing the ball while staying ferocious when it comes to tackling and winning the ball back.

When presented with the opportunity, I can show some really silky smooth dribbling skills, and even slot a few to the back of the net when the opportunity presents itself.





Hair By Rehana

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Straightener lasts for up to 1 year



Laudium's soccer legend sees 'smiley' future for Indian football

Smiley Moosa's fortnight in India is over and he is back home in Laudium...but the visit proved a crucial milestone in the life of this player who has been listed in the top 10 players of all time in South African football.

Smiley grew up in apartheid South Africa but, despite his mother being categorized as 'coloured', he has always identified himself as Indian and as a part of this vibrant community – passionate about life and, of course, sport! This is why the recent visit to India meant so much to Smiley...and perhaps even more to the youth he coached during the trip; it is after all not every day that one gets to learn from a legend.

His passion for the game has been revitalised and this was clear to see when he visited the *Laudium Sun* offices upon his return. In fact, Smiley confided to our photographer,

Benjamin Rafapa, that he had been treated like a superstar, and was absolutely spoilt during his stay...to the extent that he even considered tearing up his return ticket and staying.

"They treated me so well," he said. "They treated me as if I were a state president or something. Every day, every moment was *just incredible*. I wanted to stay forever." The coaching trip was actually a return for Smiley; his father migrated to Pretoria from Surat.

When he spoke of the sporting potential he had been privy to in India, his eyes shone even brighter.

The children he interacted with, he remarked, sparkled with talent; the raw attributes for India to shine on the world soccer stage were certainly there.

"The knowledge of the kids there surprised

me," he said. "Thanks to the media there, they are aware of the top leagues, the players...and, if the interest for the game is there, then no adverse conditions can tie you down.

"Look at my case for example. The whites had their own league where us Indians, the coloureds and blacks couldn't play...but look what we did!"

Smiley has great hopes for the sub-continent's soccer dream. And it is telling that, when he speaks of India, he uses the pronoun 'we'... "We (India) can go from the 150-odd Fifa ranking at the moment to 30 and then 20 and better. The talent is there. Of the players I have seen, there are many who have a natural ability with the ball.

Golden

"But we have to understand and accept the reality that it is going to take time," he said. The advice that Smiley had for 'the sleeping giant' that is India is equally applicable to South Africa, where many lament the decline of soccer in the Indian community.

His advice to the Indian players he coached should be applied locally as well, if we want to see progress...and the return of players of the calibre of legendary goalkeeper, Baboo 'Flying Cat' Kallichuran, or the Dynamite Brothers, Sydney and Deva Moonian...or Mr Soccer himself, Swaraj FC co-founder, Billa Singh...the list goes on and on...

"We need to get more and more youngsters playing the game. Regular practice is golden. Even if a kid plays for 10 minutes a day, it is better than no minutes. And football is a game where all you need is a ball.

"The kids I have interacted with here, I have showed them how to develop their skills even if they are all by themselves, kicking against a wall," he said.

Smiley – who, incidentally, qualifies as a pensioner on November 17 – was fortunate enough to tour Kerala during his stay, conducting many a football workshop.

The trip was actually made possible by a friendship fostered during South Africa's hosting of the 2010 World Cup. Smiley befriended Malayali artist, Riyas Komu, during this period and Riyas drafted his services for the FIF (Federation of Indian Football) and FDF (Football Development Foundation).

About a year ago, a couple of Malayalis – Sudheesh A, a Mumbai-based corporate executive, and Samuel Thomas, a builder based in Kochi – decided to do something for the game they love by launching the non-profit organisation that became the FDF.

World-class

Sudheesh, who is currently FIF chairperson, said the plan is to popularise the game of soccer in India, build world-class infrastructure and facilitate youth development through football.

"Once the camps in Kerala are over, we will have a tournament for the teams selected from the districts and then the winners will be sent to Malaysia for advanced training," he said.

Smiley played a big part at the Kerala camps and will probably be involved even more intimately as the programme advances...

"We have the high quality, on-the-ball skills to play a possession game much like Barcelona. If you take an Indian child with natural ball-playing ability and put him in an academy like Barcelona has at an early age, within five years he will emerge a world-class player," he told the Indian press.

"If we can set up that sort of a system, we can produce the same results. It will take time, but you have to realize that we are trying to produce excellence, not mediocrity."

One can only wonder why the local football administration has not taken more advantage of Smiley's talents and all he has to offer. Let's just hope that someone wakes up and does so before we lose our legend to India...



Rubbing shoulders with celebrities...because he's a celeb himself! Laudium's resident soccer legend, 'Smiley' Moosa (left), with Resul Pookatty (of Slumdog Millionaire fame) and Leena Panchal (the Bollywood actress who was last seen in House Full 2) during his recent coaching tour of India.

Lenasia's Baboo was an ace in goals

Kalichuran starred in many memorable games

DIVING to his left and right, Baboo Kalichuran pulled off some magnificent saves to help his Lenasia-based club Swaraj pull off victories that won over many fans since their introduction to the pro scene in 1974.

Such was the trust of the club's managing Singh family in him to keep safely, they approved wholeheartedly the day he proposed marriage to their sister, Prithma and became part of the Swaraj family.

A big fan of this column since its inception, Kalichuran, 55, of Lenasia Drive, Extension One, religiously buys a copy of POST each week and turns immediately to this page to read about the featured personality of the week.

No doubt this week will be extra special for him.

Now a principal of Flamingo Primary School in Lenasia, he spoke of his playing days in the Federation with as much enthusiasm as he reads about others.

Born in Pietas in Vrededorp, Kalichuran's love for the game was first stirred while watching his dad Harilall, now 80, play goalkeeper for teams in Vrededorp. With feelings of emulation for his dad, he started playing between the posts while others were eager to play upfront and score goals.

His prowess was recognised when he was selected for the Transvaal Schools team. His first amateur club was Mohawks in Vrededorp and to better himself, he moved to Benfica which was a top amateur side in the Transvaal.

Although his pro-playing days were with Swaraj, he initially spent eight weeks training with Bluebells but was not happy with the set-up.

His move to Swaraj was welcomed by club officials Billa Singh and his brothers and Kalichuran added that the play-



LEFT: Baboo Kalichuran makes one of his acrobatic saves

CENTRE: The Swaraj team of 1974, back row from left, Gandhi Adams (coach), Kola Padayachee, Alfred Mokgotsa, Sam Reddy, John Buich Mkwati, Dan Twala, and Lucas Oranje, front row, Smiley Moosa, Tony Kruger, Thakur Singh, Baboo Kalichuran, Gona Padayachee, Dan Courie and Virgil Padayachee

RIGHT: Baboo and his dad, Harilall, whom he tried to emulate in goals

ers were a great bunch to be with.

In his first game as a pro in 1974, he came up against Bluebells and he had the last laugh when they beat them 2-1.

He said: "Although a great rivalry existed between Berea and us, the derby match with Bluebells was always a crunch encounter. Whether you were on the bus, at the shop or on the streets, the conversation among residents of Lenasia a week before the derby centred on the match. It was built to a point of thrilling excitement on match day when the local soccer stadium was packed with supporters.

His first year in the top flight was a dream start to his career, as both he and fellow player Virgil Padayachee were in the running for the Fed Player of the Year title.

Although his brilliant saves were well documented in the press, the moment he would

like to forget was when he let a ball go between his legs against Cape Town Spurs in 1975.

Apart from that embarrassing slip-up, Kalichuran's acrobatic exhibition in goals and his pin-point distribution of the ball, won him many fans.

He said: "I remember travelling to Currie's where we played Verulam Suburbs. The game was tight and with the score on 0-0, Suburbs were awarded a penalty which their keeper Burrie Martin came up to take. I made the right choice of direction to dive and managed to push the ball out.

"After the game, an African supporter came up to me and gave me R2 because he thought I played a magnificent game. Based on appearance, he looked like he could well do with that money but his gesture touched and inspired me to go on."

He said he felt privileged to have played with guys of the calibre of James George, Sadeq



GLORYDAYS
DEENA PILLAY

Ebrahim and Charles Carey whom he added was the player he feared the most.

"Charles had a great soccer brain and a sense of nervousness would have crept into any goalkeeper when he had the ball within striking distance. He packed a shot that could whiz past you with lightning speed if you were not quick enough to react."

Besides his dad, he admired the skills of England keeper Gordon Banks and Verulam Suburbs' Burrie Martin.

"What I learnt from Burrie was that you did not need to

dive for every ball. With correct positioning, a keeper could close the angle of the shot and save the ball without any drama."

He said that the team's trips for the away matches were made more enjoyable with the antics and jokes of fellow players Deva Naidoo and Roy Haripersad.

"The tricks they got up to in the kombi had us smiling from the time we left on the long journey. The guys at Swaraj were a tight unit and we even spent our free time together."

Another fun moment he re-

members well was the antics of Swaraj player Lucas Oranje who would foul a player off the ball and then run metres away and innocently look in the other direction.

"Lucas was so good at it that neither the player nor the referee would know who the culprit was."

He said that one of the greatest players he played with was Shakes "Screamer" Mashaba.

"Shakes was a great centre-half and our friendship continues to this day. A few years ago when he was coach of the national team, I invited him to my school to give the pupils a talk and the kids were surprised to learn that I once played pro football with the likes of him.

"He told the pupils that there were many great Indian players around in the days gone by and encouraged them to strive for glory on the sports field. Unfortunately many of



today's children are misguided and choose to waste their life away on drugs and parties rather than take an interest in sporting activities."

He feels that the players of his generation were hardened by their lifestyles and many of them could have gone on to represent our country had the opportunity existed then.

"Shoes was an item we had to look after, if we were lucky enough to have a pair, and running around bare feet on corrugated roads and bumpy makeshift sports fields helped strengthen us."

His scrapbook collection of newspaper articles give a good insight into his prowess.

With the headline: "Important Victory For Swaraj," it says: "Glenville tried hard for the equalizer but Kalichuran in goals was in top form as he dived to his right and then to

his left and made two magnificent saves.

"Another story headlined: 'Berea Held To A Draw' said: 'Baboo Kalichuran was Swaraj's hero. He thwarted the Berea attack time after time with magnificent saves.'"

Yet another with the headline: "Improved Swaraj Cruise To Win" reported: "Swaraj goalkeeper Baboo Kalichuran came off with flying colours after a fine display"

His days in the maroon and white jersey of Swaraj came to an end in 1977 after winning the league cup, when repeated dives led to a knee and shoulder injury and he now keeps fit by gyming regularly and dedicates much of his time in service to God.

The Kalichurans' son, Rohan, 29, is a medical doctor and daughter Trushna, 25, is a physiotherapist.

It really was a night of the legends

By Iqbal Gaffoor

LENASIA'S own soccer great, Links Padayachee, was given a standing ovation as he received a special award at the recent *Nite of the Legends*.

Guest of honour, Links, and a host of other soccer greats who featured well in

the good old days of Federation football when soccer in our part was at its best.

For all those who were present at the August 3 Gandhi Hall *Nite of the Legends* event it was truly a night to remember. The event was organised by the Lenasia Independent Coaches Association (LICA) and the Botafago Football Club.

This was an evening when they honoured some of the people that served the game well in the 1960s, 1970s and those that are still involved.

The only disappointing aspect of the evening was the lack of show by some of the persons from Lenasia who were nominated to be honoured, where about 200 awards were given out.

Some of the guests and recipients came from as far as Roshnee, the East Rand, central Johannesburg and Azaadville but many from Lenasia did not attend. This was a tantamount to a slap in the face for the organisers. There was no apology for their absence.

Speakers included Boetie Eshack, Darren Naidoo, Haroon Bera and Kuben Reddy. The atmosphere in the foyer of the Gandhi Hall was electric, especially when you meet friends after many years. The handshakes, reactions, emotions and fond and pleasant memories just comes flooding in.

This was the mood throughout as soccer administrators of those halycon days met. It is difficult to express that scene on paper. One had to be present to witness the emotions and joyous scenes.

Those that were honoured that night were just too thrilled about it, they appreciated every bit of it. Many thanked the organisers for remembering them after so many years and mentioned that they were not sorry that they came to the function.

Many of the people who contributed to the game and have since passed on category were Rand Daily Mail journalist late Ameen Akhalwaya; the late Kishore and Harry Kara; Ismail "Dwarfie" Waja; Ismail Pahad, Ebrahim Adam and a host of other gallant men. As much as the organisers would have liked to have honoured each one of the many people who played a significant role in the good old days this could not be done due to financial constraints.

Among those honoured included the very ill Abdul Bhamjee, who could not make it, Sam Khan, Boeti Eshak, Shiraj Abbas, Abdul Hamid "Timer" Valley, Sulie Bhamjee, Abdul Samad "Sampie" Essack, Tobie Hatia, Baboo Kalichuran, Ivan "Sarge" Naidoo, Ada Rugan, Omar "Chief" Ali, Harry Sukha, Ismail Baker, Gregory Peters, Agzie Pillay, brothers Martin and Harry Patel, referees and a host of others.

Teams that were honoured were Swaraj, Bluebells, Dynamos, Bellevue, Lesco, Lenz FC, Fordsburg United, Atletico and Eldo Sporting.

LICA president Nazeem "Blondie" Raffee was given a special award by members of LICA and Botafago.

PICTURES ON THIS PAGE THAKOR (TONY) BHOOLA SHOW THE MANY EX-STARS AND GUESTS THAT ATTENDED THE NIGHT OF THE LEGENDS



PHOTOS BY THAKOR (TONY) BHOOLA

GOONA SIGNS FOR SWARAJ

"Leader" Reporter

JOHANNESBURG
"NOW, we are ready to tackle any team in the Federation. We have two of the best schemers in the country in our side and I can't see any team stopping us."

These were the excited words of Swaraj general secretary, Mr. Billa Singh, after Swaraj and the arch-rivals, Bluebells United, concluded a deal which gave Swaraj two very good, if not the best players, in the League.

Goona Padayachy, the temperamental but forceful Bluebells United player has signed for Swaraj. In a package deal, Goona Padayachee and the former defender, Lucas Aronje, were transferred to Swaraj for an undisclosed sum.

It is a case of the errant son returning home. Padayachy played for Swaraj before he joined Bees. Now he is back with his old team-mates and his brothers, Kola and Virgil. These three once formed a formidable trio.

Lucas Aronje, the former Arsenal player, who signed for Bees but did not play a single game for them last year, signed for Swaraj last week. He was unaware that he was still on 'Bees' books. When it was discovered that he was still a registered member of last year's runner-up of the League, Swaraj went into a 'package' deal with Bluebells.

Aronje, who played for Burnley United in the Transvaal Professional League despite being on the books of Bluebells United, is a tower in any defence. This he displayed when he turned out in a friendly for Swaraj last week.

On paper, Swaraj now have one of the strongest squads in the League. The full squad is: Dave Marais, Baboo Kalichuren, Essop Ravat, Sam Reddy, Tony Kruger, Lucas Aronje, Goolam Ismail, Virgil Padayachy, Kola Padayachy, Albert Mkgatsi, David Boyce, Goona Padayachy, Herbert Leroke, Alfred Petrus, Thakur Singh, Jonas Tshepe, Danny Lourie, Anver Dindar and the evergreen Links Padayachy.



LINKS PADAYACHY



VIRGIL PADAYACHY



DANNY LOURIE



GEORGE "Tony" KRUGER



SAM REDDY



BABOO KALICHUREN



DAVID "Archie" BOYCE



ALFRED 'Sticks' PETRUS



LUCAS ARONJE



ALFRED MOKGATSI

MEET SPURS IN OPENING GAME

"Leader" Reporter

JOHANNESBURG
SWARAJ, the newcomers to the South African Soccer Federation Professional League's first division, travel to Cape Town for their very first game. They play last year's league champions, Cape Town Spurs on Monday at Athlone.

What better initiation could there be for any newcomer? The match against Spurs will be an ideal test for the Lenasia team.

Swaraj are taking a very strong squad down to Cape Town. "We are taking this match very seriously," Mr. Billa Singh, the Swaraj secretary, told me. "A very good first match will do us good."

GAVE A GIFT POINT

THE hardest thing to find in the Swaraj camp after Saturday's 2-all draw against Berea at the Lenasia Stadium was a smile.

Yes, it just had to happen . . . because nobody expected them to draw the game after playing like a bunch of disciplin-

By
Zaf Mayet

ed, seasoned footballers in the first half.

After the interval they painfully tried to emulate their first half performance.

Swaraj claimed they should have a penalty. But linesman Mr E Williams, who was on the spot, apparently did not see the infringement in the Berea penalty area.

Before Mr Abdul Bhamjee commented: "A ref is only as good as his linesman."

Swaraj players and officials refused to smile. Even coach Mr Roy Poole was a figure of melancholy as he described how his team should have collected two points.

"We should have got two, instead of the single point, from this game. I am bitterly disappointed with my chaps," he said.

Manager Mr Bila Singh said: "We must iron out a few things and get ourselves in an attacking style."

Swaraj only have themselves to blame. The problem with them is that they play a defensive type of game.

Soccer these days cannot be played with only three forwards. This is where Berea benefited.

They played like a team and went through the Swaraj defence with ease.

Midfield maestros Charles Carey and Doda Moonsamy played the attacking game as they sprayed balls into the Swaraj goal area.

Berea played to their wingers, Cassim Seedat and Sadeck Ebrahim, who were exciting with their dazzling footwork.

For Swaraj, goalkeeper Baboo Kallichuran turned on a five-star performance with his acrobatic saves in mid-air. He twice saved beautifully as he robbed Cassim Seedat and Pat Blair certain goals.

Swaraj scored two quick goals in the first half, when Archie Boyce and Dan Twala scored. Then into the second half, Pat Blair scored from a penalty for Berea and Cassim Seedat scored a lovely drive to give his side a well-deserved point.



● Action at the Swaraj game . . . Nayna Moodley (bald-headed Swaraj defender) and Pat Blair in a tussle for the ball. goalkeeper Baboo Kallichuran waits (left).

Well-drilled visitors

SWARAJ BEREA



● Swaraj goalkeeper Baboo Kallichuran was the hero of his team. POST's Len Kumalo shot this pic as "Kallie" dives in mid-air to foil a Berea attack. Swaraj and Berea drew 2-all.



● Berea's dribbling forward Sadeck Ebrahim (facing camera) and Swaraj 'keeper Baboo Kallichuran go into a tussle for the ball. Pic by Len Kumalo.



● Swaraj goalkeeper Baboo Kallichuran pushes this one round the posts as Swaraj defenders Nayna Moodley (No. 3) and Kola Padiachee (No. 6) look on.

They'll be carrying the hopes of the whole Transvaal

SUPER SWARAJ MUST ATTACK TO TOPPLE BERE



• There he goes . . . the star of Saturday's game, Johannes "Big Boy" Kholonae. Kholonae beat Thakor Singh (dark jersey, right), as Jahn "Buick" Makwati comes in support (No. 5).



SUPER Swaraj will carry the hopes of the whole Transvaal on their broad shoulders when they run on to the turf of the Lenasia Stadium to meet Berea, the league champions, on Sunday.

Like Bluebells United in the Coca Cola Shield, they are defending the dignity of all footballers across the Vaal River. Swaraj know the brutal facts — they must win at all costs.

It is as blunt as that. They must beat a team that has lost only one game in the Fed League this season. Transvaal soccer will be on trial and Swaraj will be defending its case.

Can they do it? Can they beat a team that will go down in Fed League history as one of the finest combinations of disciplined soccer stars? You can be a patriotic Transvaler like I am, but you cannot deny the truth: Berea is a great side, a side that has shown professionalism, the foundation of success of teams like Highlands Park and Orlando Pirates.

Players

Man for man, the Transvalers can do it. Pound for pound they have the players.

But there are problems. Say the prophets of doom: "Swaraj will lose because psychologically they are beaten already."

say, however, Swaraj will not taste defeat. They will win because they hear the rumblings of dis-

By Zaf Mayet

even revert to a 4-3-3 formation. But whichever one he adopts he must get 100 percent effort from his team. Anything less could prove fatal.

Swaraj will win because they have the material for success.

Goona Padiachee, that roving utility star is unequalled in the Fed League and manager Naidoo must use him in a more attacking role.

Goona must go upfront. He must be used as a twin striker with new man Robbie Mayburg, a master at harassing and deadly with his striking powers. Let Goona give a helping hand, and Swaraj will get results.

Their wingers should be Jacob "JC" Xaba on the

right and Elias "Shuffle" Mokopane, the man who dazzled Orlando Stadium crowds when he played Pirates. Shuffle has yet settled down but give him the chance.

Shuffle and JC should play wide and occasional dart in as if playing a triangle, the foundation of Swaraj's glory.

In midfield, you have fit Paradise Legodi Lucas Roanji, Paradise schemer. Let him close to Goona and the back four should Thankor Singh, on right, Captain Vir Padiachee and Jahn Makwati as twin center halves, and Sam Redd on the left.

This is a tough back four that

rying the hopes of the whole Transvaal

R SWARAJ MUST CK TO TOPPLE BEREJA



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Their wingers should be Jacob "JC" Xaba on the

right and Elias "Shuffle" Mokopane, the man who dazzled Orlando Stadium crowds when he played for Pirates. Shuffle has not yet settled down but just give him the chance.

Shuffle and JC should play wide and occasionally dart in as if playing in a triangle, the foundation of Swaraj's glory.

In midfield, you have a fit Paradise Legodi and Lucas-Roanji. Paradise is a schemer. Let him play close to Goona and JC. The back four should be Thankor Singh, on the right, Captain Virgil Padiachee and John Makwati as twin centre halves, and Sam Reddy on the left.

This is a tough backline; it's a back four that will

not easily be penetrated. In goal, Baboo Kallichuran has built a reputation of being the best in the league.

Swaraj must keep their tactics flexible, allowing for the quick change of pace and style, more so if Bereja use an ultra-defensive formation.

Maybe they will. But if they throw everything into attack, Swaraj's powerful backline should absorb the pressure and still create openings of their own.

Buick Makwati is a great stopper and Virgil Padiachee is a great centre-half. Buick must not only stop the balls, like Virgil he must launch attacks.

If Swaraj stick to attacking soccer, and do not resort to a clumsy three-forward system, they'll beat Bereja.

game, Johannes "Big Boy" Kholonae. Kholoane beat Thabick Makwati comes in support (No. 5)





Brilliant Baboo foils Suburbs

By Khalil Aniff

A BRILLIANT save from a penalty-kick by Swaraj's 'keeper, Baboo Kallicharan, midway through the second half helped his team share the spoils with log leaders Verulam Suburbs at Curries Fountain on Sunday in a R10,000 mainstay league competition. The match ended in a goalless draw.

The game did not reach any great heights. Suburbs looked like a very disjointed side rather than possible champions. Swaraj played with more purpose but they found the Curries' turf a bit bothersome on their first visit to Durban this season. The match turned out to be a dull encounter except for the last 15 minutes when both teams suddenly sprang to life.

The match opened with Suburbs going into attack but all their moves were foiled by the Swaraj defenders who played with great determination. For the first 15 minutes of the game no worthwhile moves were made as both teams indulged in aimless kicking.

Then in the 20th minute and against run of play Swaraj made a breakaway when their nippy winger Jacob Xaba collected a pass from Kola Padayachee but with only the Suburbs' 'keeper to beat he shot wide of the mark. Five minutes later it was Suburbs that were on the attack when Vincent Pillay sent in a great shot that was tipped over by flying Kallicharan in the Swaraj goals.

With half time drawing close and yet no spark in the game the spectators began to get restless and shouted to the players to get on with it.

OUT OF TOUCH

Up to this stage two players one from each side did not make much of an impression. They were Cyril Smith of Suburbs and Junior Khumalo of Swaraj. Khumalo, in particular was right out of the game. He was pulled up no less than eight times for off side in the first half alone.

Smith on the other hand playing his first game for Suburbs did not seem to find his feet and the ball slipped away from him on numerous occasions.

In the 35th minute Swaraj nearly conceded a goal when Virgil Padayachee trying to pass back to his 'keeper mistakenly gave the ball to Bob Williams who shot goalwards but the ball skimmed the bar.

This was one of the faults that Swaraj committed once too often and as a result they were defending desperately on many occasions just to stop the

Suburbs forwards from scoring. Minutes before half time Suburbs centre half, Edwin Fredricks moved up and after collecting a mis-directed pass he cannoned the ball towards Kallicharan but the ball was safely gathered by the agile Swaraj 'keeper.

First half honours went to Edwin Fredricks, Gopi Naidoo and Vincent Pillay for Suburbs while Kallicharan, Vigil Padayachee, Gona Padayachee and Victor Kowa excelled for Swaraj.

SAVED WELL

Swaraj took up the attack in the second half. They were all over Suburbs as they created opportunities and shot at goal from all angles, but it was Martin in the Suburbs' goal who saved the day.

Five minutes inside the second half Junior Khumalo of Swaraj made his only good move of the game when he beat a Suburbs' defender and was moving goalwards when he was robbed of the ball by the flying Martin who fell at his feet.

Suburbs nearly conceded a goal a minute later when Martin and defender Arumugum were caught fumbling with the ball and in came Kola Padayachee. He robbed them of the ball and shot towards the goal but the ball sailed over the bar.

At this point referee Kader seemed to have his hands full as a result of players of both teams were becoming robust.

Three-quarters of the game was already through with neither team getting any goals. Both teams came near to scoring but their efforts were stayed either by the brilliant saves of the 'keepers or some desperate tackling.

At this stage Junior Khumalo was replaced by Roy Harry in the Swaraj team while a minute later Bob Williams let the field due to injury and he was replaced by Charlie Subban.

HOPES FADED

With a fresh player in each team one expected to see things livened up a little in this lifeless match, but these hopes faded as both these inclusions proved to be ineffective.

Swaraj struck on an idea that changed the whole tempo of the game and it is a pity they did not do so earlier. They changed their pattern of play and this change had Suburbs all confused as they battled for survival. However, they managed to hold off Swaraj.

In the 27th minute of the second period Suburbs were applying tremendous pressure in the hopes of getting a goal and their hard work nearly payed off when Lucas Aronje, a Swaraj defender handled the ball in the goal-area and the referee had no

Keeper tests keeper! Verulam Suburbs' goal-keeper Burri Martin (above) takes the penalty kick, but Swaraj's Baboo Kallicharan dives to punch the ball clear. It was a save that saved the day for Swaraj.



Suburbs' Bob Williams and Gona Padayachee of Swaraj in a contest for the ball during the match at Curries Fountain.

hesitation in pointing to the spot.

What a disappointment it was for Swaraj players and supporters as they contemplated their cruel fate.

The penalty was taken by Burri Martin and it was brilliantly saved by the Swaraj 'keeper, Kallicharan, who reached out and punched the ball clear.

The ball was still in play as the Suburbs forwards tried to get the ball into the net but the Swaraj defenders managed to clear it away.

A gem of a chance was given to Suburbs but they failed to convert it and they could not hope for a better or easier opportunity.

For the rest of the game the ball swung from end to end but neither of the teams was able to get the elusive goal that would

have given them two points from the match. They were content to share the spoils.



Grand reunion for soccer stars

REPORT & PHOTOS
BY ZAAKIRAH VADI

LENZ 2010 Forum staged a memorable reunion for Gauteng soccer players and administrators from the days of the Federation Professional League (FPL) on May 7 at Baitun Noor Hall.

The recently formed South African Soccer Federation Legends (Gauteng) and Supersport Mzansi Legends were also part of the event.

One could practically hear the buzz in the hall as soccer friends from Bluebells United, Swaraj, Dynamos, Bosmont Chelsea, V.O.B, Benoni Manchester, Laudium Sundowns, Birds, Azaadville Aces and Fordsburg Celtic, met after years.

Haroon Mohammed from Lenz 2010 Forum said that the aim of the event, together with an exhibition and planned book on South African Soccer Federation (SASF) legends, is to recognise the contribution of players and administrators to non-racial sport.

Also speaking at the event was Pertti Alaja from the 2010 local organising committee, who said that South Africa would stage a unforgettable World Cup, and Norman Middleton, ex President of the SASF, who reminisced about the incredible soccer of the past.

The event not only brought together old teams and soccer rivals, but it also served as a lesson for today's youth, in building lasting friendships through sports.

Don't miss the exhibition of newspaper clippings and photographs of the 'good old' soccer days, to be displayed at Trade Route Mall from the end of May to the middle of July.



Yusuf 'Tara' Seedat and Abdul Bhamjee (centre) with other soccer administrators and legends.



Presenter Ashraf Garda sits next to ex President of SASF, Norman Middleton, together with Sayed Mia and others.



Soccer legends from Bluebells unite behind their banner.



Some football stars and administrators from various clubs.



Pictured above are organisers of the memorable reunion.



Baboo Kalichuren and 'Shakes' Mashaba with other attendees.

SUN SPORTS

These are our sporting legends... with Bashir Bagas

Ivan Naidoo – Lion of the South (and number one soccer coach)



Iron like the lion: Ivan Naidoo, Lenz's 'Lion of the South'.



The men of the South African Indian Football Association back in 1955. Ivan Naidoo (circled) contributed significantly to the success of this footballing side.

The belief that one needs to have played the game at the highest level, to be outstanding and abound with natural talent, before being able to achieve as a coach does not always hold.

This notion has been dispelled over and over again. Great players like Diego Maradona, the World Cup-winning captain of Argentina; Dunga, the World Cup-winning captain of Brazil; Roy Keane, captain of Manchester United and Ireland; Graeme Souness, captain of Liverpool... the list just goes on.

All were outstanding soccer players, of the highest calibre, yet none really achieved anything notable as a coach.

On the other hand, mediocre players like Alex Ferguson, now manager of Manchester United; Carlo Ancelotti, Jose Mourinho, and so forth, went on to become the great soccer coaches of the world.

Now that we understand both sides of the coin, let's see where the Lion of the South is positioned.

Our Lion of the South was an outstanding player, but sadly did not achieve all that much as a player... as a coach though, he would definitely go down in the annals of history as one of the best in South Africa.

Just who then is this formidable Lion of the South?

Anthony Krishna 'Ivan' Naidoo was born on March 17, 1933, in Vrededorp (Fietas). He attended Krause Street Primary, and then Bree Street Primary, completing his matric at the Johannesburg Indian High School.

Ironically, inasmuch as his father (Naidoo Senior) was an outstanding sportsman, he discouraged his two sons from following a career in soccer... to the extent that he even refused to buy them soccer boots!

But Ivan had different thoughts. He entertained dreams that, one day, he would play soccer at the highest level and, during his younger days, played for many junior teams, along with his brother.

Upon completing matric, Ivan and his father were on divergent pedestals when it came to thinking about the future: while one wanted to become a professional soccer player, the other wanted to see his son become a teacher.

Best thing

Today, 'Mr Ivan Naidoo' - as he is formally known by the hundreds and hundreds of learners who passed through his hands - says, with a high level of contentment and conviction, that becoming a teacher was the best thing to happen to him.

But then a thought flashes across his mind and Ivan quickly corrects himself, saying with a smile on his face, that, "Well, teaching was the

second best thing to happen..."

Yes, he lived for soccer!

Our 'Mr Naidoo' started teaching in 1953; his first appointment being at Fordsburg Primary, followed by a long period at Alpha Primary in Ext 1, Lenasia, and then a short stint at the then-new Trinity Secondary School, before returning to Alpha Primary.

As a soccer player, he was brilliant...and hard as granite. Ivan was also extremely authoritative (known as 'a no-nonsense guy'), hence the title that soon came his way 'Sarge'.

Ivan's father once represented the South African Indian soccer team when they played the national team of India, way back in 1930... this remarkable feat was replicated by his son many years later.

Ivan represented the South African Indian 11 team, playing against the South African coloured 11 side. This only entrenches the sporting pedigree the Naidoo family was blessed with.

His formative years were spent playing for Mohawks FC (in the Witwatersrand Indian Football Association), based in the dustbowl of Natal spruit.

Malicious attack

And then, in 1957, just a few days before his 24 birthday, he was selected for the SA Indians as centre half - a position he had made his own.

But it was while he was on national duty that Ivan's entire soccer career (as far as his playing days were concerned) came to an abrupt halt, due to a careless, and somewhat malicious attack, from one of the opposition. The serious knee injury that resulted stopped what would have been a long and distinguished career.

'Sarge' still says, with a high level of satisfaction, that he played with the best the country produced: "South Africa will never see players of the calibre of Dharam Mohan, VC Moodley who was the best goalkeeper ever, Paddy Padayachee, and the marvellous left flank pairing of Links Padayachee and Deva Moonian," he told the *Lenasia Sun*. Following his untimely departure, Ivan went on to become one of the best referees in the country, adjudicating at all levels of the game. After much persuasion from his old club, Mohawks, to rejoin them as their coach, he relented... and that was the start of another most distinguished sporting chapter for him.

Dynamos FC also knocked on the door of the very strict and stern coach who was now a household name... and begged 'Sarge' to join them. He did, and Dynamos FC went on to become a giant in the Federation Professional League.

For Ismail Pahad (the owner of Dynamos FC) to have recognized his talent was 'really a thrilling and momentous moment', he recalled, adding that, "Ismail really knew the game."

At this level, Ivan remembers the tremendous amount of respect he had for Rashid Khan - "He was undoubtedly the best I've seen. This guy even had a trial with Leeds United in England," he said.

Sterling

Having done such a sterling job at Dynamos FC, the administrators at the Southern Transvaal Football Union (STFU) had no doubts about who to appoint as the manager/coach of the provincial team... and under the mentorship of 'Sarge', Transvaal never lost a game.

With slight bias perhaps, we can say that the South African Soccer Federation was the best league, with the best players.

To be called on to coach a team in the Federation Soccer League, you had to be the best and certainly worth your salt. These days, Ivan can even boast about having coached both Lenasia's giants and their rivals: he first coached Bluebells United, and then Swaraj F.C.

Orlando Pirates made umpteen requests and pleas for 'Sarge' to join them, but Sarge was having nothing of it. He was happy in Lenasia and still believes Lenasia has the best talent.

He remarked that the current national Under 23 coach, Shakes Mashaba, had learned all he knew of the trade in Lenasia.

Norman Frickleton, another highly-respected coach was totally astonished at the level of soccer in Lenasia.

Norman, also a coach at Swaraj, says it was as a result of the groundwork done by Ivan, that he was able to win the Federation's professional league in 1977.

Ivan's second love, teaching, has not left him. He enjoyed a recent spell at Libra Primary and Park Primary after an 18-year hiatus. He still spends his spare time at schools and on the soccer grounds, doing what he knows best, coaching soccer.

Quick Q and A with 'Sarge'

Question: Just where exactly did it all begin, your soccer career?

Answer: It began in Fietas! Remember there was no TV at that time, and there were not too many Indians with cars. This simply meant all families spent their weekends watching and playing either soccer or cricket.

I was the same and, from a young age, I fell in love with the game.

Q: Were there any school sports? Was soccer played at schools?

A: Yes, there were plenty of sports, and plenty soccer. When I was 12, I represented my school and still remember that I played barefoot.

Q: Being a teacher for many years, do you think our children are being 'shortchanged' in the new South Africa?

A: Yes, without a doubt. Soccer is being killed in our areas. Schools are not doing enough to rekindle the old spark.

Q: You wanted to become a professional soccer player, but ended up a teacher and then coach...

A: I injured myself playing for the SA Indians, but long before that I became a teacher. For me, teaching was a calling.

Q: Any players who left a lasting impression?

A: Many. Let me start off from Bluebells. In Bluebells, it was Leroy Fontuin, Anthony Julius, Grovin Molope, Meshack Nkou, Rattan Padayachee and Prega Thandrin... and at Swaraj, Virgil and Goona Padayachee, Baboo Kallichuran, JS Saba and Victor Kawa.

Q: What do you think of the present state of soccer in South Africa? As host of the World Cup last year, we were dismal, and in Africa, we don't really feature well. What is happening?

A: We waste too much money on foreign coaches, and our soccer administrators seem to lack vision. There is no development in soccer taking place, nothing at all!

Q: What was the highlight of your career?

A: Winning the league with Transvaal, coaching Swaraj and Bluebells of Lenasia, and also rubbing shoulders with so many outstanding players.

Q: Any lows?

A: Losing the cup to Avalon United of Cape Town! Had we won, it would have been a magical double, both League and Cup.

Q: The way forward for our youngsters...

A: I'm glad you asked this... myself, Kokkie Singh of Swaraj and Shiraz Abbas are trying to set up something like an academy. Let's pray it works. We will then take over soccer in Lenasia.

Q: Any message for our youngsters?

A: Dream big like the Lucas Radebes and Quinton Fortunes, and then anything is possible!

Stay away from TV games, cell phones and, most importantly, from drugs and alcohol. Like the England and Liverpool star, Kevin Keegan, once said during a visit to Lenasia, Lenasia has the best soccer talent he had ever seen, all it needs is nurturing...and I agree with him.



SWARAJ

ABOVE (left to right):

STANDING: G. Adams, Kola Padayachee, Alfred Mokgotsa, Sam Reddy, John Buick Mkwati, Dan Twala, Lucas Aronje.

KNEELING: Smiley Moosa, Tony Kruger, Thakur Singh, Baboo Kalicharan, Gona Padayachee, Daniel Courie, Virgil Padayachee.





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SUN SPORTS

These are our sporting legends...

with Bashir Bagus



Legends: Ivan Naidoo, Baboo Kalichuran, Billa Singh and Kockie Singh.

Apart from the underworld, it seems to have been a trend in many sports, and even trades, that one should have a nickname! In South African football, there is a voracious appetite for player nicknames...

Some seem to make no sense at all while others, like Alfred 'Tube'n'Tyre' Moloi can be darn funny. There are those that are spotted in describing the player, or some particular talent of his; a case in point being Baboo 'Flying Cat' Kalichuran. Around the 'hood though, Baboo was simply called 'Kallie'.

This star footballer was born some 61 years ago in the popular Indian suburban called Fietas. And it is with a great joy evident in his sparkling eyes that he recalls life among the Fietas community which, he recalls, was a very closeknit community, united when they had need to be be...characteristics that are lacking among the fast-lane communities of the 21st century. Along with two younger brothers, Kallie completed his primary schooling at Vrededorp Primary School. There were no high schools for Indians in that part of Johannesburg (these were the days of apartheid remember) and so Kallie had to travel to Roodepoort High School every day. It was at high school that he really started to 'blossom' - if that's the right word - into a daring 'wild cat'!

Yes, Kallie was exceptionally agile and fit. He was regularly selected to represent his school in sports as a result. In those days, sporting facilities for 'blacks' were totally unheard of - you trained and played your game on hard, stony gravel...cina!

For a goal-keeper, as one can imagine, it was a (painful) nightmare; it was extremely difficult to dive about after the ball...but not for this guy.

Leaps and bounds

The sporting Kallie improved by leaps and bounds through his youth and, while still at high school, the big soccer clubs were looking to sign this amiable and daring youngster.

But Kallie's parents would hear nothing of this! For them, soccer was merely a pastime. You could never make a living from soccer, stressed Kallie's father, Henry. Kallie's father preached that his children must be educated, first and foremost. Playing soccer came later, and then just 'for fun', he lectured.

So in as much as the young Kallie wanted to sign up with the big clubs, he was compelled to complete his education...that came 'first and foremost', he reminded his children.

Kallie completed his matric at Roodeport High School and immediately enrolled at the Transvaal College of Education, popularly known as the TCE in those days. The diligent and hardworking Kallie found it 'smooth sailing' though college, he told

the *Lenasia Sun*...and then there was still the sport to provide some solace!

While representing his college on numerous occasions in inter-college and inter-university tournaments, he was spotted and signed by Benfica United, a semi-professional outfit. At Benfica United, he was the last line of defence...and the opposition had a tall order getting the ball past this outstanding goalkeeper.

While at college, he was again pressed to sign for the big clubs but, once again, he decided that his education should not play second fiddle, in accordance with his father's wishes. Kallie graduated with a teacher's diploma and steadily moved up the ranks in the schooling fraternity, from head of department to the post he holds to this very day that of headmaster. At this point, Swaraj FC started headmaster, strong overtures to the still quite young man...and this time, *nothing and nobody stood in his way!*

His father, who was something of a genius goalkeeper in his own day, gave his son his blessings to go ahead and turn professional. It was with a tremendous amount of joy (and an equally tremendous sense of achievement) that he eventually signed with Swaraj FC.

World-class

At Swaraj, his metamorphosis was complete; and he was such a good player that it dictated a regular place on the first team. He played against all the other giant clubs of South Africa, and most strikers of the opposition say emphatically that Kallie was 'one hell of a difficult guy to pass'!

Kaizer Chiefs, the biggest team in South African soccer at the time, was also knocking on his door but Kallie said, "I could never let people like Billa Singh and Cockie Singh down! It is they who have made me into the player I have become."

Kallie also said, "I could not let people like Shakes Mashaba (current national coach), Virgil Padayachee and Sam Reddy down. These Swaraj players have totally respected me, and helped develop me."

The highlight of his soccer career came when he won the coveted Federation Professional Soccer League, with Swaraj FC, in 1977.

Kallie also recalls the other goalkeepers of his era, like Bruce Grobbelaar from Durban City, who ended up playing for English F.A. giants, Liverpool FC. He also remembers standing between the poles opposite to Gary Bailey, who ended up playing for (arguably) the most famous soccer team in the world, Manchester United.

Shakes Mashaba sums it up best when he declares that the Swaraj FC team of 1977 was one of the best teams South African had ever seen. It comprised world-class players and Baboo 'Flying Cat' Kalichuran was an integral part of this most fantastic of footballing units!

Quick Q & A with the 'Flying Cat', Baboo Kalichuran...

Lenasia Sun: Who or what drove you to

Nine lives: Reliving the acrobatic football of Baboo 'Flying Cat' Kalichuran!

take up soccer? Why not another sport?

Flying Cat: My father, Henry, was most instrumental. He was really my role model and my mentor. From a young age, very young, just about five years old, my father always pushed his boys.

My coaches and teachers at high school, I should add, also encouraged me tremendously.

Lenasia Sun: Soccer was a family thing...from father to son. What's your comment on this?

Flying Cat: You are spot on! Soccer was definitely a family thing with the Kalichurans. My brothers and I ate, slept and dreamt football. You know what is amazing, my father was a brilliant goalkeeper and all three of his sons also became goalkeepers! I think it was in my father's blood, to catch moving objects! Nah, just joking...but on a serious note, you could, I suppose, say it was in the genes.

We brothers all excelled as goalkeepers. It was only because of my determination and discipline that I went all the way, and you should consider that, in the 1970s, with the giant league, the Fed, there were more opportunities.

I even had a start with the very popular and outstanding team - Bluebells United - where I played with the likes of Prega Thandarind, Grovin Molope, Louis Jeevananthum, Big Boy Kolwane and many other big names. **any other major sides around this time:**

Flying Cat: Kaizer Chiefs made an offer, but I think once I landed at Swaraj FC spot, *nothing else* interested me.

I also think that there was a strong sense of loyalty. I respected Billa Singh, the manager of Swaraj FC way too much to leave the club. I still believe it was Billa who gave me the opportunity to play at that level and, considering the manner I was treated at Swaraj, well, it would tantamount to *betrayal* if I had quit!

I was tempted by some of the approaches, but something always kept me back, something made me stay with Swaraj. Billa was more than a manager to me. He was my mentor and more like a big brother.

Lenasia Sun: So you stayed at Swaraj FC...

Flying Cat: Like I told you earlier, Swaraj was like a big family...we all looked after each other. Playing with the likes of Virgil Padayachee, Buicks Makwate, Jimmy Joubert, Shakes Mashaba, Sam Reddy, Gona Padayachee, Lucas Oranje, Smiley Moosa, Dougie Carelse...all too many to mention...was an honour and a privilege! Gona Padayachee was a genius.

Lenasia Sun: Besides Billa Singh, were there any other guys who left a lasting impression, helped mould your football

persona so to speak?

Flying Cat: I can think of two men, both coaches...Ivan Naidoo and Alex Forbes. I think they did not only get the best out of me, but from *all* the players at Swaraj. These two fine gentlemen knew how to get the best out of any player, and me...no exceptions.

I've got loads of respect for them, and I think it is only on account of them that we later won the most prestigious soccer cup...the Champions of the South African Soccer Federation trophy! These two will go down in the annals of SA soccer history as two brilliant soccer coaches.

Lenasia Sun: Tell us, what do you think is the present state of soccer in Lenasia?

What's happening soccer-wise in Lenz?

Flying Cat: Very little, or nothing at all! We all need to go back to the drawing board and establish what is causing this decay.

The youth of today are not hungry and passionate for the game...apart from when it comes to wearing the skippers of English teams and watching football on TV.

Lenasia Sun: Any suggestions for how we can take the game forward in South Africa?

Flying Cat: Organizations like Safa must get constructively involved, otherwise we will keep on going nowhere! And the youth of Lenasia must be given a chance. We have the ability, but we need to change the local youth to include their attitudes to football.

Schools should become the breeding grounds for talent. Parents and teachers can create this scenario. If proper structures are put in place, our children will be taken off the streets. There will also be less drug abuse.

But first, Safa must take responsibility for the non-existence of soccer at schools today.

Lenasia Sun: Any advice for young aspiring soccer players or sportsmen here in Lenz?

Flying Cat: Parents and kids must get involved with local clubs. Let us re-build these clubs, and let us take responsibility for guiding our ship through troubled waters. Success in any sport comes only with regular, hard, disciplined training! The harder you train, the luckier you'll become...you know the saying. And forget all your vices! Vices like drugs, alcohol and smoking will only take you backwards.

Lastly, I hope to see some of our local youngsters wearing South African colours soon! Remember...forwards ever, backwards NEVER!



Baboo Kalichuran pictured in his younger days.

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