

KHC begin continental quest against School of Excellence

Opening Test. The campaign's opener means preparation, discipline and early control could shape KHC's continental ambitions.

BY MAKHTUM MUZIRANSA

AFRICA CUP FOR CLUB CHAMPIONS

Today's Fixtures - St.

John's College, Harare

Women

Lakers (Kenya) vs. Ghana

Revenue Authority, 9am

Bulawayo (Zimbabwe) vs.

Hippo (Zimbabwe), 5pm

Men

Pool A

School of Excellence

(Namibia) vs. Kampala, 1pm

Portfouad (Egypt) vs. Sharkia

(Egypt), 3pm

Pool B

Hotspurs (Zambia) vs. Ghana

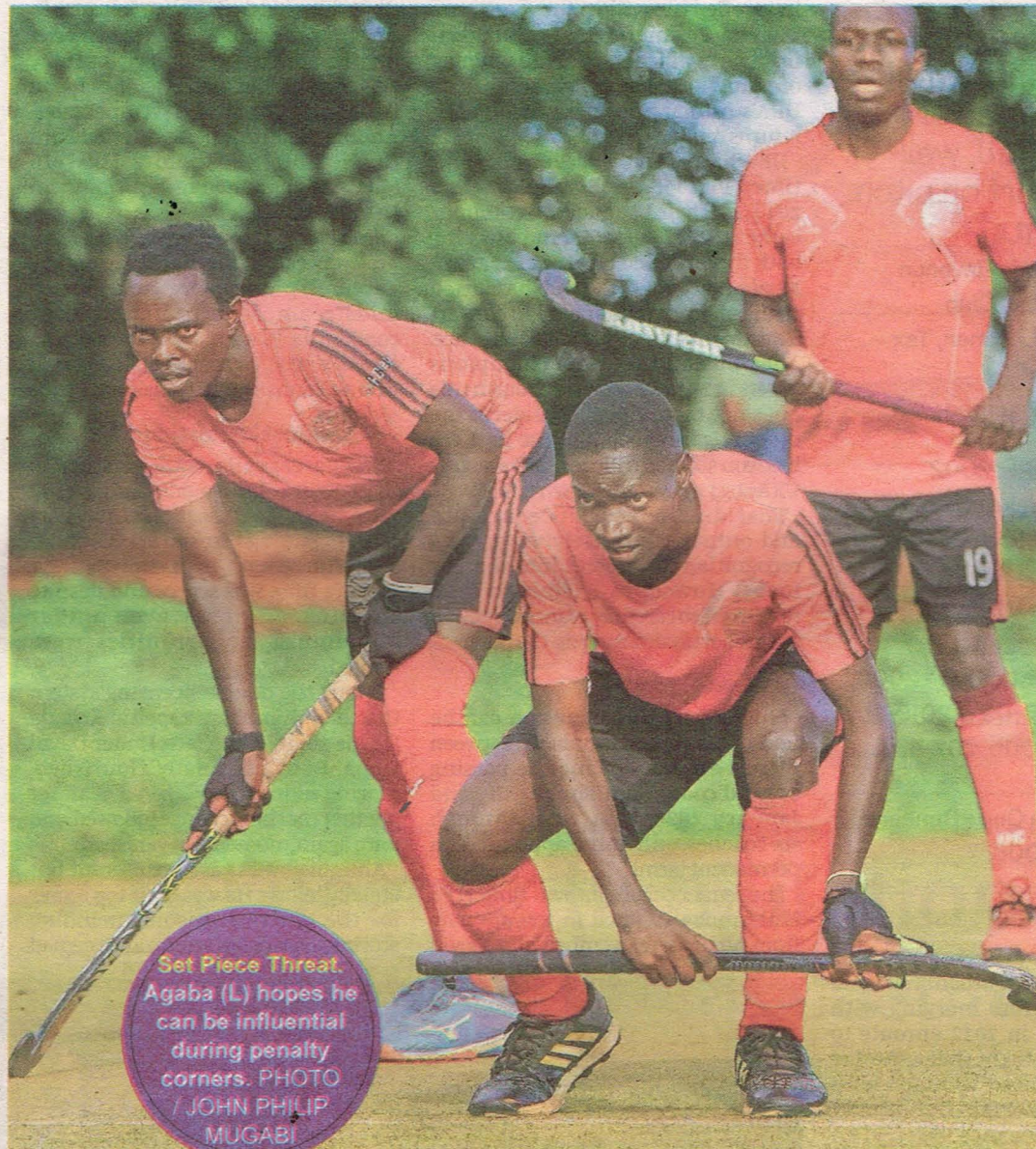
Revenue Authority, 11am

Bulawayo (Zimbabwe) vs.

Hippo (Zimbabwe), 7pm

Kampala Hockey Club (KHC) start their third ever appearance at the Africa Cup for Club Champions (ACCC) today with an interesting clash against Namibia's School of Excellence (SoEHC) at the St. John's College Astroturf in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Both sides come into this Pool A clash as unknown quantities



Set Piece Threat. Agaba (L) hopes he can be influential during penalty corners. PHOTO / JOHN PHILIP MUGABI

to each other but with high expectations from their motherlands. However, the pressure to win will be on the

Ugandan side as the Namibians are only making their debut.

KHC travelled to Harare on Thursday by air but on the same

day, the Namibian side which had come by bus tested themselves out in a friendly with a local side. The friendly was yet to end by press

time but the Namibian champions carry hopes and

"It is important to start well, then take it one game at a time," KHC midfielder and defender Alfred Agaba, said.

Agaba is one of the KHC players that have faced the Namibian national team at the Africa Cup of Nations and believes that "even though this is a club, they will play on the front foot just like their national team does."

"Of recent, we have had a lot about Namibian hockey in various tournaments and we will not be surprised if they are using some of the players we have seen on their junior and senior national teams."

"Of course, there is always an element of taking teams from countries that are just developing for granted, but that is not our attitude. They are champions of their country and we will play this opener like it is a final," Agaba added.

Depending on how the match unfolds in the early moments, KHC's technical bench will be happy to fully test the levels of each individual in their 18-man squad.

Good squad

The squad's preparations started in November but KHC have had their own disruptions through pitch availability, elections, and the festive season.

The squad largely knows each other as it is chiefly put together from KHC's competitive side Stallions. But goalkeeper Bosco Ochan and striker Habib Sewava were added from second side Originals.

Teenager Ian Baguma, although a Stallion, is the youngest member of the squad and has to shake off months missed through school while Allan Malit and Samuel Wakhisi return from their bases in Kenya. All five are deemed great additions by the entire squad.

Meanwhile, Erwin Handura, the director of SoEHC, is focused - as quoted by Namibian media - on using the platform "to give players high level exposure for future competitions."