

x Lookman's Goal
Not Enough as
Madrid Gets Vital
Win at Atalanta

FROM THE ARCHIVE

We do not posses monopoly of
knowledge but in a learning
process to get better by the day.

Morocco, Spain, and
Portugal confirmed as
2030 World Cup hosts,
2034 edition awarded
to Saudi Arabia



JUST LIBERATION NEWS

Weekly Sports Review

www.justliberationnews.com

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 / Vol.2 No.56 / ISSN: 3027-2165 www.justliberationnews.com @justlibnews Justliberationnews @justliberationnews Justliberationnews **N200**

NSC Mandate To
The Federations Is
Self Explanatory



Mike Tyson Makes
Explosive Revelation
About His Bout with
Jake Paul



Andy Ruiz Jr. hits three
fights in five years as
career falls off

X



From big bows to bold
prints, who wore on-
court fashion best in the
2024 tennis season?



NSC Mandate To The Federations Is Self Explanatory



It can only be better for sports development as the commission under the leadership of Mallam SHEHU DIKKO has presented itself to the community with the inaugural meeting held recently and do hope the stake holders would have taken back to the athletes through their federations what is expected from the federations with the new policies of the current political dispensation of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) President commander in Chief of the armed forces federal republic of Nigeria repositioning sports through the dynamic leadership of the tested duo currently leading the sports commission.

The sports community can't stop appreciating these noble appointments of Mallam SHEHU DIKKO and Hon Bukola OLAPADE in their official designations at this auspicious time that sports was struggling for survival considering the set back in the

SPEAK ON THE ISSUES

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equate funding as at when due not releases the practices with that of their competitors globally. Funding in sports must always be made at the eve of departure not making the

done back to back at the preparatory period ahead of either the states, national, All Africa games, worlds championships, Commonwealth games and the centenary Olympics games departing from the usual styles of waiting with delays that has always compounded problems the moment games ends. It will not be out of place that the Nigerians participation at the 1973 All Africa games remain a reference point and one of the best in that history till date. With our population being a sports nation, we should not be known for doing better only as a host nation but a spent force with adequate preparations ahead of every championship with propal founding released timely for preparations not participation. Ample time for preparation should never be compromised that it will be result oriented at the long last as against the usual propagandas alleging the release of fifty trillions to team Nigeria and nothing to show for it as always alleged just to discredit the authority.

The major gains in sports include but not limited to fair participation , presenting athletes as medal hopeful, gaining the desired platform to test their mite amongst the best nations with higher advantages that will influence better performances in the subsequent editions and if medals comes there way, it will be counted as gain legitimately without any iota of scandal that medals won could be withdrawn by the organisers by retrieving medals after the events as a result of the usual scandal

Team Nigeria should brace up and make a statement that the forthcoming federation elective Congress will be a turning point to either consolidate in failure as a template and as well vote credible hands as replacement guided by the norms of the electoral guide line that will be unveiled in a time soon from the National sports commission God willing in 2025.

The National council of sports should adopt same to as well by into the new policies by replicate the new normal down the ladder and re- strategize in the direction of the current dispensation to reduce the template of controversies when the facts will be compromised to disenfranchised others gaining an undue advantages at all cost which has always taking the status of a day light robbery un checked.

From big bows to bold prints, who wore on-court fashion best in the 2024 tennis season?

At the US Open, Naomi Osaka turned heads with a "maximalist" fit inspired by Harajuku, but that wasn't our only top look of the year. While fashion had its moment off the court in the 2024 season with a renewed and revitalized "tenniscore" trend, that didn't mean that on-court looks were lacking across the year.

But from big bows to bold prints, who truly wore it best? Without further ado, here are Base-line's top on-court 'fits of the last year.

Naomi Osaka's return from maternity leave saw the former world No. 1's on-court performance, and her in-press and online candor, as she sought to find her vintage form. Her style game, though, was like she never left. Osaka was disappointed that the custom look Nike created for her Grand Slam return only got one match worth of action, as she lost in the first round to Caroline Garcia, but gave fans another look at the high-neck number and its iridescent snake-skin patterned "scales" by wearing it again in Doha. She debuted asymmetrical red-and-blue Nike shoes, inspired by her homeland, in the spring, while her elaborate multi-ruffled white Wimbledon dress even left the internet divided.

But the four-time Grand Slam champion saved her best look for the year's last Grand Slam, debuting a dramatic Harajuku-inspired 'fit at the tournament she's won twice previously. It was designed in collaboration with Nike and Japanese designer Yoon Ahn, founder of the Tokyo label Ambush.

After beating Jelena Ostapenko for the first Top 10 win of her comeback in the Tinkerbell-green



version, Osaka showcased an alternate colorway, black and white, in her second-round loss to Karolina Muchova in an Arthur Ashe Stadium night session.

Though the outfit wasn't in New York for a long time, it was there for a good time, with Osaka saying that she pushed aside thoughts of the whole ensemble being "too much" and crediting Ahn for embracing her vision.

"I definitely love to be involved in everything I do, whether it's fashion or anything else," she said.

"But I feel like being able to be a part of my tennis outfits gives me, I would say, a different strength. "I think for me, when I put on the outfit it's almost like a super suit, so I try to channel that." As the first tennis player to sign with Perry Ellis subsidiary Original Penguin in 2022, Ajla Tomljanovic has been a foundational model for the heritage athleisure brand to tap into new markets and audiences.

While Tomljanovic's 2024 season was a rebuilding one after she missed much of

2023 following knee surgery, she made a statement sartorially with an eye-catching, blue and white two-piece during a short stay at Roland Garros.

Though the 31-year-old lost in the first round of singles and doubles in Paris, her long-sleeved patterned crop top and matching skirt were accented with pops of pink, and she accessorized with a blue Penguin visor and Wilson's Rush Pro shoes in peachy pink.



Mike Tyson Makes Explosive Revelation About His Bout with Jake Paul

Jake Paul and Mike Tyson's fight wasn't what everyone thought it would be. After a lot of people said Mike didn't look his best, he has shared something surprising about the fight.

At 58, Tyson stepped back into the ring last month for his first official fight in nearly two decades. His last match was in 2005 against Kevin McBride, where he retired after five rounds.

Fans had mixed feelings about Tyson's comeback, hoping to see a glimpse of his old self. While his age seemed to catch up with him after the second round, Tyson still showed the grit and determination that made him a legend.

Many fans believed Tyson ran out of energy by the third round, but Tyson himself said it felt like the fight was over in no time at all.



Andy Ruiz Jr. hits three fights in five years as career falls off



Andy Ruiz Jr. hit the fifth anniversary of losing his world heavyweight title over the weekend, having seen his career fall off since.

'The Destroyer' enjoyed a run of three wins in fourteen months before challeng-

ing and defeating Anthony Joshua for the unified crown in June 2019. Since then, Ruiz has been blighted by inactivity. - If you use these WBN quotes, please link back to the source: [https://www.worldboxingnews.net/2024/12/11/andy-ruiz-jr-hits-three-](https://www.worldboxingnews.net/2024/12/11/andy-ruiz-jr-hits-three-fights-five-years-career-falls-off/)

fights-five-years-career-falls-off/

If you go back to 2016, when Ruiz controversially lost his first heavyweight title challenge against Joseph Parker, the Mexican-American has fought eight times in eight years. Boxing has been deprived of one of the best top-division operators in the world due to disinterest, a lack of motivation, and injuries.

Last August, Ruiz faced Jarrell Miller and was held to a draw, suffering a deformed hand. Despite the double whammy, Ruiz called on Miller to agree to a second fight. - If you use these WBN quotes, please link back to the source: [https://www.worldboxingnews.net/2024/12/11/andy-ruiz-jr-hits-three-](https://www.worldboxingnews.net/2024/12/11/andy-ruiz-jr-hits-three-fights-five-years-career-falls-off/)

"I hurt my hand, and you can see the bone right here. It bothered me a lot from that fifth round where I kept hitting him in the head," said Ruiz. "He's a strong mother*****. He keeps coming forward and forward. Let's run it again. I think it was close. It was crazy, man. I haven't fought in two years, but let's do a rematch."

"It's pretty exhausting when you've got a 300lb man coming towards me. Throwing and throwing. I think I did pretty good after not fighting in two years."

Miller has since moved on and was the first choice to battle Derek Chisora in the United Kingdom until a promotional issue arose with Dmitry Salita. The pair are at an impasse over whether they still hold a contract together for Miller's next bout. - If you use these WBN quotes, please link back to the source: [https://www.worldboxingnews.net/2024/12/11/andy-ruiz-jr-hits-three-](https://www.worldboxingnews.net/2024/12/11/andy-ruiz-jr-hits-three-fights-five-years-career-falls-off/)

The Ruiz rematch could still happen in 2025, but as of right now, there's no sign of negotiations. Ruiz has yet to post any movement from the gym, which means his fans won't see him back in action until at least late spring. His wins over Chris Arreola in 2021, Luis Ortiz in 2022, and the Miller stalemate last August are indeed not world title form. The gaps between those outings are also worrying, as Ruiz struggles to maintain consistency in his training.

Jalen Brunson Had Blunt Response to Trae Young Taunting's After Knicks' NBA Cup Elimination

The Atlanta Hawks knocked the New York Knicks out of the NBA Cup in a 108-100 quarterfinal victory on Wednesday, and the Hawks' Trae Young celebrated his impending trip to Vegas with a fitting celebration: he mimed a Sin City-style dice roll, right on top of the Knicks logo.

It was a move designed to agitate, which makes sense for Young, who himself has admitted he has a "love-hate relationship" with New York fans at Madison Square Garden. But one person who wasn't bothered, or at the very least had a measured reaction to the taunt, was Knicks guard

Jalen Brunson.

"We should win the game if we don't want him to do that," Brunson said of the celebration, per Knicks reporter Ian Begley.

Dude's got a point. Though New York was up at halftime, Atlanta made up for

the margin in the second half, outscoring the Knicks 61-46 over the final two frames. Overall, it was a huge upset over the Knicks, who were initially favored -350.

Now, Atlanta gets to advance to the semifinals, where they'll take on the Milwaukee Bucks on Dec. 14.

Agassi heaps praise on Alcaraz but with a dose of caution

What sportspersons covet the most is the respect of their peers and appreciation from past champions. In a short career, Carlos Alcaraz has received plenty of it, and on Wednesday, he got another healthy dose from none other than Andre Agassi, albeit with a sprinkling of caution.

What sportspersons covet the most is the respect of their peers and appreciation from past champions. In a short career, Carlos Alcaraz has received plenty of it, and on Wednesday, he got another healthy dose from none other than Andre Agassi, albeit with a sprinkling of caution.

"Alcaraz defends like Novak [Djokovic], has power and spin like [Rafael] Nadal, and has hands and finesse like [Roger] Federer," Agassi said, on the sidelines of the TIE Global Summit 2024 here. "But just because he has the best of all three doesn't mean he can do what they did. Decision-making, injuries and luck... there are so many things."

But one thing everyone will agree on is that Alcaraz, along with Jannik Sinner, has ushered in a brand-new era. And after Nadal's retirement, 24-time Slam winner Djokovic is the last man standing from the previous generation.

"I think he'll run out of energy more than capability, especially when the people you came to the dance with have left," Agassi said of Djokovic. "When Pete [Sampras] retired, I had to rediscover my inspiration. Djokovic has lost the guys he made history with. Emotionally it's tougher. But I would never bet against him."

Agassi was part of a golden generation of American singles players in the 1990s that won multiple Majors. But since Andy Roddick at the 2003 US Open, the United States hasn't had one. The eight-time Slam winner, however, believes this could soon change.

"We [have] got five guys in the top 20 [sic: 25], and I think you need each other to succeed. In my group, I was the first one to turn professional, and I



made [Michael] Chang, Pete, [Jim] Courier believe.

"Chang was the first one to win [1989 French Open]. He made Pete believe that he could win. He then made Courier believe. And Courier said, 'well, I can be No. 1 in the world.' We all helped each other, and I think these Americans are now starting to prove [the same]."

The women, though, are up there, with Coco Gauff leading the way. "The women's game hasn't had to deal with Federer, Novak, Rafa, Sinner and Alcaraz," Agassi said with a smile. "But they have their own version of it. Serena [Williams] is the Novak of the women's game and you have got Coco with potential."



Ghanaian legend, Abedi Pele rallies support for Black Galaxies ahead of CHAN qualifiers against Nigeria

It is 12 days to the first leg match of Ghana – Nigeria confrontation in the qualifying series for the eighth edition of the African Nations Championship.

The Ghanaian team tagged Black Galaxies received a boost from football legend, Abedi Pele who has thrown his support behind the team.

According to Ghana Guardian, the three-time African Footballer of the Year spent time with the team during a friendly exercise at the Ghanaian Soccer Centre of Excellence, where he praised their progress and potential.

The Black Galaxies showcased their readiness with two impressive friendly victories, defeating Abedi Pele's Nania FC 1-0 and Northern City 5-0 at the GFA Technical Centre Tuesday last week.

After the matches, the legendary midfielder lauded the team's strength and technical prowess.

Advertisement



"It has been a pleasure for me to have this honour to play against you people today," Abedi Pele said.

"What I have discovered is you have a strong team, strong physically, technically wonderful. For me, the future of Ghana football is in the making."

Abedi Pele encouraged the players to embody the determination and unity that comes with representing Ghana on the international stage.

"When you are born in this country and you are playing for the national team, the bond, the hunger to succeed, the courage, and the determination are paramount.

What I'm seeing now is not just physical strength but also tactical organization."

The Black Galaxies, under the guidance of coach Mas Ud Dramani, are gearing up for the high-stakes two-legged tie against their fierce rivals Nigeria.

The winner of the tie will secure a place at the 2024 CHAN tournament, set to be hosted across Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Ghanaian footballer dies in presidential election victory celebration

A former player of Hasaacas FC in Ghana, Kwabena Baidoo has reportedly died in the celebration that attended the return of John Dramani Mahama to power as President-Elect.

According to reports from Ghana Soc-cernet, the former footballer died in the Ellebelle District of the country during the celebration of the National Democratic Congress's (NDC) victory in the 2024 General Election.

According to reports, Baidoo was in jubilation when he met his demise in a motor accident. Watch live soccer online

His sister, Charity, and brother, Emmanuel Quarm, confirmed the sad news.

RCA Organizes Women's 10km Run to Combat Period Poverty In Abuja

Run Club Abuja (RCA), a community focused on fitness and healthy living, is hosting a 10km charity run in Abuja to combat period poverty. This initiative aims to provide a six-month supply of free sanitary towels to 500 girls from selected public secondary schools within the Federal Capital Territory, reports BSNSports.com.ng.

Scheduled for February 22, 2025, the event coincides with International Women's Day and emphasizes the importance of addressing period poverty—the lack of access to sanitary products—so that young girls can concentrate on their education without unnecessary obstacles.

At a press conference, Onyebuchi Ibe, Chairperson of the RCA Women's Run Organizing Committee, highlighted the purpose of the event: to combat period poverty and encourage women to prioritize their physical and mental well-being.

"The event is open to all women—whether runners or brisk walkers—and serves as a reminder for women to prioritize their health by taking advantage of the proven benefits of physical activity, including stress relief, mental wellness, and overall fitness," Ibe said.

She also urged the government, non-governmental organizations, and religious institutions to support young girls by addressing health challenges, including the lack of access to menstrual



hygiene products.

Mercy Oluwaseyi, representing one of the event's sponsors, The Tulip BodyCare, described the run as a platform to celebrate women's achievements while promoting self-love, care, and health awareness.

Dr. Chito Nwigenne from Skin 101, another sponsor, stressed the significance of the initiative, noting that the supply of sanitary towels would help beneficiaries maintain proper hygiene despite economic challenges.

"This support will boost their self-confidence and allow them to focus on their education," Nwigenne stated.

The event has received backing from various sponsors and partners, including Bubumakaria Perfect Finish Limited, Bolah Girl Initiative, Infosofia Consulting Limited, Four Icons Premium Limited, African Women Power Network, Qualitea, Ardor and Appeal Cleaning Limited, and Mare Clothing.

The RCA Women's Run is a step toward addressing the intersection of health, education, and gender equality.

Future Eagles Arrive Casablanca Ahead of Friendlies Against Morocco

Players and officials of Nigeria's U15 Boys, fondly called Future Eagles, arrived in Casablanca, Morocco at the early hours of Wednesday, 11th December where the team is scheduled to face their Moroccan counterparts in two international friendly games.

This will be the team's first international experience since the inception of the FIFA Talent Development Scheme (TDS) in the country.

The delegation of 22 players, including Bendel Insurance U-15 captain Dominion Osaghae Ighodaro and six officials, with Coach Patrick Bassey as the head of the coaching crew arrived in Casablanca, at about 11 AM.

They will be involved in two friendly match-

es scheduled for the Complexe Mohammed VI de Football on the 12th and 15th December. Kick-off time is 5pm local time on both days.

Shortly before departure, Head of delegation, Nasiru Jibril said playing Morocco is a deliberate plan and a pragmatic way of equipping the young, talented players discovered in the country through the FIFA Talent Development Scheme.

He noted that exposing the players to the best facilities and playing internationally will further shape the country's preparation for annual AFCON U17 and annual FIFA U17 tournaments respectively.

"With the introduction of the annual U17

AFCON and FIFA World Cup, it is going to be difficult if we don't have such a programme going on for us. I think the FIFA Talent Development Scheme has come at the right time, and it is helpful to Nigeria football.

Morocco is the place where we have the most access, in terms of an organized place where we can go to, and people who already have the same kind of project we have running.

Therefore, it is easier and better for us to go and play their own team because they have a team similar to our own," Nasiru said.

The 22 FUTURE EAGLES SQUAD IN MOROCCO

Goalkeepers: Isaac Tomiwa (Mees Palace); Johnson Amaagudi (Ajarah FA); Somtochukwu Ibe (Adoration FC).

Defenders: Nicodemus Gideon (Relentless FA); Raphael Umah (Udi Stars FA); Luka Ephraim (Sporting Lagos); Muhammad Shamsudeen (Mavlon FC); Samuel Yusuf (Stormer FA).

Midfielders: Praise Averwosou (Morak FC); Uwem Bassey (2S Academy); Farwas Adeleke (Lanreleke FA); Raheem Salaudeen (Buruj FC); Kunle Tokode (White Caps FC, Canada); Osaghae Ighodaro Dominion (Bendel Insurance Youth Team); Obasahon Emmanuel (Dynamo FA).



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Lookman’s Goal Not Enough as Madrid Gets Vital Win at Atalanta

Expectedly, Super Eagles forward Ademola Lookman had a great night for Atalanta and was on the scoresheet, but his effort was not enough to his Serie A club.

Real Madrid were the dominant side of the night, winning 3-2 away at Gewiss Stadium in Bergamo.

The slim win, no doubt kept the defending champion on slim hope of automatic qualification in the tournament should they pick vital wins in their last two matches at home.

A dominant first-half showing saw Madrid take a deserved lead through Kylian Mbappe, whose departure from injury before the interval changed the narrative of the game. Atalanta pounced on the uncertainty as Charles De Ketelaere scored a penalty with the final kick of the first half.

Vinicius Junior pounced on a fortunate deflection to restore Madrid’s advantage and Jude Bellingham scored soon after, but Atalanta slashed the deficit with Ademola Lookman’s fine strike from the edge of the box.

Atalanta had the momentum on their side and Lookman continued to torment Madrid’s makeshift defence, with the visitors forced to hold on and watch the clock tick down. Mario Retegui should have scored in the dying embers, volleying over from three yards out when it looked easier to score.

The final whistle was music to the ears of every Madrid fan. Three points take them to within a further three of the automatic qualification spots, although that gap could be stretched slightly after Wednesday’s matches.



Super Falconets, others to know FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup qualifying tournament’s opponents on Thursday

The path to the next FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup will be charted on Thursday in Cairo for the 38 African teams. Four of them will eventually make it to the final competition.

The draw for the qualifying series will take place at 14h30 Cairo Time (12h30 GMT) after the draw for the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup Qualifiers.

The draw is conducted at 14h00 (12h00GMT). The FIFA U-20 Women’s World Cup 2026 will be contested by 24 nations, including four representatives from Africa.

The 2024 edition – held in Colombia saw Cameroon, Ghana and Nigeria flying the African flag. Nigeria concluded

their campaign in the Round of 16, while Cameroon and Ghana finished at the group stage.

Below are the nations to be engaged in the draw:

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa, Congo, DRC, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Man City seek Champions League comfort to ease Premier League pain

Manchester City’s malaise leaves the English champions in the unusual position of fretting over qualification for the knockout stage of the Champions League ahead of a trip to Italian giants Juventus on Dec 11.

City have won just once in their past nine games in all competitions, with an injury crisis and a loss of form for some of their biggest stars leading to the worst run of Pep Guardiola’s managerial career. Best video game consoles

But despite a 4-1 humbling by Sporting Lisbon and an embarrassing collapse from 3-0 up to draw 3-3 against Feyenoord, they are still in a position to qualify from the new league-phase format.

They were 17th in the 36-team table before the round of fixtures on Dec 10, with a top-24 finish enough to secure a place in the play-off round.

However, their chances of direct entry to the last 16 by finishing in the top eight look slim, with another difficult trip to Paris Saint-Germain to come in January before a home game against Club Brugge.

Champions League is even more significant for City this season with their Premier League title defence in tatters.

After an unprecedented four consecutive English top-flight titles, they are in fourth place, trailing Liverpool by eight points and having played a game more than Arne Slot’s men. Best video game consoles

City have often hit top form down the home



straight to win the league during Guardiola’s six title successes in the past seven seasons. But this time, the mood is different, with injuries among an ageing squad taking a heavy toll.

“The season starts difficult, it will be difficult all season,” said Guardiola after his side’s latest stumble in a 2-2 draw at Crystal Palace on Dec 7.

“We have to survive the season, every game, try to take points, to try to win games and go forward.”

Ballon d’Or winner Rodri is the biggest miss and is unlikely to return again this season after

suffering an anterior cruciate ligament injury in September.

John Stones, Nathan Ake, Mateo Kovacic and Oscar Bobb are also sidelined for the trip to Turin, while Kevin de Bruyne, Ruben Dias and Phil Foden are among the big names to have missed chunks of the campaign so far.

“If the squad is this short then it is always so difficult for all the players to play (every) three days,” said midfielder Bernardo Silva.

“With a squad of 20 players, if you only have 13 available, it is not good enough.”

City have little time to lick their wounds, with 12 games in 50 days between the Juventus clash and the end of the league phase on Jan 29.

“The doctors and physios are working incredible this season like never before but the reality is we have few players to rotate in this period,” added Guardiola.

“This season will be like this. Don’t feel sorry, accept the challenge and maybe at the end, we will have more satisfaction about the way we behave than in other seasons when we won the titles.”

The hope for City is that they could yet be Champions League contenders if their medical room empties and they find their customary form come during the decisive spell of the season.

Just one win from their final three games will almost certainly guarantee qualification.

All three of their opponents to come are below them in the table, with Juventus themselves on a four-game winless run and floundering in sixth place in Serie A.

City need to look back just two years for inspiration.

Defeats by Brentford, Southampton, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur in the winter months of the 2022-23 campaign had Guardiola questioning whether the hunger had gone from his squad.

A few months later, they lifted the treble, including the club’s only Champions League to date.

Morocco, Spain, and Portugal confirmed as 2030 World Cup hosts, 2034 edition awarded to Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia will host the men's soccer World Cup in 2034 while the 2030 edition will be held in Spain, Portugal and Morocco, with one-off matches in three South American countries, world soccer's governing body FIFA confirmed on Wednesday.

The decision was announced by FIFA President Gianni Infantino following a virtual extraordinary Congress. The 2030 and 2034 World Cups each had only a single bid and both were confirmed by acclamation.

"We are bringing football to more countries and the number of teams has not diluted the quality. It actually enhanced the opportunity," Infantino said about the 2030 World Cup. Watch live soccer online

The combined proposal from Morocco, Spain and Portugal will see the 2030 World Cup take place across three continents and six nations, with Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay hosting celebratory games to mark the tournament's centenary.

Uruguay held the first World Cup in 1930, while Argentina and Spain have also staged the tournament. Portugal, Paraguay and Morocco will all be first-time hosts.

Four years later, Saudi Arabia will be-



come the second nation from the Middle East to host the quadrennial tournament, 12 years after neighbours Qatar staged the 2022 edition.

In 2023, FIFA said that the 2034 World Cup would be held in the Asia or Oceania region, with the Asian Football Confed-

eration throwing its support behind the Saudi bid. Watch live soccer online

Australia and Indonesia had also been in talks over a joint bid, but dropped out. FIFA announced that both bids would be uncontested in 2023, leaving little room for doubt.

On Tuesday, the Norwegian Football Federation (NFF) said it would vote against the awarding of hosting rights by acclamation and criticised FIFA's bidding process, saying it was "flawed and inconsistent".

Women's World Cup 2027 to kick off on June 24



The 2027 edition of the Women's World Cup for soccer will take place in Brazil between June 24 and July 25, global governing body FIFA said on Tuesday.

The 32-team tournament, the first edition of the women's world championship to be held in South America, will follow the same slot allocation for confederations as the 2023 editions, with 11 teams from European body UEFA qualifying directly.

Asia's AFC will have six direct slots, and Africa's CAF and North America's CONCACAF four each, while South America's CONMEBOL will have three and Oceania's OFC will have one.

The three remaining slots will be determined through a 10-team playoff tournament,

played in two phases between November 2026 and February 2027.

Brazil, who won the hosting rights in May, will stage the tournament at between 10 and 12 venues, many of which were used during the 2014 men's World Cup.

"This historic tournament will have a massive impact not only in South America, but around the whole world," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said in a statement.

FIFA is also set to confirm the hosts of the 2030 and 2034 men's World Cups on Wednesday, with the former going to a three-continent, six-nation bid led by Morocco, Spain and Portugal, and the latter going to Saudi Arabia.

Ancelotti hopes Mbappe injury not serious after Champions League win at Atalanta

Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti hopes Kylian Mbappe will not be sidelined for an extended period after the striker paved the way for a 3-2 Champions League win at Atalanta on Tuesday but was forced off with an injury a few minutes after scoring the opener.

Real Madrid have endured a series of injuries this season, with several key players missing significant time, including Dani Carvajal and Eder Militao who are out for the rest of the campaign with ACL tears.

"Mbappe has suffered an overload, an ischial (lower pelvis) discomfort," Ancelotti told Movistar Plus.

"It doesn't seem serious, but we'll see tomorrow after the exams. He couldn't sprint, it was bothering him a bit and we decided to make the substitution."

Facing heavy criticism for his poor form in his first few months with Real Madrid after signing as a free agent from Paris St Germain, Mbappe was having arguably one of his best games of the season at Atalanta, scoring the opener in the 10th minute and making menacing runs.

But his night lasted only 35 minutes, when he fell to the floor and asked to be substituted before being replaced by Rodrygo.

Vinicius Jr, who was returning to the side after missing the last two weeks with a muscle injury, was on the periphery for most of the game but made the most of the chance he got, netting in the 56th minute to put the visitors back in front after Charles de Ketelaere had equalised with a penalty right before the break.

Jude Bellingham extended Real's lead three minutes later and, after Ademola Lookman reduced the deficit in the 65th, the visitors' goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois worked his magic with a string of saves to secure a hard-fought win.

With two games left, Real are 18th in the

36-team table on nine points, three points off the top eight spots which secure direct qualification to the last 16. Atalanta are ninth on 11 points.

"It's a very important victory, not everyone wins here," Ancelotti said.

"We suffered and fought hard, there is no Champions League without suffering. They were pushing, but we started well in the second half. We are very happy. It was a win that is very good for us, not just for the points, but to build confidence.

"It's still difficult to finish in the top eight, but we have two games to pick up points. Let's see what happens."

Paul Ojo Omamomo Congratulates Dr. Mohammed Sanusi On His Reappointment As NFF General Secretary Recognized By FIFA

Top football scout and agent, Paul Ojo Omamomo, has extended his heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Mohammed Sanusi on his reappointment as the General Secretary of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), a position recognized by FIFA. Paul Ojo, a notable figure in football scouting and player development, lauded Dr. Sanusi's exceptional qualities and administrative skills, which have been instrumental in elevating Nigerian football on both domestic and international stages.

Paul Ojo highlighted Dr. Sanusi's visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to the growth of football in Nigeria. According

to Ojo, Dr. Sanusi's tenure has been marked by strategic reforms, effective policies, and a dedication to nurturing homegrown talent, ensuring that Nigerian football remains competitive on the global stage. "Dr. Sanusi's experience, integrity, and passion for football have been key drivers of progress in Nigerian football. His ability to unite stakeholders and implement forward-thinking initiatives has earned him well-deserved recognition from FIFA and beyond," said Ojo.

Paul Ojo Omamomo, who serves as the Chief Scout for FCD Vista Football Academy in Russia and the President of P Sports

Football Club in Nigeria, is a seasoned football scout and administrator. Over the past decade, he has facilitated the transfer of over 200 players to various clubs worldwide, cementing his reputation as one of the most successful football scouts in Africa. His work has not only advanced the careers of countless players but also showcased Nigeria's rich football talent pool to the international community.

Ojo's congratulatory message underscores the respect and admiration shared by key stakeholders in Nigerian football for Dr. Sanusi. He noted that Dr. Sanusi's reappointment is a testament to his im-

pactful contributions and a call to continue driving sustainable development in the sport.

Paul Ojo expressed optimism about the future of Nigerian football under Dr. Sanusi's guidance. He reaffirmed his commitment to supporting initiatives aimed at player development, grassroots football, and the overall advancement of the sport in Nigeria. Dr. Mohammed Sanusi's reappointment, he said, signals a bright future for Nigerian football, as it builds on a legacy of excellence and innovation.

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Foreign Scouts Pour Encomiums on Bayelsa Govt

Foreign Scouts from Finland, Lithuania, Malta, Turkey and Norway have hailed the Bayelsa State Government for its steadfast commitment to the discovery and development of budding football talents across the State.

The scouts made the commendation, while exchanging views with sports writers at the end of the 6th Governor Douye Diri international scouting program in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital.

Leader of the international scouts, Azodo Hillary, said the international scouting exercise was yielding positive results with the encouraging number of players who are on the verge of traveling out the country for greener pastures, stating that Bayelsa is blessed with abundant talents that are capable of representing the nation.

According to him, the number of players jetting out for trials with European teams testifies to the credibility of the exercise over the years, pointing out that the players have received their invitations along with their Visas for the January transfer window.

He explained that the players would have traveled in the summer transfer window, but the window had already closed before they arrived,

The former Enugu Rangers player, appreciated governor Douye Diri and his Deputy Senator Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo, the commissioner for sports development, Dr. Daniel Igali and Prosperity Cup DG, Mr. Ono Akpe for creating the platform for the youths in the state to express their talents.

Also speaking Kelvin Etemike a FIFA Agent and CEO Sports Management Agency as well as Sporting Director Sakaryaspor and Uyammis Hakan, Agent and CEO and Sporting Director Sakaryaspor all in Turkey, noted that Bayelsa State was blessed with



abundant talents, maintaining that they are pleased with the scouting program.

The duo commended the Bayelsa State government and the organizers of the Prosperity Cup for the initiative to catch them young, noting that the policy is capable of producing the next generation of footballers in the state and the country.

On his part, Naujot Singh of X-One Agency of Norway, who described Bayelsa as the

best in the nation in terms of discovering and nurturing talents, also hailed the players for their show of dexterity, commitment and dedication throughout the exercise.

Earlier, Director General of the Bayelsa Governor's Football Tournament tagged the Prosperity Cup, Mr. Ono Akpe noted that he feels fulfilled seeing products of the Prosperity Cup travel abroad to showcase their talents, stressing that sports remains a

vehicle and a tool to take away the youths off the street.

Mr. Akpe asserted that the success recorded in the international scouting exercise and the prosperity cup was incomplete without Governor Douye Diri and his Deputy Senator Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo, as well as the commissioner for sports development Dr Daniel Igali for giving sports the premium attention it currently enjoys in the State

Why I Formed African Football Holding -Sascha Empacher



Founder/CEO SPOCS Sports Consultants, Sascha Empacher has opened up on why he decided to form an African Football Holding. According to the renowned scout, African teams need to earn more for their players like their counterparts from South America. He spoke to RAYMOND NWADUBA on this and much more...

What's your impression of this year's SPOCS Scouting Tournament?

It was amazing like last year's edition. There were many very good players. I think three academies: Beyond Limits, Grassrunners and African Football Holding stood out in the tournament.

They all have a combination of very good players that have shown their determination and ambition. We have seen two, three

players which can go all the way to top clubs in Europe.

What exactly is your objective or aim with this project?

Our aim at Grassrunners is to become the most advanced football club in Nigeria. Presently, we are trying to attract the best football talents in Nigeria. We organise scouting in other West African countries too. We just brought a boy from Uganda to the team. He was impressive at the U20 qualifier in East Africa. We want to develop Grassrunners to the very best level, so that we can attract European, American and Asian clubs to take our players.

I'm very proud that we are almost coming to first stage. I can tell you that we have just received offer for Precious Benjamin and Em-

manuel Chukwu from Germany and they will soon move to the Bundesliga.

Joshua Godfrey Unoro and Isiaq Samsudeen Alabi will be in France for trials with Stade Reims in the coming week. We're going this way because we have to deliver the best quality to the best clubs from Grassrunners.

What exactly is it that excites you about Africa and African players because you have come a long way with African players and your love for them is unparalleled?

I'm 20 years now in Africa. Everything all started in Ghana with my friend here Gigi Mohammed. We started with Isaac Vorsah when we brought him to Hoffenheim and later Baba Rahman with Chelsea now, who we took then to PAOK. We developed it step

by step. I like the continent, I like the adventure, I like the footballers. You know footballers are ambitious, they want to reach the highest level and there are on fire because for them it's very important to make it to the top, families to have better living.

I see this also as a responsibility because it's not nust a project but something where I see responsibility.

What has been your greatest challenge since taken up this project or should I say responsibility?

For Grassrunners I haven't seen so much challenge because we have experience 20 years and we are doing it with our knowledge. We are also coming as a big team, Helge Payer former Austrian national team player, Nicki Wieners a former 1860 Munich player and many more.

So we are doing it with lots of experience. Of course we also have Gbenga Agbejaye our Nigerian director, I think one of the best sporting managers in West Africa.

Therefore, there's some organisation so I don't see any challenge with them particularly in Africa. A lot of players in Africa doesn't know who is a good agent or bad agent who can help them or who cannot help them. They just feel they have to escape for their life which they have in Africa. This is wrong in my opinion. If you are a high level player which you know that you are good, just wait for the right chance and not go for the second best. Grassrunners will be part of our African football holding and this will be present in two or more countries. Our vision is to scout the best players and to help other academies as well with good transfer fees. What we want to do is to help African clubs achieve or get higher transfer fees that they deserve. Look at the South Americans they earn much more money than Africans. So this is what my mission is. I want to create an African football holding where good clubs can take part with their players. Therefore with this quality spring or pool it will help everyone raise the best value on our players.

We wish to thank you Sascha for your time.

It's always my delight.

Chairman National Sports Commission Mallam Shehu Dikko re-echoes the importance of Integrity check in Nigerian Sports



"I believe so much in that word integrity in our Sports and some of us have come this far because we practice that word".

"We have to be deliberate about the issue of Integrity in our Sports and those coming into our various Federations must understand this and not see what we are doing , as a witch-hunt"

"It caused fifa a lot of Dollars to perform integrity checks and we must have such a mechanism in our Sports here in Nigeria".

"This is why this symposium you guys are having here is in line with our vision in the NSC to refocus Nigeria Sports so that the Private sector can have confidence in the system in order to bring in their money", he said .

The Chairman however charged the Sporting Media to also be more responsive with their reportage of the Country's Sports, because unnecessary negative reportage has a way of demarketing the system and portraying the Sports in bad light.

The NSC Chairman however assured the Organisers of the Commission's support to expand the symposium, where the Presidents of the various Sporting Federations and more stakeholders will be part of it .

The highlight of the event was the Presentation of an Integrity plaque to the NSC Chairman by the Organisers, for all his outstanding achievements in Nigerian Sports, having passed different levels of Integrity test both locally and Internationally by both CAF and FIFA.

The Chairman of the National Sports Commission, Mallam Shehu Dikko has reemphasized the importance of having men and women of high integrity in the ecosystem of Nigerian Sports.

The Chairman stated this when he attended the Integrity Symposium of the Integrity

Group, with the theme, The Importance of Integrity in Sports.

The Chairman revealed that an Independent Compliance Desk is being put together in the Commission to further expand the scope of the Country's Integrity Compliance.

The Chairman said the Compliance Desk

will also help our various Sports during the Federation Elections.

"I personally believe in the agenda of Integrity being pushed in this gathering and I am where I am today because by God's grace, I have been through different levels of integrity checks".

NNL NEW SEASON: Lagos FA Reiterates Support For Lagos Teams

At the head of the 2024/2025 NNL season, the leadership of Lagos State Football Association has once again reiterate its avowed support and encouragement for all Lagos State teams participating in the various cadres of the male and female national football league championships.

Speaking on the new league season, the Lagos FA boss, Hajji Gafar Olawale Liameed,

stated that it is very important that the teams representing Lagos in the NPFL, NNL and the NLO perform very well, for the benefits and development of the game in the state.

"We also believe in the capabilities of the Lagos teams in the different national football leagues to make us proud. And towards achieving the set goals, we'll continue to provide them with the needed technical

support, at all times," he said.

"Lagos State is not only the centre of excellence, it is also the home of football. And with the peaceful and enabling environment provided by His Excellency, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State, we want to ensure that Lagos State retains its enviable pride of place in Nigeria football," Liameed added.

"We are earnestly looking forward to two

other clubsides get promoted to join Ikorodu City FC in the NPFL next season," the highly-regarded football administrator enthused confidently.

Six Lagos State teams including Smart City, Madiba FC, 1472 FC, Inter Lagos FC, First Bank FC and Sporting Lagos FC are participating in this year's NNL season.

NSC DG, Bukola Olopade Applauds Ogun Women Run, Advocates for More Support for Women in Sports

The Director General of the National Sports Commission (NSC), Hon. Olopade, has commended the Ogun Women Run, describing it as a vital platform for the empowerment and celebration of women in sports.

Just before flagging off the race on Saturday morning in Abeokuta, Hon. Olopade emphasized that initiatives like this paved the way for talents to excel, citing icons, Mary Onyali, and Falilat Ogunkoya, as prime examples of how the nation can tap into potentials.

Hon. Olopade called on Ogun and other States to continue beaming lights on talents who can shine on national and global stages, reiterating the NSC's resolve to provide an enabling environment for women's sports to thrive.

The DG also praised the organisers of the race , Brussel Sports Management Limited for its consistency over the years in putting such a race together for women empowerment in Sports.

"This race is a testament to the power of sports in uniting and empowering women. With platforms like this, we are certain more athletes will rise to carry Nigeria's flag high in global competitions," he remarked.

He further stated, "The Ogun Women Run is more than just a race—it is a movement. It signifies a commitment to ensuring that no woman is left behind in the journey to achieving greatness in sports. The NSC will continue



to work closely with initiatives like this to unlock the full potential of our female athletes."

The 5-kilometer road race, designed for women aged 25 to 60, reflects a commitment to fostering female participation in sports.

Beginning at Sapon and finishing at the MKO Abiola Stadium in Kuto, Abeokuta, the event highlighted Nigeria's large talent pool

of budding champions and the promises of the future.

Aderonke Alabi won the race with a cash prize of five hundred thousand naira while Affigbo Esther finished second with a cash prize of Three Hundred Thousand naira. Third placed Olude Kehinde got a cash prize of Two hundred thousand naira.

The Director General of the NSC Hon-ourable Bukola Olopade, in his magnanimity splashed Dollars on some of the outstanding athletes while the Former President of the Athletics Federation of Nigeria, AFN, Chief Solomon Ogba also donated One Million Naira to the out-standing athletes.

2024/25 Federation’s Cup; Imo FA Makes Giant Strides.

With about six weeks to the kick off the 2024/2025 Federation’s Cup, the Imo State Football Association, Imo FA, is turbo charged to make history with an effective organisation this season.

In the history of the Imo State Football Association, this year recorded the highest number of teams with 22 teams involved.

This year’s competition is bouyed by sponsored packages been rolled out for the participating teams.

The Imo State FA, ably led by Barr Ifeanyi

Dike, who is excited by the development, has commenced intensive arrangements to have a fruitful fiesta.

Apart from working for the provision of a level playing ground for all teams, the Imo FA has started making notifications to the state government and other stakeholders about the commencement of the Federation Cup in January 2024, with a view to having a memorable show.

Mouth watering packages are being worked out under a sponsorship pack-

age where the eventual representatives of the state will have strong backing of the state government.

The Imo FA notes that only teams in the state without the desired spirit for competition and unable to take part in a level playing ground may have left the state for another location to enable them get undue for soft landing.

The Imo FA says it has provided a conducive environment for all for football to thrive hence it recorded massive reg-

istration for the coming FA Cup adding that qualifiers that would represent the state for male and female versions of the Federation’s Cup shall receive the support of the Imo FA and State Government.

Speaking during a brief emergency meeting of the Board Members at the FA Office, Owerri, Barr Dike enjoined all football stakeholders to support the state FA for the best in terms of organization of football in the state.

8th African Nations Championship: Super Eagles B intensifies training for Black Galaxies

Nigeria’s quest for a fourth appearance at the African Nations Championship is being taken seriously by players invited to the camp of the Super Eagles B, who continue to sweat it out at the exquisite Remo Stars’ Sports Institute in Ikenne-Remo, Ogun State.

A total of 30 players were assembled last week at the impressive facility, as the Eagles prepare for a potentially-explosive home-and-away qualifying fixture against the Black Galaxies of Ghana.

Only the Enyimba FC duo of goalkeeper Henry Ozoemena and defender Imo Obot were excused, as the two are seen as pivotal to the People’s Elephant’s ongoing campaign in the group phase of the CAF Confederation Cup.

Ozoemena was particularly brilliant in Enyimba FC’s encounter against Zamalek FC of Egypt in Uyo on Sunday, with a dozen big saves that enabled the Aba giants to earn a 2-2 draw.

Nigeria failed to qualify for the 2009, 2011, 2021 and 2023 finals of the competition exclusively reserved for players plying their trade in the domestic Leagues of their countries and possessing permanent contracts.

However, appearances in 2014 (in South Africa) and 2018 (in Morocco) saw the Super Eagles mount the podium, with bronze medals in the former and silver medals in the latter. The 2016 campaign in Rwanda ended at the group stage.

Coaches Daniel Ogunmodede and Fidelis Ikechukwu have been working over-time with the players as the countdown begins to the first



leg, scheduled for the Accra Sports Stadium on Sunday, 22nd Decemeber

In two of the four previous times that the Super Eagles failed to qualify for the competition popularly called CHAN, Ghana was the bogey team. In the qualifiers for the inaugural edition in Cote d’Ivoire, Nigeria took a 2-0 first half lead in Accra, only to eventually lose the match 2-3.

The return at the UJ Esuene Stadium, Calabar ended scoreless.

In the qualifiers for the last edition hosted by Algeria, Ghana won 2-0 at home and lost by the same margin in Abuja, only to snatch the ticket after a penalty shootout.

Togo ensured Nigeria’s absence from the 2021 finals, with the Hawks gaining a 4-1 win

in Togo. A 2-0 win in Lagos by Nigeria was not enough to overturn the advantage.

Apart from the intense rivalry with Ghana on the field of play, the Super Eagles B see this month’s qualifying fixture as an opportunity to regain their pride of place in the hearts of Nigerian ball fans, having missed two consecutive editions of the CHAN.

Delta State Sports Commission Chairman pledges dynamic stewardship that will help sports to blossom



The newly appointed Chairman of one of the most proactive and forward looking State run sporting body, the Delta State Sports Commission, Honourable Onoriode Oborevwori, says his reign will certainly add some fillips to the sporting spectrum of the heart beat State.

Honourable Onoriode Oborevwori, gave this assurance when the new board of the Delta State Sports Commission (DSSC), was inaugurated in Asaba the State capital in the presence of the former Chairman of the Commission, Chief Tonobok Okowa.

Oborevwori said, the board will “hit the ground running” in order to ensure the continued success of Delta athletes, particularly at the forthcoming National Sports Festival in Ogun State, scheduled for January 2024.

He also emphasized that the new board is committed to sustaining the State’s remarkable strides in sports development across various disciplines.

Honourable Oborevwori, affectionately called “The General” by his close associates, acknowledged the magnitude and significance of the responsibilities entrusted to him and his team.

Reflecting on the outstanding achievements of his predecessors, he noted Delta State’s impressive track record in sports not only at the national level but also on the continental and global stage.

“I want to use this medium to appreciate His Excellency, the Governor of Delta State, for giving me this opportunity to contribute my quota to the history of sports development in our state,” Oborevwori stated.

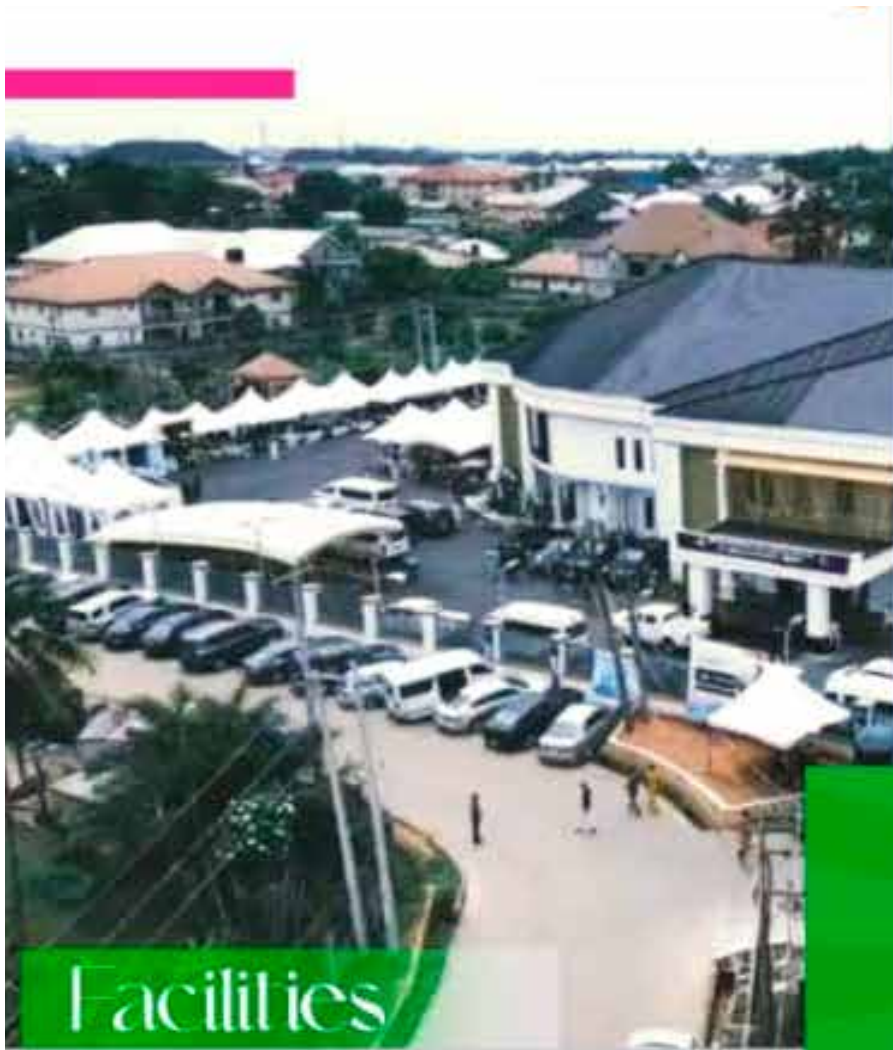
“With our collective efforts, I am confident we will achieve success. As the Governor rightly emphasized, our approach will be one of servant leadership to deliver on our mandate.”

Meanwhile, the Director General of the Delta State Sports Commission, Mr. Festus Ohwojero, pledged the commission’s unwavering support for the new board. He highlighted the alignment of their mission with Governor Sheriff Oborevwori’s MORE Agenda, focusing on youth empowerment and the holistic growth of sporting activities in the state.

Other board members, including Sam Sodje, Herrita Ehiabor, and Oghale Ofremu, shared the same sentiments, calling for a united front among all stakeholders to propel Delta sports to greater heights.

“The united front of all stakeholders is essential in achieving the ambitious goals of the board and taking Delta sports to unprecedented heights,” they emphasized.

The reception, held at the Squash Club in Asaba, was graced by prominent government officials, renowned sports administrators, family members, friends, and staff of the commission as well as the immediate past Chairman of the Delta State Sports Commission who is also the President of the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN), Chief Tonobok Okowa.



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All Sports Supporters Club holds NEC Meeting, Passes Vote Of Confidence On Dagana-Led Executives.

All Sports Supporters Club yesterday held its NEC Meeting in Lagos.

The meeting had in attendance the president Barrister Johnson Dagana, deputy national president Alhaji Musiliu Jimoh and BOT chairman Otunba Rasheed Oladejo.

Also present were Elder Adebajo Oluwale, Elder Dare Williams and Elder Akinloye Oladejo

One of the resolutions reached at the meeting was vote of confidence passed on Barrister Johnson Dagana-led executives.

States which attended the meeting are Lagos, Oyo, Kwara, Cross-river, Bayelsa, Abia and Kaduna.

Members were in ecstatic mood at the meeting as it signaled the era of crisis in all sports supporters Club is gone



National Sports Commission Confirms NFF's Investigation by EFCC

The National Sports Commission has confirmed that the Nigeria Football Federation is under investigation of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC over alleged misappropriation of funds.

A statement from Office of the Director General National Sports Commission and signed by Micheal Obasi, says the commission frowns at the malicious the headline given by some news medium that NSC is

under investigation.

"The NSC found it very malicious the headline in some online publications that reads " The EFCC probes National Sports Commission over alleged misappropriation of funds"

"The Leadership of the NSC sees this as very unprofessional and an extreme case of distorted sensationalism.

"While in the body of the story, there was nowhere it explained what the head-

line portrayed that the newly established Sports Commission is being investigated, it is therefore very easy to conclude that the writer was intentional in a bid to malign the newly established Sports Commission."The statement reads.

Setting the record straight, the NSC said the EFCC only asked for its Commission to furnish the anti graft agency with relevant documents concerning funds released to the Nigeria Football Federation under the period

under review.

"Setting the record very straight, it is important to state that the EFCC only asked the Commission to furnish it with relevant documents concerning the Nigeria Football Federation.

"The EFCC did this because the National Sports Commission is the apex body of Sports in the Country , which has all the various Sports Federations under it."Obasi said in a statement.

David Osaghae Foundation Promotes Intense Judo Meet In Benin



Judo has taken another dimension in Nigeria as David Osaghae an international trainer embarks on a yearly intense training and competition.

The competition was organized to place Nigerian Judokas on international platforms against all odds, For this reason David Osaghae Judo and Sports Foundation Benin City, Edo State set up a preparation ground ahead of the upcoming National Sport Festival.

The event started at 10:00 am saturday, coronated with dignitaries and sports analysts in attendance; thrilled with sophisticated modern facilities for the sport.

The venue can pass for a standard studio for training upcoming Judokas, and for hosting world class judo competitions.

The event was put together by Edo State Global Judokas, Head Quarters in Texas through David Osaghae.

The event started friday 6th December to saturday 7th December 2024 with ten judo teams present on the first day .

The event kicked off with tough moments of intensive fight, three winners emerged .

Edo State Sports Commission won the first position with cash award of one hundred and fifty thousand naira.

Iredia judo club won the second position,-

gifted one hundred thousand naira

While Rev. Murph Judo club emerged third place with a catch prize of fifty thousand naira .

The cash prizes were transferred to their respective coaches on the spot by Sir David Osaghae .

Osaghae is a multicolor belt holder in the art of judo.

The event was more interesting the second day Saturday 7th December 2024 as Team Edo emerged 1st with an overwhelming five hundred thousand naira (#500,000.00) cash prize.

Team South East placed second with

thousand naira (#300,000.00) cash prize while Team Arewa placed third with Two thousand naira (#200,000.00) cash prize.

All cash prizes were transferred to their respective coaches on the spot by Sir David Osaghae who initiated the judo meet and Solely funded all the winners cash prizes.

Kajido Jonah one of the Team Edo fighters expressed his profound gratitude to Sir David Osaghae, the host and initiator of the Judo Meet, prayed that God almighty will gracefully bless David Osaghae for initiating the program that will hold next year ,been a yearly event.

The coach of the second place Team South East, Dzisah Promise said the event is worth attending, praised the organisers, appreciated all for coming, ' We will honour future invitation' he stated.

The Head coach of Edo State Mr. Lucky Esezobor also expressed his overwhelming feelings ,saying "I am happy that this event is taking place in my time and am hopeful for more to come..."This is just tip of the iceberg and a test-run of a standard judo competition which is a confirmation of David Osaghae's claim' he added.

An interview section with the Host David Osaghae wrapped up the competition .

Words From the Host Sir David Osaghae

"We are glad the Judo competition has successfully come to an end ,the Judokas did their best. Nigeria judo right now is at it's lowest level ever as they do not have any quality to win any medal right now, or to even win medals in the continent.

Nigeria judo has to be revamped, says Osaghae.

Osaghae ' recommendation

Since Nigeria coaches are not been sponsored to attend international seminars ,we have to bring in foreign coaches to educate our coaches.

There is need to hold seminars for our referees to enable them grow the game.

If coaches and referees are ill informed they will take bad decisions, teach improper techniques, Osaghae added.

The competition was full of intrigues that caught the attention of all spectators. No one anticipated an end to the event due to its captivating features.

NFF General Secretary Mallam Mohammed Sanusi (MON)



My dear brother GS & MON without EY, I salute you for the mile stone as Mr President Nigeria Football Federation has found it worthy which is statutory to his office. May God grant you peace and a new tenure of grace over the affairs of football matters and the challenges before you. Congratulations and stay blessed.

Amb fanny AMUN MON.