

## BARTLETT RETURNS

MLS alumnus Shaun Bartlett will captain South Africa at the Nike U.S. Cup. The New England Revolution's Ivan McKinley is one of nine other foreign-based players called up by Coach Trott Moloto, who is using the trip to prepare his team for the final round of World Cup qualifying in Africa. The Bafana Bafana, whose roster is depleted by injuries and conflicts with the Bob Save Super Bowl cup final, opens up against Zimbabwe in July.

**Goalkeepers** — Andre Arendse (Oxford United, England), Simon Gopane (Jomo Cosmos).

**Defenders** — Pierre Issa (Marseille, France), David Kannemeyer (Ajax Cape Town), Jacob Lekgetho (Moroka Swallows), Fabian McCarthy (Bloemfontein Celtic), Aaron Mokoena (Ajax, Netherlands), Cyril Nzama (Umtata Bush Bucks), Andrew Rabutla (Jomo Cosmos), Andile Sixaba (Ajax Cape Town).

**Midfielders** — Quinton Fortune (Manchester Utd., England), Ivan McKinley (New England Revolution, USA), Helman Mkhalele (Ankaragucu, Turkey), Thabo Mngomeni (Orlando Pirates), Dumisa Ngobe (Ankaragucu, Turkey), Godfrey Sapula (Jomo Cosmos), Dillon Sheppard (Ajax Cape Town), Arthur Zwane (Clas-sic).

**Strikers** — Shaun Bartlett (FC Zurich, Switzerland), Delron Buckley (Bochum, Germany), George Koumantarakis (Basle, Switzerland), Patrick Mayo (Umtata Bucks).



DUMISA NGOBE



KEITH RANDOLPH

**LEFT: ACE NTSOELENGOE (LEFT WITH MINNESOTA TEAMMATE GEOFF BARNETT) TRIED TO RETURN TO THE NASL ONE WINTER ONLY TO FIND OUT THAT HIS NEW PASSPORT WASN'T RECOGNIZED ABROAD.**

**TOP RIGHT: THE SOUTH AFRICAN MIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES BEGAN WITH KAIZER MOTAUNG, ONE OF THE PIONEERS OF THE NASL AND NOW OWNER OF THE MOST POPULAR TEAM IN SOUTH AFRICA.**

**MIDDLE RIGHT: JOMO SONO USED THE MONEY HE MADE PLAYING WITH THE NEW YORK COSMOS, COLORADO CARIBOUS AND TORONTO BUZZARD TO BUY THE BIGGEST CLUB IN JOHANNESBURG.**

**BOTTOM RIGHT: FOR ROY WEGERLE (RIGHT IN ACTION AGAINST ENGLAND AT U.S. CUP '93), THE UNITED STATES OFFERED A FAST TRACK TO THE WORLD CUP.**

# American soccer shapes South African game

BY MARK GLEESON  
in Johannesburg



**A**s in many other countries in the soccer world, the British first brought soccer to South Africa. In this case, it was the military, thousands of miles from home fighting the Boers in the great gold grab before the turn of the 20th century.

An English colonial heritage still pervades strongly through South African life, but it is the Americans whose stamp rests markedly on South Africa soccer.

Chiefs, Cosmos, Pirates ... names that evoke great passion in the South African game and all have their origins far over the Atlantic.

The Chiefs are the product of Kaizer Motaung, the first South African to play in the old NASL who returned home to form his own club.

Motaung had been Rookie of the Year with the Atlanta Chiefs in 1967 and three years later set about a defection from the Orlando Pirates to form the Kaizer Chiefs, today the most popular club in the country.

The Chiefs' emblem is still that of the old Atlanta club, and they play in black and gold in front of legions of fans nationwide.

Jomo Cosmos was formed in much the same way. Jomo Sono, who played for the New York Cosmos, Colorado Caribous and Toronto Bliz-

zard, came back to South Africa with his American earnings and bought the franchise of Highlands Park, the biggest club in Johannesburg.

The Cosmos wore the white of their New York contemporaries and also adopted their badge, although this has been changed over the years.

South African champion in 1987, the club has been a perennial contender ever since and looks set to finish among the top five when the domestic league ends in mid-June.

The Orlando Pirates were started in the 1930s, long before the connection with NASL, but even they have Hollywood roots. The founding members of the Soweto club were so enamored by Errol Flynn's acting in swashbuckling buccaneer movies of the day they chose the name and skull and crossbones emblem.

**KAIZER BUCKS SYSTEM.** The political structures of South Africa in the 1970s and 1980 gave little outlet for black achievement, the stifling effects of apartheid keeping opportunity to a minimum and leaders and heroes on a tight lease.

Motaung's success in the initial years of the NASL bucked this system, and the reports of his prowess in the United States filled the pages of the black press.

Patrick "Ace" Ntsoelengoe and Jomo Sono, arguably the two finest players produced by South Africa, were to take the mantle even further, making a name in North America.

Ntsoelengoe spent more than a decade shut-

ting between the United States and South Africa, playing for Chiefs in the early stages of the domestic season, going off to the NASL, and then returning invariably just in time to help his Soweto club take an end-of-season trophy.

"America taught me a lot about life and about self-discipline," says the midfield maestro, now a youth coach at Kaizer Chiefs. "It also gave me a lot of self-belief. I rubbed shoulders with some of the great names of world football, and we went to places like Italy and England to play preseason warmup games."

**ACE SUFFERS INDIGNITIES.** The quiet-spoken Ntsoelengoe still had to suffer the indignities of apartheid on his return, even if some of it was quiet comical.

"One trip," he recalls, "I had returned home and sent my South African passport in for renewal. Instead of giving it back, they sent me a passport for Bophuthatswana, which made travel very difficult."

Bophuthatswana was one of several "Bantustan" homelands created by the apartheid government in the 1970s for blacks but only recognized as "independent" countries by the South African regime. They had their own governments, capital cities, passports, stamps but no border posts.

"I got to London with this Bop passport and naturally got stopped by the customs officer," Ntsoelengoe says. "He said, 'Look here, Mister, this passport is not international-recognized and certainly not here.' I told him I wasn't going into

London, just in transit to the States. So they let me stay in the airport waiting for my connection, but they put a policeman with me to ensure I caught the connection. He sat with me while I had my breakfast, and he was even pushing my trolley in the end!"

**JOMO THE BUCCANEER.** Ntsoelengoe and Sono were together at the Toronto Blizzard in 1982 but never played on the same team in an official game.

"I was already, in spring training in Florida when he arrived," says Ntsoelengoe, "and we played a few times together there, but then we got injured and his granny was very sick back home and he decided to return. It's a real pity because I would have loved to have had a season together with him."

In South Africa at the time, the two were the embodiment of the rivalry between Chiefs and Pirates. Sono had been the darling of the Buccaneers while Ntsoelengoe was Chiefs' own "Ace."

There were many others, too, who made their mark — some even going on to represent the United States at full international level.

Derek Smethurst from Durban, who played in England at Chelsea, was a prodigious goalscorer in the NASL, later becoming a minister of religion in Orlando. David Byrne returned home and still plays in the Second Division nearing the age of 40. Andries Maseko is a youth coach in Johannesburg, while Neil Roberts became a golf professional in Minnesota.

**WEGERLES REUNITED.** A constant stream of professionals traveling across in the NASL was matched by an even bigger flow of players into the college system, some of them later returning to perform in South Africa's Premier League but many staying behind in the USA.



DENVER DYNAMOS



MILTON CROSSEN



JON VAN WOERDEN

The best known of all of these was Roy Wegerle, a prodigious schoolboy sportsman who went to Florida but gave up college to join his elder brother Steve at the Tampa Bay Rowdies in the last year of the NASL in 1984.

Pretoria-born Wegerle then played in England and won his American citizenship before the 1994 World Cup finals, when South Africa had just returned to international soccer.

In 1992, Wegerle could still have played for South Africa but felt the prospect of playing in the World Cup finals was worth choosing to play for the United States.

"It wasn't a difficult choice because as hosts the USA were already qualified," Wegerle says, "and I knew that if my citizenship went through, I would make the team and get to play in the greatest event of them all."

**MLS CONNECTION.** The modern era of MLS gave an opportunity for two South African internationals to find foreign vistas. Doctor Khumalo was signed as a marquee player by the Columbus Crew, for which he never lived up to his ability. Shaun Bartlett, who had played with Khumalo in South Africa's 1996 African Nations Cup winning team, was never happy and constantly seeking a move to Europe, which eventually came in the form of a transfer to Swiss club FC Zurich.

Ivan McKinley's form at the New England Revolution earned him two caps for the Bafana Bafana last year, but he remains today's only connection between the two countries following the decision of Butler University star Stephen Armstrong to pass up a move to D.C. United in order to try his luck in Europe.

(Mark Gleeson is one of the leading authorities on African soccer.)

## SOUTH AFRICANS IN THE PROS

There are 37 South Africans who have played in the NASL and MLS. Two players—Andrew Parkinson (2 caps in 1984) and Roy Wegerle (41 caps in 1992-98)—went on to represent the United States.

### DES BACKOS

Year	Club	GP	G
1977	Los Angeles Aztecs	25	4

### DICKIE BACKMAN

Year	Club	GP	G
1996	Tampa Bay Mutiny	30	0
1997	Tampa Bay Mutiny	3	0

### SHAUN BARTLETT

Year	Club	GP	G
1996	Colorado Rapids	26	8
1997	Colorado Rapids	10	1
1997	MetroStars	13	2

### HERMAN BLASCHKE

Year	Club	GP	G
1973	Miami Toros	10	1

### DAVID BYRNE

Year	Club	GP	G
1980	Atlanta Chiefs	23	1
1981	Atlanta Chiefs	30	3
1982	Toronto Blizzard	35	10
1983	Toronto Blizzard	35	15
1984	Toronto Blizzard	24	13

### RODNEY BUSH

Year	Club	GP	G
1980	San Diego Sockers	37	3

### LAWRENCE CHELIN

Year	Club	GP	G
1981	Atlanta Chiefs	26	2

### MARTIN COHEN

Year	Club	GP	G
1977	Los Angeles Aztecs	26	3
1979	California Surf	25	0

### MIKE CONNELL

Year	Club	GP	G
1975	Tampa Bay Rowdies	24	1
1977	Tampa Bay Rowdies	27	0
1978	Tampa Bay Rowdies	33	0
1979	Tampa Bay Rowdies	37	1
1980	Tampa Bay Rowdies	36	0
1981	Tampa Bay Rowdies	36	1
1982	Tampa Bay Rowdies	32	2
1983	Tampa Bay Rowdies	30	2
1984	Tampa Bay Rowdies	23	1

### MALCOM FILBY

Year	Club	GP	G
1981	California Surf	1	0

### EDDIE FIRMANI

Year	Club	GP	G
1975	Tampa Bay Rowdies	1	0

### BRUCE GROBELAAR

Year	Club	GP	G
1979	Vancouver Whitecaps	1	0
1980	Vancouver Whitecaps	23	0

### BERNARD HARTZE

Year	Club	GP	G
1975	Tampa Bay Rowdies	6	1

### RICHARD KELLETT

Year	Club	GP	G
1978	Chicago Sting	3	0

### DOCTOR KHUMALO

Year	Club	GP	G
1996	Columbus Crew	26	3
1997	Columbus Crew	19	2

### WEBSTER LICHABA

Year	Club	GP	G
1979	Atlanta Chiefs	30	0
1980	Atlanta Chiefs	32	2
1981	Atlanta Chiefs	33	2

### STUART LILLEY

Year	Club	GP	G
1980	Atlanta Chiefs	27	1

### ANDRIES MASEKO

Year	Club	GP	G
1978	Wash. Diplomats	13	0
1979	Wash. Diplomats	11	1
1980	S.J. Earthquakes	28	3

### IVAN MCKINLEY

Year	Club	GP	G
1996	Tampa Bay Mutiny	31	3
1997	Tampa Bay Mutiny	19	1
1997	N.E. Revolution	9	4
1998	N.E. Revolution	28	4
1999	N.E. Revolution	29	4
2000	N.E. Revolution	7	1

### KENNETH MOKGOJOA

Year	Club	GP	G
1978	Wash. Diplomats	27	10
1979	Wash. Diplomats	20	4
1980	Wash. Diplomats	10	0
1981	Atlanta Chiefs	5	0

### LUCAS MORIPE

Year	Club	GP	G
1979	Chicago Sting	1	0
1979	Minnesota Kicks	1	1

### KAIZER MOTAUNG

Year	Club	GP	G
1968	Atlanta Chiefs	28	13
1969	Atlanta Chiefs	16	16
1971	Atlanta Chiefs	28	8
1974	Denver Dynamos	15	7
1975	Denver Dynamos	20	4

### ABEDNIGO NGCOBO

Year	Club	GP	G
1975	Denver Dynamos	20	5
1976	Minnesota Kicks	3	0

### PATRICK NTSOELENGOE

Year	Club	GP	G
1973	Miami Toros	9	3
1975	Denver Dynamo	21	10
1976	Minnesota Kicks	25	7
1977	Minnesota Kicks	23	3
1978	Minnesota Kicks	33	10
1979	Minnesota Kicks	31	9
1980	Minnesota Kicks	34	13
1981	Minnesota Kicks	23	12
1982	Toronto Blizzard	35	15
1983	Toronto Blizzard	12	3
1984	Toronto Blizzard	25	9

### ANDREW PARKINSON

Year	Club	GP	G
1980	Philadelphia Fury	24	3
1981	Montreal Manic	37	13
1982	Montreal Manic	18	8
1983	Team America	28	7
1984	New York Cosmos	18	3

### JOHN PASKIN

Year	Club	GP	G
1984	Toronto Blizzard	16	10

### NEIL ROBERTS

Year	Club	GP	G
1979	Atlanta Chiefs	19	14
1980	Tampa Bay Rowdies	28	10
1981	Tampa Bay Rowdies	25	2
1982	Edmonton Drillers	13	5
1982	Toronto Blizzard	18	12
1983	Toronto Blizzard	26	11
1984	Tampa Bay Rowdies	23	9

### NATHAN SACKS

Year	Club	GP	G
1981	Dallas Tomado	16	0

### BRIAN SEBAPOLE

Year	Club	GP	G
1998	San Jose Clash	12	0

### PHIL SETSHEDI

Year	Club	GP	G
1978	Colorado Caribous	10	0

### DEREK SMETHURST

Year	Club	GP	G
1975	Tampa Bay Rowdies	25	19
1976	Tampa Bay Rowdies	26	21
1977	Tampa Bay Rowdies	22	19
1978	San Diego Sockers	17	2
1979	Seattle Sounders	22	13
1980	Seattle Sounders	8	1

### JULIUS SONO

Year	Club	GP	G
1981	Toronto Blizzard	11	1

### JOMO SONO

Year	Club	GP	G
1977	New York Cosmos	16	1
1978	Colorado Caribous	30	8
1979	Atlanta Chiefs	29	5
1980	Toronto Blizzard	31	14
1981	Toronto Blizzard	21	8
1982	Toronto Blizzard	5	0

### GEOFF WEGERLE

Year	Club	GP	G
1978	Oakland Stompers	22	1
1983	Toronto Blizzard	14	2

### ROY WEGERLE

Year	Club	GP	G
1984	Tampa Bay Rowdies	21	9
1996	Colorado Rapids	22	2
1997	Colorado Rapids	14	2
1997	D.C. United	19	5
1998	D.C. United	5	2
1998	Tampa Bay Mutiny	12	1

### STEVE WEGERLE

Year	Club	GP	G
1977	Tampa Bay Rowdies	27	5
1978	Tampa Bay Rowdies	32	9
1979	Tampa Bay Rowdies	37	6
1980	Tampa Bay Rowdies	28	10
1981	Tampa Bay Rowdies	10	2
1981	New York Cosmos	8	6
1982	New York Cosmos	31	3
1983	Ft. Lauderdale Strikers	19	0
1984	Tampa Bay Rowdies	23	3

### ROY WIGGAMANSEN

Year	Club	GP	G
1979	Ft. Lauderdale Strikers	13	0
1980	Ft. Lauderdale Strikers	11	0

\* Statistics, which include playoff games, are through May 21.