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FAM NEWSLETTER



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Nyamilandu making his address at the State House

IGNITING THE FLAME OF WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

In the realm of football, our national women's team, the Scorchers, stands as a beacon of what our country can achieve. Their meteoric rise to the summit of African women's football, secured by their victorious campaign in the 2023 Hollywoodbets Cosafa Women's Championship held in South Africa, embodies a tale of triumph that resonates with every football enthusiast in Malawi.

Amidst their remarkable journey, a striking narrative unfolded as Tabitha Chawinga, the team's captain, found herself unable to join the Scorchers in South Africa due to prior football commitments. In her absence, it was her sister, Temwa Chawinga, who took up the mantle of leadership, demonstrating exceptional qualities that mirrored her sister's. Under her captaincy, Temwa not only guided the team

to the pinnacle of women's football in Africa but also etched her name in the annals of the championship with a double distinction as the Player of the Tournament and the competition's top scorer, netting a staggering 9 goals.

In these young women, we find the embodiment of the virtues that our nation aspires to cultivate in its citizens. Their blazing desire for success, coupled with unwavering courage, hope, and resilience, highlights the rewards that determination and focus can yield. The Scorchers serve as a living testament to the principle that setting goals and persistently pursuing them ultimately leads to success, regardless of how arduous the path may be.

Our journey to this triumphant moment has been a winding and often slippery one, spanning nearly two decades. In 2021, we made our maiden appearance in the Cosafa Cup, reaching the final but falling short of gold. However, we did not falter; instead, we regrouped, set new targets, and continued our unwavering pursuit of excellence.

Amid our persistent pursuit of greatness, we cannot ignore the numerous challenges that women's football in Malawi faces. Investment discrimination remains a primary impediment to the growth of women's football, with limited interest from both the public and private sectors.

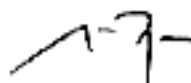
As witnessed during the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in New Zealand and Australia, women's football has evolved into a central and unifying activity that brings pride and prestige to the nation, akin to men's football and netball. This recognition underscores the urgent need for substantial and sustained investment.

We fervently hope that both our government and the private sector will recognize the opportunities presented by women's football and lend their unwavering support to the Scorchers. The Football Association of Malawi envisions itself as an instrumental institution in the government's development agenda. Among the lessons we draw from the Scorchers' triumph is that football can empower the girl child and contribute significantly to the country's development.

On this resolute note, the Football Association of Malawi remains steadfast in its mission to elevate the game and play a pivotal role in achieving the Malawi 2063 goals. The Scorchers' journey symbolizes a rise from the ashes to glory, a transformation from insignificance to greatness. Their story reminds us that our nation's ascent from despair to prosperity hinges on our unwavering determination and collective effort.

As we celebrate the Scorchers' success, let us embrace the possibilities that women's football holds for our nation. Let their victory be the catalyst that fuels our commitment to this remarkable sport and propels Malawi to even greater heights. The Scorchers have illuminated the path to greatness; now it is our turn to follow it.

“The Scorchers serve as a living testament to the principle that setting goals and persistently pursuing them ultimately leads to success, regardless of how arduous the path may be.”



Walter Nyamilandu

Football Association of Malawi



Scorchers celebrate with the trophy

SCORCHERS CREATE HISTORY

After years of striving and eight attempts, the Malawi Women's National football team, affectionately known as the Scorchers, finally made history in 2023. They claimed their maiden COSAFA Women's Championship title by defeating Zambia in a thrilling final held in South Africa.

The Scorchers had come close in 2021 when they reached the final but fell short, losing 1-0 to Tanzania. This time, however, they left no room for disappointment, marking their presence at the tournament by winning all five matches in open play. Their journey to the championship was filled with remarkable performances that captivated fans and showcased their true potential.

Their campaign kicked off with a thrilling 3-4 victory over the hosts and seven-time champions, South Africa's Banyana Banyana. This early win set the tone for their dominance in the tournament. They followed it up with a

resounding 8-0 victory against e-Swatini and sealed their group stage exploits with a 3-1 win over Madagascar.

In the semi-finals, Malawi faced a stern challenge from Mozambique, falling behind early but displaying their resilience by rallying to secure a 2-1 victory. The final showdown against rivals Zambia saw them maintain their composure, claiming a well-deserved 2-1 triumph. It was a testament to their unwavering determination and the progress they had made over the years.

Individual honours also shone on the Scorchers, with Temwa Chawinga receiving the Player of the Tournament and Golden Boot awards for her exceptional performance, having scored a remarkable nine goals throughout the competition.

The road to this historic victory was long and filled with obstacles. The Malawi women's team played their first international match



Scorchers celebrates after the final whistle

in 2002 during the COSAFA Women's Championships, facing a daunting 8-0 defeat to hosts Zambia. Although they recorded their first win by defeating Lesotho 3-0 in their next game, they couldn't progress to the knockout stages.

Over the years, they continued to participate in the competition, displaying flashes of potential, but often coming up short. Their journey was marked by mixed results and encounters with formidable opponents like South Africa and Tanzania. Despite the setbacks, they maintained their dedication to the game and kept pushing forward.

Their determination paid off in 2021 when they reached their first-ever final, only to fall narrowly to Tanzania. The following year, they continued to impress, finishing as the best runner-up in their pool, and then defeating

South Africa in the semifinals. Their journey was a thrilling and inspiring testament to their resilience and progress.

In 2022, the Scorchers faced a setback, failing to replicate their 2021 form and bowing out in the group stages. Despite the challenges, they remained steadfast in their pursuit of success.

The Scorchers' victory in the 2023 COSAFA Women's Championship represents the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. It is a testament to their unwavering spirit and serves as a source of inspiration for football enthusiasts and aspiring athletes across Malawi.

The Scorchers have etched their names in history, and their triumph is a shining example of what can be achieved with passion, determination, and a relentless pursuit of excellence in the beautiful game of football.



Chakwera greets captain Temwa Chawinga

PRESIDENT CHAKWERA HONOURS SCORCHERS' HEROICS

In a remarkable display of appreciation and recognition, President Lazarus Chakwera celebrated the Malawi national women's football team, the Scorchers, for their historic victory in the 2023 COSAFA Women's Championship. The President's grand gesture was a fitting tribute to the team's extraordinary achievement.

Each member of the Scorchers' squad was rewarded with a generous prize of K1.5 million and a valuable 35x25 metre plot in the prestigious Area 45 of Lilongwe. President Chakwera hosted a luncheon in their honour at the State House in Lilongwe, underscoring the importance of their success and their contribution to the nation.

During the event, President Chakwera praised

the team for exemplifying an unwavering fighting spirit and displaying exceptional discipline throughout the championship. He acknowledged that their victory was no mere stroke of luck but the result of a long journey filled with dedication and commitment.

"Your victory is not a small feat. It is not a result of chance. This championship is built on a lifetime of family support, a burning ambition to succeed, years of unrelenting hard work, months of unwavering discipline, weeks of top-notch coaching by Coach Fazili and his team, and an immeasurable love for our beloved country," President Chakwera expressed.

He continued: "It was only fitting, on behalf of all Malawians, that I hosted you at the



Chakwera poses with Scorchers and the trophy

Kamuzu Place, the people’s house, your house, to celebrate and extend our heartfelt gratitude for making us all swell with pride.”

President Chakwera took the opportunity to extend his congratulations to all the stakeholders who contributed to this historic triumph, including the Ministry of Sports, Sports Council, Football Association of Malawi (FAM), and Coach Fazili and his dedicated coaching staff. He also commended those who, against all odds, facilitated the team’s journey to victory.

The President expressed his gratitude to the passionate Malawi supporters who unwaveringly backed the team, acknowledging their critical role in the Scorchers’ success. He concluded his remarks

with a call to action for the corporate world, emphasizing the value of investing in a team of this calibre.

“My appeal would go to everyone in the corporate world that investing in a team like this is not wasted investment because it is a team that has already proved that Malawi can be put on the map,” President Chakwera declared.

The President’s celebration and recognition of the Scorchers’ historic victory serve as a testament to the significant impact that sports and dedicated athletes can have on a nation. Their extraordinary achievement not only brought glory to Malawi but also underscored the potential for further growth and success in the world of women’s football.

HOLLYWOODBETS COSAFA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP 2023



FAM CALLS FOR INVESTMENT IN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

In the rapidly evolving landscape of sports, Women's football has emerged as a captivating and dynamic sport worldwide. Walter Nyamilandu Manda, the President of the Football Association of Malawi (FAM), recognizes the immense potential of Women's football and passionately advocates for increased investment in this flourishing venture within his country.

Nyamilandu believes that the women's football scene embodies the very essence of setting ambitious goals and pursuing them with unwavering determination, irrespective of the time it may take, as long as focus remains steadfast. Until now, the FAM has been the sole supporter of the national women's team, the Scorchers, including funding the coach's salary.

However, in light of the stunning success

of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup held in New Zealand and Australia from July to August 2023, Nyamilandu emphasizes that it is high time to shift the spotlight onto women's football. It has transitioned from being sidelined to taking center stage, proving its potential to bring pride, prestige, and unity to the nation, much like men's football and netball.

Yet, Nyamilandu underscores that achieving this vision requires substantial and sustained investment. He hopes that both the government and the private sector will seize the opportunities presented by women's football and rally behind the Scorchers, recognizing the transformational impact it can have on the nation.

In conclusion, Nyamilandu clarion call for



Scorchers winning

increased investment in women's football signals a new era of inclusivity and recognition for women athletes, aiming to usher in a golden age for Malawian women's

football. This investment promises to not only elevate the sport but also to enhance the nation's sense of pride, prestige, and unity.



The Scorchers disembark with the trophy up arrival

FAM'S GENEROSITY SHINES AS SCORCHERS TRIUMPH

The Football Association of Malawi (FAM) has once again demonstrated its commitment to uplifting the spirits of its national teams. In the wake of the Scorchers' remarkable victory at the COSAFA Women's Championship, FAM felt compelled to reward the players with a generous bonus, mirroring their previous gesture toward the Flames when they qualified for the 2021 AFCON finals.

As part of this commendable gesture, each Scorchers squad member will receive a substantial K1 million bonus, K200,000 as appearance fees, K1 million as a game bonus for their exceptional performance in securing five victories, and an external travel allowance

of \$1,500 (approximately K1,753,500). In total, each player is set to receive approximately K4 million.

FAM's President expressed his unwavering support for the women's team, stating, "These girls deserve better. They deserve more than words and clapping hands. As we are aware, COSAFA does not provide prize money for this competition, which would have typically supplemented the team's efforts. We take pride in our women's achievements and strive to offer them significant bonuses according to our means. Despite our resource constraints, we are committed to showing our appreciation for the joy and pride they bring to our nation."



Prophet Bushiri supported Scorchers

CHAKWERA, FAM EXTEND GRATITUDE TO GOSHEN

President Dr. Lazarus Chakwera and the Football Association of Malawi (FAM) extended their heartfelt appreciation to Goshen City for their pivotal support in the Scorchers' successful COSAFA Women's Championship journey.

Goshen Trust, founded by Prophet Shepherd Bushiri, played a crucial role by providing a K39 million package, enabling FAM to secure air tickets for the team's travel to South Africa for the tournament. President Chakwera commended the individuals and organizations that made this opportunity possible, emphasizing that their

support was instrumental.

FAM President Walter Nyamilandu added: "I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Goshen City. At the time we approached them, we had no funds for this tournament. The support they provided gave us the impetus to participate. This experience has reinforced our belief in supporting women's football fully. While we have been nurturing this endeavour for years, we invite both the private and public sectors to join us in nurturing and expanding women's football to its full potential."



Fans mob the Scorchers bus in Blantyre

HUGE HOMECOMING FOR SCORCHERS

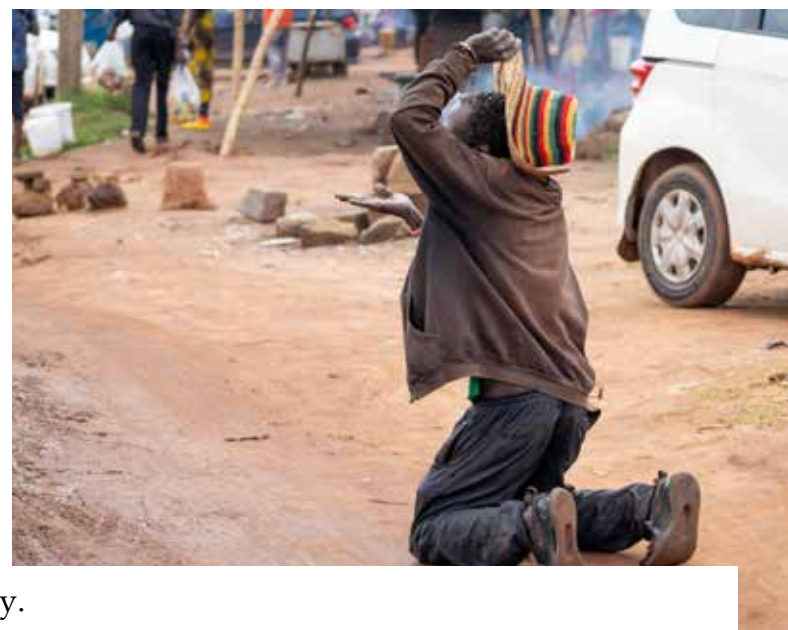
The Malawi National Women's Football Team, fondly known as the Scorchers, received a heartwarming welcome upon their return from their historic victory at the COSAFA Women's Championship in South Africa on October 16.

The Scorchers' triumph over Zambia sparked jubilant celebrations back home, with a deafening roar greeting them as they disembarked from their Malawian Airlines flight at Chileka International Airport in Blantyre. The excitement was palpable as the team was ushered to the VIP enclosure,

reflecting their role as national heroes.

Subsequently, stand-in captain Temwa Chawinga proudly displayed their sparkling trophy from an open-roof vehicle while her teammates waved the Malawian flag from the team bus windows during their journey from Chileka International Airport to Blantyre City.

The streets were filled with cheers from exuberant fans, and the Scorchers also paraded their trophy in Lilongwe before being hosted by President Lazarus Chakwera for a luncheon at State House on October 18.



1. Temwa and Sabina Thom show off the trophy.
2. Women wave to the Scorchers in Blantyre.
3. Scores of fans welcome the team at the airport.
4. A female fan shakes hands with FAM President.
5. Fans salute the Scorchers
6. A fan kneels down in appreciation of the Scorchers' feat



Kanjadza

SUNBIRD FETES SCORCHERS WITH WELCOME DINNER

Sunbird Hotel and Resorts, through its Blantyre hotel, Mount Soche, graciously hosted the Scorchers to a hero's welcome dinner, celebrating their remarkable achievement at the COSAFA Women's Championship.

Temwa Kanjadza, Head of Sales, Marketing, and Distribution at Sunbird, expressed their immense pride in the team's accomplishments. He highlighted the significance of this victory, particularly on Mother's Day, and commended the women's team, many of whom are mothers themselves. Kanjadza emphasized the empowerment and inspiration that this feat provides for the girl child in a predominantly male-dominated sport.

He also acknowledged the potential of sports tourism and its contribution to the nation's tourism sector. As a wholly Malawian-owned brand, Sunbird Hotel and Resorts pledged their support for the Malawi brand's excellence, especially on the international stage.

Kanjadza concluded by expressing their enthusiasm for Malawi hosting future COSAFA championships, affirming that Sunbird Hotel and Resorts is well-prepared to be a hosting partner for these prestigious events.

Ministry and Council Extend Congratulations to Scorchers for COSAFA Victory

The Ministry of Youth and Sport and the Malawi National Council of Sports came together to applaud the Football Association of Malawi (FAM) for their triumph in the Scorchers Cosafa Women's Championship.

Minister Uchizi Mkandawire, who warmly received the team at the airport, emphasized that the Scorchers' success serves as a testament to the abundant talent in Malawi and underscores the significant role that women can play in the country's development.

Dr. Sunduzwayo Madise, Chairman of the Malawi National Council of Sports, praised the Scorchers for their remarkable achievement, highlighting their dedication, resilience, and unwavering commitment to excellence on the field.

He noted: "The way they exhibited their skills, determination, and team spirit showcased their immense talent and the rigorous training and preparation they undertook. Their conduct, both on and off the pitch, has set a high standard for sportsmanship in Malawi. The Scorchers have not only proven themselves as exceptional athletes but also as worthy ambassadors for Malawi, embodying the nation's cherished values and principles."



The Scorchers at Mount Soche





Minister of Sports Uchizi Mkandawire celebrates with the Scorchers

MINISTRY AND COUNCIL SALUTE SCORCHERS' TRIUMPH

In a resounding show of support and admiration, the Ministry of Youth and Sport along with the Malawi National Council of Sports collectively extend their heartfelt congratulations to FAM in light of the Scorchers' remarkable victory at the Cosafa Women's Championship.

As the triumphant Scorchers returned home, they were greeted with warm accolades by none other than Minister Uchizi Mkandawire, who awaited their arrival at the airport. Minister Mkandawire exuberantly proclaimed that the Scorchers' triumph not only validated the abundance of talent within Malawi but also underscored the vital role that women can play in advancing the nation's development.

Council Chairman Dr. Sunduzwayo Madise, equally exuberant in his praise, emphasized that the Scorchers' unparalleled success was a shining testament to their unwavering commitment to excellence, their enduring dedication, and their indomitable spirit on the football field.

"Their performance, marked by skill, unwavering determination, and seamless

teamwork, stood as a resounding testament to their extraordinary talent and the relentless hard work they have invested in their training and preparation," he remarked.

Dr. Madise, who had the distinct privilege of not only watching these heroines in action but also engaging with them personally during their final pre-match meeting, went on to express his profound admiration for their discipline and professionalism both on and off the pitch.

"In the Scorchers, we have witnessed not only exceptional athletes but also remarkable ambassadors for Malawi, exemplifying the very values and principles that our nation holds dear. Their exemplary conduct sets an elevated standard for sportsmanship in our country and serves as an inspiring model for others to follow," he concluded.

In the wake of the Scorchers' monumental success, it is evident that their achievements extend beyond the football pitch, resonating as a beacon of hope, inspiration, and pride for the entire nation.



Chawinga in action against Zambia

‘IT WAS NEVER ABOUT MONEY’

Temwa Chawinga, the captain of the Scorchers, emphasized that their victory in the COSAFA Women’s Championship was driven by national pride rather than monetary rewards.

Chawinga addressed the discussions that arose when it was revealed that the team would not receive any prize money for their gold medal, pointing out that COSAFA typically does not

offer monetary prizes for their tournaments, except for the Men’s senior challenge Cup.

She commented: “For us, it was all about representing our nation with pride, and I believe we achieved that. As for the rewards, it’s up to the relevant authorities, whether it’s the government, FAM, or other stakeholders, to consider what can be done.”



Chakwera congratulates Fazili

FAM RECOMMENDS FULL-TIME SCORCHERS COACH

The Football Association of Malawi (FAM) has recommended the creation of a permanent coaching position for the Scorchers, the Malawi Women's National Football Team.

FAM's General Secretary, Alfred Gunda, revealed that the Association's Emergency Committee has decided to propose the establishment of a full-time Scorchers' coach position to ensure the continuous progress and development of the team. They are eyeing Lovemore Fazili, who led the Scorchers to their historic victory in the Cosafa Women's

Championship, for this role.

Gunda stated: "The establishment of a permanent Scorchers coach position is expected to contribute to the ongoing growth and success of the team. This proposal is a positive step, and we plan to suggest the recruitment of Lovemore Fazili for this role, with a two-year contract in mind."

Minister of Youth and Sports, Uchizi Mkandawire, welcomed this recommendation as a significant development.



Migogo

NWFA CALLS FOR FIRST LADY TO BECOME SCORCHERS PATRON

Adelaide Migogo, chairperson of the National Women's Football Association, has extended an invitation to the First Lady, Her Excellency Madam Monica Chakwera, to become the patron of the Scorchers.

Migogo made this request during an event hosted by President Chakwera at the State House to celebrate the Scorchers' victory in the COSAFA Women's Championship.

She conveyed: "Through you, Your Excellency, we wish to invite the First Lady to be our

patron. We believe that your involvement will have a positive impact. It will be an honour for all of us and a great source of motivation for the girls to have the mother of our nation and a champion of girl-child empowerment as our patron."

Migogo emphasised the untapped potential of women's football in Malawi and urged for increased support from the government, donors, and the private sector to help the girls achieve more and put Malawi on the world map in women's football.



FAM's Matola shows off the Scorchers award

SCORCHERS RECEIVE 'PEOPLE'S BRAND OF THE YEAR' AWARD

The Malawi National Women's football team, the Scorchers, earned the prestigious "People's Brand of the Year" award at this year's Institute of Marketing in Malawi (IMM) Marketer's Excellence Awards (MEA).

This recognition was conferred upon the Scorchers during the awards ceremony held at Sunbird Nkopola in the lakeshore district of Mangochi on October 28th. The Scorchers achieved this accolade after clinching their first-ever COSAFA Women's Championship title by defeating defending champions Zambia with a score of 2-1 at Lucas Moripe stadium in

South Africa.

Limbani Cliff Matola, the Commercial and Marketing Director of the Football Association of Malawi (FAM), was also celebrated at the event as he was named the Best Sales Personality of the Year.

The award signifies the growing recognition and appreciation of the sport in Malawi, and it serves as a catalyst for further development of women's football in the nation, as highlighted by Women's Football Association Chairperson Adelaide Migogo.



Bushiri announces his support for the Scorchers

GOSHEN TRUST'S SUPPORT ELEVATES WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

In a significant move to bolster the growth of women's football in Malawi, Goshen Trust, led by visionary Dr. Shepherd Bushiri, made a game-changing announcement on September 29th. They revealed a substantial K60 million sponsorship packages for the Football Association of Malawi (FAM), underscoring their commitment to women's football in the country.

Prophet Shepherd Bushiri, the driving force behind Goshen Trust, expressed his desire for continuous support, with plans for potential renewals and adjustments in the sponsorship package in the years to come. He emphasized that despite the outstanding performance of the National Women's Soccer Team, it had been under-supported, and he aimed to change this by nurturing more female football talent.

Under this landmark sponsorship agreement, K29 million is earmarked to facilitate the Scorchers, the National Women's Football Team, for their journey to the COSAFA Cup. An additional K10 million will be allocated to enhance the allowances for the Scorchers during their COSAFA campaign.

Simultaneously, K21 million has been allocated to boost the National Women's Football League, which has now proudly been rebranded as the Goshen Women's Football League.

FAM President Walter Nyamilandu expressed his deep gratitude to Goshen Trust for this generous donation. He pointed out that women's football, despite its significance, has often been

overlooked and underappreciated when it comes to sponsorships.

Nyamilandu stated, "Today is a great day for Women's Football. This is a child that has been marginalized for far too long, and it has now found a savior. You have come to the rescue of a neglected child, and we are sincerely grateful."

He also commended Dr. Shepherd Bushiri and Goshen City for their commitment to the country, acknowledging that this investment would have a lasting impact. Nyamilandu sees Goshen Trust as a benevolent force in women's football, setting the pace for others to follow.

He continued: "Goshen City has emerged as a good Samaritan for Women's Football. As FAM, we have been the sole sponsors of women's football, and despite the challenges, we have managed to export players to Europe, with the Chawinga Sisters being prime examples. We applaud you for venturing into a field that many overlooked."

Nyamilandu emphasized that by empowering these young female athletes, there is a high possibility that they could propel the nation to the World Cup faster than their male counterparts. The financial struggles faced by the women's team had even led to the possibility of forgoing participation in tournaments like the WAFCON qualifiers. However, Goshen Trust's support has brought a significant relief to FAM, renewing their hopes and aspirations.



Chimango Munthali shates a few pointers with Scorchers coach Lovemore Fazili

A JOURNEY OF FAITH, TALENT, AND UNITY

By Chimango Munthali, Head of Delegation

In the annals of football history, moments of divine intervention are seldom recounted.

However, the 2023 Scorchers squad, led by the guidance of a higher power, etched their names in the stars by clinching the

Hollywoodbets COSAFA Cup. As Head of Delegation for this remarkable team, I stand in awe, bearing witness to a squad that exemplified the essence of faith and the indomitable spirit of unity.

For the first time in a very long time, we brought together a team that possessed two fundamental attributes that define champions: big hearts and exceptional talent. In 2021, we reached the finals propelled by our big hearts, but our talent pool was limited. We didn't contribute a single player to the team of the tournament. However, this time, we had both heart and talent, a lethal combination that secured our Championship.

Our journey to victory was marked by several key factors. Pre-tournament friendly games and the fierce competition within the squad allowed the technical panel to rigorously assess the players. Through this process, we assembled a formidable squad that would go on to conquer the COSAFA Cup.

Credit must be given to our remarkable technical panel, comprising individuals with vast experience in women's football and international exposure. Lovemore Fazili's selection of this panel, initially questioned by many, proved to be an inspired choice. Their collective expertise and specialization brought a laser-like focus to our preparations.

In our pursuit of success, we left no stone unturned. Extensive enemy reconnaissance became the norm. We dedicated substantial time to researching our opponents, utilizing the expertise of professional analysts to prepare videos and notes for our coaches and players. This meticulous approach enabled us to craft winning game plans for each fixture. This should become a

standard practice for all national teams and local clubs in the modern game.

A significant contributor to our triumph was the profound love and unity that permeated the squad. Leaders preached love, and love was lived throughout our journey. The absence of drama, gossip, or divisiveness allowed us to remain united, focused on a singular purpose.

Mental management of our players was a cornerstone of our strategy. We conducted numerous classroom sessions to alleviate pressure, boost confidence, and foster the right focus. National Women's Football

Chairperson Miss Adelaide Migogo played an instrumental role in guiding our players' minds. Fun games, videos, and group discussions were held, and we even ventured to Gold Reef City to celebrate and refresh their minds after qualifying for the semifinals, recognizing the youth of our squad.

“...we had both heart and talent, a lethal combination that secured our Championship.”

One remarkable facet of our journey was that money was never the primary motivation. We collectively agreed that financial rewards would follow our success. And indeed, when we claimed the trophy, we not only made history but also earned the monetary rewards that accompanied it.

As the Head of Delegation, I am proud to say that every member of our delegation deserves a place in the FAM hall of Fame. Our triumph in the 2023 Hollywoodbets COSAFA Cup was a testament to faith, talent, unity, and the unwavering commitment of every individual involved. The Scorchers have etched their names in history, and we look forward to the bright future that awaits Malawian women's football.



Fazili issues instructions from the touchline

A PERFECT GAME PLAN – LOVEMORE FAZILI

In a historic and electrifying moment for the Malawi senior women's national football team, the Scorchers, Lovemore Fazili, their dedicated coach, etched his name in the annals of football history.

Under his astute guidance, the Scorchers orchestrated a perfect game plan that culminated in a triumphant victory at the 2023 Hollywoodbets COSAFA Women's Championship.

Their remarkable achievement marked their first-ever gold medal in the tournament, a momentous occasion for Malawi, and it came at the expense of the reigning

champions, Zambia. In a thrilling final at the Lucas Moripe Stadium, Malawi defeated Zambia 2-1, sending shockwaves through the world of women's football.

The stage was set for an epic showdown, and Fazili's meticulously crafted tactics proved to be the game-changer. The Scorchers seized the initiative early in the first half, their eyes firmly fixed on the prize.

However, the game took an unexpected turn when their goal was disallowed by the Video Assistance Referee (VAR) technology. This marked the debut of VAR in a COSAFA tournament in Gauteng, and

it cast a shadow of uncertainty over the proceedings. But the spirit of the Scorchers remained unbroken.

In the dying moments of the match, Malawi's resilience was put to the test as they conceded a penalty, allowing Zambia to claw their way back and level the score. It was a moment of tension and pressure, but the Scorchers summoned their inner strength, refusing to bow to adversity.

In injury time, they executed a stunning counter-attack, snatching victory from the jaws of uncertainty. This thrilling turn of events secured their status as the champions of the Southern region and etched a new chapter in the history of Malawian football.

Throughout the tournament, Malawi showcased their offensive prowess, emerging as the highest-scoring team. Their captain, Temwa Chawinga, was the shining star, earning the coveted golden boot with an impressive nine goals. Fazili's insight into the game was evident. He foresaw that Zambia would direct their efforts at countering Chawinga's influence, prompting him to make a strategic deviation from the norm.

In the final, this strategic move paid off brilliantly, underscoring Fazili's game plan as nothing short of genius.

Amid the euphoria of their historic triumph, Fazili shared his feelings about winning the cup with this remarkable group of girls, saying, "I felt honoured and achieved a great milestone since it has never happened before." The magnitude of their achievement was not lost on him.

When asked about the factors that set this year apart from previous attempts, Fazili pointed to the pivotal role of squad

selection. "This year was different because I had the opportunity to select my own squad," he explained. "Players were chosen based on merit and high-level performance. I picked players from various clubs, and the squad had a broader age range, including players from U17, U18, U20, and senior players. This made a significant difference from previous years."

Fazili elaborated on what makes this particular team unique, emphasizing the thorough selection process and the diverse age groups represented. "We have a mix of youth and experience, and this has contributed to our success," he emphasized, underlining the synergy within the squad that powered their triumph.

With an eye on the future, Fazili assured fans that they can anticipate an even stronger squad in the years to come. "We have the challenge of defending our title, and we anticipate fierce competition from other countries," he said. "We're prepared to work harder to maintain our current performance and continue to make our nation proud."

As a coach, Fazili aspires to lead the Scorchers to greater heights, with dreams of competing in prestigious tournaments such as WAFCON, the World Cup, and other international competitions. "We are committed to achieving more success in the future," he declared with unwavering determination.

The 2023 Hollywoodbets COSAFA Women's Championship will forever be remembered as the turning point for women's football in Malawi. Lovemore Fazili, with his masterful game plan and unwavering dedication, has propelled the Scorchers to the pinnacle of success, and the future looks brighter than ever for women's football in the

"Fazili executed a tactical masterstroke by positioning Sabinah Thom as the primary striker, while Chawinga assumed a supporting role behind Thom."



Temwa celebrates scoring the winner against Mozambique in the semi-finals

CAPTAIN PROPELLED SCORCHERS TO GLORY

Malawi women's football and netball team captain, Temwa Chawinga, led her team to a historic triumph in the Hollywoodbets COSAFA Cup, capping a remarkable tournament with her exceptional performances. As the star of the competition and a pivotal player for the Malawi Scorchers, Temwa Chawinga's goals and leadership were instrumental in their path to victory.

Chawinga stole the spotlight leading Malawi to the final with her goals and determination.

Chawinga's remarkable performance included scoring four second-half goals, contributing

to her team's impressive 8-0 victory against Eswatini in a Group A match.

With this feat, she maintained her position at the top of the tournament's goal scorer chart, boasting seven goals in just two matches.

In an interview, Chawinga shared her thoughts on this remarkable achievement.

The Scorchers captain, who plays for Chinese club Wuhan Jiangnan University FC, noted that winning the trophy was a wonderful feeling.

"I felt great and honoured to be the player of



Temwa was crowned player of the tournament

the tournament and one of the key players. It's one of my dreams that I have fulfilled at the international level. I worked hard for this, and I am proud of myself. I thank God for helping me reach this far," she explained.

Temwa's humility and dedication to her team and country were evident in her responses, reflecting the spirit of a true champion.

The winning formula for the Malawi team, as shared by Chawinga, was a combination of hard work, discipline, unity, experience, and unwavering faith.

"A bit of experience also helped us, and we used to pray a lot, and God helped us."

Chawinga emphasized the importance of long-term planning and stability in the team, pointing out that consistent support and

development are key to maintaining success.

"The authorities should invest more in women's football from the grassroots level to the national level to ensure consistency of the team. They should not be changing coaches or players anyhow because if you want to build something, it takes almost two to three years. They should try to keep the same technical staff and players," she noted.

The Scorchers captain dedicated the victory to the people of Malawi, acknowledging their unwavering support and faith in the team.

"The trophy is for them. We worked hard for every Malawian. It's a thank you for their belief in us through their support and prayers.

Chawinga assured her fans that the team would remain committed to their goal of achieving



Temwa shoots to score against South Africa

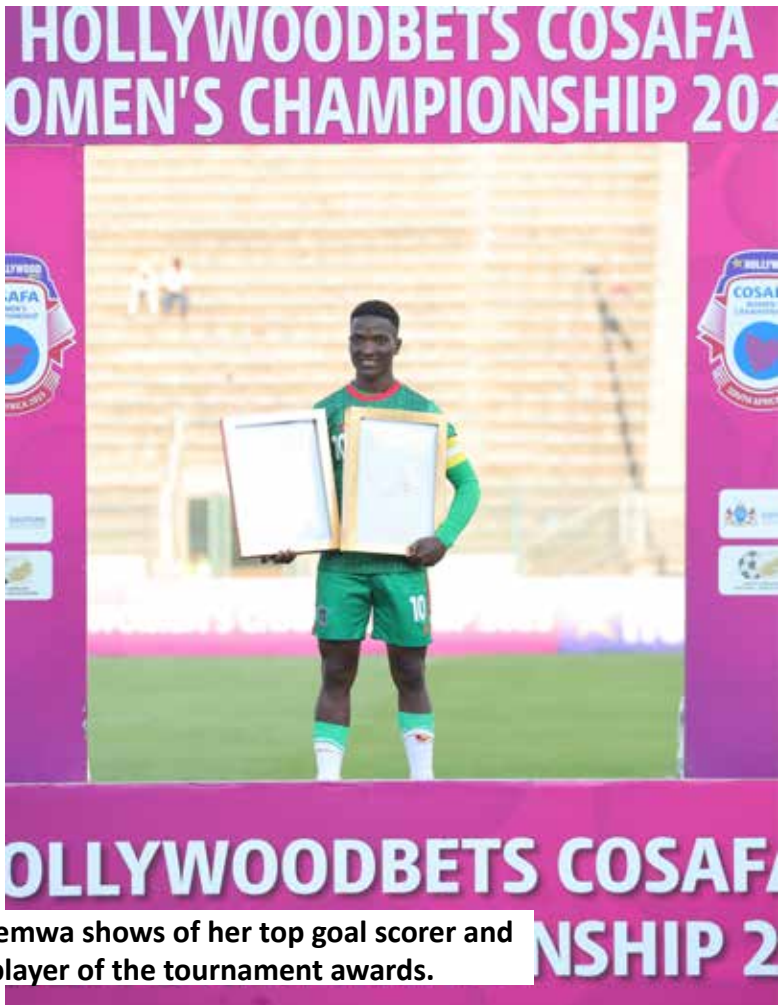
even greater success in the future, urging them to continue their support.

“We will continue working hard for them, and in every tournament we enter, we will try as much as possible to bring results no matter what. They should expect more to come, and we just need their support.”

The heartfelt reception and support from the people of Malawi have further motivated the team to strive for more remarkable achievements in the future.

“It was amazing. We never knew that people were this happy, and this has fuelled us a lot to keep pushing hard for them. They deserve to be happy, and we will keep on making them happy by working very hard for them,” she said.

With Temwa Chawinga’s extraordinary contributions, the Malawi women’s football team has set a new standard for excellence in the COSAFA Women’s Tournament, and they are determined to build on this success for the future.



Temwa shows of her top goal scorer and player of the tournament awards.



Sikelo (c) strikes a pre-game pose with her teammates

MERCY SIKELO: GUARDIAN OF THE SCORCHERS' NET

The 2023 Cosafa Women's Championship brought Mercy Sikelo into the spotlight as the formidable first-choice goalkeeper for the Scorchers. Throughout the tournament,

she displayed her remarkable skills and commitment to her team, participating in all five matches. In the team's last group stage match against Madagascar, Martha Cosmas substituted for her at the 71st minute, marking the only time she stepped off the field.

Mercy's journey in football began in 2008, as she took her first steps onto the pitch with Play Soccer Malawi, initially as a defender. In 2011, she made a significant move to Bangwe Super Queens, where she embarked on a year-long journey to transition into the role of a goalkeeper. Her next destination was Ntopwa FC in 2012, where she has remained dedicated ever since.

The path to the national team, known as 'SheFlames,' was not without its challenges. In 2016, she received her first call-up but faced stiff competition from experienced goalkeepers like Martha Banda, Thoko Mwase, Alice Msiska, and Memory Banda, preventing her from securing a spot on the final squad, which repeated in 2017. However, her persistence paid off in 2018 when she made it into the final Cosafa squad as one of the goalkeepers. Despite being part of the squad, she did not make an appearance in any of the three-group stage matches that year.

Mercy's breakthrough came during the 2019 Cosafa Women's Championship, as she finally stepped onto the field. She entered as a substitute for Samir Amidu in the team's group stage match against South Africa. She repeated this in 2020, playing a single game as a substitute.

While she continued to make the final Cosafa squad in 2021 and 2022, she remained an unused substitute in all the matches. However, 2023 was a turning point for Mercy. Her exceptional performance during the CAF Women's Champions League-Cosafa Qualifiers in August secured her place in the Scorchers' final squad. She became the first-choice goalkeeper, logging an impressive 431 minutes of play, a feat matched only by defender Bernadettar Mkandawire.

This year marked a significant milestone in Mercy's career. Not only did she earn a gold medal at Cosafa, but she also had the honour of donning the national team jersey as a starting player, rather than a substitute. Additionally, her team, Ntopwa FC, became the first Malawian team to participate in the CAF Women's Champions League, with Mercy featuring in all three games.

Mercy's journey to success has been far from easy. She faced adversity, including opposition from her parents, who initially discouraged her from pursuing football in favour of focusing on her education. She also struggled with limited access to football equipment. However, these challenges only fuelled her determination to reach her goals.

Looking ahead, Mercy aspires to play professionally outside of Malawi, an ambition born from her unwavering love for the beautiful game. Her remarkable journey from a young defender to the Scorchers' last line of defense is a testament to her dedication and passion for football.



Madyina ngulube: The scorchers' midfield dynamo

SABINAH THOM: BEACON OF HOPE FOR THE SCORCHERS

Sabinah Thom, born on March 3, 1996, is a name that has become synonymous with perseverance and victory in Malawian women's football. A forward for TP Mazembe and a vital member of the Malawi women's national football team, The Scorchers, Thom's journey is one of

dedication and commitment. Her pivotal role in the Hollywoodbets COSAFA Cup, held in South Africa, exemplifies her unwavering spirit and determination to lead her team to glory.

In a recent interview, Thom shared her

joy and excitement, recalling the historic moment when her goal in the final against Zambia secured The Scorchers' maiden trophy.

She expressed her profound happiness and excitement, underlining the significance of this achievement. "I was very happy, and I am still excited. I will be happy for many more years to come," Thom exclaims. For Malawi, this victory marked a milestone, as it was their first COSAFA Cup triumph since they started participating in the tournament.

Thom's sense of gratitude extends to a higher power, as she believes that divine intervention played a significant role in their success. "I think it was God trying to show us that we were supposed to win that game," she reflects, emphasizing the importance of their victory and how it would have been devastating to lose in the final after a previous defeat. For Thom and her team, this victory creates a lasting legacy that no one can take away from them.

What set this year apart, according to Thom, was the team's unwavering determination and the realization that their goal wasn't just to participate but to win the trophy. Their collective experience in the tournament, gained over several years, made a significant difference. Thom acknowledges, "What made the difference was the experience that we had. We knew all the corners, all our opponents and how they play. So that helped us win the trophy."

Thom's success story is a testament to the importance of hard work, training, and personal responsibility for national team players and aspiring footballers. She stresses the significance of maintaining fitness through training and gym workouts, pointing out the increasing competitiveness in their league, which is set to elevate the

quality of the game in Malawi.

As a member of the Malawi Defence Force (MDF), Thom credits the discipline instilled by the military for helping her remain focused on her goals. She draws parallels between the military's emphasis on teamwork and her approach to football, highlighting the importance of unity.

"In football terms, this has taught me that I don't have to play as an individual but as a team. This has helped us as COSAFA because we played as a team, no one played as an individual," Thom explains. The Scorchers' unity of purpose was evident in their quick response to conceding a goal, showcasing their resilience and team spirit.

In closing, Thom has a heartfelt message for her fellow Malawians and football enthusiasts. She appeals for unwavering support and encouragement for young girls who aspire to play for the Scorchers. Thom also calls upon individuals and benevolent companies to provide the much-needed sponsorship that will help the team compete on a level playing field with other regional teams.

She emphasizes that active participation will lead to valuable experience, and she implores Malawians to believe in their team, assuring them that they will not be disappointed. "Dear Malawians, this is your team, believe in it. We promise you that we will not embarrass you. Our prayer is that please support us," Thom passionately states.

Sabinah Thom's story serves as a source of inspiration, demonstrating that dedication, teamwork, and the support of the community can lead to remarkable achievements in the world of sports. Her journey is not only one of personal triumph but also a testament to the potential of Malawi's Scorchers, as they aim for even greater success in the future.



Asimenye in action for the Scorchers at the COSAFA tournament

ASIMENYE SIMWAKA: ATHLETIC PRODIGY SHINES ON THE SOCCER FIELD

Asimenye Simwaka, a household name in Malawi's sporting scene, has left an indelible mark not only in track and field but also on the soccer field, where she has been a vital asset to the Scorchers since 2019. Her journey to success in football is a testament to her unyielding determination, teamwork, and unwavering faith.

Simwaka's star truly shone at the Hollywoodbets COSAFA Cup, a historic tournament for Malawi, where she played

a pivotal role in securing a victory. In the finals, she scored the first of two crucial goals that led the team to glory. When asked about this defining moment, she humbly credited a higher power, saying, "I was very happy when I scored the goal in the finals. It was God who used me and enabled me to score the goal. Because of that, me, the team, and my fellow players were able to fulfill our goal."

What set this year apart was the unity

within the team. Simwaka emphasized the importance of their collective spirit and the role of faith in their success. "What was different this year is that we were united. We did things as a team and we put God at the heart of everything that we did. We were always praying together, starting from the training camp in Chiwembe all the way to South Africa."

The sense of togetherness and discipline in the squad was a significant factor in their triumph. As Simwaka noted, "There was a lot of teamwork and discipline."

When asked about the team's future, she provided insights on how to maintain their winning streak. "What we need to do to maintain this winning streak is that we, as players, should always keep fit so that we continue performing at the top level. We should be disciplined. Also, my appeal is for FAM to keep calling the girls into camp, that way, it is easy to familiarize with each other and get used to everyone's style of play. It helps with coordination."

She stressed the importance of playing friendly matches against top teams to gain experience and enhance competitiveness at the international level. "On top of that, they should organize a lot more friendly games with top teams so that we gain experience and are more competitive at the international level. That will improve our standard of play and the standard of the game in Malawi. We also appeal for support for us to participate in continental and international tournaments."

Simwaka's military background has been a key asset in her sporting journey. She spoke about the influence of army life on her approach to soccer, saying, "Being a soldier has really helped me in my sports endeavors because in the army, we work as a team. And when you bring the spirit of teamwork to the soccer field, you realize

that you have to rely on your fellow players in order to succeed."

She also highlighted the significance of discipline, not only on the field but in interactions with coaches and fellow players. "Also, army discipline helps us to be respectful to our coaches and fellow players. I cannot disrespect any of my fellow players, even those that are younger than me because they are my buddies; we are at the same level."

Simwaka's message to the fans is one of gratitude and hope for the future. She urged the supporters to continue backing their team, emphasizing the importance of support for women's football in Malawi. "My message to our fans is that they should continue supporting us. We are not relenting; we are determined to take this success forward."

She also pointed out the need for sponsors in women's football, both at the regional and national levels, to motivate the players and raise the standard of the game. "Those who can support us should do so as to advance women's football in the country. For instance, our local clubs have no sponsors. Right now, we are playing in the FAM league; we need sponsors in the regions. We also need a vibrant national league that has sponsors like the Super League. That will motivate us to do more."

Asimenye Simwaka and her Scorchers teammates have proven that success is achievable through teamwork, discipline, and unwavering faith. As they carry their vision forward, they remain grateful for the support of their fans, knowing that they are rallying behind a team determined to make Malawi proud. With their winning spirit, the future of women's football in the nation looks promising, and the Scorchers are ready to make their mark on the world stage.



Madina in action against Eswatini



MADYINA NGULUBE: THE SCORCHERS' MIDFIELD DYNAMO

In the Scorchers' final squad for the past five years, one name stands out: Madyina Ngulube, the versatile midfielder who seamlessly transitions between attack and



Madina shows off her player of the match award in the final

defense. Ngulube played a pivotal role in the historic 2023 Hollywoodbets Cosafa Championship victory for the Scorchers.

Her journey with the national team began in 2015 when she was called up for an international friendly against Tanzania, earning her a spot in the final squad. Since that debut, Madyina has never missed a final squad selection, accumulating 27 Caps for the team.

When reflecting on her football journey, Madyina shares a childhood tale of borrowing her brother's football from Embangweni United to play with her

friends, mostly boys, instilling her love for the game. She officially started playing in 2011 during the Airtel Rising Stars competition while attending Embangweni CDSS.

In 2014, Madyina made a significant move by joining DD Sunshine, then coached by the late David Dube. It was during her time with DD Sunshine that she developed a deep passion for the sport, encouraged by coach David Dube, who predicted she would become the best if she continued to work hard.

From 2015 to 2022, she continued representing DD Sunshine, but in 2022, she embarked on a six-month loan deal with Zambia's Elite Ladies. Madyina has since returned to her home club, now known as Silver Strikers Ladies, as they discuss the possibility of a permanent deal.

Her experience in the national team, featuring in events like WAFCON and Olympic qualifiers, as well as the Cosafa Championship, has boosted her confidence and fueled her desire to join an international club.

Beyond her team's championship win, Madyina's standout moment came in the intense final match against Zambia during the 2023 Cosafa Women's Championship, where she was named Player of the Match. In a hard-fought 2-1 victory for the Scorchers, she showcased her outstanding skills against a formidable Zambian side, making Malawi proud.

Madyina is not only a dedicated footballer but also a strong academic achiever, holding an MSCE qualification and a Certificate in Computer Studies. Her unwavering commitment to both her education and her football career exemplifies her determination to succeed on and off the pitch.

MY TEAMMATES



Asimenye Simwaka (FW)

The Scorchers' heroics performance at the 2023 COSAFA Women's Championship, where they won their first title, brought the country to a standstill. But while we appreciated the works of our stars on the pitch, there is a lot we don't know about our players and technical officials. Winger Asimenye Simwaka gives us a who is who in the team.

Mercy Sikelo (GK):



Caps: 8 (6 starts and 2 subs)

Clean sheets: 2

Our number one stopper. She is so friendly and doesn't easily get angry. Likes joking. However, when she has a phone with her, she is always on a phone call and one would wonder who she talks to every time. She is also our hairstylist. She talks a lot in the field but outside, she is very quiet.

Martha Cosmas (GK)



Caps: 2 (2 subs)

Cleansheets: 0

We call her Fada because she sometimes acts like a hip-hop star. This one is so jovial and is our very own poet. She has poems which we sometimes listen to and make fun of when in camp. She also likes singing.

Sabina Thom (FW)



Caps: 19 (19 starts)

Goals: 12

): We call her Shisokonezo band. She likes talking and making jokes. On the field, she is a very dangerous striker and no wonder she scored the winning goal against Zambia in injury time.

Mary Major (DF).



Caps : 3 (starst 2, 1 Sub)

Likes taking shower and is always in the bathroom. Likes to be on the phone and is quiet even on the phone. Mary is always quiet and likes to be on her own. Even in the field of play, she doesn't talk to anyone.

Esther Maulidi (GK)



Caps: 1 (1 Starts)

Clean sheets: 1

We call her Mayi Gwedegwede because she likes shaking her behind. This one is a chimadyo, she likes eating and she would wake up at night to make tea if she is hungry. She also likes dancing. Esther doesn't take jokes lightly as she quickly gets angry when one jokes about her.

Patricia Nyirenda (DF):



Caps: 27 (Starts 27)

We nicknamed her Pressure. Patricia like talking. She is always talking and eats too much. In the field of play, she is a hard worker, one of the good defenders in our squad. Likes speaking slag English.

Rose Alufandika (DF)



Caps 2 (subs 2)

We call her Wapolisi. This one is quiet but likes jokes. She also likes dancing. In the field of play, she is usually quiet and I think its because she is not familiar with people since this was her first call up.

Faith Chinzimu (DF)



Caps: 4 (2 starts, 2 subs)

Faith is very quiet. She doesn't talk even when you are in a group chatting, she will just be looking at you but she is a very good player on the pitch.

Maggie Chavula (DF)



Caps: 3 (1 start, 2 subs)

This one is so funny. She looks like a quiet person but she is very crazy. She likes dancing too. She is always laughing even though something isn't funny enough. She struggles to speak Chichewa and likes to express herself in Tumbuka.

Chimwemwe Madise (DF)



Caps: 26 (26 starts)

Goals: 1

One of the longest serving members of the squad. Her nickname is Mayi Mkulu. On the pitch, Chimwemwe is a very deadly and no-nonsense defender. Likes diving headers in the field of play. Off the field, she is very quiet.

Ireen Khumalo (DF)



Caps: 15 (14 starts, 1 sub)

Goals: 2

A very skillful young player. Has so much energy and very good at set pieces. A good left winger. She is humble, however gets upset easily but also gets away with it easily. A very smart kid.

Funny Magombo (MF)



Caps: 2 (2 starts)

It was her first time in the final camp so took her time to gel and understand things. She lacks confidence sometimes. But she is a one touch player and likes asking her friends for guidance. She is quiet.

Bernadettar Mkandawire (DF)



Caps: 6 (6 starts)

Our very own dancer and funny person in the squad. In the field of play, Berna is very hard working. She also likes eating. She usually keeps up to 2 kgs of sugar packs from the restaurant for making tea in her room.

Rose Kabzere (MF)



Caps: 10 (5 starts, 5 subs)

Goals 3

This one likes to listen to hip-hop music and dancing to house music. Another skillful young player who has dribbling skills. She is also quiet.

Leticia Chinyamula (MF)



Caps 5 (3 starts, 2 sub)
Goals: 4

Cool girl. Leticia is very quiet and like praying and listening to gospel Music. Coming from the U17 team that won bronze at the 2022 Region 5 Youth Games, she is the future of Scorchers. She listens when she is being advise, very disciplined.

Carolyn Mathyola (MF)



Caps 13 (2 starts, 11 subs)
Goals: 3

Another hairstylist in the team. She is also quiet but sometimes makes jokes. Carol likes to talk to her boyfriend on the phone and she doesn't want to be disturbed. Has speed and works hard in the field.

Lyna James (MF)



Caps 5 (5 starts)

We call her Mayi Luwanda coz she likes Luanda Market in Machinjiri. She likes eating and always takes food with her from the restaurant. She even wakes up at night just to eat. When she comes to your room and there is some food, know that she will get some when going back to her room.

Madyina Nguluwe (MF)



Caps: 27 (27 starts)
Goals: 2

We call her Manong'onong'o. She always wants to be on top everywhere she goes. She likes opposing things yet she will be the first one to do the same thing. A very good midfielder with good footwork. She encourages us on the pitch. Likes putting on tight cloths to show off her body.

Sarah Mlimbika (MF)



Caps: 4 (1 starts, 3 subs)
Goals: 4

A very good young player. We call her Baba. She is my mesho and likes to be on the phone. When she is on a call, she doesn't want to be disturbed. She is quiet but very dangerous left winger.

Vanessa Chikupira



Caps: 12 (4 starts, 8 subs)
Goals: 5

We call her Ankolo. Doesn't like talking but I wouldn't say she is quiet. She likes being in her room and is always on the phone. A very hard worker in the field of play.

Chikondi Gondwe (MF)



Caps: 8 (3 starts, 5 subs)
Goals: 3

We call Nyakwiya. She easily gets angry. Chikondi always likes talking in low voices. She also likes dancing.

Temwa Chawinga (FW)



Caps: 18 (17 starts, 1 sub)
Goals: 25

Top Captain. Quiet and doesn't like talking. She is always on the phone talking to people. She also likes eating and likes coffee so much. She is so humble and friendly even though she plays in China. When on the pitch, its serious business.

TECHNICAL

Lovemore Fazili



We call him Akamuna because he does what is right for the team. He likes joking with the team and we are so much used to him. A very experienced coach and he knows what he is doing on the field of play and reads each and every game because of his experience. When its time for business, its strictly business with him but when its time for joking, he jokes.

Abbas Makawa



He likes calling us 'Amzanga'. He admires when one does something good. During the training sessions, he is like a watchman looking for what is right and wrong in the girls. He likes saying, 'out is out'. When he is at the restaurant, he doesn't joke, he likes eating and even takes some food to his room.

Robert Ng'ambi



Baggio is available when one asks him for an individual physical exercise. To the Tumbukas, he calls us alongosi. He also encourages us to eat well and stay healthy.

Chisomo Nkhoma



We call her Mayi Nangwale. Coach Chiso likes praying. In the field of play, she likes loading us with physical fitness exercise. She also likes advising us.

Yamikani Magombo



We call her Mayi Silence. She like pictures and even forgets her job just to take pictures. The Doc likes zinjoyi. She restricts us from eating what is not good for our health. She also likes taking us to ice baths. She easily gets hungry and always complains about hunger.

Simplex Nthala



We call him Ntapo. He knows his job as a GK Coach. He always wants to makes things right for the players. Out in the field, he says its players' time. He encourages us to drink water always.

Lustica Gondwe



Her nickname is OG. She's lazy. She talks very slow and sometimes she speaks as if she has been sent by someone yet its coming from her. Acts like she is not sure of what she is saying, lol. She's so quiet and humble. She likes being on the phone.

Ivy Zimba



We call her Atsimu. She likes studying us all and our movements and then comes to advise you when she sees something wrong. She Likes praying.

Asimenye Simwaka (FW)



The funniest of all. We always laugh around her. Asimenye is always making jokes even when she sees that someone is angry, she will try to make them laugh with her jokes. She is our everyday convener during prayers. (Narrated by Sabinah Thom)

Caps: 22 (20 starts, 2 sub)

Goals: 9



SCORCHERS PLAYER STATISTICS

	Player Name	POS	CL	DOB	MP	ST	SUB	US	MIN	GS	CS
1	MERCY SIKELO	GK	NTOPWA FC	22.12.1997	5	5	0	0	431	0	1
2	FAITH CHINZIMU	DF	ASCENT ACADEMY	21.02.2007	3	1	2	2	138	0	
3	MARY MAJOR	DF	MDF LIONESS	28.06.1998	1	1	0	4	45	0	
4	CHIMWEMWE MADISE	DF	LUSAKA DYNAMOS WOMEN FC	06.04.1992	4	4	0	1	315	0	
5	PATRICIA NYIRENDA	DF	KAMUZU BARRACKS WOMEN	08.04.1998	5	5	0	0	405	0	
6	ROSE SMITH KADZERE	MF	ASCENT ACADEMY	16.06.2006	4	3	1	1	270	1	
7	ASIMENYE SIMWAKA	MF	MDF LIONESS	08.08.1997	4	4	0	1	300	2	
8	CHIKONDI GONDWE	FW	SILVER SRIKERS	16.09.1998	1	0	1	4	29	0	
9	SABINAH THOM	FW	TP MAZEMBE	03.03.1996	5	5	0	0	376	3	1
10	TEMWA CHAWINGA	FW	WUHAN JIANGHAN	20.09.1998	4	4	0	1	360	9	
11	LYNA JAMES	MF	FCB Nyasa Big Bullets	23.11.1998	3	3	0	2	225	0	
12	VANESSA MBINHO CHIKUPILA	WF	FCB Nyasa Big Bullets	02.04.1996	4	1	3	1	179	1	
13	MAGGIE CHAVULA	DF	ASCENT ACADEMY	28.04.2005	1	0	1	4	19	0	
14	LETICIA CHINYAMULA	MF	ASCENT ACADEMY	12.06.2006	4	3	1	1	192	2	
15	ESTHER MAULIDI	GK	MIGHTY MUKURU WANDERERS	08.08.1997	0	0	0	1	0	0	
16	MADYINA NGULUWE	MF	SILVER SRIKERS	18.06.1996	4	4	0	1	375	0	
17	IREEN KHUMALO	MF	ASCENT ACADEMY	12.12.2003	5	4	1	0	405	0	
18	FUNNY MAGOMBO	MF	NTOPWA FC	05.04.2005	1	1	0	0	90	0	
19	ROSE ALUFANDIKA	DF	NTOPWA FC	04.11.2005	1	0	1	4	45	0	
20	BENADETTA MKANDAWAWIRE	DF	FCB NYASA BIG BULLETS	28.09.2003	5	5	0	0	431	0	
20	MARTHA COSMAS MBEWE	DF	CIVIL SERVICE UNITED	15.03.2001	1	0	1	4	19	0	1

*POS – Position, CL – Club, MP – Matches Played, ST – Starts, SUB – Substitutions, US – Unused Sub, MIN – Minutes Played, GS – Goals Scored, CS – Clean Sheet

MATCH REPORTS



Temwa in action against South Africa

Malawi vs South Africa

4th October 2023

Lucas Moripe Stadium- Pretoria, South Africa

South Africa: 3 (Thubelihle Shamase 44', Khensani Nkuna 79', Sphumelele Shamase 90+3')

Malawi: 4 (Leticia Chinyamula, Temwa Chawinga 45+5', 64', 76')

Player of the match: Temwa Chawinga

The 2023 Hollywoodbets Cosafa Women's Championship kicked off with a thrilling encounter at Lucas Moripe Stadium in Pretoria, South Africa, as the Malawi Women's National Football Team, the Scorchers, secured a hard-fought 4-3 victory against the host nation, South Africa.

Debutant Leticia Chinyamula made a remarkable entrance into the match, breaking the deadlock for the Scorchers with a precise finish from close range. Her goal came in the 27th minute after South Africa's goalkeeper, Dineo Magagula, lost possession.

The Scorchers seized control of the game with

outstanding performances from key players like Temwa Chawinga, Sabina Thom, and Madyina Ngulube. However, South Africa responded before the half-time whistle when Thubelihle Shamase found the back of the net with a composed finish, exploiting a moment of vulnerability in Malawi's defense in the 44th minute.

Just as it seemed the teams might enter the break on level terms, Temwa Chawinga capitalized on a defensive error by South Africa to double the lead for the Scorchers in added time of the first half.

In the second half, Scorchers' coach Lovemore

Fazili introduced Caroline Mathyola and Vanessa Chikupira, replacing Rose Kabzere and Chinyamula. Temwa Chawinga continued to shine, completing her brace when she capitalized on a miscued pass and slotted the ball into an empty net.

The Wuhan Jiangda Women striker then achieved a remarkable hat-trick, heading the ball into the net after connecting with a well-placed cross from Mathyola.

South Africa, undeterred, reorganized and launched a spirited comeback. Khesani Nkuna found the back of the net to score their second

goal, and Thubelihle Shamase grabbed her brace to set up a tense finish.

Despite the late surge by the hosts, the Scorchers managed to hold their ground and secure another memorable victory in a nail-biting contest.

Lineup: Mercy Sikelo, Patricia Nyirenda, Ireen Khumalo, Chimwemwe Madise, Bernadetta Mkandawire, Lyna James, Madyina Ngulube (Faith Chinzimu 87'), Rose Kabzere (Carolyn Mathyola 45'), Leticia Chinyamula (Vanessa Chikupira 45'), Sabina Thom, Temwa Chawinga.



Part of action between Malawi and South Africa



Scorchers celebrate one of their goals.



Temwa in action against e-Swatini

Malawi vs e-Swatini

7th October

Dobsville Stadium- Johannesburg, South Africa

Malawi: 8 (Sabina Thom 6', 33', Rose Kabzere 52', Temwa Chawinga 55', 63', 73', 75') **eSwatini:** 0

Player of the match: Sabina Thom

In a one-sided second group stage match at Dobsville Stadium in South Africa, Malawi delivered a dominant performance, dismantling e-Swatini with a resounding 8-0 victory.

Fresh off their remarkable 4-3 win against hosts South Africa in the opening match, the Scorchers picked up right where they left off, overpowering e-Swatini, who struggled to put up any resistance.

The Player of the Match, Sabina Thom, set the tone by netting the opener. She capitalized on a rebound after an initial attempt by China-based Temwa Chawinga.

Thom continued to shine, securing her brace in the 31st minute, while Carolyn Mathyola added a third goal in the 45th minute, ending the first half with a comfortable advantage for the Scorchers.

During halftime, the Scorchers' coach made some strategic changes, introducing Rose

Kabzere, Faith Chimzimu, and Sarah Mlimbika, replacing Chimwemwe Madise, Asimenye Simwaka, and Lyna James.

The second half began with a burst of action, as Rose Kabzere found the net in the 51st minute, followed closely by Chawinga's goal in the 52nd minute, extending Malawi's lead to 5-0.

Chawinga continued to torment e-Swatini, completing a second hat-trick at the tournament with goals in the 63rd and 75th minutes.

Not to be outdone, she added another goal in the 76th minute, bringing the Scorchers' tally to an impressive eight goals.

Line up: Mercy Sikelo; Patricia Nyirenda, Ireen Khumalo, Chimwemwe Madise (Sarah Mlimbika), Bernadetta Mkandawire; Lyna James (Faith Chimzimu 45'), Madyina Ngulube, Asimenye Simwaka (Rose Kabzere 45'), Caroline Mathyola (Chikondi Gondwe 61'); Temwa Chawinga, Sabina Thom (Vanessa Chikupira 61')



Malawi celebrate one of their goals

Malawi vs Madagascar

10th October

Uh Stadium, Johannesburg, South Africa

Malawi: 3 (Vanessa Chikupila 22', Leticia Chinyamula 24', Asimenye Simwaka 34') **Madagascar:** 1 (Helisoa Randrianariviero 32')

Player of the match: Asimenye Simwaka

The Scorchers completed the group stages of 2023 HollywoodBets Cosafa Women's Championship with a 100 percent record after a 3-1 victory over Madagascar at UJ Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The result saw them top Group A with nine points while hosts South Africa, who are the pool's runners-up with six points, have been eliminated.

E-Swatini finished third with three points from their single win over group anchors Madagascar.

Coach Lovemore Fazili had the luxury of making six changes since Malawi had already qualified for the semis after victories over South Africa (3-4) and e-Swatini (8-0).

Faith Chinzimu, Mary Major, Rose Kabzere, Leticia Chinyamula, Funny Magombo and Vanessa Chikupira started the match as the coach opted to rest Chimwemwe Madise, Ireen Nkhumalo, Caroline Mathyola, Madyina

Ngulube, Lyna James and Temwa Chawinga.

Two quick goals from Vanessa Chikupila in the 22nd minute and Leticia Chinyamula in the 24th put the Scorchers in front.

But the islanders pulled one back through Helisoa Randrianariviero from the spot after Malawi 'keeper Mercy Sikelo fouled an advancing Julie Solonilala in the 32nd minute.

But Asimenye Simwaka restored the Scorchers' two-goal lead two minutes later for the first half to end 3-1.

The second-half produced no goals as Malawi confirmed their place as group winners.

Line-up: Mercy Sikelo (Martha Mbewe 71'); Faith Chinzimu, Mary Major (Sarah Mlimbika 45'), Patricia Nyirenda (Ireen Khumalo 45'), Bernadetta Mkandawire (Maggie Chavula 71'); Funny Magombo, Leticia Chinyamula, Asimenye Simwaka, Rose Kabzere; Sabina Tho (Rose Alufandika 45'), Vanessa Chikupira

Semifinal – Malawi vs Mozambique



Sabina Thom tussles with a Mozambican defender

13th October

Lucas Moripe Stadium- Pretoria, South Africa

Malawi: 2 (Temwa Chawinga 77', 80')

Mozambique: 1 (Lonica Vasco 38')

Player of the match: Temwa Chawinga

Temwa Chawinga emerged as the hero of the day, propelling the Scorchers into the HollywoodBets Cosafa Women's Championship final with a remarkable brace that reversed an early deficit, securing a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Mozambique.

The China-based forward displayed her unwavering determination and artistry, inspiring her teammates to a dramatic comeback that left the Mozambicans in disarray. On a bright afternoon at Lucas Moripe Stadium in Pretoria, Chawinga's exceptional skills took

centre stage, capturing the hearts of those fortunate enough to witness her performance.

Mozambique seized an early lead in the 37th minute through an unusual own goal by Bernadetta Mkandawire. In a bizarre turn of events, a precise delivery by Amelica Manuel from the right flank led Mkandawire to inadvertently divert the ball into her own net while attempting to clear it.

Prior to this setback, Temwa had come close to breaking the deadlock with a finely-curved



Temwa leads the Scorchers in celebrating the winning goal against Mozambique

free-kick, only to be denied by the post. Moments later, she found herself one-on-one with goalkeeper Neima Nhamire but was unable to convert the opportunity.

The halftime discussions led by coach Lovemore Fazili might remain a closely guarded secret, but they undoubtedly injected renewed vigour into the Scorchers' play, especially after the introduction of Rose Kabzere, who replaced Lyna James.

Then came the moment when Temwa Chawinga conjured magic on the field, gliding through the opposition's territory with devastating consequences, igniting hope for her nation's dreams of regional glory.

As the sense of urgency grew, the Scorchers finally found the equalizer, and it was none other than their talismanic figure. Temwa pounced on a loose ball near the halfway line and, in a blur of action, out-maneuvered the Mozambican goalkeeper, dribbling past her

with remarkable poise before eluding another defender and calmly slotting the ball into the net.

The 25-year-old striker wasn't finished yet. Just four minutes later, she added the winning goal, her ninth in the tournament, by receiving a pass that oozed class. With deft footwork, she slalomed past two Mozambican defenders and struck the ball past a helpless Nhamire, who was arguably the busiest player on the pitch. Chawinga's performance was nothing short of sensational, cementing her status as a true football virtuoso.

Line up: Mercy Sikelo; Patricia Nyirenda, Ireen Nkhumalo, Chimwemwe Madise, Bernadetta Mkandawire; Lyna James, Madyina Ngulube, Asimenye Simwaka (Vanessa Chikupira 75'), Caroline Mathyola (Leticia Chinyamula 75'), Temwa Chawinga, Sabina Thom



Sabina Thom evades a tackle from a Zambian defender

FINAL – Malawi vs Zambia

15th October 2023

Lucas Moripe Stadium- Pretoria, South Africa

Malawi: 2 (Asimenye Simwaka 34', Sabina Thom 90+1)

Zambia: 1 (Agness Phiri 83')

Player of the match: Madyina Ngulube

In a fitting Mother's Day spectacle at Lucas Moripe Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Malawi Women's National Football

Team, the Scorchers, achieved a historic 2-1 victory over familiar rivals, Zambia, breaking



Temwa fights for the ball with a Zambian defender

their Cosafa Women’s Championship jinx.

While the Scorchers initially began the match at a measured pace, once they cast off their early sluggishness, they demonstrated an unmistakable dominance on the field. Despite Zambia’s attempts to shackle their star player, Temwa Chawinga, the Scorchers found alternate routes to seize the initiative. Asimenye Simwaka, a player of remarkable versatility, emerged as their first goal scorer, twisting her frame to drill the ball into the net from close range in the 34th minute.

With Chimwemwe Madise orchestrating the defence and Madyina Ngulube, the Player-of-the-Match, showcasing her midfield magic, Malawi pushed relentlessly for a second goal. That moment seemed to arrive just before half-time when Temwa Chawinga beautifully set up Sabinah Thom to slot the ball home. However, the goal was disallowed following

the intervention of the video assistant referee, who ruled a foul had occurred in the process.

With just six minutes remaining on the clock, Zambia was awarded a penalty after Ireen Khumalo was deemed to have handled the ball in the box. Agness Phiri confidently stepped up to convert the spot-kick, levelling the score.

At that point, it was all square, but the Scorchers refused to relent. Their determination paid off when Thom, in the first minute of added time, unleashed a strike that secured a dramatic late victory, delivering an unforgettable moment for Malawi in the tournament.

Line up: Mercy Sikelo; Patricia Nyirenda, Ireen Nkhumalo, Chimwemwe Madise, Bernadetta Mkandawire; Rose Kabzere, Madyina Ngulube, Asimenye Simwaka, Leticia Chinyamula (Caroline Mathyola 42’); Temwa Chawinga, Sabina Thom



Part of the action between Malawi and Seychelles

SCORCHERS BURN SEYCHELLES IN FRIENDLIES

In an unprecedented display of strength and preparation for the upcoming COSAFA Women's Championship, the Malawi National Women's Football Team, fondly known as the Scorchers, delivered two resounding 17-0 victories over Seychelles in back-to-back international friendly matches at the Mpira Stadium in Blantyre in September.

These fixtures marked a historic moment for the Scorchers as it was the first time they engaged in friendly matches as part of their tournament preparations.

Coach Lovemore Fazili, reflecting on the impressive goal tally, emphasized his focus on team performance rather than the sheer number of goals scored. He stated, "Scoring 17 goals doesn't necessarily indicate that we are fully prepared. Our priority is to fine-tune various aspects of our game before we head to South Africa."

Coach Fazili pinpointed areas that required attention, with a particular concern for players' positioning regarding offside traps and a tendency to pass the ball backward,

which needed improvement. Nevertheless, he acknowledged that these friendly matches provided valuable learning experiences that would contribute to their growth and their quest for victory in the tournament.

28th September

Mpira Stadium- Blantyre

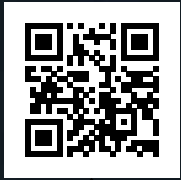
Malawi: 17 (Asimenye Simwaka 6' 41', Mary Chavinda 7' 21' 41' 50' 79', Gladys Kandodo 9', Chimwemwe Madise 19', Ruth Nyirongo 25', Tendai Sani 28', Carol Mathyola 53', Sarah Mlimbika 58' 61' 72', Jessie Yosefe 79', Bernadettar Nyenga 90+2')

Seychelles: 0

25th September 2023

Malawi: 17 (Ireen Khumalo 8', Rose Kabzere 15', Sabina Thom 18' 24', Vanessa Chikupira 31' 33' 43', Sarah Mlimbika 41', Carol Mathyola 52', Leticia Chinyamula 54' 82' Chikondi Gondwe 52' 81' 87', Temwa Chawinga 60', 76', 78')

Seychelles: 0



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