

FOOTBALL

Van Dijk tells Reds to keep calm and follow Arsenal's lead

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Kaizer Chiefs' youngsters spark revival

MIHLALI BALEKA

THE Kaizer Chiefs train is slowly but surely moving. Amakhosi have their return on capital investment - the youngsters, particularly Mduduzi Shabalala and Mfundo Vilakazi - to thank for it.

Shabalala and Vilakazi were on song when Chiefs thrashed newcomers Orbit College 4-1 at FNB Stadium in a league match on Tuesday night. Shabalala scored a brace and assisted Vilakazi's third goal and Flavio Silva's late strike.

Chiefs not only drew level with champions and league leaders Mamelodi Sundowns on 22 points after the game, but they also eased the pressure on the team and co-coaches Cedric Kaze and Khalil Ben Youssef.

The duo had come under heavy scrutiny after the club decided to retain them as co-coaches following the sacking of their superior, Nasreddine Nabi, who had originally brought them in as his assistants.

Their campaign initially faltered as they endured a winless streak in the league and were eliminated from the Carling Knockout by Stellenbosch away from home.

But they seem to have turned the corner. They led Chiefs to qualification for the CAF Confederation Cup group stage and have now won their last two games against Durban City and Orbit College, respectively. In all those matches, Shabalala and Vilakazi have played central roles.

Shabalala has shown immense growth over the past few months, beginning to live up to expectations at the club.

When the team handed him a professional contract a few seasons ago, he was regarded as one of the best youngsters to come through the reserve league and was expected to make an immediate impact in top-flight football.

But that wasn't the case. Shabalala struggled to make an early impact at the club and in the league, later admitting that fellow youngsters Relebohile Mofokeng and his former Orlando Pirates teammate Mohau Nkota were miles ahead of him last season - a reality aided by the stronger environment they had at the Buccaneers.

While Chiefs were clearly struggling to produce results and consistent performances, Shabalala should arguably have stood head and shoulders above the rest. But better late than never.

The 21-year-old is coming of age. His performances have been central to reviving Amakhosi's season. As a result, he has also caught the attention of Bafana Bafana coach Hugo Broos, who handed him his debut in South Africa's 3-0 win over Rwanda in their last 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier at Mbombela Stadium last month.

With Broos set to name his final 23-man squad for the friendly against Zambia on Thursday morning, Shabalala is expected to make the cut. Should he continue in this form, he could well be part of the team that represents South Africa at the AFCON tournament in Morocco next month.

The impact of national team experience is also evident in Vilakazi's development.

After an impressive campaign with the U20 national team - Amajita - at the World Cup in Qatar, Vilakazi has shown steady progress.

His growth up front has been a joy to watch. For the first time in his professional career, he has started three games in a row and made significant contributions to the team. He registered two assists in the win over AS Simba to help Chiefs qualify for the group stage and added a goal against Orbit College.

Vilakazi's style of play is characterised by constructive football and flair. He produced an incredible piece of skill against Orbit, easing past Yanga Madiba with precision - a moment that drew loud applause from teammates, fans, and the technical team alike.

While Broos has said he is not yet looking to integrate players from the U20 setup into Bafana Bafana, it may be difficult for him to overlook Vilakazi's efforts if the youngster continues to impress with each passing game.

LIVERPOOL captain Virgil van Dijk said the English champions must build from the back after producing their best performance of the season to beat Real Madrid 1-0 in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Prior to a 2-0 win over Aston Villa on Saturday, Liverpool had lost six of their previous seven games and gone 10 matches without a clean sheet.

Madrid arrived in Merseyside in free-scoring form, but were limited to very few opportunities as goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois prevented an embarrassing score for the 15-time European champions.

"It is easy to say now because we won twice in a row. In a world of chaos you have to stay calm and see perspective of things," said Van Dijk.

"We all know how football works - it can change overnight."

Arsenal lead Liverpool by seven points at the top of the Premier League and have also won their opening four Champions League games thanks to a run of eight consecutive clean sheets.

Liverpool face another huge test of their title defence on Sunday when Van Dijk faces Manchester City's Erling Haaland, who has struck 26 times this season for club and country.

"You can see at the moment Arsenal are flying, and it is down to clean sheets and not conceding chances," added Van Dijk.

"We have the quality to hurt anyone on the break - it starts with the defending. Today you saw the hard work."

"We have to keep going. Sunday is going to be another difficult one."

Liverpool boss Arne Slot highlighted the importance of a return to Anfield for his side's upturn in fortunes over the past week.

Of the Reds six defeats this season, only two have come at home, one of which was when Slot fielded a much-changed side against Crystal Palace in the League Cup last week.

"It helps if you can play in front of these fans and you can play in front of Real Madrid because I think that brings



REAL Madrid defender Eder Militao battles Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk during their UEFA Champions League match at Anfield in Liverpool on Tuesday. | AFP.

the best out of my players and out of our fans," said Slot.

"A great performance against a team that (have) only lost once all season. It could have been a bit more maybe."

Trent Alexander-Arnold was given a hostile reception on his return to Anfield as a late Madrid substitute.

The England international was once a hero of the Liverpool crowd after winning seven major trophies during

his time with his hometown club.

Conor Bradley has struggled to nail down his place as Alexander-Arnold's successor at right-back in an inconsistent start to the season.

But the Northern Irishman was outstanding in locking down the threat of Vinicius Junior, while Van Dijk and Ibrahima Konate kept the prolific Kylian Mbappe quiet.

"I said before the game that they

have scored 26 goals in La Liga, and Mbappe and Vinicius together have 24 goal contributions (goals or assists)," added Slot.

"If you want to win this game you have to make sure that these two are not on the scoresheet."

"Conor was outstanding. To be up against Vinicius so many times one against one is not for everyone. He did outstanding today." | AFP

FOOTBALL

Injuries and missed chances worry Zwane

MIHLALI BALEKA

AMAZULU'S coach Arthur Zwane was disappointed after his team lost at home on Tuesday, saying that they tend to drop points whenever there's an opportunity to move up the log standings.

AmaZulu lost 1-0 to Polokwane City at the Princess Magogo Stadium. The result saw them remain sixth on the log, although they could have climbed as high as third had they secured all three points.

Usuthu were expected to be a top-four team according to chairman Sandile Zungu. However, they have only achieved that once, when Benni McCarthy impressively led the team to a runners-up finish a few seasons ago. With the season not yet at its halfway mark, AmaZulu could still turn their fortunes around and find some consistency going forward. Zwane has identified what they need to fix in order to achieve their targets by May.

"Last season, we had five opportunities to move into fifth position, and we didn't take any of them. It was easy to get into position five," Zwane said. "Whenever there was a game for us to move higher up, we dropped points. That's the mentality I need to fix. We don't need that. We need to take our chances and ensure that, by hook or by crook, we see ourselves in a top position this time around. But it's a work in progress. I'm just disappointed that we lost the game."

Zwane has also expressed concern about the team's growing injury list. Against Rise and Shine, defender Keagan Allan sustained an injury, forcing Zwane to change the team's structure.

"I'm still going to meet with the medical team, and they'll give their feedback to the technical team," Zwane said regarding Allan's injury. "However, it's a worrying factor because we've lost a few important players. That also breaks the rhythm of the team."

"I know we should give other players a chance, but in this game, we could have easily grabbed maximum points at home. We let ourselves down. We had to play a makeshift defence, with Bongani (Zungu) as one of the defenders, and he did well."

The return of Bongani Zungu to full fitness augurs well for Zwane and the team. The former Mamelodi Sundowns midfielder brings experience through his incisive passes that can penetrate pockets of space. Zungu is also mentoring the younger players both on and off the pitch, which is why the team effectively has an extra "coach" whenever he's fully fit and playing.

Zwane revealed that they had to fast-track Zungu's return as the team continued to lose crucial players to injury in recent weeks. "It's worrying the way we're losing players," Zwane continued. "We actually pushed Bongani because he wasn't ready to play the minutes that he did. We looked at the bench and decided we needed an experienced player who could read the game well. He was able to minimise the space in front when they were trying to come at us. So, I think tremendously well when it comes to that with Sandile (Mthethwa)."

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Hereby an urgent appeal for the following persons or family of:

- Onyedika Stanley Madu**
Please contact social worker Kelley Van Niekerk, on 021 949 9321 / 074 739 2148 regarding an urgent family matter.
- Spencer**, last known to be from Vredenburg
- Xolani**, known to be from Delft
Please contact social worker Jade Davids, on 021 949 9321 / 074 739 2148 regarding an urgent family matter.
- Levis Manda**, originally from Malawi. Last known to be in Luzzoko, Khayelitsha
Please contact social worker Sivuyiswe Fokazi, on 021 949 9321 / 074 739 2148 regarding an urgent family matter.
- Funeka Lugongo**, last known address in Kromfontein, Koue Bokkeveld area.
Please contact social worker, Elma Fimalter, on 021 949 9321 / 074 739 2148 regarding an urgent family

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MID
MUIZENBERG IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Notice of Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Muizenberg Improvement District NPC (MID) will be hosting an AGM. All stakeholders are invited to a review of the past financial year's activities and planning for

Date: 27th November 2025
Time: 18.30
Venue: Muizenberg Junior School, 58 Main Road Muizenberg

Resolutions presented at the meeting can only be voted on by bona fide members of the Muizenberg Improvement District (MID). This membership is available free of charge to all owners of property within the Muizenberg Improvement District (MID) footprint who are liable for the additional rate (additional rate payers), but they must be registered before 20th November 2025.

To register as a member or access further information and documentation go to www.MID.org.za or contact Desiree 0608572076 / admin@mid.org.za

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Business Development Manager

We're hiring! Join Volt Africa's dynamic Gauteng team as our next Business Development Manager.

If you're passionate about **media, lifestyle, and fashion** — and you know how to turn ideas into impactful brand partnerships — we want to meet you.

At Volt Africa, we connect brands with audiences across **digital, print, and event experiences** through worldclass titles like **Condé Nast**.

We're looking for a **creative deal-maker** with strong industry relationships, a love for storytelling, and a sharp commercial mindset.

You'll work alongside a team that celebrates innovation, collaboration, and the power of great ideas — all while driving growth and creating meaningful campaigns for our clients.

What you'll do:

- Build and grow brand partnerships across media platforms
- Develop creative revenue strategies and close exciting deals
- Collaborate with our editorial, marketing, and events teams
- Represent Condé Nast at industry events and client engagements

What you'll bring:

- 5+ years in media sales or advertising
- A network of agency and brand contacts
- Great negotiation and presentation skills
- Passion, drive, and creativity
- Tech-savvy
- Showcase your academic background
- Mobile with own car

If you're ready to join a team that **lives creativity and drives results**, we'd love to hear from you.

Volt Africa Pty Ltd is committed to its Employment Equity and Affirmative Action plans.

All interested and suitably qualified applicants should submit a written application and detailed CV by no later than 16h30 on **Monday, 10th November 2025** to: **Lindiswa Putuma** Email: lindiswa.putuma@corporateservice.co.za

If you have not heard from us within two weeks of submitting your application, please consider your application unsuccessful