

## ***AUBREY MODIBA -FROM NEDBANK CUP HOPEFUL TO NATIONAL TEAM PLAYER IN A FEW MONTHS***

Aubrey Maphosa Modiba is a name that's already on the lips of many South Africans. The youngster's meteoric rise has captured the imagination of football pundits, fans and experts, most notably Bafana Bafana coach Shakes Mashaba who was so impressed with Maphosa's exploits during the Ke Yona Team Search that he immediately recommended him to the national under 20 side.

The diminutive left-back seems to have been destined for greater things at an early age and he was recruited by the prestigious School of Excellence while still in school and that is where he honed his skills before entering the Nedbank Cup Ke Yona Team Search.

***"I was very happy at the School of Excellence but I saw the Nedbank Ke Yona Team Search as an opportunity to fast-track my dream of playing in the PSL and I wasn't surprised when I made the final squad because I knew I had the talent and I knew what I was capable of and I worked very hard to achieve this."***

The confident Maphosa's phenomenal rise did not end there and while still in camp with the Ke Yona team, he was called up to the National under 20 squad under the watchful eye of coaches Thabo Senong and Shakes Mashaba, but even this did not faze him, "I always knew that I would play for my country and it was a dream that I've had for a long time. When I was still in Grade 11, I wrote on my Facebook wall that one day I would play for the National team and now I have realised that dream and when I was called up I was ready for the challenge."

Maphosa says his family is his backbone and has always supported his football dream and that's why they allowed him to leave home early to join the School of Excellence where he was a boarder.

"Being away from my family at an early age made me stronger and knowing that I had their support encouraged me to go even further in football."

Maphosa has gone on to become a regular for Amajita and it was no surprise that he was signed by PSL side Mpumalanga Black Aces where is already getting game time ahead of more established and seasoned players.

But football is not all that Maphosa is passionate about. The 20-year-old says he is an aspiring sports journalist and would like to sit on the other side of the fence when he finally hangs up his boots and he wants to use his time in football to learn as much as he can about this trade.

A regular at Mpumalanga Black Aces and a vital cog in the National under 20's journey to the African Youth Cup of Nations in 2015, Maphosa says all this would not have been possible without the help of the Nedbank Cup Ke Yona Team Search and he encourages other aspiring footballers to make use of this wonderful opportunity given by Nedbank.

"The Nedbank Cup has opened so many doors for me, now I travel the continent and the world with the under 20's and I am rubbing shoulders with my idols every weekend in the PSL and I couldn't have asked for more."

Maphosa who graduated from the class of 2014 is seen as one of the brightest prospects to ever come out of the highly successful Nedbank Cup Ke Yona Team Search and a move to Europe is certainly not too far away for this immensely talented player.

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