

2018 NEDBANK KE YONA TEAM SEARCH

PLAYER PROFILES LAST 23



PREMIER SOCCER LEAGUE

MEET YOUR KE YONA STARS

PLAYER PROFILES LAST 23



ASIVILE TOM

HOME TOWN:

East London (Mdantsane), Eastern Cape **DATE OF BIRTH:** 11 June 1995 **NICKNAME:** Razor (Sika Ma'razor) **POSITION:** Striker **WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER:** I score goals, I follow instructions, I like to be advised by people and I enjoy scoring goals. **TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:** Highland FC (Junior league), Zebras FC (4th tier), Chippa United (MDC)

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

I grew up wanting to be a pro footballer and seeing big players that play in the PSL, wanting to be like them. I saw

this as a breakthrough opportunity that can help me play for one of the PSL teams and this is my chance.

JOURNEY TO THE TRY-OUTS:

I woke up telling myself that I am going to the Ke Yona Team Search trials. I was confident from when I arrived. I was confident that I would make the team.

MESSAGE TO FSS:

They must wait for us. (Ba si linde) si zo ba shaya (we are going to beat them), si zo ithela induku (we are going to crack the whip). We will not be like the previous Ke Yona teams.



AXOLILE KAPO

HOME TOWN:

Alicedale (Near Grahamstown), Eastern Cape. Now lives in Port Elizabeth (Qaqawuli)

DATE OF BIRTH:

8 December 1997

NICKNAME:

Donna

POSITION:

Attacking Midfielder **TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:**

Lion City (ABC)

WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER:

l am quick and l can attack. WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

The programme is a gateway to the PSL and to get professional recognition. This is the best opportunity a soccer player has to become a professional football player.

JOURNEY TO THE TRY-OUTS:

It was tough, I had to hike from PE to East London. I arrived in East London the day before the try outs and I had to find a place to sleep there. A former teammate of mine allowed me to stay with him at a clubhouse and then we went to the try-outs together.

MESSAGE TO FSS:

Free State Stars is going to lose - bazotytshiwa (they will be beaten)!



BUYELEKHAYA VELELWANDLE

HOME TOWN: Mthatha (Mqanduli), Eastern Cape DATE OF BIRTH: 23 June 1995 NICKNAME: Mzansi Magic POSITION: Defensive Midfielder TEAMS I PLAYED FOR: Mthatha City (ABC), Fairfield Hunting Stars (SAB), Mighty Bucks (SAB). WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER: My height, I am physically strong and I am loyal to the game. JOURNEY TO THE TRY-OUTS:

I trialed at the Rand Stadium. I saw a better opportunity to trial in Johannesburg and not at Sisa Dukashe (EC). I

took a bus on Thursday and arrived on Friday. I then trialed on Saturday.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

I want to change my livelihood and improve the situation at home.

MESSAGE TO FSS:

They must not take us for granted, we are just as good as they are.



CAMAGU KANANA

HOME TOWN:

Dimbaza, Eastern Cape DATE OF BIRTH: 30 May 1995 NICKNAME: Pinto POSITION: Goalkeeper TEAMS I PLAYED FOR: Dubs (LFA), Bid Boys (Wits development), Palmer Rose (ABC Motsepe), EC Bees (ABC Motsepe league) WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER: My reflexes. I can read the game very well and I am good

at anticipating aerial balls. I can also play as a goalkeeper sweeper.

JOURNEY TO THE TRY-OUTS:

I used a taxi, I had to wake up at around O4hOO on the

day. It takes about 4 hours to get to the stadium, but I managed to arrive there on time.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

I have seen great opportunities for other players like Aubrey Modiba, who now plays for Supersport United and it was through the Nedbank Ke Yona Team Search. I saw it as a great opportunity for myself.

MESSAGE TO FSS:

They must go down, they also know it.



CAMERON PAULSE

HOME TOWN:

Cape Town (Vincent Plots), Western Cape **DATE OF BIRTH:** 6 January 1997

NICKNAME:

Paez, Cam-lam / Cammy

POSITION: Striker

TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:

Two Oceans Academy (Castle League), Cape United (LFA). **WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER:**

I am always aware of what is happening around me. I am fast and I give defenders a difficult time at the back. I use both feet and I am not only good at scoring goals, I am good at assisting as well.

JOURNEY TO THE TRY-OUTS:

East London, Eastern Cape

HOME TOWN:

My father brought me to the stadium at 07h00. The lines

were already very long. I played at 12h00. I was nervous throughout the day but my brother kept me calm. I went there with a positive mindset and the journey was actually fun.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

The program helps amateur players become professionals. They not only teach you about football but they teach you about what happens in life, professionally as well. They teach you things that you can use in your life and not just in football.

MESSAGE TO FSS:

I hope they are ready to take the loss. Because Ke Yona is here, we are ready to take over. It is going to be a big game!



CHUMA

DAWETI

DATE OF BIRTH: 10 September 1997 NICKNAME: Zaro POSITION: Central Midfielder TEAMS I PLAYED FOR: Future Tigers (ABC), Taliban (SAB League) WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER: My vision for the game, my mobility and my great passes. JOURNEY TO THE TRY-OUTS:

My journey was nice, I spent less than R30 to go and come back, it was not difficult at all.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

I want to learn new things and to change my life. **MESSAGE TO FSS:** Siyaba'gghita (We are going to beat them).



DIEGO PRINS HOME TOWN: Danielskuil, Northern Cape DATE OF BIRTH: 21 June 1998 NICKNAME: DK7 POSITION: Left & Right Wing (right footed) TEAMS I PLAYED FOR: Rangers FC, Hungry Lions Danielskuil, Rusterval Eagles WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER: I have a lot of technique and height. I can use both legs. I am good at attacking and I have also played in many leagues: LFA, SAB, and ABC Motshepe.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH: In the beginning of the year, I trialed with Tuks and played

Super League with them and I really wanted to be a

Soccer player. I matriculated last year and I believe that this is a big opportunity for me to go professional. I want to be a soccer player because my father was also a soccer player. He played for Bloemfontein Celtic (David Haai) and I would like to follow in his footsteps. I am also doing it for my baby boy who was born last month. I am also from a single mother and I would like to succeed for my mother. JOURNEY TO TRY-OUTS:

I was in Pretoria (with Tuks). I travelled on Saturday to my friend's house who is a student in Bloemfontein. I went to the try-outs early in the morning (06h00) with 4 friends and was part of the second team that played (around 09h00). I played well and even got interviewed afterwards. **MESSAGE TO FSS:**

They must look out for the talent because we have a lot of talented players.



JEREMIAH MATHONSI

HOME TOWN: Denilton, Limpopo (Lives in Delmas,Mpumalanga) DATE OF BIRTH: 8 June 1995 NICKNAME: Sox POSITION: Centre Back & Defensive Midfielder TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:

Botleng Classic (SAB), Zero13 FC (SAB), FC Palmrose (ABC) WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER:

My calmness.

JOURNEY TO THE TRY-OUTS:

It was not that bad, I told myself that I will make it. I was calm and collected. That's why I am here.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

To change my life **MESSAGE TO FSS:** Sox o teng ! (Sox is here)



JOSEPH MOTAUNG

HOME TOWN:

Pretoria (Mamelodi), Gauteng (Lives in Bronkhorstspruit) DATE OF BIRTH: 8 June 1995 NICKNAME:

Jojo

POSITION:

Right Wing, Left Wing & Striker

TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:

Polokwane City (ABC), Tuks (Reserves), Mabaleng FC (SAB)

WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER:

I have the ability to be versatile and adapt to different game situations, game plans and different positions.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

It is a very important programme to me, I have seen guys who never had exposure become first team players and secure first team contracts. I would like to make it into the big teams and I think the Ke Yona Team Search is the best platform to showcase my abilities and become a professional player.

JOURNEY TO THE TRY-OUTS:

I left Bronkhorstspruit to Randburg. I woke up very early and hiked as there is no direct transport line. I had to hike at three different spots..



KARABO MOOKAMEDI HOME TOWN: Tzaneen (Nkowa-Nkowa), Limpopo DATE OF BIRTH: 15 February 1995 NICKNAME: Neymar

POSITION: Left Wing & Right Wing (Prefers right) **TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:** Nkowa Nkowa (Amateur), Nkowa Nkowa Barcelona (SAB League), Tuks Juniors (Played for the U19 & reserve)

WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER: I can play with both feet, I prefer the right foot more because it is stronger. My vison is also great, I can see things other players don't see on the pitch and I am skilful, I can dribble and take on players to make space for myself.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH: After I left Tuks, I struggled to find another club that I could play for. I trialed with Wits, Sundowns and things did not go my way. After that I quit football (2015) and my parents decided that I should get a job as football was not working out. I got a job in 2016 (iStore) and worked for almost 2 years. End of 2017 the calling got louder, I had to get back on the field. I quit my job and decided to try again in 2018. In 2018 I went to trials at Golden Arrows, was not promising there either. I looked at other options and I came across an advert on TV about the Ke Yona Team Search. Something told me to enter and see how it goes for me, and I'm in the top 23 right now – It was a good decision.

JOURNEY TO TRY-OUTS: I trialed at Peter Mokaba Stadium. There were a lot of players, I was very nervous but as soon as I got to the pitch I focused on the game. I had a good trial and after playing I was sure that I impressed the coaches. There are many things that I could have improved on, but I am glad I had the opportunity to trial.

MESSAGE TO FSS: I am sure they are expecting to play amateur players but they can expect players that are going to play as professionals. They must be ready for a good, competitive team. I hope the best team wins and I think we have a good team – we will see.



KHULEKANI KHOZA

HOME TOWN:

Nongoma, Kwa-Zulu Natal DATE OF BIRTH: 13 January 995 NICKNAME: Shaka POSITION: Defensive Midfielder TEAMS I PLAYED FOR: Brazil Academy, Ga-Rankuwa United (ABC Motsepe) WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER:

I can break the oppositions' attacks, which is the primary duty of a defensive midfielder.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

I joined the Ke Yona Team Search because I believe that they have given me an opportunity, since 2016, to be part of the last 48 players and that showed me that I am not a bad player. Many people wish for such opportunities. I cannot give up and I believe that I will make it happen (final team) this year.

JOURNEY TO TRY-OUTS: I took a taxi from Nongoma to Durban the day before. Honestly, it was hard to go there because last year I made it into the Last 23, but I never made it into the final squad. However, as a player, I had to stand up for my dream, and the way I played there, I was satisfied with my performance. I was able to win a lot of balls, which is what's needed for my position as a Central Midfielder.

MESSAGE TO FSS:

All I can say is that the game won't be easy, I would like to be part of the first (Ke Yona) team to win the Nedbank Ke Yona Challenge.

LESSONS ON MONEY:

I learnt a lot, like if you have money, the little that you have can go a long way if you save it.





HOME TOWN:

Bloemfontein (Heidedal), Free State **DATE OF BIRTH:**

27 January 1995

NICKNAME: Lesco

POSITION:

Centre Back & Right Back

TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:

Ocean 11 development, Kingston FC (SAB League), Bubchu United (ABC League)

WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER:

I am good at reading the game, intelligent and observant. I like to work hard.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

Because of the opportunity it gives players. I entered because I like to develop myself as a player and gain

experience. I want to play in the top league and become a better player. I want to help the nation and compete with other countries.

JOURNEY TO TRY-OUTS:

My schedule was to go to church. I was supposed to be at church at 09h00 but instead, I went to Dr Molemela Stadium with a taxi and arrived there at 08h45. I sat there from 09h00 to 12h00 - I was patiently waiting for my chance. There were many of us. Everything was good, I enjoyed it and gave my best, despite the time being short and at the end of the day it worked.

MESSAGE TO FSS:

I don't like to talk ahead of time, I want them to be aware that we are coming and that is what I am sure of. We will not show them sympathy. That's all I want to say.





LUNATHI MDATYULWA

HOME TOWN:

Cape Town (Hout Bay), Western Cape **DATE OF BIRTH:** 12 April 1997 **NICKNAME:**

Lulu

POSITION:

Attacking Midfielder

TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:

Ajax Cape Town (Academy) , Mamelodi Sundowns (ABC & MDC), Cape Town City (MDC), Ace FC. WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER:

My vision

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

It gives players an opportunity to make it at professional level. Like Aubrey Modiba, he is one of the players that motivate me and he also started in the Ke Yona Team Search. It is an honour for me to also be here.

JOURNEY TO THE TRY-OUTS:

The journey was difficult as I had to wake up early. When I got to Athlone stadium the queue was long, but it was all worth it for me as I am made it to the last 23.

MESSAGE TO FSS:

They should be aware of the team. It is going to be difficult for them. We are coming for the trophy!





HOME TOWN:

Eshowe, Kwa Zulu Natal (Lives in Kwa-Mashu, Durban) DATE OF BIRTH: 22 October 1998 NICKNAME:

Mugabe

POSITION:

Striker

TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:

Kwa Mashu United, Kwa Mashu All Stars (ABC Motsepe), Golden Arrows (SAB)

WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER:

I score goals, I can handle the ball, I can field and I can create space for myself to score great goals.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

I have a dream to see myself in the PSL and even overseas if possible. This opportunity they have given me, I must pull

up my socks and use the opportunity for exposure. **JOURNEY TO TRY-OUTS:**

I woke up early at around 06h00 and I walked to the stadium, which is a 30-minute walk.

MESSAGE TO FSS:

SIYEZA (We are coming). We have nothing to lose. We don't have to save any players for the league so we are coming full force.





MZIKAYISE WILLIAMS

HOME TOWN:

Port Elizabeth (New Brighton), Eastern Cape **DATE OF BIRTH:** 15 February 1995

NICKNAME:

Mzee

POSITION:

Central Midfielder

TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:

City Lads (Amateur), Friendly City FC (SAB), Lion City (SAB), Chippa United (MDC)

WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER:

I stick to the basics. I can anticipate, I can pass the ball and mark.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

I want to become a professional player and I saw the Ke Yona Team Search as a great opportunity to achieve this.

JOURNEY TO THE TRY-OUTS:

The day before, I went to a place called Truck-Inn. I hiked from PE to East London and then I slept at my Cousin's place. In the morning I went to the stadium using a taxi. I was a bit scared as there were a lot of players and it was something I didn't really know much about. But once I got to the field, I gained a lot of confidence because I was doing what I know.

MESSAGE TO FSS:

All I can say is that we are ready and we are coming for them. It will be a good game, they will get a run for their money!

BORN:

NKANYISO NENE

Pietermaritzburg, Kwa-Zulu Natal DATE OF BIRTH: 24 January 1996 NICKNAME: Nka POSITION: Centre Back TEAMS I PLAYED FOR: Summerfield Dynamos (ABC), Free State Stars (MDC), Maritzburg City (ABC) WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER: I strategize. JOURNEY TO THE TRY-OUTS: Lknow what Lwanted from the time Lieft home to the tr

I knew what I wanted from the time I left home to the tryouts. Everything went well because I knew what I wanted.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

I want to change my life and change the lives of others. **MESSAGE TO FSS:** i'Sukile! (It's on!!)





S'BONELO MAJOZI

HOME TOWN: Durban (Umlazi), Kwa-Zulu Natal DATE OF BIRTH: 15 September 1996 **NICKNAME:** Kasi **POSITION:** Left Back and Attacking Midfielder **TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:** Dundee Rangers (ABC), Forek Academy (ABC), Witbank City lands (ABC) WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER: I work hard and I strategize a lot. I am also focused and I motivate my teammates. JOURNEY TO TRY-OUTS: I trialed at Kwa-Mashu, it was a long journey. I woke up early and hiked as I could not get any taxi's that early in the

morning. It was tough because I wanted to arrive on time. **WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:** To change my life. **MESSAGE TO FSS:** It's good to be an underdog.



SIPHO SIBIYA

HOME TOWN: Klerksdorp, North West (Now lives in Kuruman) DATE OF BIRTH: 20 July 1995 NICKNAME: Better Offer **POSITION:** Left Wing, Right Wing and Striker **TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:** Young Pirates (SAB), City Lion (SAB), Real Hearts FC (ABC) WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER: The ability to execute and my vision. WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH: To be given an opportunity to play and showcase my talent. I love playing football and football has taught me so much about life. It is not just about what happens on

the pitch.

JOURNEY TO KE YONA TRY-OUTS:

Woke up at 05h00 and went to Bloemfontein. I slept at my friend's house and went to the trials the following day. **MESSAGE TO FSS:**

Class of 2018 is about to be a turning point, they must watch out. We are coming for them, all out!





SIVE GQEZENGELE

HOME TOWN:

Port Elizabeth (New Brighton), Eastern Cape
DATE OF BIRTH:

17 September 1997 NICKNAME: Mlomo

POSITION:

Goal keeper

TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:

Dynamos (Amateur), Rolling Tigers, EC Bees (ABC) , PE Stars (ABC)

WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER:

It is my confidence, concentration in the game and that I am not scared of the opponents.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH: There are people I know from my kasi, who were part of the Ke Yona Team Search, such as Thulani Motloung, Akhona Manqola, Zanoxolo Mduli and Bongani Sam. Its because of them, they love football and they know how to play it. They were chosen so I saw a great opportunity to push and I had to be very disciplined. I saw that they were disciplined so I also decided to work hard and be disciplined so I can make my dreams come true. I am really grateful for the opportunity Nedbank has given me to showcase my talent.

JOURNEY TO THE TRY-OUTS: I left home to make my dream come true. I Slept at a garage the day before I went to East London. It was very tough for me. I did not have a home but I had faith in myself. I trialed the following day and I had a good game. I then received the call to join the Boot Camp 48, I was very happy when I received the call because it showed that I was a quality keeper. I promised myself that I will make the final 16-man team. **MESSAGE TO FSS:** They must please be ready for us, because we are ready for them. At the Nedbank Ke Yona team, we motivate and support one another and the talent & confidence is here. We will be the first team to beat a PSL team, I promise you.



THABO MOGOTSI

HOME TOWN:

Virginia, Free State (Born in Welkom) **DATE OF BIRTH:** 27 November 1995

NICKNAME:

Thiza

POSITION:

Goal keeper

TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:

Harmony Sports Academy , Hunters FC, Forek Academy (ABC League), Bloemfontein Celtic (MDC team) , Real Kings (NFD), Magesi FC (NFD)

WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER:

I am very simple and good at communication. I am a good reader of the game; a good distributor and I am very calm. This makes me unique on the field of play as a goalkeeper.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

I believe that I have a place in one of the biggest PSL teams. I have been playing, and pushing, I have seen a lot and I didn't give up. To me it is personal because it is something that I like. I am seeing myself in one of the biggest teams soon.

JOURNEY TO TRY-OUTS:

It was on Sunday, I left home at 05h00 and I arrived in Bloemfontein at 07h00. I played the second game of the day. It was a good experience, I felt like it was something that I needed to do. A friend of mine (Itumeleng) gave me the number and suggested I trialed as I had been moving teams a lot, being rejected and he suggested that this could be something that can put me in the limelight.

MESSAGE TO FSS:

They must be ready for a competitive game and they must expect a loss.



THAMSANQA MATSOTSO

HOME TOWN:

Botshabelo, Free State DATE OF BIRTH: 12 March 1996 NICKNAME: Ghana POSITION: Left Back

TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:

Lazio FC (SAB League), The Hunters (ABC), Free State Stars (MDC) and Tornado FC (ABC Motsepe – East London)

WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER:

I am unique because I play left-back and I play with the mentality of a winger as I was a winger (attack minded) as it is preferred by coaches. In fact, this position is now called "wing back".

WHY I ENTERED KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

I saw an opportunity, when I see the likes of Sydney Masana who played for FSS. Aubrey Maphosa Modiba also inspires me because now he is one of the best players in SA and he got exposure through the Nedbank Ke Yona Team Search.

JOURNEY TO TRY-OUTS:

We were all on our way back from home from Free State as a team, and my friend (former teammate) had all the details and an sms – I did not have an sms and he told me to go with him. I took my boots in-case an opportunity would arise. I was allowed to trial in the last match and I had the opportunity to be seen by the coaches who saw my potential.

MESSAGE TO FSS:

I will give my best and I want us to be the first Ke Yona team to break the record and be the first to win. I will play for a win, as always.



XOLELA BONXA

HOME TOWN:

Mthatha (Viedgesville), Eastern Cape DATE OF BIRTH: 30 August 1996 NICKNAME: Music POSITION: Right Back TEAMS I PLAYED FOR : Mthatha City (ABC) & Mqanduli FC WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER: My quality crosses & overlapping. WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

I want to show my talent. Nedbank is the perfect platform to showcase our talent. This is where we can get work and show our abilities.

JOURNEY TO TRY-OUTS:

Mthatha is far from East London, so I stayed over at a friend's house, who went with me to the try-outs. Trialists did not share the ball. I had to be vigilant and get the ball whenever I had the opportunity.

MESSAGE TO FSS:

They must not underestimate us. We have quality and we are ready for them!





ZOLILE JACK

HOME TOWN:

Bloemfontein (Chris Hani), Free State **DATE OF BIRTH:** 7 March 1995 **NICKNAME:** Mjagula / Jack Mabaso **POSITION:** Centre Back **TEAMS I PLAYED FOR:**

Bayern Munchen FC (SAFA promotion), CUT FC (ABC Motshepe league), BFN reserves (Motshepe league) **WHAT MAKES ME A STAR PLAYER:**

I am strong, tactically aware and my good passes, long range passes and power in my legs. These are all key elements needed for a CB. Additionally, I am a good reader of the game in terms of tactics. I am also good at coaching my teammates on the field.

WHY I ENTERED THE KE YONA TEAM SEARCH:

I saw that it developed a lot of players – to get scouted by teams, to showcase their God-given talent and getting teams to sign them. I saw a great opportunity to succeed and to be identified by teams as I would like to join a team in the PSL.

JOURNEY TO THE TRY-OUTS:

It was a Sunday morning, it was 07h00 when I went to the DR Molemela stadium. I only played at around 12h00 and it was a nice match. Only thing on my mind was that I couldn't wait to share my talent and show them who I am and showcase who Zolile Jack is.

MESSAGE TO FSS:

'David is coming and the stone has been sharpened', we are coming to take the giant down!



