



2025 | DECEMBER EDITION

Bhora iBhola

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE FANS



SPECIAL EDITION

2025 CASTLE LAGER SOCCER STARS AWARDS



WORD FROM THE EDITOR



**KUNDAYI
MAWEMA**



MARKETING MANAGER - LAGERS

With Christmas bells ringing and Cold Castle Lagers raised in the air, it's time to bring in the holidays with some festive Cheer!

After an exciting close to an amazing season, we closed out the year in style at the Castle Lager Soccer Star of the Year Awards. These awards were a fitting celebration of excellence where we rubbed shoulders with the football, and media fraternity and recognized players, coaches, and teams who raised the bar through consistency, discipline, and standout performances all year. Congratulations to our Soccer Star of the year Washington Navaya and to all the finalists and award recipients.

We are pleased with the level of performance, professionalism, and

commitment shown throughout the year. From the intensity of matchdays to the passion of the supporters, the league continues to justify our belief in Zimbabwean football and its potential to grow even further.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the clubs, players, technical teams, match officials, administrators, media partners, and fans who made this season what it was, and we hope to see our Warriors competing well at AFCON after a year of playing competitive football in the local league.

We are excited about what the new year has in store and are already gearing up for the Castle Lager Challenge Cup where League Champions "Mabviravira", Scotland FC will

clash with the masters of the knock-out format, the Glamour Boys Dynamos FC! This match will surely set the tone for what we hope will be an even more competitive season ahead.

Finally, it's been my pleasure to go on this seasons' journey with you! Thank you for supporting us and lending us your eyes and ears! To the wonderful editorial team and journalists that work on this magazine, thank you for keeping us informed all season long!

We wish you all a safe and very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! Cheers!

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FEATURE



2025 SOCCER STAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

WASHINGTON NAVAYA

(TELONE F.C)



WINNER



Washington Navaya rose from the agony of rejection to pen the best chapter so far in his football career with hometown club, TelOne.

The Gweru-born forward engraved his name in Zimbabwe's football history after winning the coveted Castle Lager Premiership Golden Boot.

Navaya sat on top of the charts with 17 goals. He also got nominated for the first time among the season's best XI in the Castle Lager Soccer Stars of the Year and had his maiden call-up to the national team.



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FEATURE



2025 SOCCER STAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

KELVIN MOYO
[SCOTTLAND F.C.]



1ST RUNNER UP



Central defender Kelvin Moyo was the rock behind Scotland's title glory.

He played in every game for Scotland in the 2025 Castle Lager Premier Soccer League season.

Moyo started in 33 of the 34 matches, while being introduced as a substitute in one. He was part of the defence that kept 16 clean sheets in 34 matches, conceding 20 goals overall.

Scotland finished the joint best defence in the league with FC Platinum.



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2025 SOCCER STAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

EMMANUEL ZIOCHA

(SIMBA BHORA F.C)



2ND RUNNER UP



In modern football, statistics give one of the most reliable assessments.

In this regard, Emmanuel Ziocha stood head and shoulder above every player this season with an incredible goal contribution for Simba Bhora.

Ziocha finished the season with 14 assists and four goals. Unfortunately, Simba Bhora could not defend their title.



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2025 SOCCER STAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

WILLIAM THOLE

(SIMBA BHORA F.C)



**GOALKEEPER
OF THE YEAR**



Thole had a brilliant season in goal for Simba Bhora. He kept 17 clean sheets in 31 appearances.

He is also the Malawi national football team first choice goalkeeper.

Thole becomes the first expat player on the Castle Lager Premiership Soccer Stars calendar since compatriot Joseph Kamwendo, who won the 2005 Soccer Star gong.



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2025 SOCCER STAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

EMMANUEL JALAI

(DYNAMOS F.C)



**FANS CHOICE
AWARD WINNER**



Bundle of energy all season, Emmanuel Jalai exhibited great workmanship in a DeMbare side that was largely below average.

Some pundits have credited him for the club's survival from relegation; as a lone star. Jalai was also instrumental in the historic Chibuku Super Cup success.

His work rate earned him regular national team call-ups all year.



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FEATURE



2025 SOCCER STAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

FULL FINALISTS LIST



TYMON MACHOPE
(SCOTLAND F.C.)



JARRISON SELEMANI
(F.C PLATINUM)



ISHEANESU MAUCHI
(SIMBA BHORA F.C.)



ANDREW MBEBA
(HIGHLANDERS F.C.)



ABUBAKAR MOFFAT
(MWOS F.C.)



BILLY VEREMU
(MWOS F.C.)



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2025 SOCCER STAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

COACH AND REFEREE OF THE YEAR



TONDERAI NDIRAYA
COACH OF THE YEAR



BRIGHTON CHIMENE
REFEREE OF THE YEAR



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2025 SOCCER STAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

AWARDS DINNER IN PICTURES





BLOCKBUSTER CASTLE CHALLENGE SET TO IGNITE 2026 FOOTBALL SEASON



The countdown to the 2026 football season has officially begun, and what a better way to kick off things than with the electrifying Castle Challenge Cup set for February 28.

Fans are in for a blockbuster showdown as holders Dynamos lock horns with sensational debutants Scotland, who stunned all and sundry when they became the first team in 41 years to win the league title on the first attempt.

Traditionally, the Castle Challenge Cup which pits the Castle Lager Premiership champions against the Chibuku Super Cup winners, serves as the ultimate curtain-raiser for the season.

In fact, the Castle Challenge Cup isn't just a game, it is the spark that will set the 2026 season ablaze.

The 2026 edition featuring two widely followed teams in Harare with almost the blue colours, carries extra spice.

The Glamour Boys have earned a historic third consecutive appearance in the season-opening football feast after clinching the Chibuku Super Cup three times in a row, in a feat that has never been seen before in local football.



Their dominance was rewarded by the Premier Soccer League, who handed them the Chibuku Super Cup trophy for keeps.

Earlier this year, they lifted the Castle Challenge Cup following a nail-biting penalty shootout victory over Simba Bhora at Rufaro Stadium.

But will Dynamos defend their crown ?

Standing in their way is a team rewriting history, with a strong ambition to conquer beyond Zimbabwe's borders if the investments by club owner Scott Sakupwanya are anything to go by.

And, with the appointment of seasoned tactician Norman Mapeza, a three-time Castle Challenge Cup winner with FC Platinum, their ambitions have soared.

Sadly, Dynamos will not be having their Chibuku Cup winning coach Kelvin Kaindu who has left for newly promoted Hardrock and changes are also expected during the off-season period.

The PSL has already set the tone for an action-packed year. The Castle Challenge Cup will be followed by the start of league matches on the weekend of 6–8 March.

The Chibuku Super Cup preliminary rounds are penciled in for 5 August, while the league will wrap up on 21 November.

Fans can also look forward to the Soccer Stars selection on 24 November, the Chibuku Super Cup final on 28 November, and the grand Soccer Stars Awards Ceremony on 4 December.

PSL spokesperson Kudzai Bare confirmed that the full calendar will be released before the PSL office's festive break.

"The fixtures for the 2026 season will be released early so that clubs have ample time to plan. From the meeting held, provisional dates have already been set. As usual, we will start the season with the traditional Castle Challenge Cup," said Bare.

With the PSL unveiling a bold strategic plan for 2026–2029 and approving the new season's budget, the league is on a mission to elevate its brand.

Fans can only buckle up for a season of drama, rivalries, and history in the making, with the coming in of newly promoted sides Agama, Hardrock, Hunters and returnees Bulawayo Chiefs.



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YOU A SAFE
AND JOYOUS
FESTIVE
SEASON



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