

## Dambe scores double



*Dambe receiving Player of the Season award from Segole during the be Mobile award ceremony in Gaborone on Saturday. Dambe also received Players' Player of the Season award and pocketed P75 000 in total. Photo: Michael Joseph*

By Jeremiah Sejabosigo

GABORONE-Township Rollers goalkeeper Kabelo Dambe won the awards for both the Player of the Season and the Players' Player of the Season during the 2009/10 be Mobile Premier League awards ceremony held at the Gaborone International Convention Centre on Saturday.

The two awards are well-deserved for Dambe who was almost flawless between the posts and helped his team to win both the league and the Coca-Cola Cup during his first full season as the first choice keeper.

The 20-year-old conceded just 23 goals as Rollers marched to the league and cup glory.

Together with a miniature trophy for the award, Dambe also pocketed P50 000 prize money from the league sponsors.

The goalkeeper won the player of the season award ahead of his Rollers teammates Itai Gwandu and Terence Mandaza, who were also short listed.

The duo also contributed immensely to Mapalastina's success this past campaign.

Dambe was further recognised by his peers who voted him as their player of the year.

For that recognition the former national under 20 keeper pocketed P25 000.

The youngster attributed his success to collective team effort.

"Winning the award for the Player of the Season was a special moment for me. But it is a collective award for the whole Rollers family," he told BOPA.

Dambe, who dedicated the award to his late mother, said he was able to attain last season's performances because of support from his teammates and the Rollers management.

Dambe said there is no chance the two awards will make him big headed, and intends to continue learning and ultimately realise his dream of playing abroad.

"I am thrilled to have won it, but winning these awards doesn't mean that I am the best."

I will continue learning from my coaches and experienced goalkeepers like Modiri Marumo and Noah Maposa.

The awards ceremony was dominated by players from the league champions, Township Rollers, as midfielder Edwin Moalosi won the supporters' player of the season award.

Rollers striker Terrence Mandaza took home the top goal scorer award.

'Terror' banged in 31 league goals last season eclipsing the record of 27 goals set by Master Masitara in the 2008/9 season.

Mapalastina head coach Rahman Gumbo was selected as the best coach of the season, beating Extension Gunners' Daniel 'Chicco' Nare and Police XI's Clever Hunda.

The former Zimbabwean national team coach won accolades for transforming the Blues into a solid side, which easily brushed aside the opposition.

Gumbo's team was awarded the P1 million first prize for the league.

The referee of the season award went to Tirelo Mositwane while Jackson Simon was selected as the best assistant referee of the season.

The media was also rewarded with Botswana Television's Nelson Ditibane winning the commentator of the year award. The best electronic journalist was Gaotsenwe Ngwako (Btv) while Monnakgotla Mojaki (The Voice newspaper) was awarded the best print journalist award.

The best photographer award went to Oaitse Sejakgomo of Sunday Standard.

The premier league chairman's special award was given to Botswana Telecommunications Cooperation who are the league sponsors.

Premier league chairman, Mokganedi Molefe praised BTC for their unwavering support to the league through their sponsorship, which helped the premier league to grow.

Molefe expressed happiness that the league has become more organised and finished on time this season despite shortage of stadia in the southern part of the country.

The Minister of Labour and Home Affairs, Peter Siele said government was committed to the growth of sport as shown by the construction of new stadiums in Francistown and Lobatse.

The acting BTC group CEO, Keabetswe Segole said through the be mobile sponsorship, BTC aims to help the standard of football in Botswana to match international standards.

"We recognise that our country has sadly lagged behind in this field for too long, but we are happy that with our sponsorship of the league, we are on our way to making real progress," he said. BOPA