

Mainline FC Emerge Victorious Against a Resilient Moto Moto FC

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Plumtree-Dingumuzi Stadium

ZIFA Southern Region Division 1 outfit Mainline FC, beat fellow Division 1 opponents Moto Moto FC by a solitary goal scored in the second half by Thaloso Ndlovu.

Ndlovu scored from a free-kick thirty meters from Luando Muleya's goal area. The goal sent Mainline's faithful supporters into a frenzy for this home victory.

Moto's goalkeeper, Muleya failed to deal with Ndlovu's superbly taken kick that handed Mainline maximum points.

The win is their second successive victory after dismissing Ajax by a convincing score line last weekend in Bulawayo.

The game started slowly and both teams failed to create clear scoring chances. They played quite a physical game which saw many fouls committed throughout the match. Moto was the first to earn a free-kick just three minutes into the game, after rough play on Jevas Shoko.

The kick was poorly dispatched and it created no problems for the hosts.

Zenempilo Khupe was impeded by Shephard Mwale after five minutes into the first half. And, that resultant kick saw Muleya failing to deal with the ball. Fortunately, he recovered and tipped the ball away for a corner. The corner went begging with no takers for Mainline.

Another free-kick was awarded to Moto after Christina Mpanza, referee of the day, spotted an infringement on Aspect Ncube for Moto. The kick was wasted as well.

Victor Nkomo's free-kick on 19 minutes went begging for a goal kick. This was after Tyson Mazithulela had roughly tackled Brandon Rendo. Zenempilo, aka Tshisa, nearly sneaked a goal past Muleya after 20 minutes of play, but Muleya managed to react in time and pushed the ball out for a corner.

A powerful header by Shephard Mwale from a Takudzwa Pambarira free-kick almost eluded Ashwin Msazulwa in goals for Mainline FC.

Another foul was committed by Shoko on Rendo inside the 29 minutes mark. Muleya collected the subsequent kick without any hitches.

Brian Mlonyeni fouled Bekithemba Nyoni a few meters from the goalkeeper's area, and Gift Ncube blasted his effort over the bar. Six minutes later, Thaloso shot over the bar after a good delivery from Rendo.

The second half also picked slowly with both teams lacking precision in front of goal. Moto had the first chance to break the deadlock two minutes inside that half, but they required the sucker punch to raise the bar.

Thaloso could not believe his eyes after hitting the upright 52 minutes into the game. Muleya was a beaten man.

Friday Mudado, head coach for Moto pulled out Shoko and introduced Steven Muvirimi. A few minutes later, Muvirimi unleashed a scorcher that screamed off target.

Gift Ncube missed a glaring chance after 18 minutes of the second half play. Mainline had their fair share of the chances as Limbongiseni Nyathi controlled the ball deftly only for Rendo to shoot wide.

Mongameli Ndebele's goal bound header was dealt with by a towering defender, who pushed it off for a corner.

Paul Moyo introduced two players in the second half, Nyathi and Brian Maphosa. Inside 38 minutes of the second half, Douglas Maguta was infringed near the touch line, almost thirty meters from Muleya's goal area. Mjava, as Thaloso is popularly known, took responsibility and his ferocious dispatch eluded Muleya and landed acutely in an empty net.

A few minutes after the goal, Mainline won another free kick on a similar spot. Before the free kick was dispatched, Kupuso Dube was judged to have attacked Brendon in an off-the-ball incident. The referee instantly red carded him. Unfortunately, the free-kick was never to be a carbon copy of the former, as the fans anticipated.

Mwale released a good free-kick 40 minutes on, and Msazulwa responded bravely and punched the ball away for a corner. In the dying minutes, Mongameli nearly caused a scene when he exposed himself by keeping the ball too long and dribbled unwisely. Fortunately, the striker who snatched the ball was not clinical in his execution.

When the referee finally blew his whistle to end the match, there was relief and jubilation from the Mainline family. Mainline will date Binga FC in their next encounter at the same venue next week. Moto Moto will play Ajax in Bulawayo for their next encounter.

Teams

Mainline FC: Ashwin Msazulwa, Victor Nkomo, Mongameli Ndebele, Isaac Katsande, Douglas Maguta, Tichaona Chauke, Zenempilo Khupe, Thaloso Ndlovu, Webster Muleya, Brandon Rendo, Brian Mlonyeni (Subs: Ngqabutho Ncube, Feston Fortune Mutepa, Brian Maphosa, Limbongiseni Nyathi, Marvin Kumire, Trust Msindo, Mbongeni Ndlovu) **Head Coach:** Paul Moyo. **Assistant Coach:** Siza Mguni, Khulekani Mahlobo

Moto Moto FC: Luando Muleya, Bekithemba Nyoni, Tafireyi Sambo, Aubrey Dziwire, Shephard Mwale, Takudzwa Pambarira, Jervas Shoko, Tyson Mazithulela, Aspect Ncube, Gift Ncube, Kupuso Dube (Subs: Hosea Ndebele, Endurance Mpofu, Jefter T. Lusinga, Wisdom

Ndlovu, Nomatter Mwembe, Stephen Muvirimi, Darlington Katuli) **Head Coach:** Friday Mudado. **Assistant Coach:** Brian Mburuma

What the Coaches said:

Friday Mudado (Moto Moto FC) “We played well and did not utilise all our chances. They got their set piece and they managed to click a goal. I don’t want to talk about match officials, it’s not an area I want to discuss in this platform. However, I feel like our opponents did not practice fair play, especially after scoring. Instead of having many balls around as per standard norm, the one we were using had been deliberately kicked away, they decided otherwise. It was their own way to employ a delaying tactic. That’s not fair play. Next week, we play Ajax in Bulawayo and we hope to do well.

Siza Mguni (Mainline FC) “We struggled a lot in the first half. However, when the second half resumed, we picked our usual game. As for Moto Moto’s concern, we sympathise with them regarding that incident. But we can’t be blamed for that since we didn’t cause it to happen. It’s part of the game. The red card given to their player was well deserved because of the player’s conduct. Our next opponent is Binga FC here, and we will pick from where we left today.”