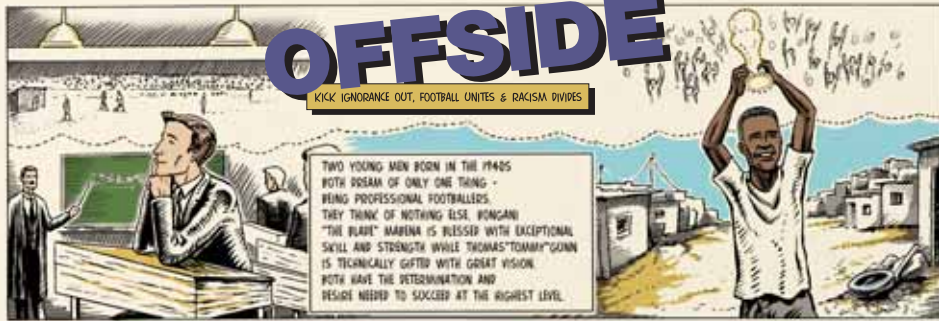


OFFSIDE

KICK IGNORANCE OUT, FOOTBALL UNITES & RACISM DIVIDES



TWO YOUNG MEN BORN IN THE 1940S BOTH DESIRE OF ONLY ONE THING - BEING PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS. THEY THINK OF NOTHING ELSE. PONGANI 'THE PLAIN' MARENA IS BLESSED WITH EXCEPTIONAL SKILL AND STRENGTH WHILE THOMAS 'TOMMY' GANN IS TECHNICALLY GIFTED WITH GREAT VISION. BOTH HAVE THE DETERMINATION AND DESIRE NEEDED TO SUCCEED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.



PONGANI! STOP THESE GAMES. IT'S TIME TO GO.

REMEMBER, SON, THIS IS YOUR BIG CHANCE TO IMPRESS THE ENGLISH SCOTS.

I KNOW, DAD.

PONGANI'S DAD WAS A GREAT PLAYER IN HIS DAY BUT DOESN'T WANT HIS SON'S HEAD FILLED WITH IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS. HE HAS HIS OWN DREAMS SHATTERED. AT LEAST THAT IS HOW IT SEEMS.

AT THE SPORTS GROUND WHERE PONGANI'S DAD WORKS TOMMY IS PREPARING FOR THE BIGGEST MATCH OF HIS LIFE.



GREAT PASS, TOMMY!

OH NO!

WOW!

AMAZING SKILLS!

WATCH OUT!



HE CAN HAVE A TRIAL IF YOU CAN PAY HIS TRAVEL COSTS.

BUT THAT'S YEARS OF WAGES!

HE DOESN'T WANT HIS SON TO BE REJECTED, HE RECALLS HIS OWN DREAM BEING SHATTERED. THE AGENT REMEMBERS WHAT HE SAW EARLIER AND AGREES. PONGANI BAZZLES HIM WITH HIS DRIBBLING AND TWO FOOTED POWER AND ACCURACY.



PONGANI GETS THE NEWS FROM HIS DAD AND IS SHATTERED HOW CAN THEY RAISE THAT MONEY WHEN THEY ARE SO POOR? BUT HIS DAD REASSURES HIM THAT THEIR COMMUNITY BELIEVES IN HIM AND THAT THEY WILL RAISE THE MONEY SOMEHOW. TO PONGANI'S DELIGHT, HIS COMMUNITY RAISES THE NECESSARY MONEY. BOTH BOYS LEAVE ON THE SAME BOAT IN JANUARY 1965.

WHEN THE BOYS ARRIVE IN ENGLAND THEY ARE IMMEDIATELY PUT TO TRAINING. THEY BOTH WORK HARD BECAUSE THEY REALISE THIS IS THEIR BIG CHANCE.



ON THE DAY OF HIS DEBUT, NO ONE CAN FIND PONGANI. HE EMERGES FROM THE LOCKER.

WHY ARE YOU IN THE LOCKER?

I WAS NOT SURE I COULD SHARE THE SAME LOCKER ROOM AS THE WHITE PLAYERS.



PONGANI'S DEBUT...

MARENA PICKS UP THE BALL JUST OUTSIDE THE BOX FROM A GREAT GANN PASS.

WITH HIS FIRST TOUCH HE BEATS TWO PLAYERS. HE SHIMMIES TO SHOOT BUT LOSES THE BALL.

IT BARELY RIPPLES THE NET SO BELIEVE WAS THAT CRIP OUTRAGED!



AFTER THE GAME, PONGANI AND TOMMY ARE CALLED TO THE BOARDROOM. TOMMY RECEIVES A THREE YEAR CONTRACT, PONGANI IS ONLY OFFERED AN EXTENSION OF HIS TRIAL.

MARENA THIS ISN'T A COPS! LEAVE THE THIRDS IN AFRICA OR GO HOME

GREAT GAME TOMMY, YOU MADE THAT GOAL WITH THAT PASS TO MARENA.



PONGANI HAS SCORED 8 GOALS IN HIS LAST 8 APPEARANCES.

AND MARENA SCORES AGAIN. HE HAS TO BE THE HOTTEST PLAYER IN ENGLAND.

I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS. I AM GOING TO LEAVE THIS PLACE.

THE FANS CHEER THE GOAL WITH THEIR COSTUMEARY BANANAS AND MONKEY NOISES.



IN NOVEMBER 1965 PONGANI LANDS IN THE USA TO JOIN THE NEW YORK ROSH.

AND WHAT A GOAL!

WHAT AN AWKWARD DEBUT BY MARENA! SENT ON WITH FIVE MINUTES LEFT, THIS ROOKIE SCORES TWO GOALS.

ONE WITH THE LAST KICK OF THE GAME TO CLUNK THE MATCH.



BACK AT LONDON, TOMMY IS STILL BEING TAUNTED DESPITE PLAYING FOR ENGLAND.

GO BACK TO AFRICA YOU MONKEY!

WHAT MORE MUST I DO?



TOMMY TOOKS THE USA WITH THE ENGLISH NATIONAL TEAM A FEW YEARS LATER. PONGANI PLANS TO RETIRE AFTER THE GAME AGAINST THE ENGLISH. TOMMY PLANS TO DO THE SAME.

ONLY TWO MINUTES LEFT BEFORE PENALTIES.

MARENA RECEIVES THE BALL. CAN HE CHANGE THE GAME?



HE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE CONTEMPLATING A STONK FROM SO CLOSE TO THE CORNER FLAG!

AT THE END OF THE GAME...

AND HE SCORES! THE ROSH WIN! THE ROSH WIN!



I'VE BEEN OFFERED A COACHING JOB IN MIAMI. THERE'S A SPOT FOR YOU AS ASSISTANT.

NO BROTHER, I HAVE FAR MORE IMPORTANT WORK TO DO AT HOME.



PONGANI GETS BACK TO SA, HIS FIRST PORT OF CALL IS TO RETURN TO THE NEIGHBOORHOOD SOCCER FIELD.

SO WETO ROSH IS

YOU KICK WITH THE INSTEP OF YOUR FOOT. YOU SEE, LIKE THIS. FOOSIS!

AND SO BEGINS THE GREATEST LOCAL TEAM EVER.