**Golden Days of Soccer in The School - A Recall**

It was posted to Ekitipanupo that Ibadan fans started a song when the rain of goals were too much. It goes thus; 'lukula dakun jowo o, EkPaCo lo ni nbe e o'! (Lukula please now, Ekitiparapo College asked us to beg you). Very interesting times in the past indeed.

 Seye ADETUNMBI '**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

> Kako, your post below made me to compile some of the names of secondary school sports heroes of the 1970s. It should bring back some very fond memories. We must give it to the sports masters of those days and to lead those devoted teachers is one and only our evergreen **'O-Jesu'**. No one like him, always in a class of his own in his elements!
>
> Soccer Heroes include:
> Atakpa Ukanna
> Aro (Ayo Arogundade)
> Oyee -Oyenuga
> Batoto (Samuel Ajayi of Iyin)
> Micky
> Arena Classical (Ekundayo, my HSC mate of Oyemekun Grams fame)
> Pius Aludo (My HSC mate)
> Buggie (Bukola Daramola my classmate)
> Wale Alade (Wale Eyemote, HSC mate)
> Lawee (Kunle Jinadu)
> Tope Ogunleye
> Ewu
> Rasheed
> Okuru
> Eweje
> Efon (Abiodun)
>
> The unbroken record Ekitiparapo College
>
> EKPACO, Ido-Ekiti played Loyola College in a final qualifying match of the Principal's Cup in early 1970s, perhaps the farthest they went then. Anyway, the Ibadan boys dealt with the Ekiti boys with 12 goals to nothing. Ibadan people with their sharp mouth derided Ekiti people, they pretended not to know that EKPACO is just one School in Ekiti, they said 'gbogbo Ekiti parapo' to form one team only to be beaten 12:0 by Loyola College.
>
> Volley Ball Heroes include:
> Femi Falano Femai
> Segun Aganga Eja (now minister of Finance)
> Bunmi Famosaya Famoo, Head of Service, Ekiti State
> Essien
> Gbenga Oyebade Asin
> Ossy Idemili
> Jide Ogunjobi
> Claude
> Tokunbo Agbetuyi Jalus
> Segun Alonge Ewon etc.
>
> My HSC Days
> Dayo Famosaya (Famoo Jr)
> Tayo Jegede Jegeson (Attorney General Ondo-State
> Wale Jegede Jegeson Jr
> Ope Adebayo Opi omo Baba Archdeacon
> Jide Agbebi
> Taiwo/Kehinde Seriki etc
>
\_ contributed by Kunle Makinde

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Great Alumni,

Many thanks for the recap(s) of the beautiful golden years. Oyenuga was our goalkeeper in 1973/74, when we lost to Atakunmosa, he was a very good goalkeeper. Oyenuga was in form five that year, and he left in June 1974. and became the number one goalkeeper for Loyola College, Ibadan, the year we won the Principal cup (Oyenuga was there to retake his WAEC).

As faith will have it, we met his new team (Loyola College) at the Quarter Finals, and when Christ's School scored the first goal of the five goals we trashed them, he was removed, and replaced with a Loyola boy and goalkeeper and we added four more goals after that, it was such a good outing for my humble self,(with 2 goals) umoh and Pisco in terms of Goals. Who can ever forget the greatness of the true Ekiti son, Coach Adewale, who saw "Diamonds in the rough" and worked on them to become the best Gems ever. All our dedicated sport masters, Mr. Ayo Agbebi, his senior and assistant, Mr. Aderibigbe (Omo Jesu, Ayo o, Usanan udaa?), were very passionate about the team's success. No one can forget the team's Grand Patron, Baba Idera, who became the overall god father and the "spiritual" coach. I remember when the team was ready to travel to Ibadan for the quarter final match with Loyola, some HSC students conceal themselves in the paco bus,(behind second class), baba Idera started the engine and the "para" students thought they were on their way to Ibadan just like that, suddenly baba Idera came down and walked round the paco bus, telling all of the non footballers to come down " i i boile ninu motor mi, iiboile, ole ni kete rin, inn loju ti, Iyo iru Olatunde ke e gbabolu gidi, e to abo rin, ole ni ha" meaning, you should all come down from my motor, you are all thieves, and shameless, can you not see someone like Olatunde, a small boy, who is a good footballer (pisco), who is even not quite half of your sizes, all of you come down. All the footballers felt so sad for them, since we 'already started 'jisting' and singing with all of them, and looking forward to our usual fun filled trip.

Coach Adewale brought the best out of all of us then simply for his leadership, dedication and sense of purpose. He showed us what leadership was all about. He will always get to the Agidimo football pitch at 5:00am, in his complete training outfit, "lap the field" with us, run up the Agidimo hill with big stones lifted high over our heads for muscle strength, (no training Gym. with weights in those days in Ekiti, we made use of what we had, big stones-Okuta). We were sometimes on that field for over three hours, playing soccer for endurance building, we became a total package, wonderful footballers, with good manners and love for each other. The coach will always select the first eleven based on skills and performance, no favouritism. We all had fun playing football in those days with so much passion for success.  We had dedicated leaders, that gave their time, love,and money for the success of the team, and in return, the team gave back their best, which was enough to bring home the ultimate price; The Principals Cup.

If my memory is still fairly okay, below are the names to the Championship squad:

Team Mascot:  Aluko Gbenga - (Coachito, Alusibago)

1. Olugbenga Olowoniyi    - Goal Keeper (Micky Jargar)

2. Babatunde Anthonio   -  World 2

3. Joseph Olaye            - Dead Run (Iku nsare)

4. Atapa Ukana          - World 4 (Atami Maafe)

5. Tanwa Oyebode    - World 5 (Gbesun)

6. Umoh Essien        - World 6 (Umoh mi Mafe loo)

7. Ogunmoroti Thomas  - Director

8. Olugbenga Olatunde - O Pisco

9. Faleye Akanmu Sina  - Lagado

10. Falodun Olatunde  -  Saigonta Umgbeti (Ayiri)

11. Arogundade Ayo  - (Arooo T)

12. Ajayi Samuel   - Batoto

13. Emem Esenam - Sename

14. Olawole Olabisi Sinbad

15. Kunle Jinadu  - Lawee

16. Arije Opeyemi  - Aristo

17. ...............Help!

90% of Christ's School Alumni don't know my full name, most know me as Sinbad Bisi, or Sinbad Olabisi, some think I am Adewole Bisi. Hon. alumni, my full name is Olabisi Ademola **Olawole**, Olawole being my last name, and Sinbad my popular extra name given by my uncle when I came home for my first term holiday in 1971. My uncle was a friend to Batoto's big brother, they both went to Victory College, Ikare (one of the sukuru pepepes - one of those "something like-schools"). Bato heard the name Sinbad, and the rest is history.

 UP SCHOOL !!!

 Olabisi Olawole - Sinbad

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Wonderful recall by Sinbad the Sailor!  That I was present at Liberty Stadium when Christ's School won that Championship Cup was one of the highlights of my life.

One side story....the two "Calabar" boys on our team  - Umoh Essien and Emem Esenam - were actually children of lecturers at the University of Ife, whose parents were my parents' friends, and said that there children must come to Christ's School because my father and I went to Christ's School.  At that time too, my (next) younger brother Steve Femi (Aficonene) was also in Christ's School (he entered in 1969), and I think that my other younger brother Gbenga (Coachito, the team's mascot; there is a sister between Aficonene and Coachito) entered in 1972 or 1973. (He completed his secondary school though at Fed. Govt. College, Ilorin)

Gbenga is a great soccer player himself and was once called to Nigerian Eagles camp.  So when his daughter now plays for England and New Jersey professional club, and his son Sone also once played for England - and now for Nigeria - and for Aberdeen (Scotland), they take after their father and uncle, not to talk of their grand-father (whose nickname in Christ's School was "Flamboro".)

Although I did not play soccer for Christ's School - I played hockey and tennis instead -  my record as a legendary House competition football player is sealed forever.  With a nickname of "Sacramento" and a Number 7 position, and fleet of foot, I scored freely and fast for Dallimore House in those days.

And there you have it.

Bolaji Aluko

Reminiscing

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Well recalled but not fully: In the volleyball team list, the name, Femi Afun is glaringly missing. He was the setter that took over when the likes of Eja left. The other name that was missed is that of Essien Usoro. I know him because he was also his class librarian. (68/72). He was in Harding house, a great setter of the ball while Eja was an incredible retriever of 'lost' balls, hence the name Eja whenever he dives to retrieve the balls. His jersey was always dirty at the front because of the diving. This diving also elevated him to the school goalkeeper. For those of you who saw a team picture in the school library, the player with that POP is Segun Aganga. He was also a good actor, playing the main role in 'Love would always find a way', Babs entry into the 1974 edition of Inter house drama. The bride was Olanlesi Odugbemi, now Mrs. Mamowora...MC Bunmi Obembe, GM Totalfina Elf...

There was a boast between Muyiwa Fatodu, (goalkeeper Mason house) and Essien Usoro (striker Harding house) during one of the interhouse football competitions. Essien promised the other would not score a goal. The striker did score but in the process got a fracture. What great fun it was.
I also recollected during the homecoming how Sinbad got a direct hit from the hockey ball played by Prof. Bolaji Aluko when we were in Class 1. He fainted and had to be revived. Who and Dallimore....The senior one in Dallimore was a striker....I no dey tear kue kue net, I dey tear net for Liberty. Though I did not witness it, story had it that he played a ferocious shot that went through the net at Liberty.

Their era had a lot of good footballers, Number Nine etc but there was the limitation of being coached by games masters who strictly followed the 2-3-5 formation. Coach Adewale, having played club football in Water Corporation, was able to transfer the skills, knowledge and tactics to the legendary team of 1975.

Lest I forget, the first goal scored against Oyenuga in 1975 was a two touch free kick...Atta would touch it, the defence would split and Umoh Esen would follow up with a sizzler...This got us goals, many of them until we got to the final when he hit the upright. It was not Oye's fault. The team was too good. Four more goals followed and the fear of Christ School spread like wild fire. When I got to the university in Ibadan, some classmates of mine remarked how dreadful all the schools were to learn that a school could thrash Loyola, a former champion by five goals.

Well done Simbad...But you forgot that John Oyewole gave you Licompon...

And that Eja was a great orator, good dresser and debater. And my college brother Chief Yemi Akeju was a handful for Ogunlade. He brought in a film but the girls were prevented from coming thereby reducing the gate takings....

It was great wearing that white 'teeru' baft and navy blue shorts. It was then a badge of honour to be in Christ's School.

'Yinka Adeosun 71/75, Mason

Prof Bolaji Aluko wrote on June 1, 2011:

Subject: Re: The School's Soccer Heroes - Sinbad Recalls

To: Ekitipanupo

Dear All:

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One side story....the two "Calabar" boys on our team  - Umoh Essien and Emem Esenam - were actually children of lecturers at the University of Ife, whose parents were my parents' friends, and said that there children must come to Christ's School because my father and I went to Christ's School.  At that time too, my (next) younger brother Steve Femi (Aficonene) was also in Christ's School (he entered in 1969), and I think that my other younger brother Gbenga (Coachito, the team's mascot; there is a sister between Aficonene and Coachito) entered in 1972 or 1973. (He completed his secondary school though at Fed. Govt. College, Ilorin)

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Bolaji Aluko

Reminiscing

On Mon, May 30, 2011 at 1:00 PM, Oluseye Adetunmbi <seyeadetunmbi@gmail.com> wrote:

Nice one Kunle.

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1

'ADETUNMBI - Good name is better than riches'

**From:** olakunle makinde <makyinkus@hotmail.com>

**Sender:** ChristschoolHSC7881@yahoogroups.com

**Date:** Mon, 30 May 2011 17:43:54 +0100

**To:** UP SCHOOL!!!!!!! ADO-EKITI<christschoolhsc7881@yahoogroups.com>

**ReplyTo:** ChristschoolHSC7881@yahoogroups.com

**Subject:** RE: [ChristschoolHSC7881] Principal's Cup Soccer Heroes

**SEYE,**
**YOU ARE TOO MUCH!!!I was in the junior class at EKPACO during that  EKITI PARAPO VS.LOYOLA COLLEGE SOCCER EPISODE you mentioned,it was a great and unforgetable encounter.There was one of their goal scorers named 'LUKULA**'-**who dealt with us by scoring majority of the goals more than any other players.**
**God bless you for taking us down the memory lane sportswise.**
**MAKINDE OLAKUNLE.**
**Osogbo-NIGERIA.**
> To: ekitipanupo@yahoogroups.com; ekitipanupoyouthforum@yahoogroups.com
> CC: christschoolhsc7881@yahoogroups.com
> From: kako@ekiti.com
> Date: Sat, 28 May 2011 07:54:12 +0000
> Subject: [ChristschoolHSC7881] Principal's Cup Soccer Heroes
>
 > Let me use this opportunity to wish Nigeria bomb blast free