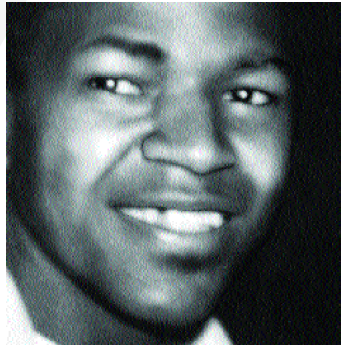


Steve Mokone (1932–)

THE ORDER OF IKHAMANGA IN GOLD

AWARDED TO
STEVE MOKONE
FOR EXCEPTIONAL
ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIELD
OF SOCCER AND AN
OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTION TO THE
DEVELOPMENT OF
NON-RACIAL SPORT



Steve 'Kalamazoo' Mokone was born in Doornfontein in 1932 and represented South Africa in soccer at the youthful age of 16. He became the first black professional in Britain (and later in Holland) when he signed up for the English club Coventry City in 1955.

Disheartened by his treatment and disillusioned by the style of football at the club, he left only to achieve superstar status playing for the Dutch side, Heracles, and later Torino in Italy. By 1959, he was elected Europe's best soccer player.

Today, Mokone is regarded as the greatest footballer South Africa has ever produced, often being compared with the world's all-time greats, including the inimitable Pele of Brazil.

Mokone studied in America, gaining a Doctorate in Psychology and International Politics. Mokone is currently the chief executive officer of The Kalamazoo South African Foundation, which he founded in 1996. He is also on the board of directors of the Commonwealth Sports Awards.

Steve Mokone has the distinction of having a street named after him in Amsterdam.