

Djurtus RECORD LANDMARK VIC- TORY AGAINST GOLIATH KENYA

Sports in Guinea Bissau.

The most popular sport in the country is far and away football. A domestic league of

The national team, although not very good, is extremely well supported and it is not uncommon for attendances at international matches to be in excess of 50,000. They are enjoying a run of form at the moment in the qualification round of the African Cup of Nations, having recorded their first victory in two years in October against Kenya (who are actually quite good).

Guinea-Bissau have never reached the finals and are widely considered one of the continent's minnows. But a new Portugal-born coach and an influx of



young expatriate and foreign-born players saw this nation, which has a population of less than two million, start off qualifying in style earlier this month with an unlikely 1-0 victory over Kenya.

Their previous ranking of 188th - 72 places behind

Kenya at the time - was partially a reflection of the national team not having played an international match in almost three years. But the result was still significant for the Djurtus, who had not won an official match since 1996 and were eliminated from

OLYMPIC HERO TRAINS FOR LONDON 2012

Our flag bearer from the Beijing Olympic Games, Augusto Midana, is now back in the saddle and competing in preparation for a medal show in London 2012. Hopefully her efforts in freestyle wrestling will give our country its first Olympic medal in any sport. And Augusto understands the weight of national expectation on her shoulders as a motivating factor in her training. "I like the pressure" she says. Well, Augusto, we're all behind you. Augusto is proud to be of a rare lineage of Guinea Bissau Olympic athletes. We have contributed athletes to every Olympic event since Atlanta 1996.



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2010 qualifying in the very first stage - losing 1-0 to Sierra Leone over two legs. But a breakaway goal following a defensive giveaway just 14 minutes from time allowed the hosts to knock off a side that included Inter Milan's highly rated McDonald Mariga. It was a result that cost Kenya's Twahir Muhiddin his job as coach, while his opposite number Norton De Matos will surely have his Guinea-Bissau players enjoying their time at the top of Group J, an honour they share with Uganda. The underdogs will next test their resolve in the second weekend in October away to wounded Angola, who sit bottom of the table after a 3-0 loss to Uganda.

"It was an important win," said De Matos, who lives in neighbouring

Senegal. "A win that gives us better conditions to build for the future that will make people believe that we have good players, players who, within the context of Africa, can really play an important part in each match they play. However, let's not get too carried away with it. We still have one month to prepare for our match against Angola and, again, we'll fight for the best result with the same confidence and enthusiasm."

Guinea also face a tall task in the next round of qualifying as they host Nigeria in Conakry. However, the Syli Nationale have some history on their side, having never lost to the Super Eagles at home.