

Locals not ripe for Stars

— Ahinful

• Black Stars coach, Otto Addo, advised to maintain the foreign-based players in the team

Story: Peter Sarbah

AUGUSTINE Ahinful, a former striker for the Black Stars, has expressed reservations about calls to exclusively build Ghana's senior national team around local-based players.

Ahinful, who earned 19 caps for the Black Stars during his playing

career, believes that while local talents should be considered, they might not be equipped to carry the team on their own on the international stage.

Ahinful's comments come amidst growing debate about the composition of the Black Stars and the role of domestic players in the squad. However, in an exclusive interview with *Graphic Sports*,

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13th African Games brouhaha

Ministry assures medalists of bonuses

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Dreams FC: A triumph of determination and hope

DREAMS FC's participation in the CAF Confederation Cup may have ended, but the impact of their journey reverberates far beyond the final whistle. As the dust settles on their valiant effort against Zamalek, it is essential to reflect not only on the outcome but also on the significance of their participation for Ghana football.

Dreams FC's story in this continental campaign is one of resilience, defiance of odds and a testament to the potential harboured within Ghana football. As debutants in the competition, few expected them to progress beyond the early stages, let alone challenge seasoned giants such as Zamalek. Yet, they defied expectations, showcasing the depth of talent and determination within the Ghanaian footballing landscape.

Their performance in the first leg, holding Zamalek to a goalless draw on their home turf, was a

display of courage and tactical prowess. It signalled to the football world that Dreams FC was not to be underestimated, despite their status as newcomers to the continental stage.

However, the journey came to an end in the second leg, as Zamalek's experience and pedigree proved insurmountable. Yet, even in defeat, Dreams FC's contribution to Ghana football cannot be overstated. They brought honour to the local league, demonstrating that with the right support and belief, Ghanaian clubs could compete with the best on the continent.

Their story serves as a beacon of hope for Ghanaian football, inspiring young talents and reaffirming the belief that dreams can indeed be realised with hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Dreams FC may not have lifted the trophy, but they have won the hearts of football fans across the nation.

As they exit the competitions, the players must hold their heads up high. Dreams FC should be celebrated for their achievements and hailed as pioneers of a new era in Ghana football. Their journey may have ended, but the legacy they leave behind will continue to inspire generations of footballers to come.

In the annals of Ghanaian football history, illustrious clubs such as Hearts of Oak and Asante Kotoko once stood as formidable contenders on the continental stage, raising the nation's flag high with their remarkable performances in the CAF Confederation Cup.

However, the recent struggles of these iconic clubs,

alongside others such as Berekum Chelsea, Aduana FC, Ashantigold, and Medeama SC, underscore a concerning decline in Ghana's football prowess at the continental level.

Ghanaian football enthusiasts have witnessed a lamentable trend in which once-dominant clubs falter to make significant strides in continental competitions, often bowing out prematurely in the early stages. This decline not only dampens the spirits of loyal supporters but also diminishes Ghana's reputation as a football powerhouse on the African continent.

In light of this sobering reality, it becomes imperative to spotlight the commendable achievements of clubs such as Dreams FC, who have emerged as a shining beacon of hope amidst the gloom. Dreams FC's recent success at the continental competition serve as a testament to their resilience, determination and commitment to excellence.

Dreams FC's achievement should serve as a wake-up call for Ghanaian football authorities, urging them to prioritise the development and empowerment of local clubs. This entails providing adequate financial, logistical, and infrastructural support to facilitate local club's participation and success in continental competitions.

Is Kane England's greatest striker ever?

ENGLAND and Bayern Munich striker Harry Kane continued his rich goal-scoring form in the UEFA Champions League semi-final, slotting home a penalty to help Bayern secure a 2-2 against Real Madrid in the first leg.

According to Transfermarkt, Kane's goal-scoring record this season has been flawless, bagging 43 goals in 43 games, including 35 Bundesliga goals and eight Champions League goals.

Prolific

The Metro reports that Kane was the quickest player to score 20 and 30 Bundesliga goals, and smashed the record for most goals in a debut Bundesliga season (30). He is seven shy of breaking Robert Lewandowski's Bundesliga goals record.

His continued prolific goal-scoring for club and country has firmly put him in the conversation for being named the greatest English striker of all time. Here's why.

Before joining Bayern Munich, Kane had established himself as one of the greatest players in

Premier League history for Tottenham Hotspur, securing the Premier League Golden Boot in three seasons and making the PFA Premier League Team of the Season six times.

The Premier League website reports that Harry Kane scored 213 goals in 320 Premier League appearances for Spurs, ranking him second all-time in the Premier League goal-scoring charts.

The Bayern Munich forward is England's captain and has led the national team to the World Cup semi-final in 2018 and the Euro final in 2020, where they lost to Italy on penalties.

Record scorer

Sporting News reports Kane has scored 62 international goals in 89 games for the 'Three Lions,' surpassing Wayne Rooney (53), Bobby Charlton (49), and Gary Lineker (48).

The England striker was awarded the FIFA World Cup Golden Boot at the 2018 finals and won the IFFHS World's Best



Top Goal Scorer in 2017.

However, despite his personal accolades and unbelievable records, Harry Kane is still yet to translate his goals into major

trophies, failing to secure one trophy in his whole career.

Kane has lost four major cup finals in his career, losing two EFL Cup, one Champions

League, and one European Championship final. This season is the first season Bayern Munich has not won the league since the 2011-12 season.

One trophy left

The only trophy Kane can win to salvage this season is the UEFA Champions League, but it will be a tough test for Bayern and the English striker to get a positive result at the Bernabeu.

Compared to Alan Shearer and Wayne Rooney, Kane's biggest rivals for the title 'England's greatest ever striker,' they have secured major trophies in their careers.

Alan Shearer is the Premier League all-time top goal scorer with 260 goals and won the Premier League with Blackburn in 1995, while Wayne Rooney scored 208 Premier League goals and 53 England goals and won 16 major honors with Manchester United.

Is Harry Kane the greatest England striker in history, or is there another player with more accolades that beats him to the top spot?—MSN