



Asare makes case for locals
— Dr Nyaho-Tamakloe

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Showdown with Madagascar:

Otto Addo fires up Black Stars for victory

Story: Prince Dornu-Leiku

Ghana head coach Otto Addo has sounded the battle cry ahead of tonight's crunch FIFA World Cup qualifier against Madagascar, acknowledging the threat posed by the Barea but insisting the Black Stars are ready for the challenge.
The four-time African

champions, who thrashed Chad 5-0 last Friday, are brimming with confidence but face a far sterner test against a Madagascar side unbeaten in their last four qualifiers. Currently sitting just two points behind Ghana, the Barea will be looking to seize the top spot in Group

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• Antoine Semenyo (right), Inaki Williams and Mohammed Salisu (left) were on target against Chad

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Semenyo: We have firepower to progress

Voice of Graphic SPORTS

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Black Stars must seize the moment to secure campaign

GHANA'S World Cup qualifying campaign has reached a pivotal juncture, and tonight's clash against Madagascar in Morocco is more than just another match — it is a defining moment for our Black Stars. With the stakes higher than ever, head coach Otto Addo has sounded an impassioned battle cry, urging his players to fight for every inch, restore lost confidence, and reclaim the trust of a nation.

After a dazzling 5-0 demolition of Chad last Friday at the Accra Sports Stadium, our men have been buoyed by a surge of belief. Bournemouth forward Antoine Semenyo, who

opened the scoring within two minutes — ending a two-year international goal drought — is convinced that Ghana's attacking quality is the catalyst needed to sustain this momentum.

That stunning performance featured goals from Semenyo himself, Inaki Williams, captain Jordan Ayew from the penalty spot, defender Mohammed Salisu, and the industrious Ernest Nuamah. It was a night where even prolific talents like Mohammed Kudus and influential Thomas Partey were content to play supporting roles, as the Black Stars turned their fortunes around after a dismal goal-scoring record over the past year.

Tonight, however, the challenge is formidable. Facing a resolute Madagascar side — unbeaten in their last four qualifiers and just two points adrift — our opponents, the Barea, are eager to usurp Ghana's top position in Group I. Under the guidance of French coach Corentin Martins, who has refreshed his squad with five new call-ups and recalled experienced campaigners such as John Baggio and Arohasina Dax, Madagascar promise a stern test. Ghana coach Otto Addo believes that his team has

the talent to overcome any obstacle, despite Madagascar's resurgence in recent years.

The resounding win over Chad has done more than simply boost morale—it has rekindled the passion and pride of a nation. Tonight's match is a rallying cry for our players: fight with heart, maintain the momentum, and etch a legacy that restores our nation's pride and trust in the Black Stars. It is a call to leave no stone unturned, as every tackle, every pass, and every shot is an opportunity to secure our place in the 2026 World Cup in the USA, Canada, and Mexico.

The Graphic Sports believes the time is now for Ghana to roar back onto the pitch with unbridled passion. Our players must harness this moment to turn their campaign around, win back lost confidence, and reinstate the belief that Ghana are back at the pinnacle of international football.

As the nation unites behind our team, the challenge is clear: deliver a performance that will be remembered for generations to come, a performance that cements our legacy and reaffirms that the Black Stars are destined for greatness.

George Foreman: Boxing legend remembered for triumph and transformation

MILLIONS of Americans will fire up their George Foreman Grills this Sunday and sizzle the meatiest hunks of beef they can find in honour of one of the mightiest punchers in boxing history.

Hundreds of millions around the world will be clinking zillions of beer cans as they remember the most famous fight of all time. The Rumble In The Jungle.

The pews at the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in north Houston will be crammed with mourners lamenting the passing of their inspirational pastor.

Big George has gone. All of a sudden. To meet his maker. At only 76. When most of us still thought of him as indestructible even though Muhammad Ali had proved him beatable that steamy night in Zaire half a century ago.

The shock now is as startling as the eighth round punch from nowhere with which the older Ali regained the world heavyweight title by dispatching the formidable, intimidating, menacing, undefeated Foreman to the canvas. That indelible moment would never have been etched into the legend of the Sweet Science had George the young hot-shot world champion not trusted controversial and much-litigate promoter Don King's \$10million promise by signing a blank sheet of the contract for the fight during a clandestine meeting at a defunct, decaying railroad station.

Foreman took the risk after he espied a rusty public telephone still hanging from a deserted platform wall, found it be

working and called his lawyer who said to him: 'What you gotta lose, George?'

Not the 10 million bucks, since King was as good as his word. Just his world heavyweight title. After Ali rope-a-doped him into punching himself out through a seven-round barrage of massive blows, demoralised him by asking 'that all you got, George?' after taking the biggest punch of all from then the most feared of all fighters. And he felled him like an oak tree in the eighth.

It was more than a year before a devastated Foreman could bring himself to box again and as he would tell me down the years: 'I needed time to find humility in defeat.'

That lesson would become part of his finding of God.

October 30, 1974 in Kinshasa is one of several life-altering dates in Foreman's multi-faceted life as teenage mugger, carpenter, bricklayer, wannabe American footballer, world beating prize-fighter, many-a-wife-taker, prolific father, rousing preacher and kitchen cooker-maker.

At 16 he saw the light of reason and quit the street gangs to seek work by joining America's Job Corp initiative for youngsters. A sojourn as a handyman in Los Angeles took him to a gym for aspiring footballers where he was convinced he would be better applying his size and strength in the ring.

A heavyweight gold medal at the 1968 Mexico Olympics — 'still my most treasured memory in boxing' he pronounced repeatedly until his death on Friday —

launched him into the professional ring. A string of quick-fire victories led him to his first winning of a world title — on January 27, 1973 in Kingston, Jamaica - by knocking out the great Joe Frazier. A feat he achieved twice against the revered 'Smokin' Joe.

Cometh March 17, 1977 in Puerto Rico, cometh the out of body experience which led him to his church. Foreman collapsed in his dressing room after being battered to a 15 round defeat by Jimmy Young. Of laying on the table surrounded by worried family and friends he would recall: 'I felt a giant hand pluck me from unconsciousness. I felt physically filled by the presence of a dying Christ. Hallelujah!

I rose and ran into the shower. Born again. I was filled with love and never felt the same again.'

For certain, he underwent a transformation as a human being. The anger pent up in Foreman while he was growing up amid racial prejudice in the Texas of the early 1950s developed into Grumpy George through the pre-Rumble phase of his gloved career. An ominous figure who found it necessary to present himself as a danger in public. Seemingly overnight he began changing into the affable, amiable Loveable George who charmed all with whom he came into contact.



George Foreman