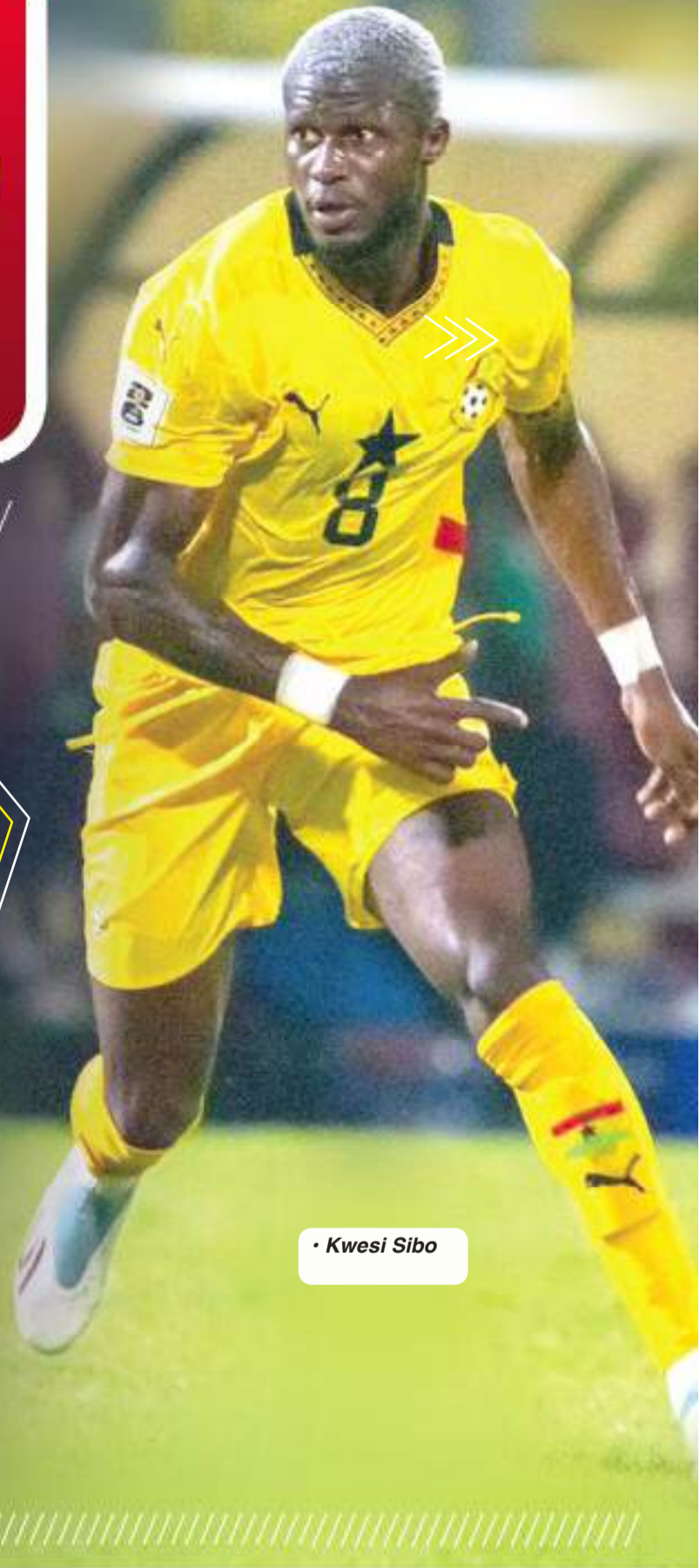




## Semenyo enjoying life at Bournemouth

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• Kweisi Sibbo

# Black Stars bank on team spirit

## • Sibbo on World Cup prospect

Story: Maurice Quansah

**B**LACK Stars midfielder Kweisi Sibbo believes Ghana's greatest weapon heading into the 2026 FIFA World Cup is the unity and fighting spirit that has taken hold within the team — a bond he insists makes them "very hard to beat."

Fresh from a run of

strong performances in the recent World Cup qualifiers against Mali, Madagascar, and Comoros, the Real Oviedo midfielder says the sense of togetherness and shared purpose under Coach Otto Addo has given the Black Stars renewed confidence to make a powerful statement on the global stage.

"One thing I've seen in this team is unity, and when a team is united and

• Continued on Back page



• Coach Abdul Karim Zito — Kotoko

## Kotoko coach reshapes attack after Amoah's exit

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## Voice of

## Graphic SPORTS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3 — 9, 2025

# Unity, hunger and discipline must be Ghana's main weapon for World Cup success

*AS the countdown to the 2026 FIFA World Cup continues, Ghana's greatest weapon may not be found in the brilliance of its stars, but in the unity and collective hunger building within Otto Addo's camp. In modern football, where talent abounds, it is team spirit — that intangible force of brotherhood, belief and shared ambition — that separates contenders from pretenders. For the Black Stars, rediscovering that spirit could make the difference between merely participating and truly competing on the global stage.*

*Midfielder Kwesi Sibó, one of the emerging faces of this new Black Stars era, captures this belief perfectly. Fresh from his impressive outings against Mali, Madagascar and Comoros, the Real Oviedo man insists that Ghana's newfound sense of togetherness makes them "very hard to beat." It is a simple truth delivered with quiet conviction. He aptly sums up the new environment in camp, saying that when a team is united and ready to fight for each other, it is hard to beat.*

*That statement embodies the pulse of Otto Addo's rebuilding project, a group forging a strong identity grounded in trust, selflessness and discipline. Sibó, at 27, has become symbolic of this renaissance: a player drafted in as cover for injured and suspended midfielders who has since cemented his place through grit, intelligence and humility. His tireless energy, ball-winning ability and positional awareness have added much-needed steel to Ghana's midfield, providing balance that allows Thomas Partey to express himself more freely further up the pitch.*

*But Sibó's rise also underscores an important message about ambition, professionalism and consistency. He recognises that his place in the national team is not guaranteed — it must*

*be earned every week in Spain's competitive Segunda División. That hunger — the willingness to grind, improve and stay ready — mirrors the attitude Ghana needs across the entire squad if the dream of another great World Cup campaign is to be realised. Otto Addo's description of Sibó as a "warrior" was more than flattery; it was a challenge to the entire team. Ghana's last few campaigns have suffered from disjointed play, fluctuating morale and inconsistent form. Yet Sibó's emergence, alongside a new sense of purpose among the players, offers hope that the Black Stars are finally rediscovering their soul and the fearless identity that once defined them.*

*As the 2026 World Cup beckons, unity must remain the team's heartbeat. It is what once made Ghana feared — a side that played as one, fought as one, and celebrated as one. If that camaraderie is protected and every player approaches the journey with Sibó's humility, work ethic and fighting spirit, then Ghana will not just show up in North America. They will arrive battle-ready — a united front determined to make the world take notice once again.*

## Ghana's 'diaspora' stars knock on Black Stars' doors (2)

• Continued from last week

**I**N Manchester, Ayden Heaven is one of the young talents that have emerged over the years and earned himself a move to Manchester United after going through the ranks at Arsenal's academy.

The England-born defender, eligible for Ghana through his mother, has caught the FA's attention, though the technical team believe he is still young and raw.

While there is definite interest, officials want him to gain senior experience before any major commitment is pursued.

**Samson Baidoo - RC Lens (Defender; Austria / Ghana)**

A slightly different case is that of Samson Baidoo, the Austrian-born centre-back now playing for RC Lens in Ligue 1.

The 20-year-old has represented Austria at various youth levels and has been called into the senior national team, but remains eligible for Ghana.

He has expressed interest in playing for his parents' homeland. Within the Black Stars setup, Baidoo's name sparks debate as some believe Ghana should move fast to secure him before Austria cap ties him, while others are cautious about investing energy in a player who may not necessarily come in and start.

**Ilyas Ansah - Union Berlin (Forward; Germany / Ghana)**

In Germany, 19-year-old Ilyas Ansah is turning heads at Union Berlin. The skilful forward, eligible for both Germany and

Ghana, is being tracked closely by the GFA.

Sources indicate he is among the priority targets, with Ghana hoping to secure his commitment early before Germany attempts to integrate him into their youth setup.

The technical team would love to have Ansah for the World Cup as he is tall and seen as a different profile to pool of strikers currently available to Ghana.

**Noah Nartey - Brøndby (Midfielder; Denmark / Ghana)**

Elsewhere, Noah Nartey of Brøndby continues to grow in the Danish Superliga. The Denmark-born midfielder, of Ghanaian descent, is being monitored closely by Ghana's technical team, who view him as a player in the mould of Daniel Kofi-Kyereh.

Early conversations have taken place, and Nartey is open to representing Ghana at the senior level.

**Darko Gyabi - Hull City (Midfielder; England / Ghana)**

Darko Gyabi, now at Hull City after leaving Leeds United, remains another option in midfield.

The England-born player has Ghanaian heritage and has previously said he is proud of his roots and is interested in representing Ghana.

The Black Stars coaches have not yet moved to secure him, preferring to see greater consistency in his club performances before opening formal talks.

**Romeo Lavia - Chelsea (Midfielder; Belgium / Ghana)**



• Eddie Nketiah

Romeo Lavia rounds out the list, though in his case, Ghana has effectively moved on.

The Chelsea midfielder, born in Belgium to a Ghanaian father, is fully committed to the Belgian national team and has already played at the senior level.

The GFA has therefore withdrawn all interest, focusing instead on more realistic options.

**Francis Amuzu - Gremio (Forward; Belgium/Ghana)**

Though having previously stated he would prefer to play for Belgium over

Ghana, Francis Amuzu backtracked and received his Ghanaian passport two years ago, declaring he is ready to play for Ghana.

The technical team see the World Cup as too soon for Amuzu, who has only started 21 per cent of Gremio's games this season. With the Black Stars blessed with abundant talent on the flanks and Amuzu barely playing, his chances of receiving a call-up are very slim.

However, the technical team emphasise that once he starts playing and is on form, he would be considered for future tournaments and qualifiers beyond the World Cup.