

An Analysis of Factors Involved in Nicknaming of Some Soccer Players in South Africa

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ABSTRACT The aim of this paper is to discuss the meaning and relevance of the nicknames given to soccer players in the Premier Soccer League in South Africa, either as a token of appreciation or disapproval. The argument raised in this paper is that there is a marked deterioration in the creative naming of nicknames in the contemporary dispensation unlike in the past. It argues that nicknames have an influential role on the manner in which the players perform their duties in the field of play. The recordings of the interviews were made into a Marantz PMD-661 field recorder using a WH-30 Shure head worn microphone in a quiet room with a sample of ten people. The result shows that soccer stars are given nicknames either by coaches, teammates or by fans. These players are famously known by their nicknames, rather than their personal first names.