

• Nurudeen Amadu — Joins Karela United FC

Managerial merry-go-round

Karela turn to Amadu, Legon Cities gamble on Acheampong

• Yaw Acheampong — On rescue mission of Legon Cities

Story: Mohammed Shaban

KARELA United have appointed Ghana Premier League-winning coach Nurudeen Amadu, who replaces Jimmy James Corblah, as the Tamale-based club fights to steer clear of the relegation zone. Also making a

move last week was Yaw Acheampong who faces the daunting task of rescuing the league's bottom club Legon Cities.

In the last few weeks, the Ghana Premier League has witnessed a managerial

• Continued on Back Page

Golden Satellites land GH¢1.26m payday — Page 5

No guaranteed place for Mainoo in Man United

— Page 7

Voice of Graphic SPORTS

MONDAY, JANUARY 13 — 20, 2025

Investment reward for Black Satellites a legacy of foresight

Fifteen years after Ghana's historic victory in the 2009 U-20 FIFA World Cup, the players of the Black Satellites are now reaping the benefits of a forward-thinking initiative introduced by the late President John Evans Atta Mills. Each player is set to receive GHe60,000, the matured value of a GHe10,000 investment made on their behalf following their triumph. This decision, which has now come to fruition, sets a powerful example of how athletes and teams should be rewarded with a long-term focus, ensuring their financial security long after the applause fades. The Black Satellites' as the first African team to win the U-20 World Cup, captured the hearts of an entire nation. The success became a symbol of hope and inspiration for young African footballers. In the wake of the victory, President Mills made a remarkable decision that went beyond the typical rewards for sports achievements. In addition to

awarding the players cars and cash bonuses, he took the step of investing part of their reward for their future. The move was ahead of its time, aiming to secure the financial futures of the players in a way that would protect them once their careers had ended.

SAS Finance Group, the firm tasked with managing the funds, has confirmed the maturation of these investments, signalling that the government's foresight was well-placed. For many of the players, who now face the challenges of post-career life, especially those affected by injuries or early retirements, this investment has provided essential financial support. While some players, such as captain Andre Ayew, have continued to excel on the international stage, others have found it difficult to transition to life after football. The decision to safeguard their futures has proven invaluable.

Former officials within the Ghana Football Association have praised this initiative as a brilliant move that has ensured financial security for players when they needed it most. Given the challenges faced by retired athletes, it is rare for such foresight to accompany a sporting reward, and it has set a standard for how athletes can be rewarded in ways that offer lasting benefits.

For some of the Black Satellites, the impact of this investment extends far beyond the financial value. Emmanuel Agyemang-Badu, for example, has spoken about the importance of such an initiative, stressing that it is a lifeline for many players, especially those who have faced financial difficulties after their playing careers. It is clear that

the investment was not only about the money—it was about securing their futures and recognising their sacrifices.

While the initiative has benefited the players, there remains an omission that has not gone unnoticed. Coach Sellas Tetteh, who masterminded the Black Satellites' World Cup triumph, was not included in the investment scheme, despite his central role in the success. Tetteh, who is currently battling health challenges, has received support from Andre Ayew and the FA, but the oversight remains a disappointment.

Despite this, the government's decision to invest in the players' futures stands as a pioneering and visionary step that has ensured the legacy of the 2009 U-20 World Cup win endures. It is a model approach that other governments and sports bodies could learn from, especially when it comes to supporting athletes in their post-competition lives. The Black Satellites' triumph has now become a perfect example of how careful planning and foresight can have a lasting impact on the lives of athletes, securing their futures and providing them with much-needed support when their careers come to an end.

This initiative serves as a reminder that success in sports should not only be celebrated in the moment but also leveraged to provide long-term benefits. The legacy of the Black Satellites' victory is therefore not just one of sporting achievement but of a visionary approach to athlete welfare that should be emulated for generations to come.

What happened to Ryan Giggs' coaching career?

By Chris Wathan, BBC Sport

RYAN Giggs is the English Premier League's most decorated player and a successful former Wales manager, so why is he seen by some as being out in the cold in football?

Despite the fact that he has achieved in the game, 18 months after domestic abuse charges against him were dropped, the 51-year-old's only role in the sport is as director of football at Salford City - the League Two club he co-owns with his friends and former Manchester United team-mates.

Formally found not guilty after his ex-girlfriend declined to give evidence in a retrial, Giggs - who always denied the charges - was said to be determined to rebuild his managerial career.

But with even the Premier League yet to find a place for him in their Hall of Fame, and more than four years since his final match in charge of Wales, some wonder when - or whether - he will make it back.

More than a quarter of a century has passed since Giggs scored one of the FA Cup's iconic goals, his mazy run and finish against Arsenal in 1999 securing

Manchester United's place in the final.

On Saturday, in the same competition, Giggs will return to the national spotlight when Salford City make the short journey to nearby Manchester City in a game being shown live on BBC One.

Giggs has been a regular presence in Salford's Moor Lane dugout in recent months and will surely relish the occasion against the club he trained with before joining Manchester United aged 14.

But for many viewers, it will be a first sighting of Giggs for some time, and a reminder of the way his managerial career was derailed by controversy.

A key member of Manchester United's historic 1999 Treble-winning squad, Giggs had spells as both player-coach and interim manager at Old Trafford. He then became Wales boss in January 2018 and led them to qualification for Euro 2020 - played in the summer of 2021 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

But following his arrest on suspicion of assault in November 2020, he stood down, before formally resigning from the role in 2022.

Giggs then stood trial, with jurors failing to reach majority

verdicts on charges he had assaulted his former girlfriend Kate Greville and her sister Emma in the same incident in November 2020.

The jury also failed to reach a majority verdict on the charge that he had subjected Greville to controlling and coercive behaviour during a three-year period.

Denying ever assaulting a woman, Giggs admitted to being unfaithful in all his previous

relationships.

And while his barrister Chris Daw KC said the allegations of physical abuse were the lies of a "scorned" woman, a number of abusive messages he sent to Greville were read out in court, with Giggs admitting threatening her in one.

The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) subsequent decision in 2023 to withdraw the charges, after Greville said she felt "worn down" by the process and could not face testifying again, meant the abandonment of a planned retrial.

Giggs had been cleared, with Daw saying his "deeply relieved" client intended "to rebuild his life and a career as an innocent man".

But with his reputation - already

tainted by extra-marital affairs - having suffered a further blow from the revelations in the original trial, his future was uncertain.

Giggs' 10% stake in Salford City - the club he bought in 2014 with former Manchester United team-mates Gary and Phil Neville, Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes - enabled him to quietly return to the game.

Unlike his former United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, who appeared as a defence character witness on behalf of Giggs during the trial, the group known as the 'Class of '92' stayed away from court.

But the former team-mates - including David Beckham, who also invested in Salford City in 2019 - have backed their friend since.

Salford City did not formally announce Giggs' appointment as director of football when his role first emerged last March.

But its YouTube channel has since featured an in-house interview with him, showing Giggs helping at training and on the touchline alongside manager Karl Robinson.

Robinson has described Giggs' assistance as "outstanding", with Salford City enjoying a fine run of form and hopeful of promotion - they currently occupy the third automatic promotion place in the League Two table.

Giggs also featured prominently in a behind-the-scenes documentary on Sky TV which followed the fortunes of the club.

• To be continued



• Ryan Giggs is the Sporting Director of Salford City FC