

FC BONDEKO

THE RALEIGH/NC SOCCER TEAM HOST THE 57TH INDEPENDENCE SOCCER TOURNAMENT OUR FULL REPORT



*USA Independence Soccer Tournament
2017 Edition*

*57th Congo Independence Day
Raleigh June 30- July 2nd, 2017*

FC BONDEKO Champions

*Insert: Peter Katanga Dady Peyechou
(All photos: Salomon Valaka)*

The tournament

For the last three days, from Friday, June 30 to Sunday, July 2nd, Raleigh, the capital of the State of North Carolina became the center of attention of the US Congolese Diaspora. All eyes, all ears, all attention were directed to what was going here.

The reason was simple:

Each year all soccer teams of the Congolese decedents who are scattered around the country come together in celebration of the Congolese Independence day. This event has nothing to do with politics or the plights of social injustices going on in the country of Congo, back home. Instead, this Soccer tournament, started a couple years ago has become a venue of social interaction, fellowship and togetherness. It conveys a message and a sense of belonging to something among the new generation that is taking over, slowly, the leadership of their respective communities.

For this year celebration, twelve soccer teams have shown their commitment to participate. With the last minutes of preparation, ten soccer teams made it to the tournament:

1. Atlanta/Georgia
2. Simba/Champaign/Illinois
3. Cincinnati/Ohio
4. Charlotte/NC
5. Les Leopards (DFW) Dallas/TX
6. Huston/TX
7. Bloomington and Chicago/ Illinois (Together)
8. Wisconsin (with Milwaukee and Oshkosh)
9. Raleigh/NC
10. Virginia

The tournament is the culmination of a well organized event involving money and commitment among the teams. Games were played for two full days (Saturday and Sunday). The last two teams standings, Charlotte and FC Bondeko of Raleigh, both of North Carolina teams fought for the championship. This game full of drama reminded everyone of the historic competition that always involved both cities. Before the game starts, Raleigh players recognized that Charlotte as a

team, remained a fierce competitor and a tough team to beat, but by the end, the FC Bondeko just displayed its superiority by showing everybody of the ingredients **they're** made.

The sole Charlotte goal came as of penalty while Raleigh has one penalty of their own, in addition to two magnificent plays that ended in two magnificent goals to seal the win with the official score: **Charlotte 1 - Raleigh 3**

In championship qualification match, Bondeko of Raleigh beat the Atlanta team by 3-0, making them the undisputed giant going to the final.

Here are the FC Bondeko/Raleigh official devastating records:

- FC Bondeko (Raleigh) V/s Virginia : 6-1
- FC Bondeko (Raleigh) V/s Huston (Texas) : 7-0
- FC Bondeko (Raleigh) V/s Wisconsin : 8-2
- FC Bondeko (Raleigh) V/s Atlanta : 3-0
- FC Bondeko (Raleigh) V/s Charlotte : 3-1

They were in great numbers on the field Saturday as well as Sunday and their participation was just amazing. Food was sold in many varieties; familiar dishes being cooked on spot (Kamundele made of Beef, Ntaba, Makayabu, Kwanga, rice....). Water, tons of water and soda was available. Canned and bottled beer in abundance could be found. Barbers coming from Wake Tech School of Barbing were available and it safe to say that Cedrick Bisselele, according to himself, made some good money cutting hair the entire two days. *"The regular hair cut is \$10.00. But that price can go over \$15.00 depending the style"* Cedrick spoke in confidence to us, while delivering his precise hair lines. He was always busy which shows the support of our community. Only the beginning of bubbling Congolese economy in Raleigh.

Recognizing the hard work

The Sunday evening gala was a black tie and dress to impress event. It was an opportunity, not only for the trophy

presentation to be presented and showcased to the winning team, but to proceed on a various recognitions among players, organizers and all the participants that made this whole tournament a successful one.

Some of the teams



Atlanta/Georgia



Simba-Champaign/Illinois

Les Leopards DWF /Dallas Texas



Queen/Charlotte-NC



The trophy itself was immortalized by recognizing the late coach, Jean-François Titi Nzita Boubakadi who passed away, a few years ago.

The Vice-president of COCOM-NC/Raleigh, Médard Singa was allowed to speak for the community as well as the significance of it being named after Jean-François Titi Nzita before it was presented to the winning team.

For the evening program itself, medals and trophies were distributed depending the category:

- MVP best player
- Best scorer (Butteur)
- Best coach
- Best defender
- Best Goalkeeper
- The organizers

- Leon Nzau best leadership award.

(Leon Nzau Babunda was recognized for his involvement with the team, which he supports. He provides the team with so much help depending its needs. To recognize his efforts, a leadership award trophy was intrduced in his name.)

- Media support (Garry Iwele of DC)

It has been reported, according to Gary Iwele's right hand man that people are watching the bad media content and journalism which is leading to confusion. He reminded its viewers to stick with Garry Iwele who provides good images and good news.

Someone in the room came to me and told me that we don't have that problem in Raleigh. We have our inquisitor and what he provides us is quality information.

The beauty of this tournament remains the fact that all teams are the ambassador of its city and state it represents. This fact alone speaks volume, living in the greatest country in the world.

On Saturday, the Hippocratic Foundation ace with a team of Doctor and nurse to check, for free, blood high pressure, diabetes and AIDS. A lot of people took advantage of this opportunity. I went for a blood pressure. The diagnostic was fantastic. The Inquisitor's blood pressure is excellent! Bo bebi na bino! One of the night stars of the evening was Miradi Lesanga. With a powerful, yet angelic voice, Miradi just brought people to tears with a rendition of Hallelujah. The young lady can sing. With this proclamation comes the end of our report.

What they are saying:

Peter Katanga Dady Peyechou
(Bondeko Team Leader)

Papa jean-François Titi was our team moral leader. He always was there when the team was in need. He supported us and we

could not ask for a better coach. I'm dedicating this 2017 edition trophy in his name, we wanted to immortalize the name and person. Thank you Lord, this trophy will remain in Raleigh and we could not ask a better gift for our community.

Padou Langa

Those are good initiatives to make our community bounded together. Definitely, as a community, we must find way to support this and each other. This will lead to a thriving, successful community.

Lawrens Taiwo
(Referee from Nigeria)

This is a good initiative that brings Africans together. This is what we need as Africans.



Guilain Messa & Mireille Makalebo
(Bonbon Fifi & Mam'ango)
I just love them



Mireille Makelebo

(Foods)

In my opinion, everything is okay and it should be that way. This is my first time I am doing this and I really enjoyed it. I am here with my sister Yolanda Putu and we need these opportunities where we could do this more often. We are doing this for fun and making money in the process. You cannot beat that!

Le Fils Kebi

Esengo pe elengi mingi. Esalama kala pe to lingi esalama lisusus. (It's a joy! It's been a long since we've seen this and we want to see these kind of events more often.)

Nickel Biongo

(FC Bondeko's Coach)

Everything is going well as planned. It was a pleasure that everyone on the schedule showed up. And I really appreciated your coming. It shows that we are together in all this. It's a day of celebration.

We are going to work hard but play harder, most importantly plan to win. We are counting on your support so that the trophy remains in Raleigh. (NDL; Nickel's comments and thoughts were taken just before the championship game.)It is proven that he was right.)



Nickel Biongo: Raleigh Soccer Team Coach



Miradi Lesanga

COCOM-NC/RALEIGH: What should be New Leadership and new Goals

FC BONDEKO of Raleigh took advantage of the opportunity to gain success and recognition while putting Raleigh on the map with this soccer tournament once more. This shows what younger generations are able to accomplish given the opportunity and the necessary means.

Peter Katanga Dadi Peyechou, Tendresse Messa, Nickel Biongo, together with their entire crew have passed their test of leadership. They have new ideas and they just proved that they are in line to lead, not only the soccer team but this community.

For the past three days, it was amusement and entertainment. It was party...a time to celebrate but also a time to reflect. This last action was in display at the beginning of the championship match when a minute of silence on the entire soccer field was observed in memory of our brothers and sisters being killed in Congo. Therefore, no one will come up with idea that those young players are not aware of what is going on back home. They know who lead the country and they are able to put the political story on a scale. They may not know who they are but are informed of what is going on in Congo.

Here in Raleigh, the only ingredient that was missing in those three days of soccering, partying and relationship building was the fact that 95% of the community adults were absent. It's like we are living in two different communities.

While the adult population is sticking to their way of doing things, youngsters are reviving old past times with a total different way of thinking. We are not here to condemn any group and this report will be tainted of negativity if this is the platform choose to discuss this important subject.

They deserve a chance to be heard and to lay on the table what really is their path of success for this community. We believe that the time has come to listen to them and we will use what we have left in us to make this event happen.

Salomon Valaka

July 3rd, 2017

"Le Devoir d'informer. La Liberté d'écrire."

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Children of the Diaspora: A sense of unity and proud to belong to a Nation.