

AMAKA'S VOICE

A Newsletter of Christ The King College Onitsha Alumni Association In America, Inc. (CKC-AAA)

Volume. 5

Bonitas-Disciplina-Scientia

October-December 2011

President's Corner



Felicitations! Bonitas!! Happy Holidays and welcome to Vol. 5 and last edition of the year of "*Amaka's Voice*" – our ever informative newsreel. The year literally blew by us. There is however, much to be thankful for; much accomplished and much to look forward to in the coming year.

This edition features a mix of literary tidbits and photos, which evokes nostalgia for the good old days. The historical rendition on Dom "Hugo Harris" Ezeani is a piece of palpable pleasure. The work of our Association goes on and as the reader would observe, we are committed to full disclosure of our activities. This edition contains synoptic reports of two visits to the college by CKC-AAA officers, Messrs Oseloka Obaze and Eugene Agbimson to deliver our humble contribution toward the revitalization of the college. They respectively delivered N1 million during their visits in August and December 2011. Also, during our combined Third and Fourth Quarter Executive Committee meeting held on 18 November, 2011 the New York Chapter rendered an account of its stewardship. The harvest was good!

As we look forward to the New Year and reconvening in Dallas, TX, in the summer of 2012, much more remains to be done that will warrant our collective efforts. We will prod without badgering; we will cajole without being pushy, after all we know what needs to be done.

In closing and wishing the best of the Holidays to you and yours and prosperity and good health in the New Year, here is a shared thought courtesy of the old and wise sage, Fr. N.C. Tagbo: *"GodMake us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong and never to be content with a half-truth when the whole can be one. Endow us with courage that is borne of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy: Loyalty to our parents, loyalty to our class, loyalty to our COLLEGE and loyalty to our country; Loyalty that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear when truth and right are in jeopardy. Guard us against flippancy and irreverence in the sacred things of life. Grant us new ties of friendships and new opportunities for service. Kindle our hearts in fellowship with those of cheerful countenance and soften our hearts with sympathy for those who sorrow and suffer. Help us to maintain the honor of our COLLEGE untarnished and undiminished..."* Three Cheers for CKC!

Primus!

Emma Onua

From the CKC Archives The Old School



Majestic College Main Building, circa 1960



The College Hall and Chapel (foreground), circa 1960



Post civil-war CKC students in college blazers

The Way We Were

All Roads Lead To Dallas, TX

On 30th July 2011, the CKC-AAA General Assembly meeting in New York, decided inter alia, to hold the Sixteenth Annual Convention and General Assembly of CKC-AAA in the **Houston/ Dallas, TX Area**; the 2013 Convention in the Washington DC Area and the 2014 Convention in Raleigh, NC; and therefore, decided to meet, on **20-22 July 2012 in Dallas, TX**.

Save the Date

**CKC-AAA 2012 Convention
20-22 July 2012**

<http://www.ckconitshausa.net/>

CKC-AAA Remits N2m to School

Last August CKC-AAA Inc. presented a cheque of N1 million Rev. Fr. Charles Okwumuo, Principal of CKC Onitsha to cover non-capital commitments for 2008-2010. The amount was approved funds from the Association to the college for outstanding non-capital approved NAPOC projects for 2008-2010, namely, the CKC-AAA Annual Motivational Award for “Best Tutor” and Best Student”; the “School Principal’s’ Unforeseen Emergency Expense Fund, the one time university academic scholarship to the four (4) most deserving graduating seniors and CKC-AAA dues for 2010-2014. The breakdown of the funds is as follows: 2008, N300, 000; 2009, N300, 000 and 2010, N400, 000. On 28 November, CKC-AAA presented an additional N1 million to cover the cost of the renovation of the college kitchen. CKC-AAA Financial Secretary, Mr. Eugene Agbimson who made a personal donation of N250,000.00 towards the N1.6m project, represented CKC-AAA (see pictures).



**CKC Principal Fr. Charles Okwumuo receiving a check
From CKC-AAA Secretary, Mr. Oseloka Obaze**

CKC-AAA Reps Visit The College Campus



Alumni team inspect the Refurbished College Refectory



Mr. Agbimson, Fr. Okwumuo & NEC Team inspect projects



Current CKC Students in a Classroom

Floreat CKC- Primus

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On the Marble

Many old boys in eminent and comfortable positions which their early start at Umuahia helped them secure for them seem unaware of their reciprocal obligation to continue the heritage, to return in some token measure the gift their great alma mater gave them in such abundance. We seem to be unaware that the flickering touch of education in this country is in danger of extinction from rough winds and the deluge of mediocrity and neo-illiteracy, and that we who were privileged to know better have a duty to defend whatever high grounds of excellence still remain from where in more propitious times for which we pray, a new campaign of civilization and national retrieval can be launched." ~ Prof. **Chinua Achebe**

A good school like CKC Onitsha, which is situated in a frenetic commercial town like Onitsha, will always be an oasis. Such good educational establishments including their boarding facilities – the type many of us experienced—offers a shield and protects innocent and impressionable youths from societal disorders. ~ **Oseloka Obaze, '73**

Mile Stones



Rev. Fr. Ugo Paul Arinze, '80, Chaplain of CKC-AAA was one of the umpires at 2011 US Open in New York City.

Two CKC Onitsha alumni were on 20 October 2011 confirmed as Resident Electoral Commissioners (RECs) for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Commissioners. **Amb. Lawrence Nworuku** (Ebonyi) is the National Commissioner representing South East; and **Mr. Okey Sylvester Ezeani, '77**, (Anambra) is a Resident Electoral Commissioners (REC) posted to Ebonyi State. They have since sworn in by President Goodluck Jonathan.

Mr. Iffy Okechukwu, '71 was a lead member of the USA Trade and Investment Mission that recently visited Fiji.

Our Condolence To

Henry Chukwurah, '74 of CKC-AAA, TX who lost his brother recently.

Ken Chinweze of Louisiana and member of CKC-AAA, TX, who lost his father Chief (Sir) Francis Anizoba Chinweze, KSM recently.

Dominic Ezeani and the Reinvention of Nigerian Football

By **Uzor Maxim Uzoatu***

Many football pundits tend to forget that the first serious victory for the Nigerian national team was the soccer gold won at the 1973 All-Africa Games staged in Lagos. For many years before then, Nigeria flattered to deceive with an array of football masters such as Teslim 'Thunder' Balogun, Dan Anyiam, Etim Henshaw, Dejo Fayemi, Godwin Achebe etc. Some of these early star players were seen as irreplaceable, and they played for Nigeria for many years on end. In fact Godwin Achebe who had been playing for Nigeria since Independence in 1960 was still the captain of the 1973 All-Africa Games until a young centre-back straight out of Christ the King College (CKC) Onitsha, **Dominic Ezeani, '66**, replaced the great man, thus helping Nigeria to win her very first major soccer title.

Curiously, whenever the list of Nigeria's greatest-ever footballers is compiled you more often than not find that Dominic Ezeani's name is missing. What even makes it more scandalous is that it was not only Godwin Achebe that Ezeani retired but that other football great known as Victor Oduah. A player who ended the era of two of Nigeria's greatest ever defenders deserves his place among the immortals of Nigerian football. It was with Ezeani that the modern era of effective libero application began in Nigeria.



Dom "Hugo Harris" Ezeani

Popularly known as '**Hugo Harris**', Dominic Ezeani was the pillar in the defence of the all-conquering East Central State Academicals of 1971 that won the All-Nigeria Manuwa/Adebajo Cup. The team boasted of such schoolboy soccer artistes as Ahamefula Umelo, Pat Ekeji, John Azinge, Moses Nweke, Obed Ariri, Godwin Ogbueze, Kenneth Ilodigwe, Tony Uzoka etc. After winning the Manuwa/Adebajo cup competed for by the secondary school footballers across the then 12 states of Nigeria by beating Kwara State 2-0 in the final, the East Central State Academicals were paired up in a match with Enugu Rangers. Within a short time the schoolboys were three goals up, menacingly thrashing the great Rangers team. Soccer administrators in Enugu had to think fast to save the pride of the Igbo nation, such as Rangers was seen after the Civil War,

from total disgrace. The administrators met with the match officials to ensure that the match ended as a respectable drawn game! It was there and then that Ezeani was drafted into the Rangers squad, and was soon made the captain of the team.

Ezeani proved such an irreplaceable pivot of the East Central Academicals team that once he left they became beatable. Ezeani played for the All-Nigeria Academicals team that dealt heavy blows, home and away, to Ghana that used to be the nemesis of Nigeria's senior national team. Whenever Ezeani returned back to his school, CKC Onitsha, after representing Nigeria, the legendary Principal of the school, Rev. Father Nicholas Tagbo would insist that the budding soccer star must sit and pass his exams!

The next stop for Ezeani was the Green Eagles, then preparing for the January 1973 All-Africa Games in Lagos. He of course displaced the very captain of the team, the great but ageing Skipper Godwin Achebe, and then paired with Victor Oduah in the centre of the Nigerian defence. Oduah had to take over as the captain of the team that won Nigeria's first ever football title by beating Guinea 2-0 in the pulsating final.

Soon after the All-Africa Games soccer gold triumph, Nigeria's Green Eagles met with perennial rivals Ghana's Black Stars in Lagos on February 10, 1973 in a World Cup qualifier. Nigeria's line-up for the match was: Emmanuel Okala, Tony Igwe, Morton Owolo, Sanni Mohammed, Victor Oduah, Dominic Ezeani, Gideon Njoku, Yakubu Mambo, Haruna Ilerika, Kenneth Olayombo, Josiah Dombraiye. Ghana fielded: Lante France, Enoch Asumadu, Samuel Ayi Acquah, Joseph Ghartey, Daniel Oppong, Samuel Amartefio, John Taylor, Eric Amankwah Amansua, Kwasi Owusu, Isaac Eshun, Malik Jabir. The Green Eagles scored two goals through Kenneth Olayombo and Yakubu Mambo while Ghana netted three goals through the dreaded centre-forward Kwasi Owusu in the 18th, 55th, and 82 nd minutes. There was crowd trouble at the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos, as Ghana's third goal was suspected to be scored from an offside position but was awarded by referee Paul Nkounkou from Congo-Brazzaville. The match was abandoned after 87 minutes. Ghana was thereafter awarded a 2-0 win.

The return leg in Accra, Ghana witnessed the dropping of captain Victor Oduah, thus ensuring that Ezeani had effectively retired Nigeria's two great captains! Ezeani was paired with the young Anthony Ottah in central defence and succeeded magnificently in keeping striker Kwasi Owusu quiet in a match that ended as a goalless draw. Of course Ghana's Black Stars won on 2-0 on aggregate, but Ezeani had made the point of setting a new course for Nigerian football.

Having been made the captain of Enugu Rangers, Ezeani led the club to winning the double of Challenge Cup and League Title in 1974. In the 1974 Challenge Cup final that Rangers defeated Mighty Jets of Jos 2-0, the late Aloy Atuegbu who was playing for the Jos team told me of his encounter with Ezeani. Atuegbu said that the then Head of State Gen. Yakubu Gowon who hailed from Plateau State had come to his family home in Jos and promised him a Volkswagen Beetle if he could help defeat Rangers and thus end the jinx of Mighty Jets never ever winning the Challenge Cup. Atuegbu was therefore charged up, turning the Rangers defence at will in the early minutes of the match. According to Atuegbu, Ezeani ran up to him and spoke Igbo to him that can best be translated in the modern lingo of 'Aloy, you go wound-o!' Atuegbu and Ezeani happen to come from neighbouring towns (Adazi and Agulu respectively) in today's Anambra State. Atuegbu did not want to hear any Igbo

talk and thus brushed Ezeani aside. Meantime, Rangers non-sense left-back Harrison Mecha had heard what his captain had said to Atuegbu. Shortly after, Atuegbu made yet another darting run only for Mecha's crunchy tackle to ensure that he was stretched off the match!

After setting Rangers on the part of success, Ezeani was offered admission to Howard University in the United States. Christian Chukwu was then groomed to take over from Ezeani, and that was how Chukwu became the Green Eagles captain even as a new member of the team! Even so, the Rangers management ensured that Ezeani was brought back to Nigeria to play for the team anytime it had problems in prosecuting the then 1975 African Cup of Club Champions. Ezeani could not come back for the celebrated semi-final clash with Mehalla of Egypt because he was playing in the NCAA semi-final match as reported in the December 15, 1975 edition of the celebrated American magazine, Sports Illustrated Volume 43, Issue 24, where he dealt with a 190-pound 6-footer of a striker named Greg Villa. According to the Sports Illustrated report: 'Early in the second period Villa stole the ball from Fullback Samuel Acquah and charged in for a goal. Taking a pass from Steve Axmacher, he scored again at 17:13 of the half to make it 3-1.

A few moments after that, Howard 's Dominic Ezeani nailed Villa with a body block in midjump. Villa got up slowly and wobbled to the bench, bleeding from the mouth and clutching his thigh. No penalty was called, except that normally mild-mannered Midfielder John Zacheis was banished from the Cougar bench and the game for expressing his displeasure with the referee's evaluation of the incident. The referees worked the rest of the game with their hands hovering over their pockets, yellow cards at the ready.'

Ezeani was flown back from America for the final of the African Cup of Champion Clubs against Hafía FC of Guinea in December 1975 after Rangers had lost the first leg by 1-0 in Conakry, Guinea. The Rangers team was holed up in Enugu, hoping to play the Hafía team in the Coal City, when the then Nigeria Football Association (NFA) suddenly asked the team to proceed to Lagos a day to the encounter. There was even talk of Rangers boycotting the game when the new military governor Lt-Col. Atom Kpera who had just replaced the more charismatic Col. Anthony Aboki Ochefu ordered the team to depart to Lagos despite club chairman Jim Nwobodo's protestations. In a match played in such controversial circumstances, Rangers players could not believe their eyes when the referee disallowed the long throws of Nwabueze Nwankwo with which they had planned to dislodge the passing game of Hafía of Guinea. Ezeani and his mates tried as best they could in the oppressive circumstances, losing 2-1 in the end.

The Ezeani phenomenon may have been brief but it represented a major shift in Nigerian football from the old style centre-back to the modern libero such as Germany's Frank Beckenbauer. Ezeani paved the way for the emergence of the Christian Chukwus, Godwin Odiyes, Stephen Keshis, Uche Okechukwus, Taribo Wests and the sundry modern centre-backs who ensured that at last Nigeria could be counted among the countries winning soccer laurels. (END)

*Culled from **The Nigerian Voice**, Wed, 26 Oct 2011 (<http://www.thenigerianvoice.com/nvnews/72965/1/dominic-ezeani-and-the-reinvention-of-nigerian-foo.html>)

CKC Campus In Snaps



MUCH WORK DONE AND MUCH MORE LEFT TO BE DONE!

**Membership Annual Dues
And Donations
REMITTANCE FORM**

**Synoptic Report of the
NYC 2011 Convention**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone:(Cell) _____

Phone:(Home) _____

Phone: Office) _____

Email: _____

Fax: _____

Year Left CKC: _____

Profession: _____

Employer: _____

**Membership, Annual Dues and
“CKC Revitalization/Diamond
Jubilee Trust Fund”
Contributions Remittance Form**

Please find enclosed herewith, my contribution to the above fund as checked off below:

- \$50 Membership Registration
- \$50 Annual Membership Dues (For year _____)
- \$_____ General Contribution
- \$_____ CKC Revitalization/Diamond Jubilee Trust Fund
- \$_____ Adverts/Goodwill Message in CKC-AAA Journal
- \$_____ Chapter Remittance/Levy
- \$_____ Public Donation
- \$_____ Miscellaneous

I should be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of the enclosed amount and send me the pertinent tax-exempt document. Thank you.

**The Financial Secretary
CKC-AAA, Inc.
P.O. Box 335,
Rockville, Centre, NY 1157**

At the CKC-AAA Executive Committee meeting held on 18 November, 2011, CKC-AAA, NY Chapter officers rendered the financial account of the 2011 NYC Convention, which they hosted from 29-31 July 2011. Chapter President Mr. Eugene Agbimson reported that all expenses had been paid and accounts payable settled and deducted. The total revenue was **\$51,595.00**. Total convention expenses were **\$18,972.39**. Net revenue (income) was **\$18,972.39**, with outstanding pledges and receivables being **\$11,000.00**. Targeted donations to the “CKC Revitalization/Diamond Jubilee Trust Fund” (DJTF) totalled some **\$21,000.00**.

In accepting the convention report, President Emma Onua thanked the NYC LOC on behalf of the Executive Committee and commended NYC LOC for a job well done. He also expressed deep appreciation to CKC alumni and supporters for the generosity.



Editor's Box

This is Vol. 5 of our quarterly newsletter, **Amaka's Voice**, which serves as a communication medium for CKC-AAA members and indeed, alumni of the old glorious college. The newsletter will be circulated electronically, posted on our webpage and sent to members by surface mail. Send your contributions, if any, to: **Amaka's Voice**, The Editor: Selonnes@aol.com, Tel: 908-337-2766; or 231-387-0869.