

Lunga Adam: Brent, good to speak to you even though you might not be feeling great after being booted out of the CAF Confederations Cup by Cameroonian side FUS. But we actually want to know what's happening with you and SuperSport United.

Brent Carelse: I'm still under contract with the club, so I'm honouring it at the moment, but I'm going to have a meeting with them because there is a possibility that I might move on. The club is aware of that and it's up to them to decide if they want to keep me. If they want to keep me, then they must put in a good offer for me. I feel that I want to move on now.

LA: Have any offers for your services come in recently?

BC: Ja, you know, it's difficult to say, because I'm not the one who gets that information. I'm just a player. I go to work every day and do my job. Other things outside of the field like negotiations and contracts get sorted out by the people who are representing me. There have been offers from overseas and locally as well, but nothing solid yet. The clubs are a bit reluctant because I'm still contracted to SuperSport. A lot of clubs think SuperSport got me for nothing from Sundowns, but that's not the truth. SuperSport had to pay a fee for me. Everybody thought it was just a swap deal. Yes, Gaxa and Mphela went the other way, but the thing is, SuperSport had to pay for me because Sundowns didn't want me to leave. Now that teams are interested in me, they have to find out what the transfer fee is and the club will put it up there because they rate me highly. They are not going to let me go for peanuts.

LA: Cool...

BC: The reason I was initially reluctant to do the interview is because you guys at Soccer-Laduma said last season that I wanted to leave the team because I wasn't getting game time. I played more games than any other midfielder in the team. I was a regular when I was fit. I did have injuries last season, but not as much as the season before and I was happy. I contributed to the club and the club was happy with me. They don't want me to leave, but obviously if they get a good offer for me, they'll let me go. So it's not about me not getting game time. When I'm fit I always play because the coach believes in me and he knows that I can do the job for him.

LA: Tell us about working with Gavin Hunt, the man who also coached you as a youngster at Hellenic.

BC: I go back a long way with Gavin and I'm grateful to him for giving me an opportunity to play. When I was a youngster he gave me my debut. I have a really great relationship with him and he always advises me on things I should do and what football wants from me and what I can offer football. I always appreciate his words of wisdom. For me he's a great coach and I think he's the best in the country.

LA: People thought you would have been making it big in Europe at this time

I've been let down by the selectors

Brent Carelse is the kind of player that holds nothing back on the field. Such is his passion! But little did we know that even off the field, when talking about the beautiful game of football, the Westbury-born midfielder pulls no

punches. Soccer-Laduma's Lunga Adam watches from the sidelines as Carelse puts in some tough tackles on the Bafana Bafana technical team while mentioning that he has passed the ball to his representatives and is waiting to receive a return pass from them regarding his next move. Sit tight!



BRENT CARELSE FACT FILE

Full Name: Brent Jon Carelse
Date of Birth: 30 March 1980
Place of Birth: Westbury, Johannesburg
Jersey Number: 18 • **Position:** Midfielder
Club: SuperSport United
Previous clubs: School of Excellence, Hellenic, Saxon Rovers, Ajax Cape Town, Mamelodi Sundowns
Honours: 1 Bafana Bafana cap, 2008/09 and 2009/10 league champion (both with SuperSport)

I'm very surprised...

Jose Ferreira – SuperSport's commercial manager

"I have absolutely no knowledge of Brent Carelse's wish to move on and there have been no negotiations in that regard between the player and the team. As SuperSport United we have not received any proposals from clubs about acquiring his signature. He has a contract with us. This is very simple and it applies to Brent as much as it applies to the other players in the team...when you've got a contract with us, you are our player. I'm very surprised to hear that the player wants to move on and I think you guys at Soccer-Laduma might be referring to another player, not Brent."

because you were a massive star at Hellenic and you played for a big team like Mamelodi Sundowns. Are you disappointed about where your career is at this moment?

BC: No, no, no, I'm not disappointed per se, but I feel like I should be playing in the top leagues in Europe. But football is a strange sport...a strange business. You either get your chance or you don't, you know. But I'm happy with what I've done for local football because I've always performed at my best. There's not one season when people said I've performed badly. I've always been on top of my game and, as I'm getting older, I'm improving. That's a good sign. But I feel like national team wise, I've been let down by the selectors because they seem to be picking who they like. They are not picking people accord-

ing to their performances on the field. If I play for a team that is winning league titles year in and year out and reaches cup finals year in and year out, I should be the first name on the list, but that's always not the case.

LA: Perhaps you're one of those players who is underrated in South African football, because your game is characterised by tough tackles and letting the other players do the fancy footwork.

BC: People always ask me about this, but I tell them, you know what, I play football the way it should be played. Football is a simple game. All you need to do is pass the ball to your teammate. When you have to mark, you need to mark, and that's it. I score goals as well. On average I score five or six goals a season, and that in South African football for a midfielder is very good. But to the national selectors it's not good. For me it's a problem. Towards the end of the season, just before the World Cup, I thought I had a good chance to get a call-up to one of the training camps, but I didn't.

LA: Interestingly, Soccer-

Laduma recently did an interview with Erwin Isaacs and he thought maybe coloured players were getting the short end of the stick in terms of receiving Bafana call-ups...

BC: (Laughs) No! I want you to write this actually. There's no such thing. If you're good enough, you're good enough. It doesn't matter if you're black, white, green or yellow. The bottom line is, if South African football wants to move forward, they need to pick the best players to represent the country, no matter what. But that is part of the problem and that is why some of the players are getting upset and are bringing up things like that...colour, this and that, this one plays overseas, this one plays for a small club and so on. The coaches who are in charge of the national team need to pick the best players, and the best players are the ones that bring you results, and not the ones that have big names and play for big teams. It doesn't work in football! In Spain they've got that luxury of picking the best players because all the best players play for the best teams in Spain. In South Africa it's a different story. At the end of the season Barcelona is right on top and usually by a long way, but in South Africa we don't have that gap! We don't have that lux-

ury! They need to cast the net wider and I think even players from the First Division need to get a chance.

LA: Pitso Mosimane is the new coach. Does that bring you any hope?

BC: To be honest with you, I don't see anything changing. Pitso already has his squad and maybe in the next year or so he might change things. Things might start getting difficult for him and he might be under pressure. But for the next six months or a year, he's going to stick to the same team that was in the World Cup. And to be honest with you, the players that were playing in the World Cup were not good enough! That's why Carlos Alberto Parreira didn't make many substitutions, because the players on the bench...who was he going to bring on to make a difference? Let's be honest here!

LA: Good to see you speaking so passionately about some of the burning issues in South African football.

BC: You know, eish...my man, I don't want to talk about this because I'm a professional player in this league, so for me to talk about these issues is going to hamper my career, you know what I mean? I still want to play football in South Africa and I still want to represent my country one day, but if I don't, I don't! I know I'm good enough to do that, but I've always been overlooked. Even at junior level, I haven't played one game, even though I was one of the first youngsters to come through from the Transnet School of Excellence. The likes of Steven Pienaar and Ninja Mofokeng represented their country at that level, but I wasn't there. Maybe because I played for Gavin Hunt, that's why!

LA: Interesting!

BC: If someone is in charge of something, he mustn't try and make other people happy. He must make himself happy first. If you do that, you will succeed in life, but once you start trying to make other people happy, you will never succeed. You know, I told you I don't want to talk about these things, but it's difficult because I'm a South African. I was born here. I can't change my citizenship. You know, it's sad...a lot of people say South Africa did well in the World Cup. How can you say that when we are the first host country in history to go out in the first round of the World Cup? The draw for the World Cup was made six months before the World Cup, so how can you tell me that we didn't know that Uruguay had Diego Forlan? A lot of people said Parreira did well. Yes, he did well, he changed a lot of people's perceptions in South Africa, but at the end of the day, results talk, my man, results! When we go to the history books, we will see that South Africa only won one game in the 2010 World Cup. Not good enough, my man, not good enough!

LA: Unfortunately for you, Gavin Hunt, who knows you so well, lost out on the Bafana coaching job.

BC: No, man! Personally, I knew that he wouldn't get the job. I've been in South African football for a long time and I know how these things go. I just had this feeling that they would give it to Pitso. But I also believe that Pitso deserved the job because he's been there for a while and he needs to show what he can offer the country. If he does well, that's good for him!

LA: Let's leave it there, man! Thanks for being so open with us, we will chat again soon!

BC: Thanks, my man. ☐

KNOW YOUR PLAYER

Married: Yes, and I have two kids.
Car: BMW
Team supported growing up: Everton
Favourite player: Xavi
Celebrity Crush: None
What's playing on your iPod? Hip Hop
Cell phone make: Blackberry
On Facebook: Yes

CARELSE SAYS:

- They won't let me go for peanuts
- It's not about me not getting game time
- Our World Cup players were not good enough
- Sundowns didn't want me to leave

LA: Interestingly, Soccer-

YOU TELL CARELSE...

Ur at da ryt age 2 make a move 2 europe n ur job in S.A is done. Go man go ... Raudingana T
Submitted by: Tjus

BRENT...i think its time you go back 2you old team ajax because you dnt get that much of game time at ssu...and taking a look at ajax they lost ngobeni,i. davids
Submitted by: OSKID0#7

you can get more game time 2 attract our national selectors and u cn even settle well.
Submitted by: OSKID0#7

I mic u at Downs...u neva dissapointd me NOT ONCE...ur a lekker playa bro...downs wil always b ur Pozie...
Submitted by: Andlizz

He's a good destroyer who can do a good job at Naturena in the absence of Nengomasha. Hope dat the team pull this one.
Submitted by: walter4life

