

Hinjilucaya

Hinjilucaya Football Club is a professional football club based in the city of Lucaya, Hnji, Pharos. The club currently competes in PSL A, the top tier of Pharonian football, following their promotion from PSL B Division as champions.

Hinjilucaya was founded in 1884 as Lucaya Fosse FC and became known as Hinjilucaya in 1892. They have won the PSC Cup twice, in 2021 and 2022.



History

Lucaya Fosse (1884-1892) and early years

The club was founded in 1884 by a group of old boys of Lange Grammar School in Lucaya's Maori section, as Lucaya Fosse, so named because the team played on a field by the Fosse Road. Before moving to Fibler Street in 1891, the club played at five different grounds.

The club joined the Hnji Football Association in 1892, changing its name to Hinjilucaya FC. They won their first Hnji championship in 1894 and repeated their feat two years later in 1896 and again in 1898.

Hinjilucaya's fortunes halted for a while, when Taupo SC dominated the Hnji League in the early 1900's. They would win the championship again in 1906, adding a 5th and 6th trophy in 1909 and 1911.



Hinjilucaya 1892



Hinjilucaya vs Hinjoamaru in Fibler Street Gounds in 1896

1917-1950



Yum Ka Hiva

When the National League was created in the summer of 1917, Taupo SC, then Hinji champion, was the state's first representative, followed by Hinjioamaru in the next 3 seasons. Hinjilucaya won the 1921 local championship and participated for the first time in the National championship, finishing 9th, featuring stars like goalkeeper Yum Ka Hiva, defender Tane



Tane Noelani

Noelani and midfielders Mulin Vena and Ankor Pale.

It would take the team ten years to win another Hinji championship and re-appear in the National Level. Fieber Street Stadium was innovated between 1925 and 1927 and became the first stadium in Pharos to have executive suites. A double decker stand was built at the south, known as 'The Tiger Kop' and capacity rose to 40,000.



Peter Hodz

Under the management of Peter Hodz, Hinjilucaya won the 1931 Hinji Championship and went on to compete in the Nationals. They were leading the table for most of the time, but a defeat in Gilbey Town by Ferephon Union gave Chiftelov Sport the opportunity to



level on points and win the title due to a much superior goal difference (35-17 to Hinjilucaya's 23-21). The runner-up position was the best place a Hinji club would have in the Nationals, until Oamaru's 1st championship in 1971. Yum Ka Hiva was named the League's best goalkeeper that season.

Hodz led the tigers to the 1934 championship as well, the last for Mulin Vena, who retired that year and became Hodz's assistant. Oamaru FC dominated the rest of the 1930s in Hinji, so Hinjilucaya's next championship came in 1942, with Vena as general manager. They would win another four championships in 1945, 1946, 1948 and 1950 under Vena.



Mulin Vena

1950-1981



David Halid

From 1950 until the middle of 1960s, Hinjilucaya did not win any titles. David Halid succeeded Vena as manager in 1955. Halid took over with a roster of aging players; the team's average age in the last championship year in 1950 was 31.2 years! He introduced many players from the youth squads, as financing was not at its best. Some of the talents produced during that era would be sold to bigger clubs, like center forward Asper Rovel, who broke the club's record for goals scored in a single season, scoring 44 goals in 1958. Hinjilucaya would always finish in the top part

of the Hinji Championship, but could not overpass Oamaru FC, Hinjioamaru and even Rul Katai, the three teams that dominated that era. The decision to sell him to Rul Katai led to fan unrest and ultimately the sacking of David Halid in November 1963.



Pori Vuliman

Former goalkeeper Pori Vuliman took over from Halid and would go on to become arguably one of the club's most successful ever manager. Vuliman became well known for his ability to spot a good player during his time at Salvor Hardin Stadion (as Fbler Street stadium was renamed in 1950 to honour the Pharos Premier who was born in Lucaya), bringing through the ranks of the team players such as the twins Aluna brothers, Jole and Jord, from Altar Hawera

and center backs Munli Tyk from Rul Katai and Rin Hailata from Kar Runui.

He also introduced several youngsters from the youth squads, like Onum Maruti, Lev T'eh and Dokor Wolto.



Onum Maruti



Lev T'eh

Hinjilucaya won 6 Hinji Championships under the stewardship of Vuliman in 1966, 1968, 1970, 1973, 1974 and 1978 and earned one of the two tickets, alongside Oamaru FC, awarded to Hinji

teams for the PSL A division formed in 1981.



Asper Rovel



Rin Hailata



Dokor Wolto

The early PSL era and the downfall

Hinjilucaya's first season in PSL did not go well. Yord Krese had succeeded Vuliman in 1980 as manager, but was sacked in mid-season 1981-82, with former player Salvor Khosorweia taking over. The team finished second-bottom and Hinjilucaya were relegated to PSL B. They stayed in the second division until 1985-86 and they were relegated again to the local Hinji League, where they would stay until 2004, since PSL became a closed 24-team (and later 20-team) League, with no relegation and promotion.

In 1997 a new club, Amar Lucaya, was formed in the city in order to fill a spot in the PSL. The professional League offered Hinjilucaya a merger with the new club, but the board refused, so did the fans, who stayed loyal to their old club, with gates beginning to rise. The board also asked a huge amount for the use of Salvor Hardin Stadion from Amar, which raised the club's economic status. Amar's experiment lasted for only 2 years and the newly formed club fell to the Hinji second division with huge financial problems.

During this 23-year-long 'black period' for the club, tickets fall dramatically and so was financing. They would win the local Hinji title only twice, in 1987 and in 2004, changing no

less than 16 managers, most of them former players. Most prominent of them was Lori Grod, a Lucaya native, who developed the academies and youth squads of the team, producing great talents from 2000 to 2004.



Lori Grod

Kal Oger Stadion

Plans of building a new stadium in Lucaya came in 1990s, when the existing Salvor Hardin Stadion wasn't fit to meet modern requirements any more. Due to small space for expansion, a new site was chosen in the south-eastern side of the city, where a power plant used to stand before. Vil Arets was hired to design the stadium, which initially was intended to have a retractable roof. Later, due to



Kal Oger Stadion

budget constraints, the plan was downsized. Along with ESTE constructors, Arets incorporated a school, cinema and casino, all with extensive underground parking facilities for over 1,000 vehicles. Aside from the ff 105 mln stadium two high-rise buildings and a commercial outlet were planned, together priced at ff 160 mln. In the future it's possible to expand up to some 33,000-35,000 by adding an extra tier of seating over the two existing ones. Construction lasted for 2 years and the new stadium was ready for use in January 2006, holding 22,550 spectators, all-seated, and several executive boxes. It was named Kal Oger Stadion after Hinji's uprising local hero.

Back to the top tiers

In 2005, with the expansion of PSL, Hinjilucaya were automatically placed in PSL B, as Hinji League champions. Lori Grod left to work in Taupo and Bred McLean was given the manager's job.

McLean fielded a team with many players from the youth squad, all of them products of Grod, having 8 players under 20 years-old and another 8 under 23 years-old, making the Hinjilucaya team



Bred McLean



Less Dena



Yate Carneti

one of the youngest teams ever to compete in PSL. He was lucky enough to have such stars, as Less Dena and Yate Carneti, who were later big stars with Dominic, AG Nobel and the National Team.

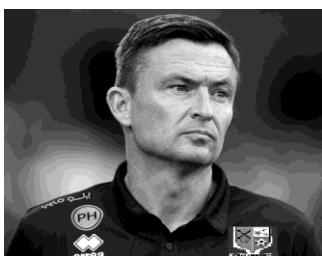
Hinjilucaya would finish in mid table of the second division for the next few years despite selling all of the young

stars they produced to the big names of the Pharonian League. Dena and Carneti were sold in 2006, which led to McLean's resignation, but new talents were coming, such as defenders Dokor Manton, Moree Latal and Kleon Isler and goalkeeper Fenel Troy. Although none of them stayed for long, the club managed to maintain its position in the second division, without the danger of a new relegation to the local league.



Fenel Troy

Linge Hudanit, a former Champion and Amar Lucaya player was hired as manager in 2012.



Linge Hudanit

After a 7th place in his first season, Hudanit impressed during the 2013 transfer season, acquiring some experienced players, mainly from Atlantic Union, like Yate Zool, Yord Orre and Yord Talese. Hinjilucaya topped PSL B in 2013-14 and were promoted to the PSL A. Unfortunately, they could not perform accordingly and were relegated again, finishing last and Hudanit was sacked.



Yate Zool

Yol Ginger, a former center back and manager of Oamaru FC and Taupo SC was hired as Hudanit's replacement. Ginger would stay for 5 seasons, from 2015 to 2020, but could not help Hinjilucaya to return to the top tier, finishing most of the times at the bottom half of the PSL B table. The club was lacking the financing of a wealthy owner, so they would depend on ticket sales, TV contracts and donations and lucrative transfers were not possible.

Following an almost disastrous 2019-20 season, when Hinjilucaya avoided relegation to PSC Leagues at the last moment, the board decided to part ways with Ginger and to turn to former manager Linge Hudanit again.

Back-to-back PSC Cup triumphs

Starting the 2020-21 season, Hinjilucaya was quoted as a probable relegation candidate. Hudanit made several new signings in the transfer season, all of them Lucaya or Hinji-born players, having a roster where only 4 players were from other parts of Pharos. Having a series of lucky draws, Hinjilucaya reached the semi-finals of the PSC Cup. In a packed Kal Oger stadium, they beat Zaria on penalties and advanced to the final. On 12 May 2021, Hinjilucaya faced Dalton SC in Greenfield. After a scoreless 120min game, Hinjilucaya won their first major trophy on a penalty shootout 8-7, with Less Benne missing the last penalty.

Hinjlucaya missed promotion to the PSL A on goal difference from Queensland Utd. In the 2021 transfer season, Hudanit went on to a major change in the team's roster, buying experienced players, like 38-year-old center back Orum Prank from Chiftelov Sport, midfielder Olav Ponder from Normatia and forwards Fenel Raab from Victoria City and Anselm Eventil from Astrix Villemstad. The 23-year-old American playmaker Tanner Tessmann was the first



Hinjlucaya 2021 PSC Cup winners



Taner Tessmann

foreigner to play for the club, ahead to their participation in UEFA's Europa League.

Hudanit had to balance over 3 competitions, the Europa League, the Cup and the effort for promotion in the PSL A. Hinjlucaya participated in the group stage of the Europa League, facing Bayer Leverkusen, Celtic and Ferencvaros. They finished in 2nd place and were advanced to the play-out round, eliminating Zenit St.Petersbourg on penalties. In the round of 16 they were eliminated

by Eintracht Frankfurt.

In the PSL B Championship race, Hudanit and his team finished in the 2nd place and were promoted to PSL B. As defending cup holders, they reached the final again, eliminating on



Milo Setalin scores past Stuiver in the 2022 PSC Cup final

the way Dalton SC and Ag Nobel. On 11 May 1922 in Greenfield, they faced Olympic Eptapolis and won their second PSC Cup with a Milo Setalin extra time goal. Hinjlucaya became the first team in the world to win back-to-back Cup titles, being a second division club.

Hinjlucaya's triumph and triple race were too much for Hudanit and the club in 2022-23. They were eliminated in the 3rd round of the PSC Cup by Zenith Parietal and in Europe made the play-out round of

Conference League, finishing 3rd in their Europa League group with Freiburg, Olympiacos FC and Qarabag. This time they were eliminated by Belgium's KAA Gent. The effort in Europe had its toll in the championship race and Hinjlucaya finished in the last position and were relegated one more time to PSL B.

The Board decided to stick with Hudanit. Tessmann was sold to Hilvar Athletics and the club went on to win the 2023-24 PSL B Championship and earn their immediate promotion to the top tier again.