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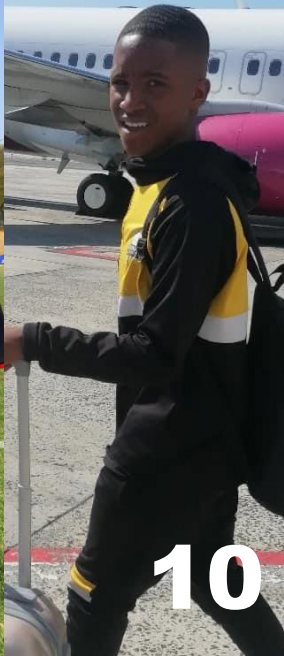
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FROM THE EDITOR

The Netball World Cup fever has hit Cape Town like never before as South Africa gears up to host their first-ever netball spectacle in July. What a precursor to the event when the De Tyger netball club won the Twizza National Netball Club Championships late last year – the first time that the title came to Cape Town (page 2).

With so many programmes, including the street netball initiative, launched to create hype around the tournament, Cape Town communities will likely benefit a lot, and the World Cup will leave a lasting legacy.

Regarding leaving legacies, Mother City is gifted with many sportspeople who are turning stones into bread to benefit the current and future generations. Among them is the excellent Xolile Madikane, the founder and mentor of the Cape Town Roses women's football club. Having produced so many national players and footballers who have gone to play for top teams around South Africa and abroad, it's so good

that Roses is bringing back their glory days, crushing almost every opponent in recent times (page 4). One wonders when Mr Madikane will be recognised with a role in the national set-up because his pedigree speaks for itself.

It is always inspiring when a budding sports star enters a professional club's doors. Yaseen Mannie's move to Kaizer Chiefs early this year is one of those stories (page 8). In this issue, football agent Sipho Joyisi demonstrates many ways to skin a cat (page 12). Mncedisi Msuthu's selfless acts of giving back to his community are a fantastic story and show the essential roles that sports philanthropists play in society (page 18).

Welcome to another Cape At 6 Sports edition, your favourite amateur sports publication. Happy reading!

MYOLISI GOPHE
Editor in chief



DE TYGER'S TWIZZA NATIONAL NETBALL VICTORY INSPIRATIONAL

By Staff Writer | Images: Courtesy SA Netball, De Tyger Netball Club

De Tyger Netball Club's historic triumph over Rising Stars at the Twizza National Netball Club Championships was more than just a victory in a sporting competition – it was a message of hope for many Cape Town netball players.

The victory, in Stars own backyard in Limpopo marked the first time a Cape Town team triumphed at the Twizza National Netball Club Championships.

And it could not have come at a better time - a year before Cape Town would host the first Netball World Cup on African soil.

"Our victory at the Twizza National Netball Club Championships brings a message of hope to every player in our community who has higher aspirations in netball, but has not yet made it into a provincial team,"

said De Tyger team captain, Maryke Theron. Theron attributes the Cape Town Netball Federation team's victory to an exceptional and well-balanced team.

"Our players were versatile and that allowed the coaching staff to experiment throughout the tournament until the perfect combinations were found. Our players were fit and well-conditioned, which allowed them to give 100% effort every match. And we had one player in our team that represented CTNF at U/21 level this year."

The feeling in the team, she adds, is a mixture of disbelief and excitement.

"The ladies worked so hard for the victory – and it was truly a team effort. From the coaches, management, support staff, bench players and players on court...everyone played

their part to ensure the success of the team.”

Individual players from the team still managed to shine, however – as Lisa Vos was named as the Best Shooter of the Tournament and Lindsey-Ann Sparrow took home the Best Defender award.

With Cape Town hosting the Netball World Cup this year, Theron believes more could be done to create hype and promote the event.

“We need more than just the netball community to know about and support the World Cup,” she says. “And we need to show netballers that if you continue to work hard, there will be other opportunities where you can showcase your talent and compete against the best clubs from across the country – and the world.”

Authorities have heeded the calls as Cape Town officially marked 100 days before Africa’s first ever Netball World Cup is in style, unveiling the latest mural commemorating the tournament and launching street netball games.

The mural was unveiled outside the CTICC, which will be the home of the quadrennial tournament for two weeks in July, and Executive Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis commemorated this along with Mayoral Committee Member for Safety and Security Alderman JP Smith, Sports, Arts and Culture Minister Zizi Kodwa, Western Cape MEC for Sports and Culture Anroux Marais and members of the Netball community.

The life-size artwork, paying homage to Cape Town’s netball heritage and the Mother City, is situated on Lower Long Street between Walter Sisulu Avenue and Wharf Street. The street mural adds to a list the City commissioned across the metro since last July to raise awareness in the lead up to the upcoming international netball tournament.

The large artwork will remain on the road surface for the next few months and will be part of Cape Town’s

official fan park for the event. The fan park will be situated on Cullinan Square and will be a space where fans can watch matches, enjoy live entertainment, play games and enjoy a family environment for the duration of the Netball World Cup which starts in three months’ time.

“Cape Town is officially ready to welcome the world to our beautiful city this July. A lot of hard work has been going on behind the scenes for over 36 months to ensure Cape Town is able to deliver a memorable Netball World Cup experience for players and spectators “Just like we had thousands on the Grand Parade for the 2010 World Cup, we want this space to be a place where thousands of Netball fans can gather to enjoy games and everything netball. We call on the world to come experience a uniquely African Netball World Cup in one of the world’s top destinations and for locals to bring the gees to back the Proteas,” said Mayor Hill-Lewis.

The City is also in the process of finalising plans for four other viewing areas in Langa, Khayelitsha, Bellville South and Mitchells Plain.

Part of Cape Town’s build up to the Netball World Cup is the City-sponsored Street Netball programme led by the Sporting Chance Development Foundation. The 100 days event served as the programme’s soft launch with an exhibition match featuring Sporting Chance’s U/13 girls team from Langa.

The inaugural street netball programme will see over 760 junior netball players from Grassy Park, Elsies River, Mitchells Plain, Khayelitsha, Langa, Mfuleni, Ocean View and Nomzamo take part. The initiative is aimed at guiding them towards future opportunities through the valuable lessons of sport.

Regional finals are planned for Youth Day, 16 June 2023, and the festival finale will take place in the Fan Park next to the CTICC to coincide with the 2023 Vitality Netball World Cup.



PASSING IT FORWARD:

ROSES SET FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT BAR HIGH

By Myolisi Gophe

The story of South African women's football would not be complete without a mention of Cape Town Roses Football Club – a powerhouse and a renowned factory of the game.

Ask founder and coach Xolile Madikane how many trophies his Roses team won over the years and he just throws his arms up and says "I don't know."

Ask him how many players Roses have produced who have gone to play for various national teams and other top teams around the country, on the continent and abroad, and his response is the same, "I don't know."

That's not because he hasn't been paying attention – it's just that the sheer scale of the team's achievements over the past two decades defies calculation. The team's countless trophies, including some for the Sasol League and Coke Cup – some of the most difficult tournaments to win – have filled offices at Lwazi Primary School, where Madikane is a deputy principal, and spilled out into Madikane's home, and even his parents' house.

This year alone, the Gugulethu-based Roses have already won the Cup of Dreams trophy to add to the five cups – the Stan Mathews Cup, the Bayview Cup, the Golden United Tournament, the under 16 division

of the Denis Goldberg Champions Cup, and the Cape Town leg of the Engen Knockout Challenge they took home last year. They also narrowly missed out on the Engen Champs of Champs in Johannesburg, losing 5-4 on penalty shootouts in the final to the University of Johannesburg after the two sides were locked on 2-2 at full time.

At the event, Roses goalkeeper Luniko Dywili and forward Jade Jones were named as the Goalkeeper of the Tournament and the Striker of the Tournament, respectively. The brilliance of midfielder Lulamela Vena and forward Siyamthanda Macingwana was rewarded with call-ups to join the national Under 17 team training camp in Jozi.

So what has made Roses such a formidable team in Cape Town (and beyond)?

Madikane believes two things have been key to the team's success: good teaching skills; and a no-nonsense approach to football.

"I'm not here just a coach; I'm a teacher to these learners. I tell parents that sport and education go hand-in-hand. You can't say your child will not go to a team practice unless she is not going to school. That has helped us to be successful, because people take sport to the same level as education."



A strong disciplinarian, Madikane doesn't take kindly to excuses.

"You will never be good until you give your all in training. My players know the philosophy of the team. It's all about discipline. We have one set of rules for all: I won't hesitate to send home a top striker with one game remaining in a competition. I would rather lose the entire team than have players who are ill-disciplined."

But where did it all start?

Xolani Madikane was born in Langa, but he grew up in the Eastern Cape towns of Gcuwa, Centane and Ngqamakhwe. He returned to the Mother City to pursue his studies in education, initially at the former Cape Town College and then at the University of Cape Town, and then joined Lwazi Primary School in 1996.

He was coaching a boy's football team at the school, and a few girls joined in. Soon their number began to grow (and grow and grow), prompting him to start an after-school girls' team in 1998 so that it would be open to learners from the neighbouring schools. The following year they won the provincial league – and the rest, as they say, is history.

And what a history!

The team has constantly produced world-class Footballers, including the Cesane twins, Noxolo and Sinxolo, who are plying their trades in France and the United States, respectively; Namibian star Dina Shithula; and Banyana stars Leandra Smeda, Roxanne Barker and Ode Fulutudilu; the list is endless.

In fact, when the first National Women's League (now called the HollywoodBets Super League) was established in 2019, Roses had to release no less than 17 players as clubs around the country helped themselves to his products. "I tried to take up the matter with Safa but to no avail. At some point I wanted to just give up and sell Roses."

That season Roses became a shadow of its former self, and took a beating in the league. "It was tough but we've tried to establish our stamp again and produce good players in all divisions."

Madikane's biggest wish is for more support to women's football from parents, the community and especially the corporate sector. The team has never been sponsored, except for Lotto a few years ago. Balls, kits and cones are paid for out of his pocket and the money the team wins from tournaments.

It's not enough to do the players justice. "You see what these kids are wearing," he says, pointing to children training with flops, school shoes and worn-out takkies. "When a child goes for the ball, you are never sure if this is what she can do, because she is trying



to keep balance while trying to control the ball at the same time. If she slips, she gets frustrated."

Still, there are light-hearted moments, too. Like when a young girl who was to be a keeper for the first time cried when she was teased by others that she would remain in the box (18 area) while others play. Or a young striker who when the coaching staff called on her to hold the ball (before taking a shot) but she literally held the ball with her hands.

Someone of Madikane's calibre could be expected to be contributing his expertise to a national football structure. "Not in this country. We will never win a major international tournament because we are never represented by the best material we have in the country. But I'm okay and I'm doing my work, and busy doing something for the community."

What makes Madikane jump out of bed to coach girls after all these years?

"When something like this happens," he says, pointing to an Under 14 goalkeeper teaching a new girl who is coming to training for the first time. She was born ten years after I started the team, and now she's a first team goalkeeper teaching the young ones, as she was also taught by others. When I don't have to be all over in training, then I know I have produced teachers. And we can always use more teachers."

NEXTGENMEN: SHIFTING TRADITIONAL GENDER NORMS THROUGH SPORT

Project NextGenMen is an initiative aimed at using sport to improve society – by developing youth who have a different understanding of what it means to be a man, and how to be positive game-changers in their communities.

It's no secret that gender-based violence (GBV) is a deep-seated issue in South African homes, institutions, cultures and traditions. That's why the School of Hard Knocks, an NGO, launched Project NextGenMen (NGM), an initiative aimed at using sport to improve society – actioning Nelson Mandela's words that sport has the ability to change the world.

"We know there is a pandemic in South Africa of violence against women," Vuyo Kayi, NGM project manager, explains. "To combat it, we need to help develop new ideas of manhood – for all men, regardless of race, geographical area, culture or creed. And for that, we need to create a platform for men to discuss deep and sensitive stuff."

Established in 2022, NGM has become that platform – using the power of football to shift attitudes, hosting tournaments and delivering workshops around updating traditional gender norms, improving relationship health and, ultimately, reducing harmful behaviours towards women in Cape Town and surrounding areas.

In late April, NGM hosted another successful workshop in Harare, Khayelitsha which drew a big crowd and had former convicts as speakers.

"To make society better, we need to work with men," explains Ashwin Engel, one of the NGM facilitators. "And instead of just

scolding them, we need to talk to them and hear what men have to say about men."

Supported by the Embassy of Ireland, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and the New Zealand High Commission, Project NGM starts with a look at the roles and expectations traditionally placed on men.

Workshops have sessions focusing on building healthy relationships, acting against GBV, dealing with emotions and creating support structures in communities – and what it means to be a man.

"We find that many men don't know what picture they need to paint and what side of themselves they need to show to be real men," Engel says. "That puts a lot of pressure on them. And because men don't know how to deal with their emotions, they often use violence."

Men are asked to consider how a "TRADITIONAL MAN" acts and puts those answers in the traditional man "BOX". Then participants are asked what men who step "OUTSIDE" this box act like, discussing examples of things they do around the house and in their community that go against traditional ideas of masculinity.

"Something that stood out is that men want to speak to other men about their issues. They are quite engaging and speak from the heart. Some opened up quite deeply about their challenges – and I admire them for that."

According to Engel, the NGM curriculum stands out from the rest because they don't point fingers at men.

"We try to help men instead of blaming the men for everything that is going wrong. There was a trend that 'men are trash'. We are not on that; we are trying to find out what men have to say. And when you give a man a chance to voice himself, you will hear the truth and see that he reacts better."





DEVELOPING GAME-CHANGERS: WHO ARE THE NEXT GENERATION MEN?

Over 200 young men from mainly disadvantaged areas in Cape Town have been participating in the initiative.

Those who have come through the programme become “game-changers” - men who have a different understanding of masculinity and how this can be displayed in communities, and who know the importance of standing up against negative behaviours regardless of pressure from friends and others.

So...does it work?

According to the evaluation results, intentions to act as gender allies increased by 30%, capacity to denounce violence increased by 31%, discussion about gender equality among participants increased by 59%, and knowledge about toxic masculinity increased by 220%.

But those are just the numbers. The impacts on individuals have been even more impressive.

“I have learned that it’s not always wise to act instantly,” one young man says. “The challenging part is my relationship with my father because of his actions. But since I came to this programme, I’ll have to see things differently and find out why he is doing what he is doing. I know it is not going to be easy.”



For Tsepo Mollisa, New Stars Coach, it’s essential to not only focus on playing football as sportspeople. “In this programme, we got to experience seeing things from a different perspective on gender-based violence. Now we know how to treat our sisters and mothers better.”

Asive Mashicila of Harare Goal Hunters FC adds: “In the NGM, we learned how to control ourselves as men, how to respond to issues we may have with women - and now I always challenge myself to check how I talk to women and older people.”

Ta Terror says a group of players from his team grew up as friends but turned out to be enemies after arguments about “men” following after going through the circumcision initiation. He took them to the NGM workshops, and their differences were resolved.

“Now they can joke around, and they are the players I have known all these years. I’m sitting here and watching people who are changing their characters. I’m very excited for them to be willing to learn and to be men enough to understand issues”.

Having enjoyed resounding success, a junior NGM programme is set to be piloted to teenage boys in the next few months. And in the meantime, there’s also Next Generation Women, designed to provide adolescent girls and young women with the mental health resources to deal with the challenges they face today.



YOUNG CHIEF:

PASSION AND HARDWORK PROPEL YASEEN MANNIES TO THE TOP

By Staff Writer | Images: Supplied



It's every young South African footballer's dream to be in the books of Kaizer Chiefs – and for Cape Town rising star Yaseen Mannies, that dream came true...by chance.

Mannies hails from Valhalla Park, and visited Johannesburg with his coach to trial at two different institutions. The Kaizer Chiefs Academy was not one of them. But when the opportunity presented itself, the gifted former Valhalla United mid-cum-striker grabbed it with both hands, and the scouts were more than impressed.

"My move to Kaizer Chief Youth Academy came as a surprise and I couldn't say no when the opportunity came," Mannies recalls. "We visited Joburg with my coach, Coach Ash, and we weren't supposed to end up trialing at KC Academy. We were on our way to two different assessments and mine came as a surprise as I said with my two other teammates that went to Stars of Africa Academy."

Mannies may only be fourteen, but he's been a football fanatic for years. He joined Valhalla United in the Northerns LFA from a young age and played for the side until his move to Jozi, winning a couple of

individual accolades for the club and the LFA.

Having seen Mannies grow from the age of five, Valhalla United coach Ashley Olivier is overjoyed about the young man's achievements, and he's not the only one: the club and the community have been very supportive of Mannies' dream.

"It's the best feeling ever to have been alongside Yaseen, seeing him grow and evolve into one of the best Youth players in our community, Northerns LFA, and even in Cape Town," Coach Olivier says.

After spending a month in the academy, the former Montevideo Primary School learner returned home recently before flying back to Jozi to re-join his new teammates on Tuesday.

"Since day one I was treated very well and also received well from my coach Jimmy Jambo, the technical team and also all the players," he says. "The training facilities for me are by far a blessing because from where I come from we do not have the fully equipped and functional facilities. But we did our best at Valhalla United FC in everything we do - and it's paid off."

RISE STAR: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

With Chiefs among the top clubs on the African continent, and possibly the most sought-after by talented young footballers, it's not exactly easy to land into their books. So what makes the 14-year-old Mannies so special?

"I am just a normal person," he says. "I love food, family, spending quality time with friends - and always playing soccer. I think it's more my passion as a youth footballer that makes me do my best."

Coach Ash doesn't dispute that passion, but he has a different view.

"From a coaching perspective, Yaseen has been very advanced at his age and has represented Valhalla United FC from the age of 5 to 13 years old. He played u14, u16 and u18, winning in all divisions, and also being the youngest player in the Coke cup scoring goals in the competition."

Mannies' accomplishments aren't exactly a surprise, he says.

"Even though Cape Town scouts never noticed him, we knew he would make it somewhere one day. Yaseen is just special - and any coach would want him to play in their team. He is cool, calm and collected, and does the job being coachable."

Mannies' dream is to push and work hard and make his debut in the MDC team of Amakhosi, as Chiefs are affectionately called, by the age of 16 (if possible).

Meanwhile, Mannies is enjoying every moment in his new home away from home

"My first month so far at Kaizer Chief is already something amazing," he says. "I can only thank my coach and my parents for helping me get on this and for all the important things we had to do for me to get here."

For the fellow young people, Mannies have some encouraging words.

"Everyone deserves a chance in life - but you have to work hard for what you want. Always have a positive mindset and stay away from the negative things."



"Even though Cape Town scouts never noticed him, we knew he would make it somewhere one day."



ICE HOCKEY STAR BREAKS BARRIERS

By Staff Writer | Images: Courtesy SA Netball, De Tyger Netball Club

Hlumelo Booï is taking his love of playing on ice international: the Gugulethu youth is one of few Cape Town youngsters in the South African Under 20 and Under 18 ice hockey teams that participated in Ice Hockey World Championships recently.

Booï's first experience on ice came when he accompanied his family to his sister's figure skating practices in Grand West. He couldn't just watch – and he soon found himself enjoying playing on the ice instead.

So when an opportunity presented itself to join an ice hockey team, the Gugulethu-based youth grabbed it with both hands – and he turned out to be very good at it.

In January-February, Hlumelo was part of the South African Under 20 ice hockey team that participated in the Ice Hockey World Championships in Turkey. In March he was also selected to be in the Under 18 tournament in Cape Town.

While Hlumelo was unavailable to speak to Cape At Six Sport due to his busy schedule, his father, Monde Booï, who introduced him and his sister Lisakhanya, to

the sport, could not hide his family's happiness about his selection.

"As a family, we are all very excited about his inclusion in the national team," he says. "He spent the festive season hard at work training and preparing, and he has big dreams for the tournament."

It's not the first time that Hlumelo's outstanding talent has been spotted by the national selectors. In 2021 he represented South African juniors in their Under 18 tour to Bosnia – an experience he thoroughly enjoyed.

Mr Booï believes that ice hockey has changed his son for the good.

"Hlumelo has changed a lot since he started to play ice hockey. He is enjoying himself so much he's even stopped playing football (which he was also good at) to only focus on ice hockey. And he is now more focused at school, more analytical and observant. When he went to Bosnia, he looked at the development and economy of that country more closely. Ice hockey has really built his capacity for thinking clearly about tough issues."

THINKING BIG – AND BREAKING BARRIERS

Hlumelo, a learner at Premier College in Athlone, is one of just three black Africans in the 21-member South African Under 20 squad. This is a situation, according to Mr Booï, that his son would dearly like to see changed.

So Hlumelo has offered to be the assistant coach of his team's Under 12 and under 16 divisions to impart the expertise he has accumulated. He hopes young kids will relate easily with him in terms of the language as he understands their backgrounds and situations.

"Ice hockey is still dominated by the white population, but Hlumelo has broken those barriers. And he wants to keep breaking them, even when he stops playing – his goal is to become a coach to help more and more young kids from disadvantaged communities to join ice hockey."

One of those barriers, unfortunately, is financial.

Although Hlumelo and his teammates are flying the national flag in Europe, they had to dig deep into their own pockets to make their trip a reality, raising their own funds to pay for flights, accommodation and meals.

But while this may make success challenging, Mr Booï believes that many others could follow in Hlumelo's footsteps, if they get the chance.

"Hlumelo has shown that challenges can be overcome – and he wants others to achieve as well," Booï says. "As long as one is exposed to the sport, is focused, puts in effort and hard work, talent will show. Anything is possible."

"As a family, we are all very excited about his inclusion in the national team,"



SIPHO JOYISI:

FOOTBALL INTERMEDIARY TOUGH BUT CAREER FULFILLING

By Myolisi Gophe

As a young village boy, Siphso Joyisi always dreamed of plying his football trade at professional and international levels, and he had all that it takes to achieve that: he was so good that he represented the former Transkei homeland at national games and could have easily cracked it.

But circumstances were difficult for budding sports stars like him to be exposed to potential suitors, and his promising football playing career ended there.

However, as they say, there are many ways to skin the cat, and Joyisi has quenched his thirst to participate in international football by turning to a football intermediary or agent.

His Soccer Consultants Group-SA works with international partners and has offices in New Delhi (India), Valencia (Spain) and Buenos Aires (Argentina) that are registered in those countries, making it easier to secure moves for a number of his clients to clubs across the globe.

"I was a football star and should have been a professional player," recalls Joyisi, born in the Eastern Cape of Gatyana. "We had top players (in Transkei), but they were not exposed. That is why I told myself I would push and will always be in football to help those coming after me. And I'm glad I'm where I am today and globally known for good things".

Among his many clients are Ncumisa Ngolozela, Lazola Ngewu, Gadifela Mojaki and Sinovuyo Mkwana - the four young women footballers from Bot River in the Overberg who secured their childhood dreams of moving abroad when they signed for Gori United in Georgia in June.

Where did it all start?

After matriculating, Joyce studied public administration management at the former Peninsula Technikon. But he only worked for a year in the field at Stellenbosch Municipality before joining Old Mutual where he connected with former pro footballer Roger Links.

But it was after joining a Durban-based company whose owner was friends with the late Steve' Kalamazoo' Mokone, his football intermediary career took off. He started by organizing scholarships for youngsters who were not too good academically but





good in sports to pursue their studies and sporting careers in the United States.

With club football activities taking a break for the Qatar 2022 World Cup, the football transfer window is opening soon, and football intermediaries like Joyce are likely to be busy. Is this a lucrative field?

"It's a good business, but it's bad news if you are here for money," Joyisi comments. "It has a bad and good side. I always advise people to conduct thorough research on agents before working with them.

"That is why we prefer to play the role of football manager and have a player development plan for our clients. Sometimes you have to be a brother and a parent because you want a holistic development approach. You have to know where the player stays, where he was born, if he has kids, a girlfriend, etc. We use their backgrounds as factors to motivate contract negotiations.

"You must look at his abilities and have short, medium and long-term goals. Yes, a player can be excellent, but you need to check his abilities to see if he can fit in a pressurized environment in big clubs like Chiefs and Pirates. In such situations, even the jersey, the badge, teammates, the chairman, fans, your family, people you know, and the media put you under pressure. But not in other teams. So you need to look at the player's mentality to see if he can carry all of those pressures. The mentality is more important than the potential".

For Joyisi and his colleagues, identifying talent is not a big issue, but the challenge sometimes is getting players released by clubs, especially from informal football. "They like to be dominant and often don't see the bigger picture. It's difficult to work with such

players without real development. It is easy in formal football when you know the rules."

The field, though, is not for the faint-hearted; practitioners experience heartaches and face danger at times. Like when Joyce was travelling with players to a European country he was a regular, only to be turned back for what he found to be racial profiling.

Or when he received death threats from a parent after a potential deal fell through following dealings with "wrong people" from a central African country.

And it is a dog-bites-dog field that some growing agents find difficult. "Some big agents can easily go to a family of a promising footballer and offer them R250 000 to sign with them".

Despite that, the football intermediary has allowed Joyce to fulfill his ambition to participate in the sport he loves at a global scale, and he is enjoying it.



SAFA CAPE TOWN OFFICER MANAGER GRESCHEN JAFTHA IS CLEARING OBSTACLES

By Staff Writer



After serving Cape Town football for more than a decade, Greschen Jaftha has been appointed as the first woman Office Administrator for SAFA Cape Town - and she's on a mission.

Jaftha was appointed as the first woman Office Manager for the Cape Town region of the South African Football Association, aka SAFA Cape Town, as of the beginning of 2023.

It's something to be proud of, naturally. But as far as Jaftha is concerned, it's not just about her.

"The LFA members are the key customers of SAFA Cape Town - and customer satisfaction is my key motivating factor," she says. "My job is to provide the service that will ensure we sustain customer loyalty, while at the same time continue to grow the membership of the Region through sound decisive leadership."

The eldest daughter of Audrey and Greg Jaftha, Greschen Jaftha completed her schooling at Bridgetown High School in Bridgetown. She joined SAFA in 2011, where her duties covered player registration, a repetitive function. But she soon

realised the importance thereof: there were thousands of footballers out there depending on her to produce their player's card so they could compete over the weekend in the game they loved.

"I could see a career path for myself at SAFA Cape Town," she recalls. "And under the guidance of the Office Manager, Morne Barnes - a walking football encyclopaedia - I started to broaden my knowledge and understanding of the administrative functions of football operations."

There was a lot to learn.

"The more I learned the greater my love for football became. The complexities of the rules became clearer as I expanded my knowledge and I found myself in the support structures of all committees."

Morne, sadly, was called home to eternal rest on 30 September 2020, and Jaftha was appointed as Acting Office Manager in October 2020.

"The job entails (among other things) attending to all incoming and outgoing correspondence, preparation of meeting packs and managing registrations targets. It also involves supporting the Regional Executive Committee, purchasing office stationery, provisions and equipment, managing events with relevant portfolios and Supervision of office staff."

She acquitted herself beyond expectations, always providing the service excellence demanded by customers, while meeting all agreed deadlines. With the late Elton Lotriet as her mentor, they were driven to be the world-class administrative unit in South African football.

And this year, her hard work was rewarded when she was officially appointed as Office Manager in January 2023.

LOOKING FORWARD: FOOTBALL & THE FUTURE

Having served SAFA CT for so long, Gretha has faced many challenges and difficulties.

"The low moments I have experienced was when football was halted in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. So many innocent little ones at home, ground under the restrictions that were imposed. And loadshedding - need I say more?"

But there have been wins as well.

"The highs include (but are not limited to) Coke Cup finals day and seeing registration officers leaving the office satisfied that they are in possession of the players' cards to enable our members to enjoy the game they all loved."

"Together we can achieve more," she says. "I was blessed and will remain eternally grateful for the support, guidance and mentorship that I received from the former Office Manager Morne Barnes, Former General Secretary Elton Lotriet and the SAFA Cape Town President, Mr Bennett Bailey."

That's just the nature of the game, really.

"Football by its very nature and the diversity of our members will continue to give rise to new challenges," she says. "We must have an open mind and view challenges as opportunities to serve our membership. And we must continue to reach out to the corporate world as the region is in need of sponsorships so we can continue our development strategies at grass roots level, including schools football."

Her advice to the youth who want to have a successful career in football: strive to develop and grow; work hard; and be a team player.

"Together we can achieve more," she says. "I was blessed and will remain eternally grateful for the support, guidance and mentorship that I received from the former Office Manager Morne Barnes, Former General Secretary Elton Lotriet and the SAFA Cape Town President, Mr Bennett Bailey."

And always enjoy what you are doing - and the success that comes with it..

"Through hard work and believing in yourself you will achieve your goals and dreams. The world's your oyster; position yourself to claim your prize."



NOVICE RUNNER UNATHI SIGODI TAKES ON TOTALSPORTS TWO OCEANS MARATHON

By Staff Writer

For Unati Sigodi, athletics was always more about a healthy lifestyle than winning medals and breaking records. It wasn't a serious sport, like football. But the more he ran, the more he got into it.

And this weekend, Sigodi was one of the thousands of runners who completed the strenuous Totalsports Two Oceans Ultra Marathon over the weekend.

"It was my first time running the Two Oceans Marathon, and I really enjoyed it - especially the view: it's a very scenic route" Sigodi says. "But it wasn't easy - I had difficulty descending from Chapman's Peak and the last two kilometres of the race heading to the finishing line."

Sigodi laced up for Gugulethu Athletics Club, aka the Orange Army. Difficulties aside, his 4 hours 42 minute finish was good enough to earn him a Sainsbury Medal - the recognition awarded to those who finish the grueling race in less than five hours.

"As a novice runner for the ultra-Marathon, I'm happy to have finished it under Sub 5. But next year, I will return and hope for a better time. And in the meantime, this is a good motivation to focus on training for the Comrades Marathon - it's just eight weeks away."

It has been a good transition for someone who grew up playing football in the Sidwadweni village of Tsolo in the Eastern Cape. And he had such a promising career that he was in the books of Bush Bucks' development divisions, among many other football clubs.

He played for Ntsikana Primary School in Daveyton in Ekurhuleni, Mchatu Junior Secondary School in Tsolo, and Zimele Junior Secondary School in Khwezi, Mthatha at Hulwazi Secondary School, where he

completed his Matric. He also played for Mhlakulo United Stars, Mdeni Celtics, and Dunoon Moscow, and was part of the first University of the Western Cape (UWC) football team to qualify for their inaugural Varsity Football tournament.

It was that UWC connection that ultimately led him to try athletics.

"I studied at UWC, and I'm currently working there. In 2019, I was playing in a social soccer league as UWC Legends alongside some of my fellow UWC alumni, Vusumzi Nobaza and TK (Tshikane), and they inspired me to join the University's famous Fast & Flat 10-kilometre race. And it all kind of grew from there."

It wasn't all smooth sailing (or running), though. After Covid -19 disrupted his participation in athletics, it took a while to get back into the swing of things.

So Sigodi joined RCS Gugulethu Athletic Club (RCS GUGS), and found yet another UWC connection in the form of Patrick Moshiga, a colleague at UWC who has run over twenty Comrades Marathons...and was also running for and coaching the club.

Last year he ran his first Cape Peninsula Marathon in just under four hours and has seen significant improvements since Moshiga coached him. Now Sigodi looks forward to participating in some of the most daunting races on the land.

And running has improved his lifestyle - both at work and in his personal life - for the better.

"With running, I get ideas on how to approach and execute tasks I have for that day," he says.

"I usually do the morning runs because that prepares me for the day, as my energy levels are high. After that, I tackle everything with ease throughout the day."



MNCEDISI MSUTHU

AN AMBASSADOR FOR THE LESS PRIVILEGED

By Myolisi Gophe Images: Supplied



Mncedisi Msuthu believes the happiest people are those who give the most - especially to those who need it. And as a manager for MaGents FC and a community leader, he is helping young folks find that joy for themselves through a number of initiatives.

Msuthu's motto is "I am ambassador for the less privileged. A kind gesture can reach a wound only compassion can heal" – and he is living by those words, and helping young people from his community find their feet along the way.

The Cape Peninsula University of Technology-qualified microbiologist is involved in no less than three

initiatives to bring positive change in the people's socio-economic, address social issues such as poverty, better livelihood opportunities and addressing inequalities in disadvantaged communities.

"This empathy and compassion were triggered by growing up in a poverty-stricken household and village, where we would walk about 40 km to school barefoot," Msuthu, a manager with Khayelitsha-based Magents Football Club, explains.

In addition to football, Msuthu is also involved in the Foundation of Home and Light-SA in which he works with a group of CPUT graduates to source, prepare and feed homeless people and provide holistic assistance to old age homes.

"I always teach them about sharing," he says proudly, "and I have seen them sharing clothes, food and other items with the needy."

He is also running the Future Boys Community Project where they buy school uniforms, clothes for struggling families and assist them with food parcels. In this initiative, Msuthu also takes the young fellows for hikes, youth debates and tours around the Mother City.

"The important social skills I would like to empower young people with are communication, cooperation, leadership, relationship-building and empathy. It's all about teaching them the Importance of taking responsibility for their actions - and the impact of the actions they take now in determining their future."

Msuthu, a married father of two boys, was born and bred in the Eastern Cape town of Libode. A staunch Christian, he was inspired to be a community developer by his family and his faith.

"My biological parents left us young due to poverty after my father lost his job," he recalls. "My aunts took over in raising us and took us to school and to church. So my teachings and acts of kindness are always accompanied by the word of the Lord who gives us the ability to be able to do these things."

FOOTBALL FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

He moved to Cape Town to further his studies and in 2017 started a soccer team after he noticed the youth having nothing to do in his community of Makhaza.

"The game teaches kids valuable life lessons that can help them navigate through life. When you are on a soccer field, you don't have time to wait for your coach to give you directions. You need to trust your gut, make decisions, and rely on the skills that you've been taught, just as in life. Kids also learn the value of good sportsmanship and how to gracefully persevere whether you win or lose."



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: A REWARD IN ITS OWN RIGHT

The game, according to Msuthu, also teaches children important social skills.

"Soccer teaches kids about themselves and their own abilities, yes - but it also teaches them about how to work with others, recognize each other's strengths, and work together as a team," he says. "In football everyone learns the importance of responsibility and everyone has a role to play on the field. And if someone doesn't do their part, the whole team suffers."

For Msuthu, community development gives life satisfaction.

"Mahatma Gandhi said: 'The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.' I see the wisdom of that now, because of the change in behaviors of the young ones and when youngsters use you as a benchmark and or inspiration."

But the work has its own challenges, of course.

"The biggest challenge most community developers face is finances, and finding reliable funding. We end up digging deep in our pockets to finance these initiatives. It is also difficult finding people who are willing to assist voluntarily, because many want remuneration from initiatives that are not making money."

It's even more challenging and weird when people think that he has a lot of money because of his involvement in community upliftment projects.

"I always urge them to remember the words of H. Jackson Brown Jr: 'Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.' I've certainly found that to be true in my own life."





FC KAPSTADT AND TSIBA BUSINESS SCHOOL COLLABORATE IN HOLISTIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

By Staff Writer | Images: Supplied

FC Kapstadt, one of Cape Town's most promising and formidable amateur football clubs, has joined forces with TSIBA Business School for a unique holistic youth development collaboration.

The partnership brings a new dimension to youth development: talented and ambitious young FC Kapstadt soccer players gain a pathway to education while TSIBA spans its community outreach where investments in education have an incredible multiplier effect providing returns for generations.

The partnership, launched on Thursday 2 March 2022, involves skills development of young people in both sporting and academic fields. TSIBA offered FC Kapstadt two full academic scholarships for the 2023 TSIBA Business School qualifications. These include the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree and the Higher Certificate and will be offered to registered FC Kapstadt players who have completed Grade 12 and met the TSIBA Grade 12 academic entrance requirements.

The collaboration seeks to leverage both organisations' decades-long commitment to youth development: TSIBA has provided access to high-quality accredited tertiary education since 2004 and FC Kapstadt has done likewise, providing access to coaching excellence and support for talented young soccer players dreaming of taking their love for the game to the highest levels.

"This partnership creates a platform to realize the incredible potential of investing in ambitious and talented young people, intellectually and physically, and brings the energy of soccer, the beautiful game into our education ecosystem," says Graham Moore, Sustainability Director of TSIBA.

FC Kapstadt Founder and Chairperson, Zaid Omar, said the club is proud to form a partnership with TSIBA Business School on its 20th anniversary. "At FC Kapstadt, we are passionate about sports, but equally so about education. We have always regarded the football club as a vehicle to develop talented youth through sport.

"This strategic partnership is the next step in our mission to further develop the future of the country through excellence. Through TSIBA Business School, talented FC Kapstadt players with academic ambitions will have the opportunity to develop holistically. We are grateful to TSIBA Business School and are so excited about this initiative".

SAFA Vice President and SAFA Cape Town President Bennet Bailey said the collaboration brings to life the values and mottos of Olympism. "The partnership between TSIBA and FC Kapstadt will do justice to the wishes of the founding fathers of the modern Olympic games".

Dr Rudi Kimmie, CEO TSIBA, noted that TSIBA's role in the partnership will be to provide educational opportunities through access and scholarships to



deserving FC Kapstadt members who meet TSIBA's academic criteria.

"A healthy mind, healthy body, and healthy spirit are fundamental to a healthy nation. It is for this reason that TSIBA Business School established its RISE (Resilience Inspiration through Sport and Education) initiative: to forge a stronger symbiotic relationship between sports and education.

"The same formulae for success in sports - discipline, commitment, training, and aspiration, apply to business and many other endeavors in life. Hence it was for these reasons that TSIBA extended its social impact outreach by establishing a partnership with FC Kapstadt."



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