

# Football Foundation of South Africa News

December 2008

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Football Foundation of South Africa (FFSA) newsletter!

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The U17 volunteer group have been vital to the success of our Spring Holiday Programme and Girls Tournament, and are developing into excellent peer group role models. Pictured (from left to right): Athenkosi, Singata, Xolisani, Siviwe and Akhona

## Spring Brings New Life To Gansbaai

Spring has been an exciting time for the Foundation. New links have been formed with Positive Futures, World Emergency Relief, Ajax Cape Town, the Community Police Forum and Dept. for Health, while existing links with Monte Christo Ministries in Paarl and with local schools have gone from strength to strength.

We now have a very strong group of girls, and the integrated U15 group has grown considerably. There is now a regular group of 80 children who train every day, which has been made possible by the great work of our coaches.

### **Intern Coach - Matt Dixon**

Matt joined the coaching team in the middle of September. Originally from Canterbury in England, he holds his FIFA level 1 coaching qualification and has coached at Charlton Athletic in London. He is currently on his gap year and is due to start his undergraduate degree at Sheffield Hallam University in 2009. Matt takes great pride in his coaching and has made the U15 side his own, particularly making them more tactically aware. He has formed a formidable coaching team with Sicelo in the afternoon sessions and at the local schools, and will be with us until February 2009.

### **Guest Coach - Jonathan Whitaker**

Jonathan is a FIFA Level 2 qualified coach from England. After a period coaching in Swaziland, he joined the team in Gansbaai for 2 weeks that included the Holiday Programme at the beginning of October. He brought great experience and technical nous, which benefited our existing coaches and players alike. Matching his physique, he brought a huge personality to the field which the players respected and took to immediately.



Matt in deep tactical conversation with Head Coach Heukile

### **Girls Tournament Ignites Female Passion for Football**



The inaugural Girls Tournament sponsored by ABSA was staged at the Gansbaai Communal Sports Centre on a beautiful day on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, with 96 girls from 8 Primary Schools around Gansbaai taking part. Along with the football, there were exhibitions in the clubhouse, indigenous games staged, and jumping castles to entertain all the children who came along to support.

Paarl were victorious against Gansbaai Primêr (from Blompark) in the final, which was followed by a prize ceremony, team photos, and a motivational talk for the girls from Leán Terblanche of the FFSA. This educated them on the wider benefits of sport, the development of women's soccer, and its potential role in personal development. The tournaments' top scorer was Nosipho Stofile from Masakhane with 9 goals, and the player of the tournament was Estelle Witbooi from Gansbaai Primêr.

Ten U17 players worked as volunteers for the first time at the event. Their tasks included refereeing, covering basic first aid, assisting in event administration, and manning the jumping castles. One of the aims of the tournament was to encourage greater female youth involvement at the centre, and it was great to see so many girls enjoying themselves and mixing amongst each other on the day. The tournament was organised by the FFSA and funded by ABSA.



## Holiday Programme September/October 2008

The Football Foundation hosted the first ever Gansbaai Holiday Football Programme at the Sports Centre during the school spring holidays. The programme ran from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Sep - Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct, and 70 boys and girls aged 11-15 took part from the neighbouring Masakhane and Blompark communities.

Daily schedule: 10am - 12pm Coaching Clinic  
12pm - 1.30pm 6-a-side Tournament  
2pm - 4pm Under 17 boys training

Sicelo Heukile was girls head coach, and Matt Dixon coached the U15 boys. The players were also treated to the guest coaching appearances of former USA Olympic Development Squad coach Mike Rubesch on Wednesday morning, and FIFA Level 2 coach Jonathan Whitaker from Wednesday to Friday.



### Peer Group Leader Development

As part of the Foundation's scheme help the development of local youth role models, 9 of the U17 team worked with us as volunteers for the week. They each coached a team in the tournament, refereed the games, and assisted in the coaching clinics. These were Singata, Luvo, Masande, Thabo, Zolani, Athenkosi,

Masibulele, Xolisani and Unathi.



Above: The Volunteers line-up

Below: Zolani with his Rhinos team

### 6-A-Side Tournaments

The afternoon 6-a-side tournaments were contested on the girls side by the Whales, Dolphins, Sharks, and Seals. The Sharks, coached by Masibulele, won it from the Whales, coached by Masande, who lived every dying second with his team. The Lions, coached by Xolisani, triumphed over the Tigers, Rhinos and Crocodiles for the boys trophy, although special mention to Rhinos coach Zolani, who was sent from the sidelines in the first two games, so was banned from the touchline for the remaining games!



After the clinic on Friday, all players gathered for the Prize Ceremony, and a short talk on teamwork given by Nick Parkhill. Prizes were awarded to daily challenge winners, the top scorers, players of the tournament, and for best sportsmanship in both the boys and girls tournaments.



### Trip to Paarl

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September the Gansbaai Stars U14 and U17 teams travelled to Paarl for their first ever away fixtures. The U14s faced a formidable Paarl outfit, and although they lost 4-0, they learned some valuable lessons and set an example in defeat that many senior teams could learn from. Following that, the U17s faced the side that had well beaten them in their 1<sup>st</sup> game 2 months ago. They showed tremendous spirit to come from 1-0 down to avenge that defeat, winning 5-2.

All players joined after the U17 game exhibiting the strong partnership that has been formed with Monte Christo Ministries and their teams in Paarl (above). They day served as a great time for team building and the integration was well demonstrated when relaxing at the crocodile park afterwards (below)

The trip had been highly anticipated for the players as it



was their first away from the Gansbaai Communal Sports Centre, and was many of the players' first visit to Paarl. After the games, the players were taken to a crocodile park, where they saw and learned about the animals and the ecosystems they live in. The day was capped off with a late lunch by the lake there, which was sponsored by Grootbos Foundation. Thanks also to the Grootbos Foundation for making the day possible by sponsoring the transport. The whole day really lived up to expectations, and thanks also to Joan De Villiers who provided extra treats for the players.

### Love-Life Games 2008

Laerskool Caledon played host to the Love-Life Games on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Both the U15 and U17 teams were in action, in what was a beautiful setting overlooking much of the region. In the U17 football competition Grabouw fought back from 2-0 down with the aid of great vocal support to defeat Gansbaai Stars 3-2. In the U15 competition Gansbaai Stars defeated firstly a young and skilful Greyton team 4-2, with a hat-trick from Damien Sauls, and then followed it with an

impressive 4-2 victory against a strong Grabouw side, with all 4 goals scored by Allen Tobias. The event, including lunch and transport, was organised by the Department of Sport. The Football Foundation and Mr Neil Pedro from Gansbaai Primêr organised the teams, and the FFSA co-ordinated the football tournament.



## Community Schools Outreach



### Pre-School's visit

On 28<sup>th</sup> October Mulberry Bush Play/Pre-School from Hermanus paid a visit to the Centre. They were hosted by the Foundation, with Coach Sicelo taking a light training session and refereeing a short 5-a-side match. It was the first opportunity for the children aged 4 - 6 to play on the surface, and hopefully may inspire them to take up the sport.



### Equipment Presented to Masakhane P.S.

At the start of November the Foundation visited Masakhane Primary School, which schools many of the projects children, aged from 6 through to 17. A bag of footballs, rugby balls, training cones and first aid kit, was presented to the Principal Mr Msebenzi, and head of PE.



Above: The winning team; Below: Fans Silence and Nzuzo get a little excited



## Hermanus Whale Festival - StreetSoccer Tournament

As part of the Hermanus Whale Festival (18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Sept), a StreetSoccer tournament was organized over the weekend. The tournament took the form of a 24 team World Cup, with the Football Foundation side as Mozambique. The team - comprising volunteers Nick, Matt and a group of U17 players - set an example as the only mixed race team in the tournament.

They also set an example on the street, taking the tournament by storm in reaching the final against Argentina. The teams lined up for the national anthem and each player was introduced to the crowd and special guests. Mozambique seemed to have captured the attention of many neutrals throughout the competition, and thrilled the crowd with a 10-9 win to lift the trophy. Thanks to the Department of Sport for laying on transport, and for the Organizing Committee for inviting us.

## Super-Saturday!

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov was dubbed 'Super-Saturday' at the Sports Centre as the Gansbaai Stars Girls team, U14s, and U17s were all in action.

Girls - The Gansbaai Stars Girls team kicked off the day's proceedings taking on Stanford in their debut match and sporting their new Bushbucks kit, donated by Puma. They were 3-2 up at half time thanks to a fine free kick from Nosipho Gwaji (right), but the visitors' strength showed as they eventually went down 6-3. It was a great occasion for the girls, and they are now eager for more games.

U14s - The team has seen a great swell in numbers with the introduction of their new coach Matt Dixon. Playing the Stanford U16s, the match swayed to and fro, but Stanford emerged 3-2 victors, with the Gansbaai goals coming from Wandile Kotsana and Michael Pienaar. The team showed grace in defeat, and special thanks to the girls team for their fantastic vocal support!



U17s - A 1pm kick off saw the Gansbaai Stars take on the Super Eagles from Zwelihle, Hermanus. They took full advantage of an inexperienced opposition, in particular Unathi who netted 5 times in a 10-3 victory. Other goals came from Thabo, Dumisan, Luvo(2), and Siviwe. The following day the U17s took on the highly rated Attackers from Zwelihle. They lived up to their growing reputation as an entertaining team in yet another high scoring game. Despite exam time, a strong side assembled, but goals from Xolisani (2) and Matt weren't quite enough to stop the Attackers coming away with a 4-3 victory.



## Shorts



### New Links - Informal Partnership

The FFSA in Gansbaai has formed an informal partnership with Haddenham FC in Buckinghamshire, England. As part of this the respective youth will be in contact to share their footballing experiences. This gives some of the children who attend the programme the opportunity to practice their English in writing and discover more about other cultures within the context of football.



### Education - What do you want to be when you're older?

Using 'Extra Time' magazine, a Grassroot Soccer and Sports for Life joint publication, we ran an educational lesson on setting targets, based on that age old question "What would you like to be when you're older?" Unsurprisingly the most popular answer was Professional Footballer, but we may have some budding doctors and artists too! The children

learned to think about steps taken to reach their goals, and setting targets for things that they can improve now to help them fulfill these goals.



### Team Building - White Shark Cage Diving

Local ex-Springbok prop Robbie Kempson hosted our first FFSA team building exercise, and what better way to unite a group than put them in the water together with a 4m shark! It worked at least as we can all safely say we've never been the same since. Huge thanks to Robbie and his team, and for their support of the Foundation.



## Beach Soccer



Beach soccer may have been popularized by Brazil, but the youth from Masakhane adapted to the sand as if it was their invention! After a 4km run from the Sports Centre to the beach, the U17s still had the stamina for amazing athletic moves and acrobatics. They played a competitive high-scoring



six-a-side match on the beach, followed by a fun cool-down session in the sea before heading back to the Centre for a good stretch. We hope to make this event a regular activity now that summer is here; some serious talent was showcased - watch out Brazil!

### In Our Next Issue:

- ⚽ December Holiday Programme
- ⚽ Coaching and Teamwork Clinic
- ⚽ Meet the New Coach
- ⚽ World AIDS Day
- ⚽ Ajax Cape Town Training Day
- ⚽ New Coach
- ⚽ New Girls Kit
- ⚽ Year End Braai and Prize Giving

Thanks to all sponsors who have helped make this programme a success to date.  
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