

TEAMWORK. COMMITMENT. PASSION

THESE were the three words used to describe the over 400 aspirant cricket players who took part in the third Sunfoil Township Cricket Tournament in 2010.

It was the third year in a row, that township cricketers were given the opportunity to display the skills they have learnt over the year, and hopefully be selected into one of the elite Sunfoil Township Teams, giving them the platform to compete against top KZN cricket schools.

The programme, which has drawn considerable praise from Cricket South Africa and has been used as a template for other cricket franchises, has grown from strength to strength.

Three years ago, family-owned Willowton Oil, one of South Africa's largest sunflower seed crushers and leading manufacturer of edible oils and margarine, partnered with the KwaZulu-Natal Cricket Union to develop the Sunfoil Township Cricket tournament.

The objective was to develop a cricket culture within townships and to encourage children from disadvantaged communities to become involved in a team sport.

Zubeir Moosa, Financial Director at Willowton Oil, says: "Cricket teaches discipline and good values which are important qualities to possess."

"We hope to unite the children through the game of cricket and



show them that they can rise above any circumstance with the right attitude. Perseverance and hard work makes any dream

achievable and this tournament teaches them just that."

Despite having to move the tournament from June to

December, and the rainy conditions that prevailed during the festive month, the boys came out in top form in the hope of having their talent recognised at the Cato Manor grounds.

"By exposing these township children to the game of cricket, we are helping to shape the skill, knowledge and experience level of these kids because they are our future Dolphins, and potential Proteas!" commented Jesse Chellan, KwaZulu-Natal Cricket CEO.

The programme is in line with Cricket South Africa's vision to ensure that cricket is supported by the majority of South Africans and available to all who want to play it. This rings true with the TOMORROW Campaign launched in 2009 which focuses on shaping the future, and doing what we can today, for what will happen tomorrow.

KwaZulu-Natal Cricket Union Township Development Manager Linda Zondi, who has been at the forefront of developing this tournament, is extremely grateful to the sponsorship received from Willowton Oil. "We would like to thank Sunfoil for the pivotal role they are playing in bringing cricket to the townships. Their hands-on approach and passion to make a difference, has helped us to really build structures that will hopefully leave a legacy for years to come."



If you can dream it, you can achieve it!



Pictured from left: Ernest Molotsi (Vice President KZNCU), Thabo Msomi, Dr S Dhlomo (MEC for Health), Thabani Nzama, Linda Zondi (Township Development Manager KZNCU)

FOUR boys had their dreams come true when they were selected to receive full bursaries for Durban High School (DHS) and Glenwood High School after being identified through the township programme.

Thabo Msomi and Thabani Nzama are the recipients of two bursaries from DHS for Grade 8 for 2011. Both young men are from very disadvantaged communities. Their passion for cricket propelled them to take

part in the township programme and excel. After being identified in the Sunfoil Township Tournament, these boys were selected by DHS to receive full academic bursaries to the high school.

"The parents never believed that their children would be given such an opportunity," commented Linda Zondi after speaking with the parents. "Cricket has been a means for them to attend one of Durban's most prestigious schools!"

The Department of Sports and Recreation have supported the boys by sponsoring them with their accommodation at DHS Boarding Establishment for the full duration of their bursaries.

The two bursary recipients from Glenwood High School in 2010 were Sbonelo Mthimkhulu from Clairmont and Sphamandla Mlambo from Lindelani. They were also identified through the programme.

The township development blueprint for cricket

THE KwaZulu-Natal Cricket Union developed a Township Development blueprint for cricket in KZN that strives to ensure that the game of cricket is shared with all South Africans.

Together with support from Cricket South Africa, the eThekweni Municipality, the Department of Sport and Recreation and key sponsors like Willowton Oil, they were able to develop a plan and infrastructure to support the township development programme.

After canvassing support from township schools in KZN, the programme began in 2008.

It involved developing cricket from lower primary schools in the form of mini cricket, to high schools, women's cricket and eventually club cricket. These included all age groups, incorporating the provision of equipment, training, coaching and transport to fulfill the objectives of the programme.

These schools and clubs then developed township teams and a healthy base for competition began to grow.

Currently we have 20 township teams that compete against each other all year round. These participants are then invited to take part in the Sunfoil Township Tournament where they can strive to have their talent noticed by selectors and hopefully be selected into one of



the elite Sunfoil Township squads.

"Empowering children through sport is just one of the ways

Willowton Oil hopes to uplift the community".

"We are grateful for this opportunity to interact with

children from rural communities and contribute to the Township Development for cricket in KZN. There are many talented,

passionate young children who now have the chance to explore their talents. Such initiatives that empower and motivate the youth are worthy causes that we will continue to support," says Zubeir Moosa of Willowton Oil.

The elite Sunfoil Township squads are then invited to a number of cricket camps at Sahara Stadium, Kingsmead where they receive advanced coaching at a world-class facility where they are able to take advantage of the Suncoast Dolphins Academy for indoor and outdoor skills development. This is further sustained by extra coaching every Saturday morning, 365 days a year, to prepare them for the intense competition with top KZN cricketing schools.

Twenty three session coaches are appointed, who provide coaching in the township regions for a period of four months prior to the tournament and after the tournament.

The Department of Sports and Recreation sees the potential of this programme and has endorsed their support for this initiative. We are grateful to MEC for Sport and Recreation KZN, Mrs W. Thusi, and MEC for Health, Dr S Dhlomo, for their ongoing belief and unwavering commitment to this programme.

U14 SUNFOIL ELITE SQUAD



From left: Jesse Chellan (CEO for KZNCU), Zubeir Moosa (Financial Director for Willowton Oil) and Fa-ez Jaffer (President of KZNCU) seen with the U14 Sunfoil Elite Squad.

U18 SUNFOIL ELITE SQUAD



From left: Jesse Chellan (CEO for KZNCU), Hilton Cairns (Marketing Manager for Willowton Oil), Zubeir Moosa (Financial Director for Willowton Oil), and Fa-ez Jaffer (President of KZNCU) seen with the U18 Sunfoil Elite Squad.



KwaZulu-Natal Department of Sport and Recreation