

Basketballers remember one of their own at tournament

JEANRIQUE SNYMAN

THE PRETORIA Heat basketball team came out tops in the men's section and Vaal University of Technology ladies in the women's at the annual Ashraf Lodewyk Memorial tournament at Wits University last weekend.

The tournament, now in its eighth year, is hosted by Wits to commemorate a notable young man who did much to develop the sport as both a co-ordinator of basketball at Wits Sport and a player.

Lodewyk's short life ended tragically when he was involved in a fatal car accident eight years ago,

and his colleague, Lydia Monyepao, has been organising the tournament in his memory ever since.

Both student and open teams were allowed to take part in this year's tournament, which attracted teams from as far afield as Limpopo and Mpumalanga.

In total, 20 men's and nine women's teams participated this year.

Some of the players featured in this tournament are former team mates of Lodewyk in the Campus Basketball and Metro Leagues of the late '90s.

Kanagaratnam Lambotharan, Lodewyk's former coach, and

Tshepo Ditshego, the Wits Basketball Club chairman in 2000, also came to support the event.

Lodewyk was a psychology student at the university and an active member of the Wits Basketball Club. He also played in the Wits men's first team in the late 1990s.

He is remembered fondly by one of his close friends, Quinton Denysen. "We celebrate and play in this tournament to honour and pay tribute to a person who loved the game of basketball, the university he used to play for and the people he used to work with," he explained when asked why he participates in the annual tournament.

Vaal University of Technology ladies won the women's section by beating Wanderers Scorpions 71 to 62 in the finals last Sunday while Pretoria Heat hammered VUT the 2010 defending champs, 63 to 39.

Requell Molema from VUT ladies and Neo Mothiba from Pretoria Heat men were named the Most Valuable Players of the tournament.

The tournament was attended by the Lodewyk family, who presented the finalist and winners with medals and trophies.

The president of Basketball SA, Malesela Maleka, and chairman of Universities Basketball Frans



FORMER TEAMMATES: Tshepo Ditshego, Tshiamo Ngakane, Lydia Monyepao and Judd Sim.

Maababolo also attended.

John Baxter, director of Wits Sport, praised the Wits Basketball Club for yet another successful and exciting tournament.

It starts here for future Proteas

Ntini, De Villiers part of KFC Mini Cricket programme aimed at primary school pupils

METRO SPORTS REPORTER

ONE YEAR has passed since KFC took over the sponsorship of Cricket South Africa's (CSA) Mini Cricket programme.

KFC undertook the commitment to ensure that the programme continues into the future, giving primary school children the opportunity to play a team sport and learn more about the game of cricket as well as allowing them to enjoy the benefits of an active, balanced lifestyle.

The KFC Mini Cricket programme seamlessly fits into Cricket South Africa's Tomorrow Campaign to shape the future of cricket.

In the past year, 16 annual regional KFC mini cricket festivals were held, together with several new initiatives introduced by KFC to grow and broaden Mini Cricket.

These initiatives included the launch of the KFC Mini Cricket Ambassador programme, with Makhaya Ntini, AB de Villiers and Trisha Chetty roped in as the faces of KFC Mini Cricket.

KFC also established Family Days during the Castle Test series against India last year.

KFC Mini Cricket Action Zones were also set-up where parents and children could have some fun testing their cricketing skills.

"The focus for year one was to monitor the programme and establish the areas that we need to focus on," says Lauren Turnbull, KFC sponsorship manager.

"Over the past year 3 500 schools

were targeted around the country, which translates into 86 000 children who were exposed to the game of cricket.

"This gives us a base from which to move forward and grow the number of schools and children involved in the programme."

KFC have also instituted a monthly administrator award this year, which recognises the hard work and dedication the predominantly volunteer coaches contribute to the overall success and continuity of the programme.

The first administrator of the month award recipient was Johan Muller from Pretoria, followed in March by Sarah Swartz from Kimberly, who has recently retired after 20 years of active involvement with the programme and counts Loots Bosman and Victor Mpitsang among her many cricket success stories.

The programme once again showed its support for ensuring that girls' sport gets a boost by encouraging and supporting the participation of girls' teams and the introduction of Trisha Chetty as an ambassador.

Chetty is a great role model to encourage young girls to get involved in the sport.

"Moving into the second year of the sponsorship, KFC remains poised to explore additional opportunities to ensure the game of cricket reaches more children than ever before," Turnbull concludes.

For more information on KFC Mini Cricket contact CSA at 011 880 2810.



GIVING SUPPORT: KFC Ambassador AB de Villiers gives batting pointers to Lehlogonolo Nyaubi of Hennops Primary School. De Villiers is one of the faces of the KFC Mini Cricket programme.

Maragon goes great guns this year

THEO GARRUN

THE GUNN & Moore Maragon Cricket Club, at Maragon School, came away from the recent Gauteng Cricket Club awards evening with three trophies.

They were named the Gauteng Junior Cricket Club of the Year, and they were awarded trophies for winnng the Senior Sunday 3rd (SU 3) and Senior Sunday 4th (SU 4) leagues.

The Gauteng Cricket Board awards are highly prestigious awards, involving all junior and senior cricket clubs in Gauteng.

The evening was hosted by MC

Graeme Joffe and the guest speaker was SA Test and ODI cricketer and selector Andrew Hudson.

Cricket South Africa chief executive Gerald Majola was also an honoured guest.

The club has become known in local cricketing circles for its dedication, discipline and passion for the game of cricket.

Gunn & Moore Maragon Cricket Club has been operating since October 2009 and enters players for the summer and winter league cricket season.

They have qualified and dedicated coaches that coach and mentor players from the under-7 age

group right up to senior level.

The Gunn & Moore Maragon Cricket Academy is based at the club.

It offers players one-on-one coaching throughout the year.

Gunn & Moore Maragon Cricket Club gives special attention to the fitness of all the players and has a sports scientist who effectively manages the fitness schedules for the players in all age groups.

Winter season training and practice sessions are already in full swing for all ages.

For more information, contact Anne on 082 728 1817 or e-mail anne.essential@telkomsa.net



AWARD WINNERS: Maragon's Dean Hewson, captain of the SU 4 Senior side, left, Andrew Hudson and AJ Rudman, vice-captain of the SU 3 Senior side, at the Gauteng Club Cricket prize-giving.