



FUTURE CHAMPIONS 2017

GAUTENG

SOUTH AFRICA



GAUTENG

it starts here





Most international publications and television networks ran major features on the life of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela at the time of his death in December 2013. Without exception, they paid tribute to one of the greatest and most inspiring leaders of the 20th century.



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SPOIL YOURSELF IN GAUTENG SOUTH AFRICA

THE MOST DYNAMIC PROVINCE
IN A MOST DIVERSE COUNTRY
LOCATED AT THE SOUTHERN TIP
OF THE CONTINENT

The Rainbow Nation is now one of the world's favourite destinations enjoyed by millions of visitors each year.

Its most colourful province is Gauteng which boasts the country's largest city and business hub Johannesburg, the political capital Tshwane and much more besides. Gauteng offers a truly authentic flavour of a wonderful country with a fascinating heritage and a dynamic future.

It provided the perfect backdrop for the ninth edition of the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament, now recognised as one of the top U17 competitions on the global football calendar.

This weeklong festival of football is a chance to showcase emerging talent from across four continents - Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe.



The 2017 action was held at the Nike Football Centre in Soweto, a symbolic venue in the township famed for its struggle against apartheid.

The Future Champions Gauteng is organised by Global Sports International in conjunction with the Gauteng Provincial Government.

Future Champions is a project of inspiration and a stimulus for development, using the power and popularity of football as an impetus for growth. It has reached tens of thousands of youngsters since its inception in 2009, running transformative programmes that encourage social and educational cohesion.

Future Champions empowers coaches from around the Province, providing an opportunity for new talents to emerge. For host cities and countries, it showcases Gauteng's rich cultural heritage, world-class infrastructure and diversity.



GAUTENG SCHOOLS CUP

The Schools Cup reaches out into the communities of Gauteng Province, offering talented youngsters from 16 schools the opportunity to shine on a bigger stage.

Esokwazi Secondary School, from the Sebokeng township in southern Gauteng, seized their chance impressively by becoming the 2017 Future Champions Gauteng Schools Cup winners.

It was a near flawless display from Esokwazi as they conceded just one goal in five matches during an exciting day's action at the George Thabe Stadium in Sharpeville.

The group stages started promisingly, registering convincing wins over Pholosho Secondary (5-0) and Chipa-Tabane Secondary (4-0) before a 1-1 draw with New Model Private College.

Esokwazi saw off Kwadukathole Comprehensive 2-0 in the semi-finals, saving the best till last with a 4-0 triumph over Bophelo Impilo Community in the final.

Bophelo Impilo Community drew a blank after scoring 24 goals in just four matches, including a 12-0 group win over M.H. Baloyi Secondary, and a 7-0 success against Magaliesburg Secondary.

Unsurprisingly, Bophelo Impilo Community were the biggest contributors to the 102-goal tally in 27 tournament matches.

The four semi-finalists, including Kingsway High School, qualified for the Future Champions Gauteng Cup, just one step away from the 2017 Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament.

The tournament was organised by Global Sports International in conjunction with Gauteng's Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation and Department of Education.

Gauteng MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Ms Faith Mazibuko praised the growth of this important youth tournament: "The Future Champions Gauteng Schools Cup is the beginning of a wonderful journey for these youngsters and we're excited by the fresh talent that emerged this year. Sports is such a crucial component in the development of youngsters, from the perspective of both body and mind, and so schools sport, in particular, is very important to us."

Gauteng MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, echoed these sentiments: "The tournament is a highlight on our schools sports programme and we're delighted to be partnering with Future Champions again in 2017. The Gauteng Department of Education believes that fit bodies make for healthy minds and so we encourage all our learners to partake in sports to boost their academic potential."

Players in the Schools Cup also took part in a life skills course conducted by Love Life focusing on HIV/ Aids awareness. Other tournament sponsors included Sedgars Sport, Clinix Health Group as well as Gauteng Coaches who provided transport for learners and players from surrounding areas to attend the action-packed day in Sharpeville and take part in the Future Players Talent Search.



GAUTENG CUP

The world famous Orlando Pirates added another trophy to their cabinet by claiming the 2017 Future Champions Gauteng Cup.

The Young Buccaneers, steeped in tradition as one of the oldest football clubs in South Africa, held their nerve to defeat Mamelodi Sundowns 5-4 on penalties in the Final after a 1-1 draw in normal time. Their third success equalled the record of SuperSport United as academy teams continued their domination of the competition.

Energy was not a problem for the Pirates with a 2-1 semi-final win over Bidvest Wits, while defending champions Sundowns waited patiently for the winners after overcoming SAFA Tshwane 3-0 in the last four.

The semi-finalists all booked their place in the 2017 Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament as group winners, along with University of Pretoria who claimed the fifth spot as the best-placed runner-up.

The goals flowed freely in the group phase, with an average of 4.63 goals a game and eight hat tricks.

The prolific Nelson Mosupoe scored all seven goals for SAFA Tshwane in their 7-1 triumph over Esokwazi High School, while Pirates striker Lyle Foster plundered six goals in an 8-1 win over Kingsway High School giving him 10 goals overall in the pool stages alone.

The prestigious U17 tournament consisted of 16 of the best academy and schools teams from across the province, tacking the action to Reiger Park as they competed for the coveted prize at WJ Clements Stadium.

Supported by the City of Ekurhuleni, the community came out for a fun-filled day of thrills and nail-biting competition. Local youth teams and players took part in the Future Players Talent Search while Love Life were again on hand with their ground-breakers for interactive sessions on healthy lifestyles.



INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

THE TEAMS

The inclusion of a team from India in the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament was a welcome sign of the rapid development of Asian football.

The Football School of India, based in Mumbai, made their debut in the 12-strong field in 2017, a year in which India hosts the FIFA Under 17 World Cup.

Going to Gauteng gave them a glimpse of what to expect from hosting an international tournament and how the power of sport can bring countries and cultures together on the same field of play.

As 2016 Champions, Atletico Madrid from Spain were favourites with Russian giants Spartak Moscow also providing a formidable threat on their debut.

A strong European challenge was expected to come from top Belgian outfit Club Brugge and Serie A side Torino FC.

Club Tijuana, from Mexico, made their fifth appearance in a tournament they previously won back in 2013, while a Nigerian Professional Football League (NPFL) U17 All Stars side would bring another dimension to the African challenge.

The five South African sides completing the line-up were Orlando Pirates, Bidvest Wits, University of Pretoria, Mamelodi Sundowns and SAFA Tshwane, all of whom qualified from the Gauteng Cup.

THE DRAW AND MEDIA LAUNCH

All eyes were on SAFA House when the Draw and Media Launch took place for the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament just a few days before the action began.

The excitement was captured during a broadcast on SuperSport screened across the continent. Social media was buzzing with anticipation as the teams discovered their opponents while print, radio and other media outlets also announced the all-important line-up.

Dignitaries present included representatives from Gauteng Provincial Government and co-organisers Global Sports International, SAFA and the Soweto Football Association.

The 2017 tournament was also supported by the Premier Soccer League, Love Life, Clinix Health, La Liga, Sedgars, Debonairs Pizza, Levati, MotorDeal, Gauteng Coaches, HIP, Häagen-Dazs and SCORE Energy drinks.

A special draw was held involving school representatives from Soweto as part of the popular 'Adopt a Team' programme. Chosen schools drew the name of the team they would support throughout the tournament.





THE VENUE

South Africa was the winner when the futuristic Nike Football Training Centre was built in the heart of Soweto. This impressive venue was the first of its kind in Africa and since opening in 2010, many thousands of footballers have taken advantage of its world-class facilities. Its unique design has players and coaches at the heart of everything, providing an excellent safe and secure community facility. The complex has two full-sized artificial pitches, two junior turf pitches, dressing rooms, gym, medical rooms, media centre, VIP roof areas, warm-up area and a coaching arena.

THE FORMAT

The 12 teams were split into four groups of three teams with one South African side in each pool, apart from Group D which had two SA representatives. Teams played each other in a round-robin format with one further crossover match against a team from another group. The top sides in each pool advanced to the semi-finals with the remaining eight teams involved in classification games to determine positions five to 12. All matches were two halves of 30 minutes.



VIP TREATMENT

Guests enjoyed VIP treatment throughout their stay in South Africa as at every Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament. Players, coaches and officials were looked after in style by the hosts and organisers as befits a top class tournament. Security escorts made each journey between locations as easy and efficient as possible. The comfort and convenience of the travelling parties was a priority, enabling them to fully focus on the football and enjoy their visit and the overall South African experience.

LIVE COVERAGE

Media from the seven countries with clubs competing in the 2017 Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament provided extensive coverage of the event. Social media, written and broadcast press followed the teams' progress, reflecting the tournament's ever increasing global profile. Official club websites provided regular updates on the action, while the tournament's official Twitter account @FutureChampsU17 and Facebook page gave instant news of goals as the drama unfolded.

In the host country, South Africa, there was also widespread interest with viewers of the South African television broadcaster SuperSport watching live games each day from the venue. This was also streamed live on the official website www.future-champions.net. Highlights were shown online and as part of the extensive television coverage.

NETWORKING LUNCHESES

Lunches throughout the week were hosted by various Future Champions partners, treating guests to classic South African fare and tastes from around the globe. Gauteng Coaches sponsored a VIP lunch on the 21st and Clinix Health Group hosted one on the 22nd for all guests and media, bringing businesses, personalities and organisations together in the heart of Soweto.

A Spanish themed luncheon was served on the Semi-Finals day courtesy of La Liga and the Spanish Chamber of Commerce featuring specialty dishes such as paella. The Finals day featured Italian delicacies courtesy of the HIP Alliance.

A daily happy hour took place each afternoon of the event, with treats from Haagen-Dazs, Krispy Kreme and Debonairs on offer to guests.

STAYING REFRESHED WITH LEVATI

Long-term Future Champions Gauteng partner, Levati, kept guests and teams cool with their world-class water filters - essential in the South African heat. Levati's quality water filtration system provided all those involved with the event an abundant supply of pure H2O refreshment, at the stadium and hotel.



PIZZA FOR ALL

Debonairs ran daily competitions at the tournament with pizza vouchers on offer as prizes and giveaways to fans attending the event. Pizzas were also served to lucky Soweto schoolchildren participating in the Adopt-a-Team programme.

KOPANONG HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

For the perfect South African escape, the Kopanong Hotel and Conference Centre is the ideal location. Its Future Champions guests were treated superbly during their visit, enjoying a relaxing stay in stylish modern surroundings.

This exquisite hotel in Ekurhuleni sits calmly within a beautifully maintained country estate in the east of Gauteng. It is just far enough away from the hustle and bustle of the city to offer sights and a country atmosphere that truly captures and evokes the spirit of Africa. The Kopanong Hotel has 56 fully detached chalets, each with three individual rooms with private entrances which can be opened up for inter-leading doors to allow complete access, transforming the rooms into a luxury villa. There are extensive leisure facilities, including a gym, sauna, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, sun bed, squash court and beach volleyball.



BOMA COCKTAIL RECEPTION

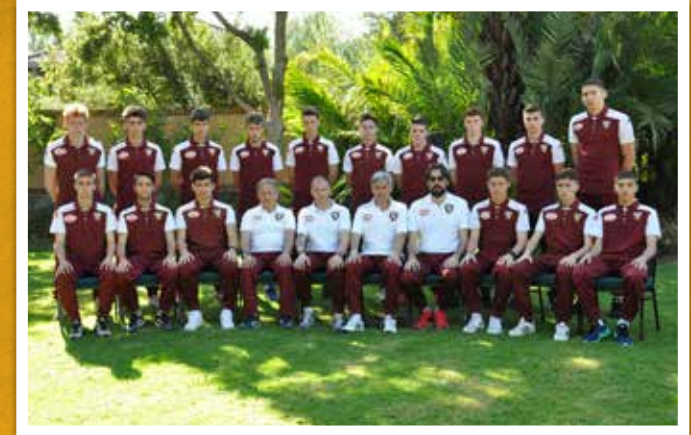
A cocktail reception was hosted for coaches and technical staff of all participating teams on the first night of their arrival in South Africa. Guests were treated to an evening of South African delicacies such as biltong accompanied by wines from Western Cape vineyards. The 'welcome evening' was held under an African sky in the traditional boma area of the Kopanong hotel.



SAFA TSHWANE
(SOUTH AFRICA)



NPFL ALL-STARS
(NIGERIA)



TORINO FC
(ITALY)



BIDVEST WITS
(SOUTH AFRICA)



FOOTBALL SCHOOL OF INDIA
(INDIA)



SPARTAK MOSCOW
(RUSSIA)

EAMS



MAMELODI SUNDOWNS
(SOUTH AFRICA)



CLUB TIJUANA
(MEXICO)



CLUB BRUGGE
(BELGIUM)



ORLANDO PIRATES
(SOUTH AFRICA)



UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
(SOUTH AFRICA)



ATLETICO MADRID
(SPAIN)

DAY ONE

THE TOURNAMENT BEGINS

Spartak Moscow announced their arrival at the 2017 Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament in style.

The side from the Russian capital – venue for the FIFA World Cup™ Final in 2018 – enjoyed a resounding victory over the Football School of India on the opening day.

Danila Proshliakov scored six goals in an outstanding individual display, while there were also two goals each for Dmitry Markitesov and Mikhail Ignitov. Spartak follow in the footsteps of Rubin Kazan, the first Russian side to compete at the tournament in 2011.

This was a steep learning curve for the Indian side, underlining the strength of U17 football globally.

Atletico Madrid made an encouraging start with a 4-0 success over University of Pretoria, while former winners Torino and Club Tijuana both suffered defeats by South African sides.

A goal from Likhanyile Ndlendle earned Mamelodi Sundowns a 1-0 win over Tijuana and Bidvest Wits beat the Italians 2-1.

Club Brugge defeated Orlando Pirates by the same scoreline. In the opening match of the day, SAFA Tshwane drew 1-1 with an NFPL All Stars team from Nigeria.





FUTURE CHAMPIONS | AUTENG | SOUTH AFRICA



MATCH RESULTS

SAFA Tshwane	1	v	1	NPFL All-Stars
Spartak	15	v	0	Football School of India
Orlando Pirates	1	v	2	Club Brugge
Bidvest Wits	2	v	1	Torino FC
University of Pretoria	0	v	4	Atletico Madrid
Mamelodi Sundowns	1	v	0	Club Tijuana

GROUP A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
NPFL All-Stars	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
SAFA Tshwane	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Torino FC	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0

GROUP B

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Spartak	1	1	0	0	15	0	+15	3
Bidvest Wits	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
Football School of India	1	0	0	1	0	15	-15	0

GROUP C

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Club Brugge	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
Mamelodi Sundowns	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3
Club Tijuana	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0

GROUP D

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Atletico Madrid	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	3
Orlando Pirates	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
University of Pretoria	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0

NETWORKING LUNCH SPONSORED BY:



HAPPY HOUR TREATS SUPPLIED BY:



DRUM CAFE

Teams were treated to a festive night at the end of their first day of competition, led by the powerful troupe that makes up Drum Café. The beat of the drum united them in an interactive evening of festivities at Kopanong Hotel. Players and coaches alike took part in the powerful event showcasing the heart of Gauteng's culture and rhythm. It was the ideal icebreaker for teams from different countries to cross barriers of language and nationality in a celebration of music and dance, setting the tone for the rest of the week.





DAY TWO

THE ACTION HEATS UP!

A fantastic record was set by Bidvest Wits as they registered the highest score in the nine-year history of the Future Champions Gauteng.

The Johannesburg club defeated the Football School of India in a thrilling display of attacking football. Malik Mashinini scored six of the goals himself, while there were also hat-tricks for Ethan Andrews and Leo Mert.

Another ace marksman on Day Two was Danila Proshliakov, from Spartak Moscow, who scored a hat-trick in a 3-0 win over SAFA Tshwane to take his tally for the tournament to nine goals in two games.

That set up an intriguing showdown for top spot in Group B between Wits and Spartak, with the South African side leading on goal difference after two wins each.

NPFL All Stars took charge of their group following a 3-0 win over Torino, while Atletico Madrid drew 0-0 with Mamelodi Sundowns. Pirates beat University of Pretoria 4-0 thanks to two goals from exciting prospect Lyle Foster and Club Tijuana overcame Club Brugge 2-1.









MATCH RESULTS

Torino	0	v	3	NPFL All-Stars
Orlando Pirates	4	v	0	University of Pretoria
Football School of India	0	v	20	Bidvest Wits
Club Brugge	1	v	2	Club Tijuana
SAFA Tshwane	0	v	3	Spartak Moscow
Atletico Madrid	0	v	0	Mamelodi Sundowns

GROUP A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
NPFL All-Stars	2	1	1	0	4	1	+3	4
SAFA Tshwane	2	0	1	1	1	4	-3	1
Torino FC	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0

GROUP B

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Bidvest Wits	2	2	0	0	22	1	+21	6
Spartak Moscow	2	2	0	0	18	0	+18	6
Football School of India	2	0	0	2	0	35	-35	0

GROUP C

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Mamelodi Sundowns	2	1	1	0	1	0	+1	4
Club Brugge	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
Club Tijuana	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3

GROUP D

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Atletico Madrid	2	1	1	0	4	0	+4	4
Orlando Pirates	2	1	0	1	5	2	+3	3
University of Pretoria	2	0	0	2	0	6	-6	0

NETWORKING LUNCH SPONSORED BY:

Gauteng Coaches

HAPPY HOUR TREATS SUPPLIED BY:







DAY THREE

THE FINAL GROUP GAMES

Respected European sides Torino and Club Brugge both have great faith in South Africa's ability to further aid the development of youth football globally.

Torino were one of the first teams in Italy to adopt a youth policy, as early as the 1930s, and have won a record nine domestic youth league titles.

Their head of youth Massimo Bava said: "To return to Johannesburg is always exciting for all of us. We're proud to participate in the 2017 edition of the tournament."

Likewise, Club Brugge - winners of 14 Belgian league titles - view the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament as an important fixture in their calendar. They have a long history of developing African talent.

Pascal De Maesschalck, head of the club's academy, said: "Evolution in football is more and more thinking and acting globally. This tournament allows us to compete with different teams from around the world and learn more about the way football is played in Africa."

Alas, Torino, winners in 2015, ended this group campaign without a victory after a 1-1 draw with SAFA Tshwane. Club Brugge also missed out on a place in the semi-finals, losing 1-0 to Mamelodi Sundowns whose victory took them through.

Bidvest Wits clinched a 3-2 win over Spartak Moscow in the deciding match in Group B despite two goals from Dmitry Markitesov for the Russians. Malik Mashinini, with his seventh goal of the tournament, settled the match for 'The Clever Boys'.

NPFL All Stars booked a semi-final place with a win over the Football School of India, with Toluwalase Arokodare grabbing four goals.

Atletico Madrid went through after edging out Orlando Pirates 2-1 in a Group D decider, while Club Tijuana ended the group phase with a 3-0 victory over University of Pretoria.



MATCH RESULTS

Torino	1	v	1	SAFA Tshwane
Bidvest Wits	3	v	2	Spartak Moscow
NPFL All-Stars	11	v	0	Football School of India
Atletico Madrid	2	v	1	Orlando Pirates
Club Tijuana	3	v	0	University of Pretoria
Mamelodi Sundowns	1	v	0	Club Brugge

GROUP A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
NPFL All-Stars	3	2	1	0	15	1	+14	7
SAFA Tshwane	3	0	2	1	2	5	-3	2
Torino FC	3	0	1	2	2	6	-4	1

GROUP B

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Bidvest Wits	3	3	0	0	25	3	+22	9
Spartak Moscow	3	2	0	1	20	3	+17	6
Football School of India	3	0	0	3	0	46	-46	0

GROUP C

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Mamelodi Sundowns	3	2	1	0	2	0	+2	7
Club Tijuana	3	2	0	1	5	2	+3	6
Club Brugge	3	1	0	2	3	4	-1	3

GROUP D

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Atletico Madrid	3	2	1	0	6	1	+5	7
Orlando Pirates	3	1	0	2	6	4	+2	3
University of Pretoria	3	0	0	3	0	11	-11	0

NETWORKING LUNCH SPONSORED BY:



HAPPY HOUR TREATS SUPPLIED BY:





DAY FOUR

CULTURAL VISITS



Gauteng has got it all and guests attending the Future Champions Gauteng 2017 International Tournament saw for themselves the scale of what the Province has to offer.

Gauteng Tourism Authority took teams and media on a tour of Gauteng's most spectacular and historic sites, providing insight into just some of the Province's many attractions.

Multilingual tour guides were provided as players and coaches had the unique opportunity of experiencing South Africa's fractured past and its project of renewal. It undoubtedly served as a day they will treasure for many years to come, giving them a taste of the beauty and buzz of Gauteng.

LESEDI CULTURAL VILLAGE ►

Experience the colourful sights and sounds of authentic African villages, learning about the cultures of the Zulu, Xhosa, Pedi, Basotho, Nguni and Ndebele people. Traditional song and dance is part of the entertainment for visitors to this popular tourist destination.

Teams were treated to a special buffet lunch and a spirited performance of indigenous dancing during their visit to the cultural village, along with a stop at the craft market for artisan gifts and handmade treasures.





◀ LION PARK

Take a walk on the wild side at Lion Park to see Africa's animal kingdom. Lion Park is neither a game reserve nor a zoo and is divided into two sections - one for herbivores such as zebras, giraffes and antelopes and the other for predators such as lions, hyenas and cheetahs. A fascinating day out on safari in this Gauteng wonderland.





APARTHEID MUSEUM ▶

The Apartheid Museum illustrates the rise and fall of apartheid. Exhibits assembled by curators, filmmakers, historians and designers include provocative film footage, photographs, text panels and artefacts illustrating the events and human stories that are part of the epic saga, known as apartheid. For anyone wanting to understand the devastating reality of apartheid in South Africa, a visit to the this Museum is essential.





◀ VILAKAZI STREET

Two famous residents of Vilakazi Street turned this Soweto landmark into one of the most symbolic places in political history. Its main attraction is No 8115, known as Mandela House, where former South African President Nelson Mandela lived and is now restored to what it resembled when he first moved in. Human rights activist Archbishop Desmond Tutu lived in the same road, making it the only street in the world to have been home to two former Nobel Peace Prize winners. The guided tour also included a visit to the Hector Pieterse Monument built in remembrance of the first victim of the 1976 student uprising.



▲ SOCCER CITY STADIUM

For sports fans catching a glimpse of a famous soccer stadium is always magical. Soccer City was the venue for the first FIFA World Cup™ Final on African soil in 2010 when Spain defeated the Netherlands 1-0.





DAY FIVE

THE PLAY-OFF MATCHES

An All Stars team from the Nigerian Professional Football League (NPFL) were aiming to become the first side from the African continent to win the prestigious Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament.

Typical West African flair saw them knock out Mamelodi Sundowns 3-0 in the semi-final, thanks to two goals from Nazi Yahaya and a strike by Sadig Abdullahi.

Nigerian football has long been at the forefront of football on the continent, producing the likes of players such as Jay-Jay Okocha, Finidi George, Joseph Yobo, Nwankwo Kanu, Vincent Enyeama and the late Stephen Keshi.

Nigeria has already been represented by Apapa Golden Stars, Bridge FC and Saki West at the tournament.

Their final opponents were Atletico Madrid who defeated Bidvest Wits 5-2, having led 4-0 at the interval. Spartak Moscow missed two spot kicks in a 4-2 penalty shootout loss to Orlando Pirates after an entertaining goalless draw.

SAFA Tshwane were well beaten 3-0 by Club Tijuana and University of Pretoria defeated the Football School of India with Valli Baloyi grabbing five goals and Sibusiso Nkosi four, to earn a tie with Torino who pipped Club Brugge 2-1.

NETWORKING LUNCH SPONSORED BY:



HAPPY HOUR TREATS SUPPLIED BY:









MATCH RESULTS

Spartak Moscow	0	v	0	Orlando Pirates
Orlando Pirates win on penalties 4-2				
SAFA Tshwane	0	v	3	Club Tijuana
Football School of India	0	v	11	University of Pretoris
Torino FC	2	v	1	Club Brugge
SEMI FINAL 1				
NPFL All-Stars	3	v	0	Mamelodi Sundowns
SEMI FINAL 2				
Bidvest Wits	2	v	5	Atletico Madrid



DAY SIX

THE FINAL DAY

Atletico Madrid are the kings of Gauteng again!

The Spanish outfit retained the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament to show the club's future is in safe hands.

A unique bond was forged after Spain won their first FIFA World Cup in South Africa in 2010 and strengthened here when Atletico defeated Nigerian side NPFL All Stars 2-1 in the Final at the Football Training Centre.

Alberto Salido was the hero, scoring the winning goal after a penalty from Nazi Yahaya, his seventh goal of the tournament, had cancelled out Adrian Luque's opener.

Mamelodi Sundowns won the battle of the South African sides, overcoming Bidvest Wits 2-0 to claim the bronze medal for their best finish to the tournament.

Club Tijuana took fifth place after a 3-0 success over Orlando Pirates. Spartak Moscow defeated SAFA Tshwane 5-1 as Danila Proshliakov, the competition's top scorer, took his tournament tally to a remarkable 11 goals.

Torino claimed ninth position after a 5-0 win over University of Pretoria while the Football School of India and Club Brugge swapped players in a cultural bonding exercise to give them experience of teaming up with players from different continents and backgrounds. The game ended 5-5.









CLOSING CEREMONY

Broadcast live on SuperSport across the continent, the glittering Closing Ceremony and Trophy Celebrations included representatives and dignitaries from Gauteng Provincial Government, Gauteng Tourism Authority, the Soweto Football Association and Global Sports International. Soweto school choirs once again led the crowd in a rousing rendition of the national anthem, followed by a meet-and-greet on the pitch with Future Champions finalists Atletico Madrid and the NPFL All-Stars.

Winners of the Future Players and Future Coaches programmes were announced during the proceedings, receiving national and international press exposure for their achievements.

Embassy officials and Future Champions Gauteng Ambassador Refiloe Jane joined in the Trophy Celebrations, congratulating Atletico Madrid on their well-deserved victory as 2017 Champions. Silver and bronze medals were provided to NPFL All-Stars and Mamelodi Sundowns respectively, in recognition of their outstanding performances during the week.

MATCH RESULTS

Football School of India	4	v	4	Club Brugge
University of Pretoria	0	v	0	Torino
Spartak Moscow	5	v	1	SAFA Tshwane
Orlando Pirates	0	v	3	Club Tijuana
Bidvest Wits	0	v	2	Mamelodi Sundowns
Atletico Madrid	2	v	1	NPFL All-Stars

PREVIOUS WINNERS

YEAR	WINNER	COUNTRY	VENUE
2017	Atletico Madrid	Spain	Gauteng, South Africa
2016	Atletico Madrid	Spain	Gauteng, South Africa
2015	Torino FC	Italy	Gauteng, South Africa
2014	Clube Atletico Mineiro	Brazil	Gauteng, South Africa
2013	Club Tijuana	Mexico	Gauteng, South Africa
2012	Clube Atletico Mineiro	Brazil	Gauteng, South Africa
2011	Clube Atletico Mineiro	Brazil	Belo Horizonte, Brazil
2011	Clube Atletico Mineiro	Brazil	Gauteng, South Africa
2010	Clube Atletico Mineiro	Brazil	Belo Horizonte, Brazil
2010	Shangdong Luneng	China	Gauteng, South Africa
2009	Boca Juniors	Argentina	Gauteng, South Africa

NETWORKING LUNCH SPONSORED BY:



HAPPY HOUR TREATS SUPPLIED BY:



FUTURE CHAMPIONS GAUT



GROUP A

SAFA Tshwane (South Africa)
NPFL All-Stars (Nigeria)
Torino FC (Italy)

GROUP B

BidVest Wits (South Africa)
Football School of India (India)
Spartak Moscow (Russia)

GROUP C

Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa)
Club Tijuana (Mexico)
Club Brugge (Belgium)

GROUP D

Orlando Pirates (South Africa)
University of Pretoria (South Africa)
Atletico Madrid (Spain)

MONDAY 20 MARCH 2017

SAFA Tshwane	1	v	1	NPFL All-Stars
Spartak	15	v	0	Football School of India
Orlando Pirates	1	v	2	Club Brugge
Bidvest Wits	2	v	1	Torino FC
University of Pretoria	0	v	4	Atletico Madrid
Mamelodi Sundowns	1	v	0	Club Tijuana

TUESDAY 21 MARCH 2017

Torino	0	v	3	NPFL All-Stars
Orlando Pirates	4	v	0	University of Pretoria
Football School of India	0	v	20	Bidvest Wits
Club Brugge	1	v	2	Club Tijuana
SAFA Tshwane	0	v	3	Spartak Moscow
Atletico Madrid	0	v	0	Mamelodi Sundowns

WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2017

Torino	1	v	1	SAFA Tshwane
Bidvest Wits	3	v	2	Spartak Moscow
NPFL All-Stars	11	v	0	Football School of India
Atletico Madrid	2	v	1	Orlando Pirates
Club Tijuana	3	v	0	University of Pretoria
Mamelodi Sundowns	1	v	0	Club Brugge

GROUP A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
NPFL All-Stars	3	2	1	0	15	1	+14	7
SAFA Tshwane	3	0	2	1	2	5	-3	2
Torino FC	3	0	1	2	2	6	-4	1

GROUP B

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Bidvest Wits	3	3	0	0	25	3	+22	9
Spartak Moscow	3	2	0	1	20	3	+17	6
Football School of India	3	0	0	3	0	46	-46	0

GROUP C

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Mamelodi Sundowns	3	2	1	0	2	0	+2	7
Club Tijuana	3	2	0	1	5	2	+3	6
Club Brugge	3	1	0	2	3	4	-1	3

GROUP D

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Atletico Madrid	3	2	1	0	6	1	+5	7
Orlando Pirates	3	1	0	2	6	4	+2	3
University of Pretoria	3	0	0	3	0	11	-11	0

AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS 2017 FINAL RESULTS



FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2017				
Spartak Moscow	0	v	0	Orlando Pirates
Orlando Pirates win on penalties 4-2				
SAFA Tshwane	0	v	3	Club Tijuana
Football School of India	0	v	11	University of Pretoria
Torino FC	2	v	1	Club Brugge
SEMI FINAL 1				
NPFL All-Stars	3	v	0	Mamelodi Sundowns
SEMI FINAL 2				
Bidvest Wits	2	v	5	Atletico Madrid

SATURDAY 25 MARCH 2017				
Football School of India	4	v	4	Club Brugge
University of Pretoria	0	v	0	Torino
Spartak Moscow	5	v	1	SAFA Tshwane
Orlando Pirates	0	v	3	Club Tijuana
Bidvest Wits	0	v	2	Mamelodi Sundowns
Atletico Madrid	2	v	1	NPFL All-Stars

FINAL STANDINGS	
1	Atletico Madrid (SPAIN)
2	NPFL All-Stars (NIGERIA)
3	Mamelodi Sundowns (SOUTH AFRICA)
4	Bidvest Wits (SOUTH AFRICA)
5	Club Tijuana (MEXICO)
6	Orlando Pirates (SOUTH AFRICA)
7	Spartak Moscow (RUSSIA)
8	SAFA Tshwane (SOUTH AFRICA)
9	Torino FC (ITALY)
10	University of Pretoria (SOUTH AFRICA)
11	Club Brugge (BELGIUM)
12	Football School of India (INDIA)



FUTURE COACHES



The 2017 Future Coaches Gauteng comprised a clinic and SAFA D Licence Course for over a hundred participants. The International Coaching Clinic exposed Gauteng coaches to some of the latest developments in youth training, techniques and tactics in developing well-rounded players and leadership in football. Coaches from across Gauteng were invited to participate in the 2017 programme, which included the opportunity of running skills tests for the Future Players programme.

Future Coaches Gauteng fosters a unique and powerful programme of education and training, motivating and inspiring future leaders in sport. The alliance with SAFA additionally provides aspiring coaches with professional coaching qualifications as they embark upon their careers.

Dedicated coach Sakhile Nkomo from Orlando East in Johannesburg scooped the Future Coach prize after taking part in the weeklong Coaching Clinic. Nkomo coaches Phalamorodu FC in the SAB League of his community as well as having his own team of juniors, Orlando Real Sweepers FC. He will be joining the Future Players Gauteng 2017 winners on their Spanish adventure later in the year as a mentor and coach for the trio.



"Since I was named the Future Coaches winner for 2017, I have worked harder to better myself as a coach so that I can also help others to get better. I have gained hope that even young coaches from disadvantaged areas can make it in the world of soccer. I am going to use

this opportunity to uplift those around me and make sure that I share everything I learn here and in Spain, with other coaches. Ngiyabonga Future Champions for the great initiative and for giving young boys and girls hope. I still get goose bumps thinking that a young township boy like me would go overseas for coaching. Thank You Future Champions, Gauteng Government and SAFA Soweto"

SAKHILE NKOMO







FUTURE PLAYERS

Three of Gauteng's finest young players will make a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Spain to sample one of the best football leagues in the world.

The latest lucky winners of the Future Players Gauteng Talent Search are:



VUYO XABANISA
from Kwa-Bhekilanga
Secondary School in
Alexandra.



THABANG RALELE
of Kgomotso
Comprehensive High
School in Soshanguve.



THEMBELIHLE FIKILE
from Forest High School
in Johannesburg.

The trio were rewarded for their dedication and potential after earning selection from thousands of other hopefuls in the long-running Future Players Talent Search initiative, a unique partnership between the Gauteng Provincial Government and Global Sports International. Skills tests were held across the province for boys and girls aged between 12 – 16, with the final round taking place during the International Tournament.

The winners are in for a treat judging by the amazing experience enjoyed by three teenagers who won the Future Players prize in 2016.

Future Players Gauteng aims to be the benchmark in talent identification and mass participation life skills development. The aspirational and motivational programme keeps thousands of teenagers across the Province engaged in healthy activities, often held in communities facing poverty, crime and substance abuse. It empowers and nurtures youth participating in the programme, broadening their horizons in the quest to source the most promising and talented young players.





FROM GAUTENG TO SPAIN



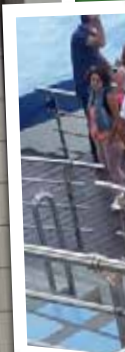
In partnership with Gauteng Provincial Government and Global Sports International, La Liga are making dreams come true for up and coming football talent by organising an annual trip to the footballing hotbed of Spain as part of their on-going support for South African football.

2016 Future Players Gauteng winners Philane Kunene, Prince Moeketsi and Charlton Jade qualified from 100 finalists after showcasing their skills across the Province. They were accompanied by Future Coach winner Christa Flora Kgampe on an eight-day trip, which began in the Spanish capital.

A high-speed train took them to Valencia to watch the Valencia-Atletico Madrid match in La Liga and attend beach soccer training, one of football's fastest growing disciplines.

The guests then watched La Liga side Villarreal put through their paces in a training session before returning to Madrid for a tour of the fabled Bernabeu Stadium, home of Real Madrid.

To crown their visit, they saw the likes of world stars Fernando Torres and Antoine Griezmann during a training session led by coach Diego Simeone. The youngsters also trained with the under17 sides of Atletico, Valencia and Villarreal, giving them a rare opportunity to compare skills, while coach Kgampe took a training session in Villarreal.



PAIN



Several sightseeing tours and a visit to the South African embassy completed a memorable trip and made them determined to make the most of their future.

It was the trip of a lifetime for the lucky quartet, taking them one step closer to achieving their dreams:

"We trained with Villarreal, met players like Torres, Puyo and Xavi, saw some amazing matches and learned so much," said Charlton Jade. "From playing foot volley on the beach to visiting the Royal Palace and seeing a flamenco show, every day was unforgettable."

Prince Moeketsi was equally enthusiastic about their life-changing adventure: "We saw so many things - met Fernando Torres twice in a week, visited the stadiums of Atletico de Madrid, FC Valencia and Real Madrid. It was really inspiring; I never imagined that one day I would see these things! It motivated me to work hard and believe in myself, so that one day I can return as a professional."

"It was out of this world," said Christa Kgamphe, Future Coach winner and 2016 Ambassador. "We trained with the best and saw some spectacular sites. We met so many famous people and legends of football. Thanks to Future Champions, La Liga and Gauteng Provincial Government for giving us this trip of a lifetime. We will cherish it forever."

La Liga Africa Director Antonio Barradas said: "For La Liga it's essential to commit to projects like Future Champions since grass roots football and the search for young talented players are part of La Liga's resolution to give back to the African continent.

"Every day we work on different projects with the aim of conveying the positive values that football embodies. The kids who had the opportunity to go to Spain declared it was a very exciting and rewarding experience, and thanks to La Liga, they could get a bit closer to Spanish football. This is very important to us."



LEAVING A LEGACY

FOR THE FUTURE CHAMPIONS OF GAUTENG

Sponsors, partners and participating international clubs provided a range of legacy donations and support to Gauteng schools and Local Football Associations through their involvement with the project.



LaLiga and Atletico Madrid, HIP (Hellenic Italian Portuguese) Alliance and Torino FC, as well as FC Brugge and Spartak Moscow provided merchandise, football gear and kit to thousands of schoolchildren and players attending the tournament, with a special investment in their adopted schools. Similarly, Gauteng Coaches and Clinix supported the legacy initiatives of the tournament through transport and health services for Soweto.

Future Champions Gauteng has established a long-term investment in the Soweto Football Association as the annual host of the International Tournament, with various donations to support their youth activities year-round. In addition, further investments were made to all regions of SAFA Gauteng in order to prepare their participating teams.



ADOPT A TEAM CAMPAIGN

Coordinated in partnership with Gauteng Department of Education, the Future Champions Adopt-a-Team Campaign has become a highlight of the Gauteng International Tournament, with the inclusion of Soweto primary schools. The twelve selected schools have developed on-going legacy partnerships with Future Champions Gauteng; teachers and heads of schools established close ties to those involved with the project along with many of the participating international teams.

Each school learned of their team and country to support at the Media Launch in front of gathered press and dignitaries. Hundreds of schoolchildren involved in the campaign attended matches and took part in official proceedings, whilst meeting some of the world's top U17 players. They displayed flags of their adopted countries and went to great lengths in showing their support, arriving at the stadium with faces painted and songs prepared.

Selected students had the prestigious opportunity of being team mascots for live televised matches, accompanying players onto the pitch. Provided with Future Champions merchandise as well as sponsored merchandise from supporting partners such as La Liga and their adopted clubs, the schools were treated as VIPs throughout the week.

Dozens of children from special needs schools around Gauteng were included in the campaign, treated to Debonairs pizzas and other goodies. They participated as team mascots and played a key role in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, making for a highly memorable experience.





WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

The inclusion of girls and women in Future Champions Gauteng activities and events has expanded each year of the project, with the Future Players and Future Coaches programmes empowering and training thousands of girls and women as players, coaches and leaders in their communities.

The 2017 Future Champions Gauteng tournaments included girls and women's teams in exhibition and curtain-raiser matches. Tshwane University of Technology FC and JW FC were invited to compete in the women's football component of the International Tournament, playing their match on the Finals day to a packed stadium. JW FC was crowned as the women's champion of the 2017 Future Champions Gauteng International, receiving special acknowledgement in the Trophy Celebrations.

As the official Future Champions Gauteng Ambassador and first Future Players winner, Refiloe Jane has a long-term partnership with the project. Refiloe was discovered through the Future Players initiative in 2009 at the age of 15 and has gone on to represent South Africa at the 2012 Olympics in London and the 2016 Olympics in Rio as a vice-captain of Banyana Banyana as well as a former captain of Mamelodi Sundowns women's team.

Future Champions Gauteng has invested in her career as a footballer and leader, with Refiloe having completed her degree in sports science management at the Vaal University of Technology whilst captaining their women's team. Refiloe Jane was involved in all activities of the 2017 International Tournament and serves as a mentor to the Future Players winners, along with spearheading the inclusion of women's teams in the competition.



FOOTBALL CLINICS

Teams participating in the International Tournament took part in special outreach football clinics organised by the Gauteng Department of Education. The Football School of India, Club Tijuana and FC Brugge ran clinics with school teams in Lenasia, Eldorado Park and Soweto, imparting their skills, knowledge and experience to local players whilst fostering an exchange with coaching staff of the participating teams.



GREENING INITIATIVES

Recycling initiatives were prominent at this year's event. A Future Champions Gauteng 'Green Team' was established, comprising volunteers from Soweto. All plastic bottles and other trash was collected and recycled throughout the week. Environmental awareness was promoted through their activities, including a focus on reducing water wastage.



CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF VOLUNTEERISM

A total of 240 volunteers provided assistance in various areas of the International Tournament and Coaching Clinic, deployed in a variety of tasks from logistical duties to media and hospitality. They were remunerated and also provided with Future Champions merchandise besides having the opportunity of working on this prestigious event.

In 2016, Future Champions Gauteng spearheaded on-going student partnerships with Vaal University of Technology and the University of Johannesburg

for the student volunteer programme. Students involved in the field of Sports Management were selected and trained to be part of the Future Champions team; they in turn were able to complete the necessary work experience for their programmes of study. The students gained invaluable experience during the planning and execution stages of the tournament, as it provided them with a unique opportunity to learn new skills in such a large-scale international event.

“Volunteering for Future Champions has been a wonderful tool for growth in every aspect of our lives; it wasn’t just acquiring work experience but growing as a person, as a future employee going forward. We had the opportunity of meeting different people from across all paths of life, even from around the world, which really broadened our social outlook and network.”

VUT STUDENT TESTIMONIAL



MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC

Clinix Health Group and Gauteng Coaches set up a mobile health clinic for the duration of the International Tournament, in order to provide fans and families attending the event with vital health services. The clinic offered free check-ups and assessments to the community for blood pressure, blood sugar levels and healthy heart awareness focusing on hypertension, heart disease and diabetes.

The world-class medical services of Clinix Health were available to all those in need, in partnership with the all-inclusive transport services of Gauteng Coaches.



Gauteng Coaches



LOVE LIFE

As an established Future Champions Gauteng partner, LoveLife set up a facility at the Nike Football Centre during the tournament, with activities, entertainment and support for players and students as well as fans attending the matches. It provided an interactive space for youth to access information on sexual, emotional and physical health while being empowered by the LoveLife life-skills programme.

The programme encompasses a comprehensive life-skills curriculum that seeks to address and dismantle stigmas around HIV/Aids. Through their involvement with Future Champions Gauteng, LoveLife ground-breakers educate participants about the Sexually Transmitted Disease through the language of football. The curriculum inspires youth to lead healthier lifestyles and provides them with the tools to make more informed choices.





PREMIER OF GAUTENG

DAVID MAKHURA

We are delighted to have once again hosted the Future Champions Gauteng, showcasing some of the best footballing talents not only in our Province but also around the world. Football is a huge part of our communities across the Province and we have made it our goal to better serve the people of Gauteng in all our engagements with them. It is why we launched the Ntirhisano service delivery model in 2014 that has been such a huge success and why we continue to make delivery to our people a top priority.

The Future Champions project has done much in recent years to raise the standard of junior football in the Province. It has given us the opportunity to see what the Province as a whole can produce in the way of young talent. Future Champions is an important stepping-stone for these youngsters in giving them the opportunity to challenge their peers and develop as footballers.



MEC FOR GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION

NONHLANHLA FAITH MAZIBUKO

We are truly excited to have had this opportunity once again to not only catch a glimpse of future internationals from around the world, but also from our very own Province. It was a pleasure to welcome our international guests and we trust that they enjoyed their stay, both on and off the pitch, and that the soccer provided rich entertainment for fans.

It is crucial that we have such platforms to allow us to give these young players, many from disadvantaged backgrounds, the opportunity to display their talent and improve not only their lives, but also the lives of those around them. Together we move Gauteng City Region forward. We believe that positive interventions in society such as these are vital for the development of our young players and learners. The Future Champions Gauteng allows us to once again show that our Province is the enabler of sporting excellence!



MEC FOR GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MR PANYAZA LESUFI

The Future Champions Gauteng has become a regular fixture on the Province's sporting calendar and gives our learners the opportunity to represent their school and team with pride. For these young boys and girls to interact with learners from all around the world has a significant educational value and it is wonderful to see the teams come together in the spirit of friendship and comradery. There is much to learn from each other and we appreciate the opportunity of welcoming our guests from around the world and sharing with them what makes South Africa such a special country.

Football is a language that all understand and by bringing together a fun aspect of the sport with the educational importance of the Future Champions project, we are able to provide the right environment for learners to take on board what is being taught in building self-esteem as well as preventing drug use, bullying and obesity.



MEC FOR GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MR LEBOGANG MAILE

Gauteng is the Home of Champions and through powerful programs such as Future Champions, the rich talent among our young people can be nurtured both on and off the sporting fields. It is an honour to have hosted our guests from all over the world and introduced them to our South African heritage and the hospitality that Gauteng is renowned for. We believe that following their future success, participants will look back to this project for its immense contribution to their footballing, cultural and life experience.

This year's International Tournament boasted another star-studded field and we're glad to have seen South Africa and Gauteng represented by such impressive performances throughout the competition. I would also like to extend my thanks to Global Sports International for their continued belief in the project and Gauteng as a host, as well as all other stakeholders who are crucial to making this project the success that it is today.



**BANYANA BANYANA MIDFIELDER,
FUTURE CHAMPIONS GAUTENG
AMBASSADOR**

REFILOE JANE

Winning the Future Players Gauteng Talent Search in 2009 really kick-started my career and gave me so much confidence to believe that I could play for a top local side and even internationally. I hope I can be an inspiration to other young girls and guys that you can achieve your dreams with hard work. It is an honour to be a Future Champions Gauteng Ambassador as it's a project that I passionately believe in. I look forward to mentoring the new cohort of young Future Players winners as they develop in confidence, self-esteem and maturity.



**HEAD OF THE GAUTENG CONVENTION
BUREAU AND EVENTS**

NONNIE KUBEKA

The Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament provides the players and coaches with an opportunity to explore what Gauteng and South Africa have to offer beyond the football fields. We wanted them to experience the highlights of the dynamic and vibrant Gauteng City Region, for which they have shown great appreciation.

We believe we're a world-class Province and one that has much to offer our visitors. Football is very much in the fabric of Gauteng with so many top teams situated here and the real passion our citizens have for the game.



**SAFA TECHNICAL
DIRECTOR**

NEIL TOVEY

The South African Football Association's key objective is to develop football in the country so we are delighted to partner with any event that provides this platform. The Future Champions Gauteng has proved to be a huge success since it was first initiated in 2009 and a testament to this is the quality of the teams that return year after year to compete.

It is always fascinating for our local teams to test their qualities against sides from around the world that can bring a different style and mentality to the game. Football is a mental game as well as a physical one and to be able to learn from other footballing cultures is a huge bonus for our youngsters. But at the same time, we believe we have something to showcase to the rest of the world. I think our visitors can learn something from us too.



**SOWETO FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION CHAIR**

PHIL MOGODI

The Soweto Football Association is proud to have hosted the Future Champions Gauteng in Soweto once again, where this project all began. Future Champions is contributing to a rich momentum of developing players for the local game and through its partnership with SAFA Gauteng and the Soweto FA, it has grown to be a powerful enabler of career development for our young players and coaches. The 2017 tournaments – from the Schools Cup to the International U/17 Tournament – made for compelling viewing for all South African football fans.

We should give praise to the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation for the way they've embraced the Future Champions Gauteng concept and afforded these youngsters the platform to showcase their skills.



**CEO FOR CLINIX
HEALTH GROUP**

DR KHAMANE 'KOP' MATSEKE

Clinix Health Group is proud to support the Future Champions Gauteng as it not only places a spotlight on South African and international youth talent, it also lets the world view Soweto in a different light. We are especially proud to have two of our hospitals - Dr SK Matseke Memorial Hospital and Tshepo Themba Private Hospital - based within Soweto, where the Future Champions International Tournament is held. Supporting the Future Champions Gauteng and similar initiatives is important to us, as it encourages youth to live healthy lifestyles and seek out sport as an alternative to indulging in bad influences whilst enabling youth to reach their full potential.



After being present for the second year in the Future Champions Gauteng the sensations are similar to those of the first time. From a sporting perspective, it was a great opportunity to play in a top tournament with very good teams and excellent organization. It has been a real honour to win this tournament for the second time, a difficult feat given the quality of participating teams.

Outside the field of play, it has been another beautiful experience of having lived with young people and technical colleagues from other countries with a culture totally different from ours – especially with the warm affection of the people of South Africa.

In terms of cultural experiences, it has been a great opportunity to have visited, among other things, the Apartheid Museum, which we really enjoyed and learned a lot from all the members on the excursion.

A big thanks to the entire hotel staff for their constant kindness with all of us. And we'd also like to thank the organizers of this tournament for having invited us back to this edition.

Thank you very much and good luck in future editions.

JUAN ANTONIO RAMOS
Delegado Atletico de Madrid



We would like to thank the organizing committee of Future Champions Gauteng for inviting our Academy to participate in such a prestigious tournament. We had a life enriching football and cultural experience in Gauteng.

The tournament was very well organized right from the arrival till the departure. Each and every member of the organizing committee was extremely helpful, professional, warm and accommodating. They really helped us to settle down in South Africa quickly which never gave us the feeling that we were miles away from our country.

It was indeed an honour that we got an opportunity to play against the best teams around the world. This tournament not only was an eye opener to all our players on the level of international football standards but also for the academy as it opened many new doors for improvement. The tournament helped us to interact and exchange knowledge and ideas with various athletes from different cultures.

Future Champions is indeed the most competitive and one of the best international U17 tournaments in the world. We all have returned home with a series of fantastic memories and good friends, which will keep us motivated throughout the year and help us train harder for the next tournament. The weeklong experience in South Africa not only helped our academy players to become good players but also good human beings.

VAISHALI SANAS
Academy CEO



Future Champions Gauteng was a lot more than a high level, perfectly organized tournament. Getting in touch with the local culture and history was a real eye-opener.

PLAYER, CLUB BRUGGE

The Future Coaches education program was one of the highlights of our stay in Gauteng. We were honored to share our ideas on youth soccer with the local coaches.

COACH, CLUB BRUGGE

It was a great challenge to have such quality opponents on the field. Besides the football, we'll never forget the moments shared with players from other teams and cultures, making new friends from all over the world. The drumming night was a highlight for the team, giving us big smiles as we learned new rhythms! From Soweto and Vilakazi Street to the lions, we will always remember Gauteng.

SIMON PAULET AND SIEMEN VOET
Captains of Club Brugge



It was an absolute honour to first and foremost qualify for this very prestigious tournament out of so many teams. To represent South Africa against some of the very best academy teams in the world is something I, as a coach, am very proud of, but more importantly it was such an invaluable experience for our boys.

Beyond the football field, the Future Champions tournament is more than what it seems, as the interaction with players from different countries and cultures is something that the boys will take with them in their lives and careers moving forward. The initiatives and programmes improving social and football development within Gauteng make the whole week's experience extremely unique. The organisation and hospitality is second to none.

We will continue to work hard each year to ensure we qualify as we feel this tournament is a valuable part of our academy's calendar.

NIC STOTHARD
TUKS FC U/17 Head Coach



The Future Champions Gauteng continues to unearth future stars and it is a perfect platform for them to showcase their God-given talent. Thanks to tournament organizers and Gauteng Government for putting on another excellent edition of this top competition.

JOSY TSHABUSE
Orlando Pirates U/17 Head Coach



Future Champions Gauteng was absolutely delightful and a memorable experience for the NPFL ALL STARS team. The U17 youth team from Nigeria were excited to participate for the first time in the tournament and reaching all the way to the final was a tremendous effort by the boys. It was fun for the team having not only to play football, but also meet and hang out with other players from all over the world. Furthermore, the team was able to participate in memorable excursions and see great places such as the Apartheid Museum, Nelson Mandela's house, the Lion Park and much more.

The NPFL would like to thank the Future Champions team for inviting us to participate. And also commend them for putting up such a great tournament once again. We look forward to the next one.

MANSUR MAIGARI
NPFL All-Stars Team Secretary



On behalf of SAFA Tshwane players and staff who participated in the 2017 Future Champions Gauteng, we would like to thank everyone that was involved in staging such a great tournament.

The professionalism of the tournament and standard of play was really good. We enjoyed every minute of the tournament and the various activities. A lot of lessons were learned throughout the week. It exposed the players to different people their own age from other parts of the world, and the experience was phenomenal. The coaches and managers also learned a lot from each other.

We are looking forward to next year already.

JACKET MAKOBE
SAFA Tshwane Head Coach



Just as it was in the last edition, the Future Champions Gauteng 2017 was extraordinary. Returning to South Africa was exciting for all of us and we are proud to have participated in this year's edition. The experience of such a distant country has enriched our young players with culture, courage and new knowledge. The tournament matches were exciting and gave us great emotion.

Thanks to all the staff, to Government Authorities and friends who have given us a warm welcome.

MASSIMO BAVA
Manager Youth Sector Torino FC



It is a great pleasure and an honour to have once again participated in the Future Champions Gauteng. The tournament exposes us to different kinds of football approaches from around the world and provides our players with a highly competitive experience.

Many thanks for another superb edition.

COLEN MAKHANYA
Mamelodi Sundowns
U/17 Head Coach



We are delighted to have been invited back to the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament. It is a big honour to represent Tijuana and Mexico in South Africa.

The Tournament has been a great experience for our players and we have many happy memories of what is an incredible event. We competed against some of the best international youth teams with pride and enjoyed putting on another good show for the South African public.

Thanks to the Future Champions team and Gauteng for enabling us to compete in such a memorable event.

ROBERTO CORNEJO
Tijuana Academy Head



The Future Champions Gauteng is a well-run tournament, which gives our youth players an opportunity to compete against some top international opposition. Thank you for an unbelievable experience for our boys!

DILLION SHEPPARD
Bidvest Wits U/17 Head Coach



We would like to express our gratitude to the administration of the Future Champions Gauteng 2017. The Tournament was organized at the top level; everything was exciting and the attitude towards us was very attentive and friendly.

During the week we learned much and had an amazing experience with the teams' representatives who practice different football styles and philosophies. Our team had a number of enjoyable matches against some tough sporting opponents.

The whole event was fantastic and very well arranged: the accommodation was great, the pitches were in perfect condition and the staff was excellent from start to finish. The attention to detail really made this event special for every participant.

Future Champions gave our young players an opportunity to experience football at an international level. We look forward to returning to Gauteng to compete in the tournament next year. once again.

RODIONOV SERGEY Y.
General Director of
JSC FC Spartak-Moscow

