



FUTURE CHAMPIONS 2018

GAUTENG

SOUTH AFRICA



GLORIOUS GAUTENG

A VIBRANT PROVINCE WITH A GOLDEN FUTURE AND A UNIQUE PAST.

Home to the late Nelson Mandela, one of the most iconic men of modern times.

The country's first post-apartheid President was born 100 years ago this year: a symbolic anniversary in South African history celebrated at the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament. Appropriately, its theme was 'Inspiring football talent in the year of Nelson Mandela's Centenary.'

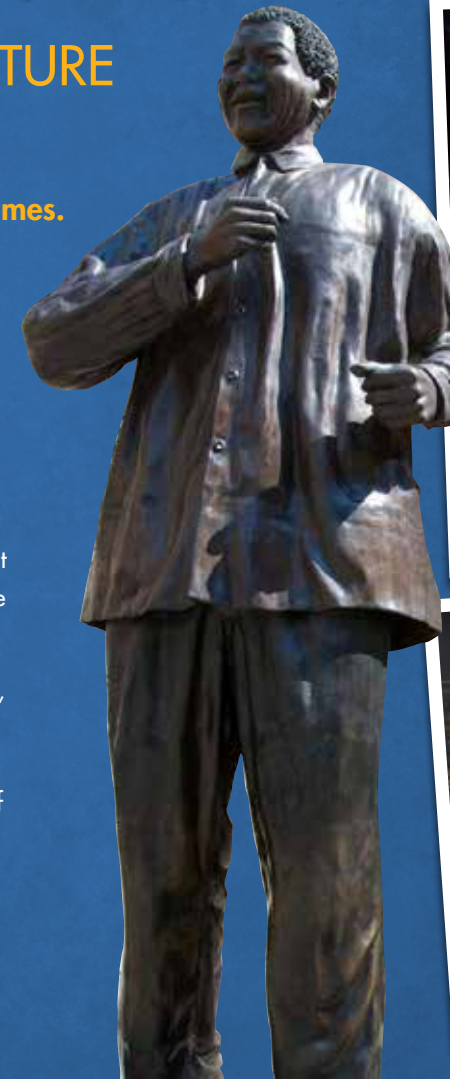
Future Champions also celebrated an important milestone: this weeklong festival of elite under 17s football has reached its 10th edition in Gauteng.

A province rich in heritage, oozing culture and contrasts, which act as a magnet for millions of visitors every year; from its wine to wildlife, beautiful countryside to the big-city attractions of Johannesburg and the political hub Tshwane, Gauteng has something for everyone. Yet nothing brings people together like its sport, with

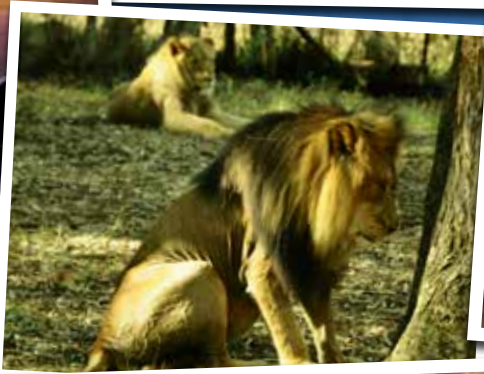
football leading the way for future generations; giving men and women the opportunity to learn important athletic, educational and life skills; sharing a sense of pride, passion and ambition.

Future Champions is organised by GSI Global under licence from GSI Limited in conjunction with the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, the Gauteng Department of Education, Gauteng Tourism Authority and the South African Football Association.

The 2018 competition was supported by the PSL, LaLiga, Sedgars Sport, Clinix Health Group, Gauteng Coaches, Rand Water, SCORE Energy Drinks, Häagen-Dazs, Motordeal and the City of Johannesburg.



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.



SCHOOLS CUP

THE SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE LIVED UP TO THEIR NAME BY WINNING THE 2018 FUTURE CHAMPIONS GAUTENG SCHOOLS CUP.

The Gauteng Schools Cup has a proud reputation, preparing young players for a potential career in professional football as well as developing crucial sporting and life skills.

These qualities were on display as the School of Excellence became the best school football team in Gauteng Province, securing a 2-1 final victory over Fumana Secondary School.

Their goal-scorers were two players whose exploits on the field have already earned rave reviews. For striker Boitumelo Radiopane it was his 10th goal in five games, making him the leading scorer in the tournament. Their other scorer was Leonardo Rooi, a Future Players Gauteng Talent Search winner in 2015 who was taken to the top academies and clubs of Manchester by Future Champions as part of his prize. Rooi's stellar performance at the Schools Cup proved his development as he progresses towards a professional career.

The Isak Steyl Stadium at Vaal University of Technology was the venue for this two-day festival of football featuring 16 of the best school sides in the province. It was an opportunity for newcomers such as Pholosh Junior Secondary School, making their debut in the tournament, to share the same stage as more seasoned campaigners.

The School of Excellence, whose last victory at the Schools Cup came in 2014, scored 18 goals without conceding to top their group. A 10-0 win over Soshanguve South High School was their most comprehensive score-line. They only conceded one goal during the tournament, with Lebogang Ayi getting the Fumana consolation in the final.

The four group winners at the Schools Cup qualified for the Gauteng Cup, the final stage before the Future Champions Under 17 International Tournament.

Fumana Secondary enjoyed a 100 per cent record in their group, with a 3-1 success over Johannesburg Secondary School deciding the pool. Rosina Sedibane also won their section, edging out Mohloli Secondary School on goal difference, while Clapham High breezed through their group with three wins, including big wins over Chipa Tabane Secondary School (8-0) and Randfontein High School (7-0). The semi-finals saw Clapham High lose 2-0 to the eventual winners, with Rosina Sedibane also missing out on the final after losing to Fumana in a hard-fought tie.

The Schools Cup was organised by GSI Global in conjunction with the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, and the Gauteng Department of Education. Other valued partners of the event were SAFA Gauteng, Sedgars Sport, Clinix, LaLiga and Gauteng Coaches.



Gauteng Schools Cup has involved over 2,500 participants from dozens of schools across the Province

Future Champions has provided top Gauteng school, academy and development teams with a national and international platform

"We send our congratulations to the winners School of Excellence and congratulate all four sides that have qualified for the Future Champions Gauteng Cup as they take their next step in their journey this year. Once again we have been delighted with the football on display from all teams in the Schools Cup. It shows the rich potential of this province to produce future stars for South Africa and at the same time provide aspiring players with a future as professional footballers."

Cedric Ranchor, Director of School Sports at Gauteng Department of Education

"A tournament such as this one only works if you have strong partnerships and dedicated sponsors who see the value in what we are trying to achieve for these young footballers. Our sponsors, especially Gauteng Provincial Government as well as supporting sponsors Sedgars Sport, Clinix and Gauteng Coaches, have been incredible in providing us with the tools to host the Schools Cup this year and for that we extend our sincere thanks."

Ray Whelan, Project Director

"We're very happy to be involved with this prestigious event once again, having proudly supported the Future Champions Gauteng Schools Cup in the Vaal since its inception."

Yusuf Dockrat, CEO of Sedgars Sport

"Stabus remains a proud transport partner of Future Champions Gauteng. We're glad to have provided the opportunity for hundreds of schoolchildren across Sedibeng to attend the School Cup and participate in the tournament."

Riaz Paruk, CEO of Gauteng Coaches

Learners in the Schools Cup also took part in the Future Players talent search as well as a life skills course conducted by Love Life groundbreakers, focusing on HIV/Aids awareness.



GAUTENG CUP

ACADEMY TEAMS MAINTAINED THEIR GRIP ON THE FUTURE CHAMPIONS GAUTENG CUP AS BIDVEST WITS WERE CROWNED 2018 CHAMPIONS.

It was the Young Clever Boys' second success in the competition, which celebrated its 10th anniversary.

All Gauteng Cup tournaments have been won by academy teams, with SuperSport United and Orlando Pirates leading the way with three titles each.

Bidvest Wits twice came from behind to beat Mamelodi Sundowns 5-3 on penalties after the final at Reiger Park had ended 2-2.

It was agony for Tlotlego Pitso, who scored both goals for Sundowns but each time was pegged back by equalisers from Mbongeni Kanyane and then Simphiwe Mabena. The talented Pitso at least had the consolation of finishing as the tournament's top scorer with six goals.

Both finalists came through penalty shoot-outs in their respective semi-finals. Wits won 5-4 against Highlands Park after a goalless draw, while the Brazilians defeated Orlando Pirates 2-0 on spot kicks after a 1-1 draw. This was revenge for Sundowns who had lost the 2017 final to Pirates on penalties.

As group winners, the four semi-finalists progressed to the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament, along with Jomo Cosmos, as best-placed runners-up.

"We are proud of our teams and hope that these youngsters take the opportunity that has been presented to them. To participate in the Gauteng Cup and qualify for the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament is a major step up in their development as it exposes them to players from all around the world, with different styles and approaches to the game. We thank all the stakeholders involved in the Gauteng Cup and congratulate them on this, their 10th year."

Mr Willie Mooka
SAFA Gauteng President





No fewer than 3,500 players and coaches from across the Province have participated in the Future Champions Gauteng Cup

Gauteng Cup has included all of the Province's top Academy and Development teams, from SAFA regional teams to clubs such as Orlando Pirates, Kaizer Chiefs, Mamelodi Sundowns and Bidvest Wits

The Gauteng Cup featured 16 teams - seven academy teams, five SAFA regional sides and the four Schools Cup qualifiers.

THE PARTICIPANTS

Academy teams - Jomo Cosmos, Highlands Park, Mamelodi Sundowns, Kaizer Chiefs, Orlando Pirates FC, Bidvest Wits and SuperSport United.

Regional sides - SAFA Ekurhuleni, SAFA Johannesburg, SAFA Tshwane, SAFA Sedibeng and SAFA West Rand.

Schools Cup - School of Excellence, Clapham High School, Rosina Sedibane Sport School and Fumana Secondary School.

Orlando Pirates can vouch for the success of the Gauteng Cup in producing players who have made the grade in South Africa's Premier Soccer League. Augusto Palacios, the Pirates' Technical Director of Youth, said: "Programmes and tournaments such as Future Champions are important because a lot of young players showcase their talent and end up fulfilling their destiny to become professional. For us, it's a special tournament because you look at the likes of Lyly Foster and Siphumelele Mbulu who played for us in this tournament and are now in the senior team of Orlando Pirates."



U-17 GIRLS TOURNAMENT

The Gauteng Cup staged an under 17 girl's competition for the first time between four teams.

Zara Walker scored a hat-trick as SAFA Johannesburg recorded an 11-0 win over an Ekurhuleni Invitational side, while SAFA Tshwane ran out 2-1 winners over SAFA Ekurhuleni. Paballo Chela and Lethabo Ledwaba were the goalscorers.

The two winners went forward to play their final during the 2018 Future Champions International Tournament.

Players from the Gauteng Cup also took part in the Future Players talent search and a life skills course conducted by Love Life groundbreakers, focusing on HIV/Aids awareness.

Along with the City of Ekurhuleni, Clinix Health supported the tournament with their team of medical personnel.



INTERNATIONAL

THE TEAMS

Seven clubs carried hopes of a first African victory in the 2018 Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament. It was the 10th attempt by the home continent to overcome challengers from other corners of the football world.

Five European teams took part, three of them making return visits to Gauteng. Club Brugge, from Belgium, made their third successive appearance at the tournament. Also back were ADO Den Haag from the Netherlands and FC Spartak Moscow, following in the path taken by Russian rivals Rubin Kazan who reached the 2011 final. European newcomers were RCD Espanyol from Barcelona in Spain and Italian side AC Reggiana.

Namibia and Zambia also had representatives in the 12-team tournament to bolster the African challenge. Black Africa Hopsol was delighted to accept an invitation to play. Black Africa FC does not have a youth academy but collaborated with the Hopsol Youth Soccer League to select Namibia's most promising under-17 players, while Nkana FC are one of Zambia's most successful clubs.

The four Gauteng Cup qualifiers were winners Bidvest Wits, Mamelodi Sundowns, Orlando Pirates and Highlands Park.

A team from Nigeria was originally scheduled to appear but, due to logistical issues, were unable to make the trip. Therefore, Jomo Cosmos were selected to replace them as the highest placed non-qualifiers from the Gauteng Cup.

THE DRAW AND MEDIA LAUNCH

There was much excitement and anticipation when the draw was made for the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament at the Nike Football Training Centre.

A packed crowd was in attendance with representatives from the Gauteng Provincial Government, Gauteng Tourism Authority, the City of Johannesburg, SAFA and organisers Global Sports International.

Media, stakeholders and supporters plus invited guests were also there. The draw was broadcast on SuperSport across the continent and covered by other top media outlets for radio, print and online publications.

THE VENUE

The Nike Football Training Centre in Soweto has been an outstanding venue for the prestigious Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament since opening in 2010.

The complex was formally opened by Arsene Wenger during the FIFA World Cup™ in South Africa. His reign as Arsenal manager has now ended but he leaves a legacy as one of the world's top football managers.

He spoke in glowing terms about the facilities during his visit in 2010 and since then thousands of footballers have tested and honed their skills on its pitches. Players and coaches enjoy some of the most advanced facilities in the world with two full-sized artificial pitches, two junior turf pitches, dressing rooms, gym, medical rooms, warm-up area and coaching arena, media centre and VIP roof areas.



Since 2009, Future Champions Gauteng has contributed over R400 million to the economy, created hundreds of jobs and generated over R200 million in media value exposure



TOURNAMENT

THE FORMAT

The 12 teams were split into four groups based on geographical locations and seedings judged on past performance. Each team played the other two teams in their pool with one further crossover match against a team from another group. Group winners 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

Players, coaches and officials were given the luxury treatment expected at a top class tournament. Travel and accommodation was organised with comfort and convenience in mind, allowing squads to concentrate fully on the competition. Each team had police escorts between locations and the hosts attended to every minor detail to ensure everything went smoothly. Organisers were keen that a tournament of such stature and prestige should offer the very best in South African hospitality and efficiency of organisation.

LIVE COVERAGE

Media coverage of the 2018 Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament has increased hugely since the first ball was kicked at the inaugural competition back in 2009.

The social media explosion has helped increase the exposure of one of the world's leading under 17 football tournaments, raising awareness of Gauteng worldwide.

Such extensive media coverage has been provided on a long-term basis by African television broadcaster SuperSport whose loyal support to the development of the game at home has drawn widespread praise.

The channel reflected the huge interest in Future Champions by screening live games each day from the venue. Matches were also streamed live on the official website www.future-champions.net and highlights packages were broadcast.

The written press also provided in-depth coverage, both in the traditional print media and online through news outlets and club websites.



FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL, FOOD AND FUN

The International Tournament is much more than just football. It's an opportunity for all involved to experience new culture and cuisine, and where competitors become comrades off the field.

BOMA COCKTAIL RECEPTION

A boma cocktail reception was hosted for coaches and technical staff of all participating teams on the first night of their arrival in South Africa, with guests treated to an evening of South African snacks 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, characterised by gleaming fireplaces.

DRUM CAFE

Teams were treated to a festive night of drumming 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 players and coaches from around the world in a powerful event showcasing the heart of Gauteng's culture and rhythm. It was the ideal icebreaker for teams to cross barriers of language and nationality in a celebration of music and dance, setting the tone for the rest of the week.

SINGING AND DANCING

Friendships were cemented through festivities and entertainment arranged by Kopanong Hotel for teams throughout the week of the tournament. Memorable evenings included a karaoke night and traditional South African gumboot dancing, with players and coaches displaying grooves and moves off the pitch.

NETWORKING LUNCHEONS

The hospitality area treated Future Champions guests and partners to classic South African fare and tastes from around the globe, bringing businesses, personalities and organisations together in the heart of Soweto. A Spanish themed luncheon was served on the Final day courtesy of LaLiga and the Spanish Chamber of Commerce, featuring specialty dishes such as paella.





STAYING REFRESHED

Future Champions partner, SCORE Energy Drinks, kept fans and guests in good spirits with their refreshing beverages, while Häagen-Dazs spread smiles over the Finals weekend with their delectable array of premium ice creams.

Teams and guests stayed cool with Rand Water - essential in the South African heat. Thanks to Rand Water's sustainable, universally competitive water solutions system, all those involved were provided with an abundant supply of H₂O refreshment.

KOPANONG HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

The renowned aha Kopanong Hotel and Conference Centre in Ekurhuleni was the perfect choice to welcome its Future Champions guests.

A haven of tranquillity away from the frantic pace on the football field. Teams were able to relax in the beautiful surroundings of this lush country estate close to Johannesburg in the east of Gauteng.

A spacious layout offers seclusion and privacy, its smart and sophisticated rooms providing a true taste of stunning South Africa. The Kopanong has a style and simplicity that sets it apart from other hotels. There are 84 fully detached villas, offering more than 250 bedrooms for the courtesy of staff, players, coaches and officials. Leisure facilities include a gym, sauna, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, sun bed, squash court and beach volleyball. A special Games Room was allocated by the hotel for players to use throughout the week.

The venue has established a long-term partnership with Future Champions, which has been of mutual benefit to the project and the community. Teams are able to relax and get to know one another in spacious surroundings that showcase the hospitality and beauty of Gauteng. For example, a Kopanong Choir including staff members welcomed teams as they arrived with traditional songs and a special welcoming chorus.





HIGHLANDS PARK
(SOUTH AFRICA)



JOMO COSMOS
(SOUTH AFRICA)



CLUB BRUGGE
(BELGIUM)



MAMELODI SUNDOWNS
(SOUTH AFRICA)



NKANA FC
(ZAMBIA)



ADO DEN HAAG
(NETHERLANDS)

EAMS



ORLANDO PIRATES
(SOUTH AFRICA)



BLACK AFRICA HOSPOL
(NAMIBIA)



FC SPARTAK
(RUSSIA)



BIDVEST WITS
(SOUTH AFRICA)



AC REGGIANA
(ITALY)



RCD ESPANYOL
(SPAIN)

DAY ONE

THE TOURNAMENT BEGINS

RCD Espanyol was aiming to complete a Spanish hat trick as they kicked off their campaign in the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament.

LaLiga rivals Atletico Madrid had lifted the trophy in the previous two years.

RCD Espanyol had to settle for a 1-1 draw in their opening encounter against Italian club AC Reggiana.

South African sides made a notable start, led by Mamelodi Sundowns who secured a fine 2-1 victory over Club Brugge. Thando Buthelezi was the hero, scoring twice for The Brazilians.

Orlando Pirates came from a goal down to run out 3-1 winners over Namibian side Black Africa Hopsol.

Dutch club ADO Den Haag looked to be heading for a goal-less draw against Zambian side Nkana FC before they were awarded two late penalties, both converted by captain Lorenzo van Kleef.

Spartak Moscow and Bidvest Wits played out an entertaining goal-less draw, while Highlands Park edged out Jomo Cosmos 1-0.









MATCH RESULTS

Highlands Park	1	v	0	Jomo Cosmos
Club Brugge	1	v	2	Mamelodi Sundowns
ADO Den Haag	2	v	0	Nkana FC
Orlando Pirates	3	v	1	Black Africa Hopsol
AC Reggiana	1	v	1	RCD Espanyol
FC Spartak Moscow	0	v	0	BidVest Wits

GROUP A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Highlands Park (SA)	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3
Club Brugge (Belgium)	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
Jomo Cosmos (SA)	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0

GROUP B

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ADO Den Haag (Holland)	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
Mamelodi Sundowns (SA)	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
Nkana FC (Zambia)	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0

GROUP C

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Orlando Pirates (SA)	1	1	0	0	3	1	2	3
FC Spartak (Russia)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black Africa Hopsol (Namibia)	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0

GROUP D

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
AC Reggiana (Italy)	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
RCD Espanyol (Spain)	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
BidVest Wits	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1





DAY TWO

THE ACTION HEATS UP!

The presence of FC Spartak Moscow in South Africa helped highlight Russia's role as hosts of the 2018 FIFA World Cup™.

Spartak is the country's most successful club with one of the largest fan bases in Russia and Eastern Europe.

Vadim Romanov, their Academy Head Coach, said: "A year ago we came to South Africa with players born in 2000. Our appearance at Future Champions gave players and coaches a huge experience. As well as competing against new interesting opponents, this tour gave us an opportunity to make new friends and learn about different cultures."

Spartak recorded their first victory of the 2018 edition with a 2-1 success over Orlando Pirates FC, Nikita Bakaluk grabbing the winner from the penalty spot.

Belgian outfit Club Brugge underlined their potential with a 3-0 victory over local side Highlands Park while Nkana FC, from Zambia, secured their first win thanks to a 1-0 triumph over Jomo Cosmos.

Black Africa Hopsol also bounced back from an opening day defeat to beat AC Reggiana 2-1.

Mamelodi Sundowns and ADO Den Haag played out a hard-fought 1-1 draw, which left both sides on four points after two games.

Bidvest Wits enjoyed a fine 2-0 win over RCD Espanyol courtesy of two goals from Simphiwe Mabena to put them within sight of the semi-finals.







MATCH RESULTS

Club Brugge	3	v	0	Highlands Park
Mamelodi Sundowns	1	v	1	ADO Den Haag
Jomo Cosmo	0	v	1	Nkana FC
Black Africa Hopsol	2	v	1	AC Reggiana
BidVest Wits	2	v	0	RCD Espanyol
Orlando Pirates	1	v	2	FC Spartak Moscow

GROUP A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Club Brugge (Belgium)	2	1	0	1	4	2	+2	3
Highlands Park (SA)	2	1	0	1	1	3	+2	3
Jomo Cosmos (SA)	2	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0

GROUP B

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ADO Den Haag (Holland)	2	1	1	0	3	1	+2	4
Memelodi Sundowns (SA)	2	1	1	0	3	2	+1	4
Nkana FC (Zambia)	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	3

GROUP C

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
FC Spartak (Russia)	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	4
Orlando Pirates (SA)	2	1	0	1	4	3	+1	3
Black Africa Hopsol (Namibia)	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3

GROUP D

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
BidVest Wits	2	1	1	0	2	0	+2	4
AC Reggiana (Italy)	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
RCD Espanyol (Spain)	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1





DAY THREE

THE FINAL GROUP GAMES

The Netherlands is renowned around the world for its youth soccer programmes and ADO Den Haag have been a proud part of the fabric of Dutch football for the last 113 years.

The team is based in the city of The Hague and coach Mark Schuur said: "We're happy to be back in South Africa. The players and staff are enjoying playing at the Future Champions. Our motto is ADO U17: Driven by Passion."

ADO stands for Alles Door Oefening - translated into All Through Exercise - and that motto served their under 17 side well as they booked a place in the Future Champions semi-finals.

ADO topped their group after a 3-1 victory over Highlands Park as the final group matches saw all the African sides lose their chance to lift the trophy, apart from Bidvest Wits.

Wits earned a 1-0 victory over AC Reggiana with a late goal from Ben Melamdowitz to set up a showdown with ADO Den Haag.

RCD Espanyol had to settle for runners-up spot in their group despite a 2-1 success over Orlando Pirates FC.

The other group winners were Club Brugge - 1-0 winners over Jomo Cosmos through a Gabriel Lemoine goal - and FC Spartak Moscow, who recorded a convincing 5-0 win over Black Africa Hopsol.

The most exciting of the final group games saw Nkana FC claim a thrilling 3-2 success over Mamelodi Sundowns in a match which could have gone either way.



MATCH RESULTS

Jomo Cosmos	0	v	1	Club Brugge
Mamelodi Sundowns	2	v	3	Nkana FC
Highlands Park	1	v	3	ADO Den Haag
Black Africa Hopsol	0	v	5	FC Spartak Moscow
RCD Espanyol	2	v	1	Orlando Pirates
AC Reggiana	0	v	1	BidVest Wits

GROUP A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Club Brugge	3	2	0	1	5	2	+3	6
Highlands Park	3	1	0	2	2	6	-4	3
Jomo Cosmos	3	0	0	3	0	3	-3	0

GROUP B

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ADO Den Haag	3	2	1	0	6	2	+4	7
Nkana FC	3	2	0	1	4	4	0	6
Mamelodi Sundowns	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4

GROUP C

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
FC Spartak Moscow	3	2	1	0	7	1	+6	7
Orlando Pirates	3	1	0	2	4	5	-1	3
Black Africa Hopsol	3	1	0	2	3	9	-6	3

GROUP D

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
BidVest Wits	3	2	1	0	3	0	+3	7
RCD Espanyol	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
AC Reggiana	3	0	1	2	2	4	-2	1





DAY FOUR

CULTURAL VISITS

Future Champions boasts a decade of supporting Gauteng's tourism sites and assets, exposing international media and thousands of players, coaches and fans from around the world to the province's attractions, world-class infrastructure and hospitality.

Showcasing South Africa is a daunting challenge purely because there is so much to see and admire!

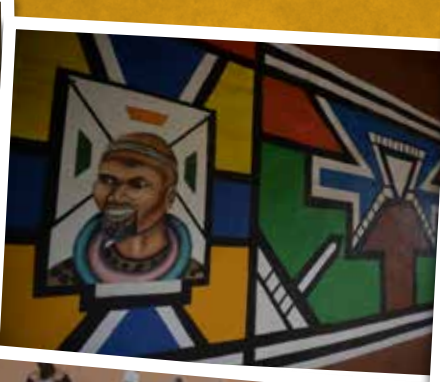
The Gauteng Tourism Authority are experts at ensuring guests soak up as much of the action, sending visitors home with endless memories.

A memorable excursion day was enjoyed by the squads, allowing them to savour the best of Gauteng's richly diverse attractions. Teams also had dedicated multilingual tour guides for the day.

SOCCKER CITY STADIUM VISIT

A trip to Soccer City must be on the wish list for every football fan. The scene will never leave the mind of Andres Iniesta who left his beloved Barcelona in the summer of 2018. The midfielder playmaker scored the winning goal for Spain here in Johannesburg when they defeated the Netherlands 1-0 in the final of the first FIFA World Cup™ on African soil in 2010. Visitors imagine what that magical moment must have been like.





◀ LESEDI CULTURAL VILLAGE

This is a unique venue where the Lesedi people welcome visitors with music, song and genuine African warm hospitality. The Musi's Ndebele Theatre transports you through South Africa's history from the Cradle of Humankind to the Cultures of Lesedi. The village blends naturally into the surrounding bush, river and forests, with five traditional homesteads including Zulu, Xhosa, Pedi, Basotho and Ndebele. Local families live in these five homesteads and visitors can observe the African way of life with a short village tour or stay among families in guest accommodation with modern amenities.





LION PARK

Here the teams and delegations enjoyed a close encounter with some of the majestic animals of Africa. As the name suggests, Lion Park is alive with lions from the cutest cub to the magnificent white lions. Other indigenous game include spotted hyena, wild dog, cheetah, herbivores and many more.





◀ VILAKAZI STREET

Vilakazi Street in Soweto has a rare claim to fame as the only street to have been home to two Nobel Peace Prize winners – former South African president Nelson Mandela and human rights activist Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The guided tour also visited the Hector Pieterse Monument built in remembrance of the first victim of the 1976 student uprising.



DAY FIVE

THE PLAY-OFF MATCHES

The semi-finals proved an exhilarating day of football, with Club Brugge and ADO Den Haag winning through to the final.

The Belgians scraped a 1-0 win over FC Spartak Moscow, while ADO Den Haag advanced via penalties against Bidvest Wits. The spot kick shoot-out ended 5-3 in the Dutch team's favour after a 1-1 draw.

The other eight clubs played the first of their play-off games with Jomo Cosmos defeating Black Africa Hopsol and Mamelodi Sundowns overcoming AC Reggiana 1-0. Nkana beat RCD Espanyol by the same scoreline, while Orlando Pirates FC defeated Highlands Park 2-1.





GIRLS FINAL

The Future Champions Gauteng U17 Girl's Final between SAFA Johannesburg and SAFA Tshwane.



MATCH RESULTS

Jomo Cosmos	1	v	0	Black Africa Hopsol
Mamelodi Sundowns	1	v	0	AC Reggiana
Orlando Pirates	2	v	1	Highlands Park
Nkana FC	1	v	0	RCD Espanyol
SEMI FINAL 1				
Club Brugge	1	v	0	FC Spartak Moscow
SEMI FINAL 2				
ADO Den Haag	1	v	1	BidVest Wits

(ADO Den Haag advances 5-3 in penalty kick shootout)



DAY SIX

THE FINAL DAY

Club Brugge were crowned champions of the 2018 Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament for the first time.

The Belgian side were making their third appearance in South Africa, having finished seventh and 11th in the previous two years.

They secured an emphatic 4-0 win over ADO Den Haag in the final thanks to a penalty from Milan Vanacker and further goals from Benjamin Brants, Gabriel Lemoine and Mathias DeWolf.

Club Brugge are one of the most decorated clubs in Belgian football and reached two European finals in the 1970s, losing to Liverpool both times. They have a long history of helping to develop African talent, including ex-South African international Elrio van Heerden.

South African side Bidvest Wits claimed third place after defeating FC Spartak Moscow 5-3 on penalties after a 2-2 draw. Wits were finalists in 2016, losing to Atletico Madrid in the final.

Earlier, AC Reggiana avoided last place beating Black Africa Hopsol 2-0. Mamelodi Sundowns pipped Jomo Cosmos 1-0 in the Gauteng derby.

Eric Tivane had the honour of finishing as the joint leading scorer in the tournament, claiming his fourth goal for Highlands Park in a 3-1 win over RCD Espanyol. Lorenzo van Kleef from ADO Den Haag also scored four goals.

Nkana FC completed an excellent tournament taking fifth place with a 3-0 win over Orlando Pirates FC.









CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony took place on the final day of the International Tournament and recorded on SuperSport, with highlights played during the live and repeated broadcast. Representatives from Gauteng Provincial Government, GSI, Gauteng Tourism Authority, City of Johannesburg, LaLiga and SAFA Gauteng took part in the official proceedings, with the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation giving the keynote address, followed by a meet-and-greet on the pitch.

Winners of the Future Players and Future Coaches programmes were announced during the proceedings, receiving national and international press exposure for their achievements. LaLiga officials and Future Champions Gauteng Ambassador Refiloe Jane joined in the Trophy Celebrations, congratulating FC Brugge on their victory as 2018 champions. Silver and bronze medals were provided to ADO den Haag and Bidvest Wits, with Mamelodi Sundowns presented with the Fair Play award in recognition of their outstanding performance during the week.

MATCH RESULTS

Black Africa Hopsol	0	v	2	AC Reggiana
Jomo Cosmos	0	v	1	Mamelodi Sundowns
RCD Espanyo	1	v	3	Highlands Park
Orlando Pirates	0	v	3	Nkana FC
BidVest Wits	1	v	1	FC Spartak Moscow
<i>(BidVest Wits advances 5-3 in penalty kick shootout)</i>				
ADO Den Haag	0	v	4	Club Brugge

FUTURE CHAMPIONS GAUT



GROUP A
Highlands Park (RSA)
Jomo Cosmos (RSA)
Club Brugge (BEL)

GROUP B
Mamelodi Sundowns (RSA)
Nkana FC (ZAM)
ADO Den Haag (NED)

GROUP C
Orlando Pirates (RSA)
Black Africa Hopsol (NAM)
FC Spartak (RUS)

GROUP D
BidVest Wits (RSA)
AC Reggiana (ITA)
RCD Espanyol (ESP)

MONDAY 19 MARCH 2018					
Highlands Park	1	v	0	Jomo Cosmos	
Club Brugge	1	v	2	Mamelodi Sundowns	
ADO Den Haag	2	v	0	Nkana FC	
Orlando Pirates	3	v	1	Black Africa Hopsol	
AC Reggiana	1	v	1	RCD Espanyol	
FC Spartak Moscow	0	v	0	BidVest Wits	

TUESDAY 20 MARCH 2018					
Club Brugge	3	v	0	Highlands Park	
Mamelodi Sundowns	1	v	1	ADO Den Haag	
Jomo Cosmos	0	v	1	Nkana FC	
Black Africa Hopsol	2	v	1	AC Reggiana	
BidVest Wits	2	v	0	RCD Espanyol	
Orlando Pirates	1	v	2	FC Spartak Moscow	

WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH 2018					
Jomo Cosmos	0	v	1	Club Brugge	
Mamelodi Sundowns	2	v	3	Nkana FC	
Highlands Park	1	v	3	ADO Den Haag	
Black Africa Hopsol	0	v	5	FC Spartak Moscow	
RCD Espanyol	2	v	1	Orlando Pirates	
AC Reggiana	0	v	1	BidVest Wits	

GROUP A								
TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Club Brugge	3	2	0	1	5	2	+3	6
Highlands Park	3	1	0	2	2	6	-4	3
Jomo Cosmos	3	0	0	3	0	3	-3	0

GROUP B								
TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
ADO Den Haag	3	2	1	0	6	2	+4	7
Nkana FC	3	2	0	1	4	4	0	6
Mamelodi Sundowns	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4

GROUP C								
TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
FC Spartak Moscow	3	2	1	0	7	1	+6	7
Orlando Pirates	3	1	0	2	4	5	-1	3
Black Africa Hopsol	3	1	0	2	3	9	-6	3

GROUP D								
TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
BidVest Wits	3	2	1	0	3	0	+3	7
RCD Espanyol	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
AC Reggiana	3	0	1	2	2	4	-2	1

GAUTENG 2018 FINAL RESULTS



FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2018

Jomo Cosmos	1	v	0	Black Africa Hopsol
Mamelodi Sundowns	1	v	0	AC Reggiana
Orlando Pirates	2	v	1	Highlands Park
Nkana FC	1	v	0	RCD Espanyol

SEMI FINAL 1

Club Brugge	1	v	0	FC Spartak Moscow
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SEMI FINAL 2

ADO Den Haag	1	v	1	BidVest Wits
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(ADO Den Haag advances 5-3 in penalty kick shootout)

SATURDAY 24 MARCH 2018

Black Africa Hopsol	0	v	2	AC Reggiana
Jomo Cosmos	0	v	1	Mamelodi Sundowns
RCD Espanyol	1	v	3	Highlands Park
Orlando Pirates	0	v	3	Nkana FC
BidVest Wits	1	v	1	FC Spartak Moscow

(BidVest Wits advances 5-3 in penalty kick shootout)

ADO Den Haag	0	v	4	Club Brugge
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FINAL STANDINGS

1	Club Brugge (Belgium)
2	ADO Den Haag (Netherlands)
3	BidVest Wits (South Africa)
4	FC Spartak Moscow (Russia)
5	Nkana FC (Zambia)
6	Orlando Pirates (South Africa)
7	Highlands Park (South Africa)
8	RCD Espanyol (Spain)
9	Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa)
10	Jomo Cosmos (South Africa)
11	AC Reggiana (Italy)



FUTURE COACHES

FROM AFRICA TO EUROPE... THAT'S THE EXCITING JOURNEY FACING COACH ANDILE ZULU ONCE THE 2018-19 SEASON GETS UNDER WAY.



Andile held off strong opposition to win the coveted 2018 Future Coaches Gauteng prize landing a trip to Spain. He has the opportunity to learn from the very best after successfully coming through a weeklong Coaching Clinic.

Andile, coach of White City Spurs in Soweto, will join the three winners of the Future Players Gauteng 2018 Talent Search on their adventure to Spain where LaLiga is recognised as one of the top football leagues in the world.

Andile will act as coach and mentor of the trio, adding a vital entry to his coaching portfolio. He will follow in the footsteps of last year's winner, Sakhile Nkomo, who has played an active mentoring role for Future Players participants and is a leader in the Future Coaches program. Sakhile continues to coach Phalamorodu FC in the SAB League as well as his own team of juniors, Orlando Real Sweepers FC.

Future Coaches Gauteng fosters a unique and powerful programme of education and training, motivating and inspiring future leaders in sport.

The Coaching Clinic exposed Gauteng coaches to some of the latest developments in youth training, tactics and techniques. Coaching staff from international teams competing in the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament contributed to the course through technical classes dealing with training of youth – covering nutrition, fitness, as well as mental, emotional and physical development of players.

This year's clinic once again entailed a SAFA D Licence Course, run by SAFA coaches. Participants in the SAFA Course received certification for their qualification as D-Licence coaches upon completion, thus enabling them to develop in their careers.

The programme has developed a strong core of coaches who have been trained in the Future Coaches courses and continue to impart their skills, knowledge and experience to other participants.

Coaches from across Gauteng took part in the 2018 programme, running skills tests for the Future Players programme. The coaches serve a vital role in the sourcing of talent amongst Gauteng's youth, whilst being empowered in their development.

"As we celebrate the centenary of the birth of former President Nelson Mandela, we are reminded of one of his most cherished beliefs – that sport has the ability to change lives. This is most certainly true for the Future Coaches participants, who have been set on a path to professional careers in the game, and it is now up to them to make the most of their opportunity.

"As a department we are delighted to be involved in such an initiative. We are proud to be able to give young people in our province the chance to unlock all available avenues using sport not only to improve their lives, but also bring hope and inspiration to their communities."

Faith Mazibuko

MEC for the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation





NIKEFOOTBALL

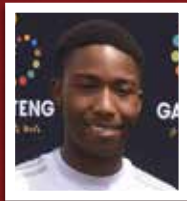


Future Coaches Gauteng has helped to educate more than 750 coaches and provided D Licence Accreditation to participants for the past 3 years in partnership with SAFA



FUTURE PLAYERS

IT'S A TRIP OF A LIFETIME - A CHANCE TO VISIT SPAIN AND GET A CLOSE-UP VIEW OF LALIGA. AN UNBELIEVABLE EXPERIENCE FACING THREE LUCKY WINNERS OF THE FUTURE PLAYERS GAUTENG TALENT SEARCH.



NKANYISO MAPHOSA
from Nirvana Secondary
School in Lenasia.



ZARA WILKINSON
from Victory House Private
School in Discovery.



MOOSA SAHAIL
from Al-Aq SA School
in Lenasia.

The trio earned their dream ticket from thousands of hopefuls after impressing assessors with their skills. They will enjoy their trip to Spain early in the 2018-19 season and find out what makes LaLiga one of the best leagues in the world. The visit involves an insight into training and coaching sessions and joining fans at one of the premier matches. The Talent Search winners will officially depart for Spain toward the end of the year and will be accompanied by representatives from the Gauteng Provincial Government and GSI Global.

"We'd like to congratulate the three youngsters and the coach set to travel to Spain for a unique experience where they'll be exposed to a different culture and way of living. Central to this way of living in Spain is football, with LaLiga forming an important part of this. The winners will get the chance to train with LaLiga clubs and it's our hope that this helps them in their development and in fulfilling their dreams."

"Part of the reason why we as LaLiga continue to be part of Future Champions is because of our ongoing commitment to help develop football from a grassroots level. It's been a pleasure to once again be involved in this initiative and we wish the winners all the best on their travels," concluded Barradas."

Antonio Barradas, Africa Director for LaLiga

"We were once again amazed by the number of young boys and girls who came to try out for the Future Players Search and as in the past years, the quality on display has been wonderful. We congratulate our worthy winners and wish them all the best in their future careers. We hope they take the opportunity given by their once-in-a-lifetime trip to Spain to learn as much as they can about what it takes to be a professional footballer. We thank our valued partners in this amazing initiative, especially LaLiga for giving these youngsters the chance to sample one of the best leagues in the world."

Ray Whelan, Project Director

The Talent Search is a unique partnership between the Gauteng Provincial Government and Global Sports International. Skills tests were held across the province for over 10,000 boys and girls aged between 12 and 16 with the final round taking place during the International Tournament. The winners will get a real treat just like Vuyo Xabanisa, Thabang Ralele and Thembelihle Fikile, the previous winners in 2017.

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



Future Players Talent Search has interacted with over 100,000 boys and girls from across Gauteng.



"For us it is very important that the winners have been able to travel to our country and experience in person the passion of LaLiga. It was wonderful that they could enjoy the passion of one of our matches, the great atmosphere that is live in a stadium."

"They were able to experience the excellent academies of two mythical clubs of our League, Villarreal CF and Valencia CF, and learn their training techniques. In addition, with these kinds of experiences, LaLiga would like to transmit to the youth the values associated with our football, such as respect, friendship and teamwork."

Antonio Barradas, Africa Director for LaLiga



"The coaches and the players in Spain all take training so seriously, you can see they give everything on the pitch. I learned that to be the best you need to work hard always and try to improve your game every day. You cannot take it easy and stop trying. It really motivated me to make sure that I always try my best, no matter what the situation is."

Thembelihle Fikile, Future Players winner



"The atmosphere at the LaLiga match was something I have never experienced, the way the crowd is so into the game and they just chant and chant all through the match. The standard of play was very high, even if the game finished 0-0, and it was great to see these players live. Usually we only get to see them on TV, so to be there was incredible."

Thabang Rallele, Future Players winner



FROM GAUTENG TO SPAIN

The winners of the 2017 Future Players Gauteng Talent Search embarked on the trip of a lifetime when they travelled to Spain to take in the sights and sounds of one of the world's great footballing nations.

The three young star footballers, Vuyo Xabanisa from Kwa-Bhekilanga Secondary School in Alexandra, Thabang Ralele from Kgomotso Comprehensive High School in Soshanguve and Thembelihle Fikile from Forest High School in Johannesburg, alongside Future Coaches winner Sakhile Nkomo, made the journey to Madrid and Valencia.

The group travelled as guests of the Spanish LaLiga, who have offices in the Gauteng Province as part of their commitment to aiding youth football development in SA.

They witnessed the LaLiga clash between Atletico Madrid and Deportivo Leganes, and were special guests of LaLiga at their incredible offices during their tour of Madrid, one of the world's great capital cities. They also visited the famed Real Madrid Museum, before heading to the coast, where they spent time at the academy of six-time LaLiga winners Valencia, and later attended training with another top-flight side, Villarreal. It was a week of discovery and learning that left its mark on all of those who were fortunate enough to be part of the group.



"We have always been committed to developing football in the Gauteng province and these players and the coach have shown themselves to have a very bright future. We will monitor their progress in the future and look forward to seeing what other talent we unearth in the 2018 Gauteng Future Players Talent Search."

Ray Whelan, Project Director

"Spain was wonderful; it was totally different to anything I have experienced in my life before. I feel like I have had my eyes opened to the world."

Vuyo Xabanisa, Future Players winner

"From a coaching point of view it was very interesting to see the systems they use in Spain and how they interact with the players. I definitely learned a lot and am looking forward to taking that knowledge back to my players."

Sakhile Nkomo, Future Coaches winner



LaLiga



FUTURE CH

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 RCD Espanyol, HIP (Hellenic Italian Portuguese) Alliance and AC Reggiana, as well as FC Brugge and ADO Den Haag, 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 supports SAFA Gauteng with investments made to all provincial regional branches in order to support their youth leagues. A long-term partnership has also been established with the Soweto Football Association as the annual host of the International Tournament, with various donations to support their youth activities year-round.

FOOTBALL CLINICS

Teams participating in the International Tournament took part in special football clinics organised by SAFA Gauteng. ADO Den Haag and FC Brugge ran clinics with local football teams in Soweto, imparting their skills, knowledge and experience to local players whilst fostering an exchange between coaching staff of the participating teams.

CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF VOLUNTEERISM

Hundreds of volunteers have had the opportunity of working with Future Champions Gauteng since its inception, receiving training in order to provide assistance in various areas of the project, deployed in everything from logistical duties to media and hospitality.

The Volunteer Programme includes on-going student partnerships with Vaal University of Technology and the University of Johannesburg for those in the field of Sports Management. Volunteers have gained invaluable experience during the planning and execution stages of the tournaments, providing them with a unique opportunity to learn new skills in a prestigious project.





ADOPT A TEAM CAMPAIGN

Schoolchildren joined in the fun as part of the Future Champions Adopt-a-Team Campaign, giving them a chance to get involved with the prestigious tournament. Children from 12 Soweto primary schools played central roles in proceedings in a partnership co-ordinated with the Gauteng Department of Education.

The schools have developed on-going legacy partnerships with Future Champions Gauteng, establishing close ties between teachers, school heads, tournament organisers and participating international teams.

Each school was allocated a team and country to support at the Media Launch in front of the assembled press and dignitaries. Hundreds of schoolchildren attended matches and took part in official proceedings, meeting the world's top under-17 players.

There was lots of colour and fanfare to add to the occasion with pupils waving flags of their adopted countries, greeting teams at matches with songs and painted faces.

Selected students had the honour of being mascots for teams for live televised matches, accompanying players on to the pitch. The schools received VIP treatment throughout the week and were given merchandise from Future Champions, supporting partners such as LaLiga and their adopted clubs.

Dozens of special needs children around Gauteng were included in the campaign, participating as team mascots and involved in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, creating an unforgettable experience for all concerned.



ADOPT-A-TEAM SCHOOL PARTNERS

Mdelwa Hlongwane Primary School	Nkana FC (Zambia)
Thembu Primary	Black Africa FC (Namibia)
Khandubhle Primary School	Bidvest Wits (SA)
Pimville Primary	Orlando Pirates FC (SA)
Winnie-Ngwekazi Primary School	Spartak Moscow (Russia)
Nkholi Primary School	Club Brugge (Belgium)
Tshebedisano Primary School	Jomo Cosmos (SA)
Lulama Primary School	RCD Espanyol (Spain)
Batsogile Primary School	Ado Den Haag (Netherlands)
Motjoli Primary School	AC Reggiana (Italy)
Paul Mosaka Primary School	Highlands Park (SA)
Leihlo Primary School	Mamelodi Sundowns (SA)



LOVE LIFE

As an established Future Champions Gauteng partner, LoveLife set up a tent at the Nike Football Centre throughout the week of 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 whilst 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 groundbreakers educate participants about the Sexually Transmitted Disease through the language of football. It inspires youth to lead healthier lifestyles and provides them with the tools to make more informed choices.



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 transport services of Gauteng Coaches.



GREENING INITIATIVES

Recycling initiatives were prominent at this year's event. A Future Champions Gauteng 'Green Team' was established, comprising Soweto volunteers. 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.



WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

Women's football is enjoying major growth with South Africa playing its part in that global expansion. A girl's competition has been a welcome addition to the Future Champions Gauteng Cup and International Tournament, whose organisers recognised the development of this aspect of the game some time ago.

Consequently, thousands of girls in the Gauteng Province have had their skills assessed in the Future Players programme which seeks to unearth new talent and give it a platform to shine.

Several players have gone on to feature for prominent club sides in the Province and, in the case of Refiloe Jane, captain of South Africa, at the very highest level. 'Fifi', as she is affectionately known, was discovered in Soweto at the age of 15 during the first edition of Future Players Gauteng, and has gone on to represent South Africa at both the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games. She captained Banyana in their 2017 Cosafa Cup success and has recently made history after securing a move to Australian club Canberra United, becoming the first woman to sign for an Australian top-flight club.

Coaches have also benefitted from the Talent Search with around half of the participants women.

The Future Champions Gauteng U17 Girl's Tournament at the Nike Football Training Centre was won by SAFA Johannesburg who defeated SAFA Tshwane 4-2 on penalties after a 2-2 draw. The finalists emerged from the Future Champions Gauteng Cup, their showdown played after the semi-finals of the boy's event. Tshwane's goals came from Modiegi Mashau and Lethabo Ledwaba, with Isabella Ludwig and Vuyo Xabanisa scoring for Johannesburg.

Xabanisa won the Future Player Talent Search last year, earning the once-in-a-lifetime trip to Spain, courtesy of LaLiga.



Refiloe Jane
Future Champions Gauteng Ambassador

"Winning the Future Players Talent Search really kick-started my career and gave me so much confidence to believe that I can play for a top local side and even internationally.

"It is a great platform that empowers young girls to showcase their talent and get seen by coaches. There is so much talent, not just in the Gauteng Province, but in all of South Africa, and it's programmes like this that help us to unearth our potential.

"I hope I can be an inspiration to other girls that you can achieve your dreams with hard work."

Refiloe was recognized for her innumerable achievements after being selected as Gauteng's Sport Woman of the Year for 2018 at the prestigious Gauteng Sport Awards.



A TRULY GLOBAL TOURNAMENT

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Clubs came from far and wide from across the planet to play at the 10th edition of the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament.

No fewer than 29 countries have joined the party since the tournament was first held back in 2009. The aim was to provide a lasting legacy after the FIFA World Cup™ staged in South Africa in 2010.

It was an inspired move as the event has grown in profile and stature over the years, becoming one of the most valued and sought-after invitations in football circles.

Significantly, it has encouraged a new generation of football talent in South Africa, a country that has gained huge prestige by hosting the next global stars.

A mix of culture and styles has enabled players to improve their skills, sharing the same stage as aspiring stars from clubs from different continents at under-17 level. Opponents on the field have become new friends off it. Coaches too have thrived with the opportunity to share skills and learn different approaches to the game.

Clubs from seven countries have enjoyed the honour of lifting the Future Champions trophy in Gauteng and while there have been multiple winners, only one club from each of the successful countries has triumphed.

Crack Brazilian outfit Clube Atletico Mineiro have won three times in Gauteng, adding to their double triumph in Belo Horizonte in 2010 and 2011 when the Future Champions tournament was also staged in Brazil.

Atletico Madrid from Spain enjoyed two victories, while Boca Juniors from Argentina were inaugural winners in 2009.

Other clubs to win the crown are Shandong Luneng (China), Club Tijuana (Mexico), Torino (Italy) and Club Brugge (Belgium) in 2018. South Africa has yet to lift the elusive prize but they have won lots of friends for their warm hospitality.



CANADA

Toronto FC

MEXICO

★ Club Tijuana
CF Pachuca
Club América

USA

DC United
New England Revolution
USYS Select



THE WINNERS

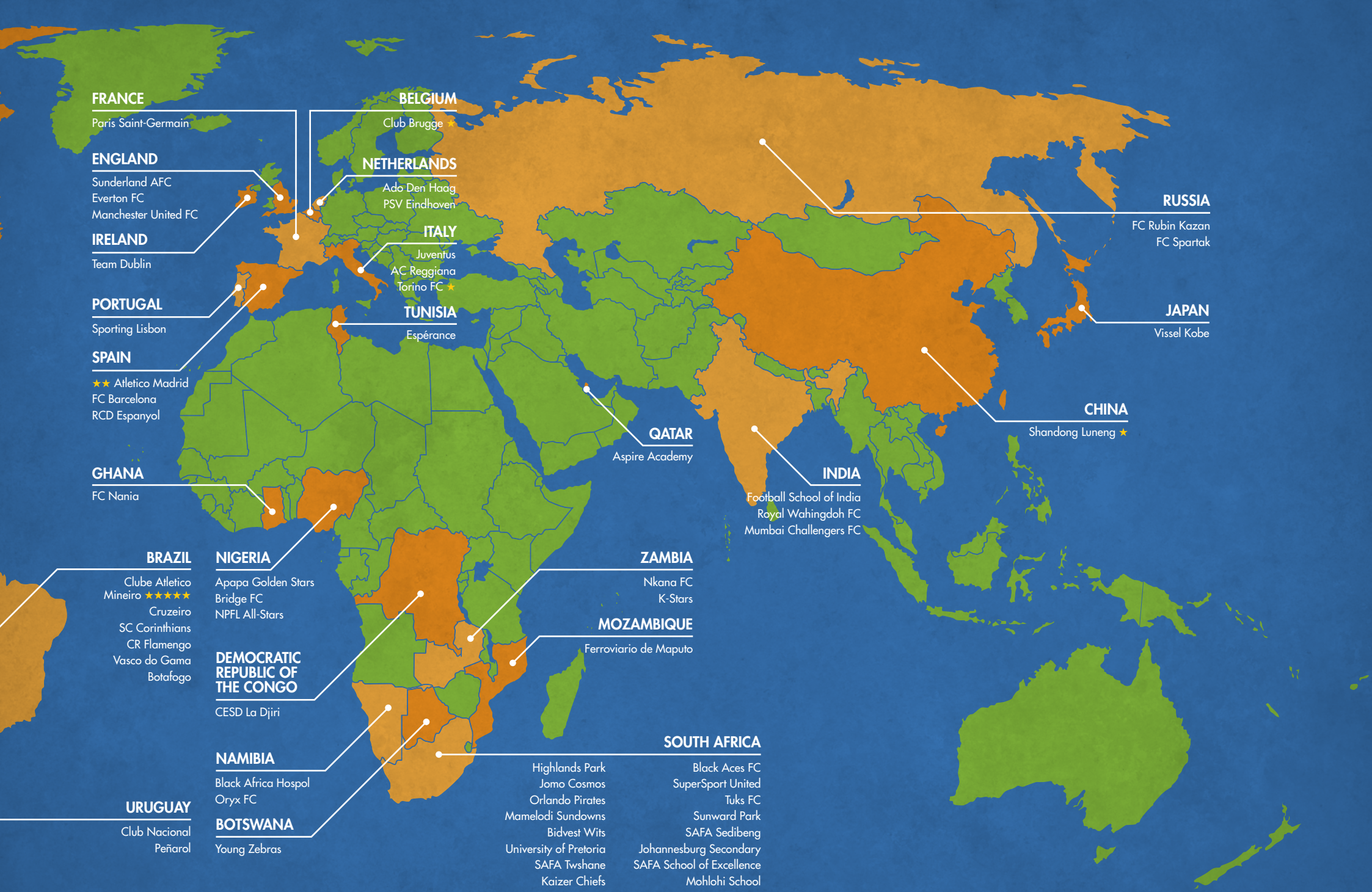
YEAR	WINNER	COUNTRY	VENUE
2018	Club Brugge	Belgium	Gauteng, South Africa
2017	Atletico Madrid	Spain	Gauteng, South Africa
2016	Atletico Madrid	Spain	Gauteng, South Africa
2015	Torino FC	Italy	Gauteng, South Africa
2014	Clube Atletico Mineiro	Brazil	Gauteng, South Africa
2013	Club Tijuana	Mexico	Gauteng, 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	Shandong Luneng	China	Gauteng, South Africa
2009	Boca Juniors	Argentina	Gauteng, South Africa

ARGENTINA

★ Boca Juniors

CHILE

CD Universidad Catolica
Universidad de Chile
CSD Colo Colo



FRANCE

Paris Saint-Germain

ENGLAND

Sunderland AFC
Everton FC
Manchester United FC

IRELAND

Team Dublin

PORTUGAL

Sporting Lisbon

SPAIN

★★ Atletico Madrid
FC Barcelona
RCD Espanyol

GHANA

FC Nania

BRAZIL

Clube Atletico Mineiro ★★★★★
Cruzeiro
SC Corinthians
CR Flamengo
Vasco do Gama
Botafogo

NIGERIA

Apapa Golden Stars
Bridge FC
NPFL All-Stars

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

CESD La Djiri

NAMIBIA

Black Africa Hospel
Oryx FC

BOTSWANA

Young Zebras

BELGIUM

Club Brugge

NETHERLANDS

Ado Den Haag
PSV Eindhoven

ITALY

Juventus
AC Reggiana
Torino FC ★

TUNISIA

Espérance

QATAR

Aspire Academy

INDIA

Football School of India
Royal Wahingdoh FC
Mumbai Challengers FC

ZAMBIA

Nkana FC
K-Stars

MOZAMBIQUE

Ferrovuario de Maputo

SOUTH AFRICA

Highlands Park
Jomo Cosmos
Orlando Pirates
Mamelodi Sundowns
Bidvest Wits
University of Pretoria
SAFA Twshane
Kaizer Chiefs
Black Aces FC
SuperSport United
Tuks FC
Sunward Park
SAFA Sedibeng
Johannesburg Secondary
SAFA School of Excellence
Mohlohi School

RUSSIA

FC Rubin Kazan
FC Spartak

JAPAN

Vissel Kobe

CHINA

Shandong Luneng ★

LEADING OFFICIALS FROM THE WORLD OF POLITICS, SPORT AND TOURISM JOINED CELEBRATIONS FOR THE 10TH EDITION OF THE FUTURE CHAMPIONS GAUTENG.

Tributes came from home and abroad to the role the project has played in putting Gauteng on the map for youth football and encouraging sports activity among young people of South Africa.



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

MS FAITH MAZIBUKO

"This year is a cause for special celebration as it is the 10th year of the Future Champions Gauteng, a project that provides a vital stepping-stone to our young footballers. We are delighted to be able to give them the opportunity to showcase their talent and perhaps set them on the path to a future career in the game. This important milestone coincides with celebrating the Centenary of the birth of former President Nelson Mandela, a keen sportsman who displayed great affection for the youth. He knew that the youth are our future and that sport has the capacity to change lives.

"We were equally delighted to welcome all the international teams to Gauteng Province and hope they enjoyed our warm hospitality. Future Champions provides young players with the chance to not only develop as footballers, but also learn more about what makes our province and South Africa as a whole such a special part of the world."



**DIRECTOR OF
SCHOOL SPORTS
AT GAUTENG
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION**

CEDRIC RANCHOR

"The last 10 years has given thousands of young footballers the opportunity to compete at a high level against their peers from all over the world. Beyond that the various education programmes, run in conjunction with the Future Champions Gauteng campaign, has given them vital life-skills training that could prove invaluable to them in the future. We applaud the success of the campaign and look forward to helping many more youngsters in the future."



**HEAD OF GAUTENG
CONVENTIONS
AND EVENTS FOR
GAUTENG TOURISM
AUTHORITY**

NONNIE KUBEKA

"The Gauteng Province has so much to offer visitors in terms of entertainment, not least from our soccer clubs, who are known around the world. We pride ourselves on being a premier sports tourism destination across all different codes and hope that our visitors for the 2018 Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament appreciated the vibrant sights and sounds of our wonderful province."



DIRECTOR OF SPORT AND RECREATION FOR THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

SIYANDA MNUKWA

“We have seen the tremendous growth in the tournament over the last 10 editions and are proud that the event is hosted in our city with such world-class teams taking part. We are a city that works for our people and we recognise the tremendous impact that sport has on the lives of our residents. Well done to all of the teams involved.”



AFRICA DIRECTOR FOR LALIGA

ANTONIO BARRADAS

“This is officially the third year that LaLiga has been supporting this project with Spanish teams featuring in recent years. This year we’re delighted to have had RCD Espanyol participating. A club with a rich history, RCD Espanyol provided further competitive edge and a new challenge to this year’s Future Champions tournament. Like past years, we’re excited for the players and coaches who have been selected to join in on the trip to Spain for further training and exposure. It’s with great satisfaction that we can continue to lend our support to South African football development at grass roots level. Developing the game throughout different parts of the globe, including South Africa, is in line with our overall global strategy at LaLiga.”



SAFA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OF WOMEN’S FOOTBALL

FRAN HILTON-SMITH

“It is amazing to see the girls getting an opportunity in the Future Champions Gauteng campaign and with women’s football on the up in South Africa, we hope to see even greater participation in the future. The Future Players Talent Search has already unearthed some special talent and I have no doubt will continue to do so in the future. Congratulations to everybody involved on 10 successful years.”



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (SAFA)

DENNIS MUMBLE

“In the development of any young footballer it’s important to expose them to contrasting styles and ways of playing the game and for all teams that compete in the Future Champions Gauteng this is the case. What’s even more exciting is the addition of girl’s teams participating, which indicates the high growth of women’s football.”



CHAIRPERSON OF SAFA JOHANNESBURG

PHIL MOGODI

“It is wonderful to see our youngsters learning that it takes much more than talent alone to be a professional footballer through their participation in the Future Champions Gauteng. You need dedication and hard work, and that is a lesson for everyone. We thank Gauteng Provincial Government and GSI for their continued support and growth of this innovative and powerful project, with wide-reaching impacts at all levels of football structures.”



FUTURE CHAMPIONS DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS & EVENTS

LYDIA PHALA

“It’s amazing to see how the scope of this project has widened since 2009 and we’re delighted in particular to have an ever-increasing platform for girls and young women in football. Credit must be given to the Gauteng Province and all of our partners for believing in the power and impact of the project and for helping us to reach this, our 10th edition of Future Champions Gauteng. We believe we can grow further and are excited for what the future holds.”



"Competing at the Future Champions Gauteng was an experience we will always remember. Many things were an enrichment for the players and staff: playing against teams with totally different styles and philosophies; the live broadcast on TV; dealing with the climatic conditions; defending the African players with their great dribbling skills and body movements; the drumming evening..."

"By being together the whole week, where everything was well organized, we became stronger and stronger as a team! We enjoyed every single moment, on and off the pitch.

"We'd like to congratulate every concerned assistant with the perfect organization of the event. We'd also like to thank everyone for the kind welcome and wonderful stay in Gauteng. Our club is proud to have lifted the 2018 Future Champions Gauteng cup in the end. Thank you, South Africa!"

MAARTEN MARTENS
Coach



"Competing at the Future Champions Gauteng was by far the highlight of their footballing lives for most of our boys. They will cherish the experience forever. For many of our players, this is the kick-start of adopting a work culture in everything they do. Rubbing shoulders with their peers from all over the world at such a high level made them realise that they have to work hard towards reaching above their limit, not only in football but in life generally.

"The vibe around the tournament, the Drum Cafe and the Cultural Tour had them making friends outside of the football pitch. We thank Gauteng Province, GSI and other partners for believing in this project. We trust this legacy will continue!"

COLLIN BENJAMIN
Coach



"Highlands Park Football Club would like to both thank and compliment the organizers of an amazingly well run tournament. Being our first time at this prestigious event, we were surprised and awestruck at the quality of the opposition, as well as the organization of the running of the tournament. Ray Whelan and his supporting team, the sponsors and volunteers, have done a fantastic job on everything we experienced over the week of the tournament.

"The program was received by all of us with great enthusiasm and enjoyment. We cannot pick out any specific activity as a highlight of the week, but the whole week would rather be for us, the highlight. We as the technical staff and players have learnt a great deal from the overseas based teams. So for us this has been a great experience that will not be forgotten. We look forward to hopefully being involved again."

LES GROBLER
Head of Development for Highlands Park FC



"This year's Future Champs was an amazing experience and a brilliant success for us. We tested ourselves against high quality opposition and found ourselves to be very close technically, tactically and physically. And that is exactly what makes this such wonderful tournament.

We were very proud to participate and look forward to participating again next year."

PHUPHU MOHLABA
Coach



"The Future Champions tournament was very useful for us. We participated in it for the second time in a row and as a year ago I would like to mention the level of organization and the level of participants: we were very delighted. Here we have a good opportunity to try our skills in the matches against strong European teams as well as very interesting opponents from Africa. These matches provide an excellent experience for the players and for the coaches as well.

"Such tournaments help us to develop and progress. Thank you to Future Champions Gauteng!"

VADIM ROMANOV
Coach



"Participating in Future Champions Gauteng has been a great experience for us. At the organizational level we value the tournament very positively. It was excellent both on a sporting and personal level.

"The accommodation and hospitality also exceeded our expectations. We appreciated our days in Gauteng and congratulate you on such a well-run event."

POL GARCIA
Coach



"We were very happy to be back in South Africa. The players and staff appreciate the experience of playing at the Future Champions immensely. Our motto is: ADO U17: Driven by Passion."

MARK SCHUUR
Coach



"It was an honor to represent the history and the link between the South African people and the Italian people. A friendship that was born thanks to the commitment of Oliver Tambo and Giuseppe Sorncini to build a bridge that today unites Reggiana 1919 and South Africa, thanks to the Future Champions International Tournament.

"Our kids were thrilled to participate in this important event and meet Gauteng's friends, to help renew the commitment of our communities to grow together. We hope that we made the Italian-South African community proud both on and off the field. For us to have been in South Africa on March 21 - the day in which no racism is celebrated all over the world - had a special meaning of friendship and pride, to have been and still today close to the nation built by Nelson Mandela."


ALBERTO BIAGINI
Sports Director of the AC Reggiana Youth Sector



Gauteng Coaches



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