

FUTURE CHAMPIONS 2019

GAUTENG

SOUTH AFRICA





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.





GLORIOUS GAUTENG

THE SMILES AND SUNSHINE OF SOUTH AFRICA SAY SO MUCH.

One of the world's leading destinations never ceases to amaze.

At the heart of this vibrant nation: the proud province of Gauteng.

The celebrated region was home to the late great Nelson Mandela, the country's first post-apartheid President. A world-famous statesman, whose legacy still inspires six years after his death.

The Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament is a shining example of youthful talent, energy and enthusiasm – qualities that Mandela so admired and enjoyed.

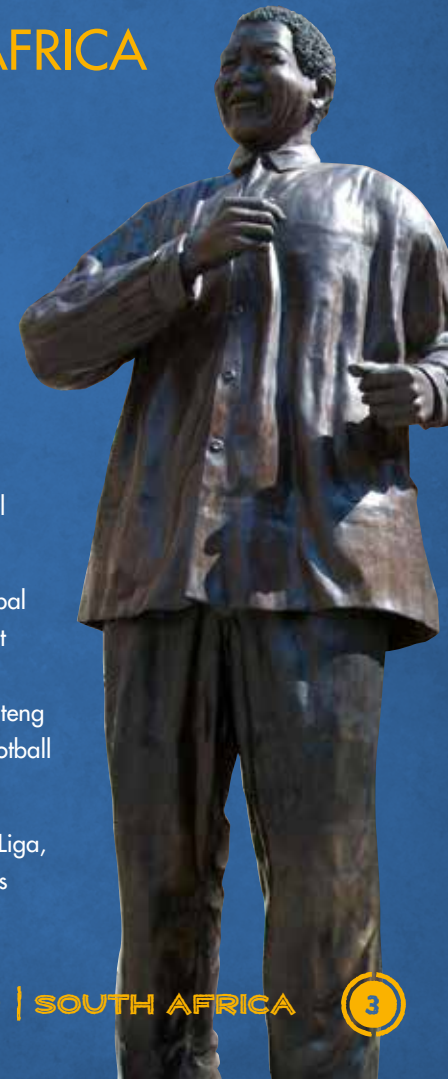
The week-long under-17 festival of football fulfils his dream of sharing and friendship among different countries and cultures; showcasing abilities of the most promising young boys and girls.

The annual Future Champions event started a decade ago and continues to grow from strength to strength. The project captures perfectly the spirit, soul and style of South Africa.

Blazing a trail for the next generation, it teaches girls and boys sporting, educational and life skills.

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

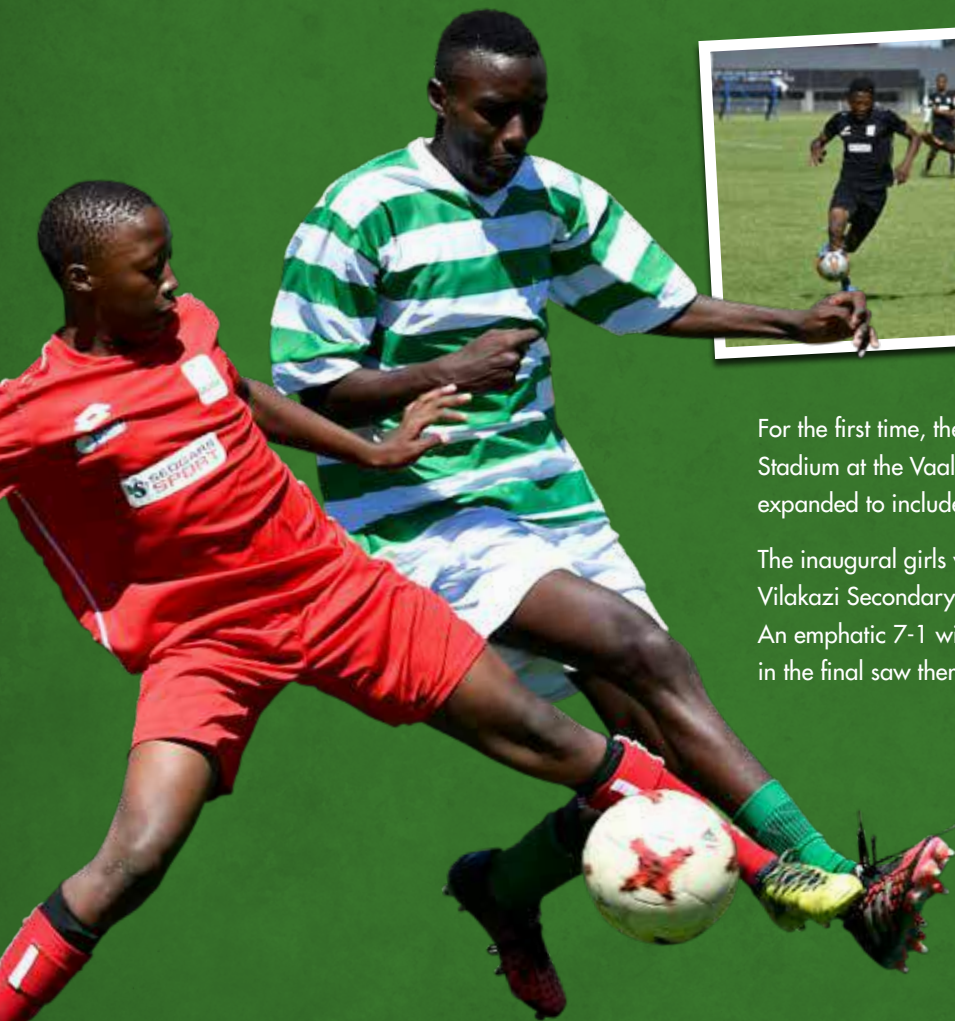
The 2019 competition was supported by LaLiga, Clinix Health, Rand Water, Lovelife, Sedgars Sport, and Chill Beverages.



SCHOOLS CUP

BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE!

That was the exciting news from the 2019 Future Champions Gauteng Schools Cup.



For the first time, the two-day event at Isak Steyl Stadium at the Vaal University of Technology was expanded to include a girls' competition.

The inaugural girls winning team was Dr BW Vilakazi Secondary School in Zola, Soweto. An emphatic 7-1 win over Rand Girls' High School in the final saw them take the glory.

The boys' competition was won by Clapham High School from Pretoria, after a 2-0 victory over Esokwazi Secondary School from Sebokeng.

The two finalists were rewarded with a place in the Gauteng Cup, along with group runners-up Reshogofaditswe Secondary from Tsakane and Phafogang Secondary School in Moroka, Soweto.

The tournament format for both boys and girls saw a knockout round involving 16 teams to determine eight teams, which were split into two pools.

Clapham needed a penalty shoot-out to get past Randfontein High School at the first hurdle, but then there was no stopping them as they conceded just a single goal in three group games which yielded seven points.





In the girls' competition, Dr BW Vilakazi scored an impressive 29 goals in their five matches, which proved decisive.

They ended level on points with Rosina Sedibane after a 1-1 draw in the group phase but went through to the final courtesy of a superior goal difference. As winners, Dr BW Vilakazi qualified to compete alongside the five SAFA Regions in the Gauteng Cup.



The Future Champions Schools Cup was organised by GSI Global in conjunction with Gauteng's Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, the Department of Education and SAFA Gauteng. The event was supported by Sedgars Sport and Clinix Health.

COMPETING TEAMS

DISTRICT	BOYS SCHOOL	GIRLS SCHOOL
Johannesburg West	Lamula Jubilee	Roodeport High
Johannesburg East	Midrand High	Liberty Secondary
Johannesburg South	Horizon International	Rand Girls
Johannesburg North	Fons Luminus	Zifuneleni
Johannesburg Central	Phafogang	Dr BW Vilakazi
Ekurhuleni North	Norkem Park	Tembisa High
Ekurhuleni South	Kwadukathole	Fumana
Gauteng East	Reshogofaditswe	Zimisele
Gauteng West	Randfontein High	Ithuteng
Gauteng North	Dan Kutumele	Chippa Tabane
Tshwane West	Pelotona	Funekile
Tshwane South	Rosina Sedibane-Modiba	Rosina Sedibane-Modiba
Tshwane North	Clapham High	Moditela
Sedibeng East	Ratanda	General Smuts
Sedibeng West	Katleho-Impumelelo	Khutlo Thare
Sedibeng West	Esokwazi	Fundulwazi





GAUTENG CUP

BIDVEST WITS ARE CELEBRATING BACK-TO-BACK GAUTENG CUP TRIUMPHS.

The Young Clever Boys have now won the trophy on three occasions, matching the achievement of SuperSport United and Orlando Pirates.

Academy teams have dominated this Future Champions event since its inception in 2009 and Wits overcame Orlando Pirates 3-2 on penalties in the final after a tense goal-less draw.

Both clubs duly progressed to the main Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament along with beaten semi-finalists Kaizer Chiefs and Highlands Park.

Their bronze medal match at Reiger Park was a repeat of the final with the Chiefs overcoming Highlands Park 3-2 in a spot kick shoot-out after a 0-0 draw.

The semi-finals were equally tense with Pirates toppling the Chiefs 1-0 in a mini-Soweto derby through a Boitumelo Radiopane penalty.

Highlands Park held Wits to a goal-less tie in the other semi-final before losing 4-3 on penalties. Wits' did not concede a goal in all five games, including a draw with SAFA Ekurhuleni in a group decider.

Mamelodi Sundowns forward Thando Buthelezi was the leading scorer in the 16-team tournament with five goals.

The U17 Future Champions Girls' Competition progressed to its second stage at the Gauteng Cup, with Schools Cup winners Dr BW Vilakazi taking on the five SAFA Gauteng regional all-star sides.

The Future Champions Gauteng Cup was organised by GSI Global in conjunction with Gauteng's Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, the Department of Education and SAFA Gauteng. Other partners included the PSL, City of Ekurhuleni, LaLiga, Rand Water and Clinix Health.





The Gauteng Cup featured 16 boys' teams - seven academy teams, five SAFA Gauteng regional sides and the four Schools Cup qualifiers, and 6 girls' teams - five SAFA Gauteng regional sides and the Schools Cup qualifiers.

THE PARTICIPANTS

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

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

Schools Cup - Clapham High, Esokwazi Secondary, Phafogang Secondary and Reshegofaditswe Secondary (boys' teams); Dr BW Vilakazi (girls team).



ZARA LEARNS SPANISH

A trip to Spain paid off for Zara Wilkinson as she inspired her SAFA Johannesburg team-mates back on home soil.

Zara was one of three lucky winners of the 2018 Future Players Gauteng Talent Search, which meant she was given a rare glimpse behind the scenes of LaLiga, the renowned Spanish league.

The visit worked wonders as SAFA Johannesburg booked their place in the final of the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament for a second successive year.

They topped their Gauteng Cup group after clinching a decisive 4-1 victory over SAFA Tshwane with two goals from Kekgethegile Mohasoa.

Dr BW Vilakazi Secondary School would meet them in the final after a 2-1 win over SAFA Sedibeng.

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

THE TEAMS

Players came from across the world for a highly anticipated 2019 edition of the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament.

Four continents - Africa, Asia, North America and Europe - had representatives, reflecting the global flavour of this prestigious event.

Chinese outfit Beijing Sinobo Guoan FC made their debut in South Africa, aiming to emulate compatriots Shandong Luneng, winners in 2010.

An outstanding international field also featured defending champions Club Brugge (Belgium), RCD Espanyol de Barcelona (Spain), Reggione Audace (Italy), Spartak FC (Russia), Club Tijuana (Mexico) and a side from the All India Football Federation.

The five-strong South African contingent was led by Future Champions Gauteng Cup qualifiers Bidvest Wits, Orlando Pirates FC, Kaizer Chiefs and Highlands Park.

Other players who starred at the Gauteng Cup formed a SAFA Gauteng invitational side.

The presence of the finalists of the girls' competition, SAFA Johannesburg and Dr BW Vilakazi Secondary School, further increased South African participation and interest.

THE DRAW AND MEDIA LAUNCH

The draw each year always means one thing - the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament is never far away! Hence the excitement at the Nike Football Training Centre as the countdown continued.

There to witness the group line-ups were representatives from the Gauteng Provincial Government Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Department of Education, SAFA and organisers GSI Global. They were joined by the media, stakeholders, supporters and invited guests. The all-important draw was broadcast on SuperSport across South Africa, and media outlets for radio, print and online publications carried extensive coverage.

THE FORMAT

The 12 teams were split into four groups of three teams with one South African side in each pool, apart from Group C, 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 sides involved in classification games to determine positions five to 12. All matches were two halves of 30 minutes.



LIVE COVERAGE



Coverage of the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament has developed rapidly since the event began a decade ago. The social media revolution means that news travels fast at the click of a button. The players competing at the 2019 tournament have been brought up with new technology, so it is only appropriate that coverage of the games reflects the new media via outlets such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and others. For instance, every match was streamed on the official website www.future-champions.net. However, traditional media such as television, radio and print are still very much part of the fabric of the tournament's coverage and South African television broadcaster SuperSport screened live matches each day.



VIP TREATMENT

A warm welcome to South Africa is always guaranteed for visiting players, coaches and officials. The hosts ensured that clubs received the VIP treatment throughout their stay in Gauteng. The star treatment is only to be expected at a top class tournament and once again this promise was delivered in style. Careful planning, organisation and attention to detail meant the tournament ran smoothly.



THE VENUE

The Nike Football Training Centre in Soweto remains one of the finest sports complexes in the world nine years after it opened.

It was unveiled by former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger during the FIFA World Cup™ in South Africa in 2010 and since then has been the perfect host for the prestigious Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament.

The set-up has the most advanced facilities 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 overlooking the historic township of Soweto.



KOPANONG HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

Future Champions visitors are accommodated each year at the luxurious aha Kopanong Hotel and Conference Centre.

This beautiful retreat situated in the city of Ekurhuleni provides guests with a wonderful and memorable experience.

The hotel has the benefit of a peaceful country estate location, yet nearby attractions are still within easy reach.

The stylish and modern Kopanong in the east of Gauteng captures the spirit of Africa with its traditional feel.

The Kopanong Estate has 84 fully detached chalets offering 250 bedrooms, with its superb layout providing the space and freedom for players, coaches and officials to relax.

Leisure facilities include a gym, sauna, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, sun bed, squash court and beach volleyball. A special Games room was set up for the duration of the tournament.

The venue has established a long-term partnership with Future Champions, showing its commitment to the project and the community.

The word Kopanong means 'place of meeting' in Sesotho - and is an unrivalled meeting place for the world's football community.



FESTIVAL FOOD AND

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.

AL OF FOOTBALL, ND FUN

KAROAKE FUN

From the Kopanong Choir that welcomed teams to Gauteng to specialty entertainment arranged by the hotel, friendships were cemented throughout the week of the International Tournament. Memorable evenings included a karaoke night, 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 a delicious spread of paella.

STAYING REFRESHED

Future Champions partner, SCORE Energy Drinks, kept fans and guests in good spirits with their refreshing beverages, while teams and guests stayed cool in the bright sunshine with Rand Water.





KAIZER CHIEFS
(SOUTH AFRICA)



BEIJING SINOBO GOUAN
(CHINA)



CLUB BRUGGE
(BELGIUM)



BIDVEST WITS
(SOUTH AFRICA)



CLUB TIJUANA
(MEXICO)



FC SPARTAK MOSCOW
(RUSSIA)

EAMS



ORLANDO PIRATES
(SOUTH AFRICA)



HIGHLANDS PARK
(SOUTH AFRICA)



REGGIO AUDACE
(ITALY)



SAFA GAUTENG
(SOUTH AFRICA)



**ALL INDIA FOOTBALL
FEDERATION**
(INDIA)



RCD ESPANYOL
(SPAIN)

DAY ONE

THE TOURNAMENT BEGINS

Highlands Park was a late replacement in the 2019 Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament but obviously did not suffer from a lack of preparation time.

The Johannesburg outfit made a flying start to their campaign with a convincing 4-0 victory over the All India Football Federation, inspired by two goals from Albert Risen.

Highlands replaced Nigerian side NPFL All Stars, who had to withdraw due to visa issues.

Defending champions Club Brugge served warning about their credentials with a stylish 2-0 win over Kaizer Chiefs in front of a sizeable crowd at the Nike Football Training Centre in Pimville, Soweto.

Newcomers Beijing Sinobo Guoan from China had a tough baptism, losing 2-0 to Mexican side Club Tijuana.

Bidvest Wits defeated Russian side FC Spartak 3-1, with the Moscow side appearing at the Future Champions Gauteng for the third year in a row.

Meanwhile, Orlando Pirates FC enjoyed a 1-0 win over Italian side Reggione Audace, while Spain's RCD Espanyol de Barcelona drew 1-1 with the SAFA Gauteng invitational side.









MATCH RESULTS

Highlands Park	4	v	0	All India Football Federation
Regio Audace	0	v	1	Orlando Pirates
Beijing Sinobo Guoan	0	v	2	Club Tijuana
RCD Espanyol	1	v	1	SAFA Gauteng
FC Spartak Moscow	1	v	3	BidVest Wits
Club Brugge	2	v	0	Kaizer Chiefs

GROUP A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Club Brugge	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
Kaizer Chiefs	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
Beijing Sinobo Guoan	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0

GROUP B

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
BidVest Wits	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2	3
Club Tijuana	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
FC Spartak Moscow	1	0	0	1	1	3	-1	0

GROUP C

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Highlands Park	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	3
Orlando Pirates	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3
Reggio Audace	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0

GROUP D

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
SAFA Gauteng	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
RCD Espanyol	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
All India Football Fed.	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0



DAY TWO

THE ACTION HEATS UP!

Kaizer Chiefs have turned South African football into a family affair with talented Reece Bartlett following in the footsteps of his famous dad.

Reece scored the final goal for the Chiefs' Academy side in a 3-0 triumph over Beijing Sinobo Guoan on the second day of the 2019 Future Champions International Tournament.

Father Shaun is now assistant manager at the club where he was once a player. An illustrious career saw him lift the Africa Cup of Nations title in 1996 and two years later represent his beloved Bafana Bafana at the FIFA World Cup.

Shaun, whose clubs also included Charlton Athletic, scored 28 goals for his country, including two against Saudi Arabia in France in 1998.

Meanwhile, Orlando Pirates FC became the only side to maintain a 100 per cent record with a 1-0 success over provincial rivals Highlands Park. A robust derby game was settled by Katileho Tsotetsi.

Club Brugge were held to a 1-1 draw by Bidvest Wits while RCD Espanyol claimed a 3-0 victory over the All India Football Federation.

FC Spartak secured a 2-0 win over fancied Club Tijuana with Magomedemin Rabadanov scoring for the second game. A SAFA Gauteng invitational side defeated Reggio Audace 2-1.







MATCH RESULTS

Club Tijuana	0	v	2	FC Spartak Moscow
All India Football Federation	0	v	3	RCD Espanyol
Kaizer Chiefs	3	v	0	Beijing Sinobo Guoan
SAFA Gauteng	2	v	1	Reggio Audace
BidVest Wits	1	v	1	Club Brugge
Orlando Pirates	1	v	0	Highlands Park

GROUP A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Club Brugge	2	1	1	0	3	1	+2	4
Kaizer Chiefs	2	1	0	1	3	2	+1	3
Beijing Sinobo Guoan	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0

GROUP B

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
BidVest Wits	2	1	1	0	4	2	+2	4
FC Spartak Moscow	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
Club Tijuana	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3

GROUP C

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Orlando Pirates	2	2	0	0	2	0	+2	6
Highlands Park	2	1	0	1	4	1	+3	3
Reggio Audace	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0

GROUP D

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
RCD Espanyol	2	1	1	0	4	1	+3	4
SAFA Gauteng	2	1	1	0	3	2	+1	4
All India Football Fed.	2	0	0	2	0	7	-7	0

DAY THREE

THE FINAL GROUP GAMES

An unlucky RCD Espanyol missed out on a place in the semi-finals of the 2019 Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament by the narrowest of margins.

The LaLiga Santander development team enjoyed a 3-0 win over an Orlando Pirates side that had already clinched a place in the last four.

The fancied Spaniards would have joined them in the final stages by topping their own group if they had scored one more goal.

Instead, they finished level on goal difference with SAFA Gauteng, who sneaked through having scored one more goal than their rivals.

A hat-trick from Riandre Vries was the highlight of the invitational side's 5-0 win over the All India Football Federation.

Two goals from Samuel Mangula eased Club Brugge to a 4-0 win over Beijing Sinobo Guoan, which sealed top group spot for the Belgian outfit.

FC Spartak also progressed courtesy of a 2-0 victory over Kaizer Chiefs. Meanwhile, Club Tijuana was also unfortunate. The Mexicans defeated Bidvest Wits 1-0 but lost out to Spartak on goal difference.

Highlands Park held Reggio Audace to a goal-less draw, leaving the Italians bottom of the group.









MATCH RESULTS

SAFA Gauteng	5	v	0	All India Football Fed.
Beijing Sinobo Guoan	0	v	4	Club Brugge
Highlands Park	0	v	0	Reggio Audace
BidVest Wits	0	v	1	Club Tijuana
Kaizer Chiefs	0	v	2	FC Spartak Moscow
Orlando Pirates	0	v	3	RCD Espanyol

GROUP A

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Club Brugge	3	2	1	0	6	1	+5	7
Kaizer Chiefs	3	1	0	2	3	4	-1	3
Beijing Sinobo Guoan	3	0	0	3	0	8	-8	0

GROUP B

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
FC Spartak Moscow	3	2	0	1	5	3	+2	6
Club Tijuana	3	2	0	1	3	2	+1	6
BidVest Wits	3	1	1	1	4	3	+1	4

GROUP C

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Orlando Pirates	3	2	0	1	2	3	-1	6
Highlands Park	3	1	1	1	4	1	+3	4
Reggio Audace	3	0	1	2	1	3	-2	1

GROUP D

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
SAFA Gauteng	3	2	1	0	8	2	+6	7
RCD Espanyol	3	2	1	0	7	1	+6	7
All India Football Fed.	3	0	0	3	0	12	-12	0

DAY FOUR

THE TOURIST TRAIL IN GAUTENG IS THE ENVY OF THE WORLD.

Future Champions has been sharing these cultural treasures with its valued visitors for over 10 years: spreading the word about what South Africa has to offer, whilst advertising the region to a new audience via media exposure.

Sport, history and wildlife - it's a diverse mix of attractions and they all belong in this beautiful corner of the African continent.

The Gauteng Tourism Authority recognises what gems it possesses in its own backyard. Quite rightly it wants to shout loudly and proudly about glorious Gauteng.

GTA once again hosted the players, coaches and officials on a special excursion day, providing them with an unforgettable experience.

To ensure they made the most of their day, teams were provided with dedicated multilingual tour guides.





SOCCER CITY STADIUM VISIT

An iconic venue that will forever hold a special place in South African hearts; it was here that the first FIFA World Cup™ final on African soil was played in 2010 when Spain defeated the Netherlands 1-0. Nine years on the game is now buried in the football archives but such was the historic nature of the occasion that Soccer City will always be a magical attraction for football fans.



8115

VILAKAZI ST
ORLANDO WEST
SOWETO

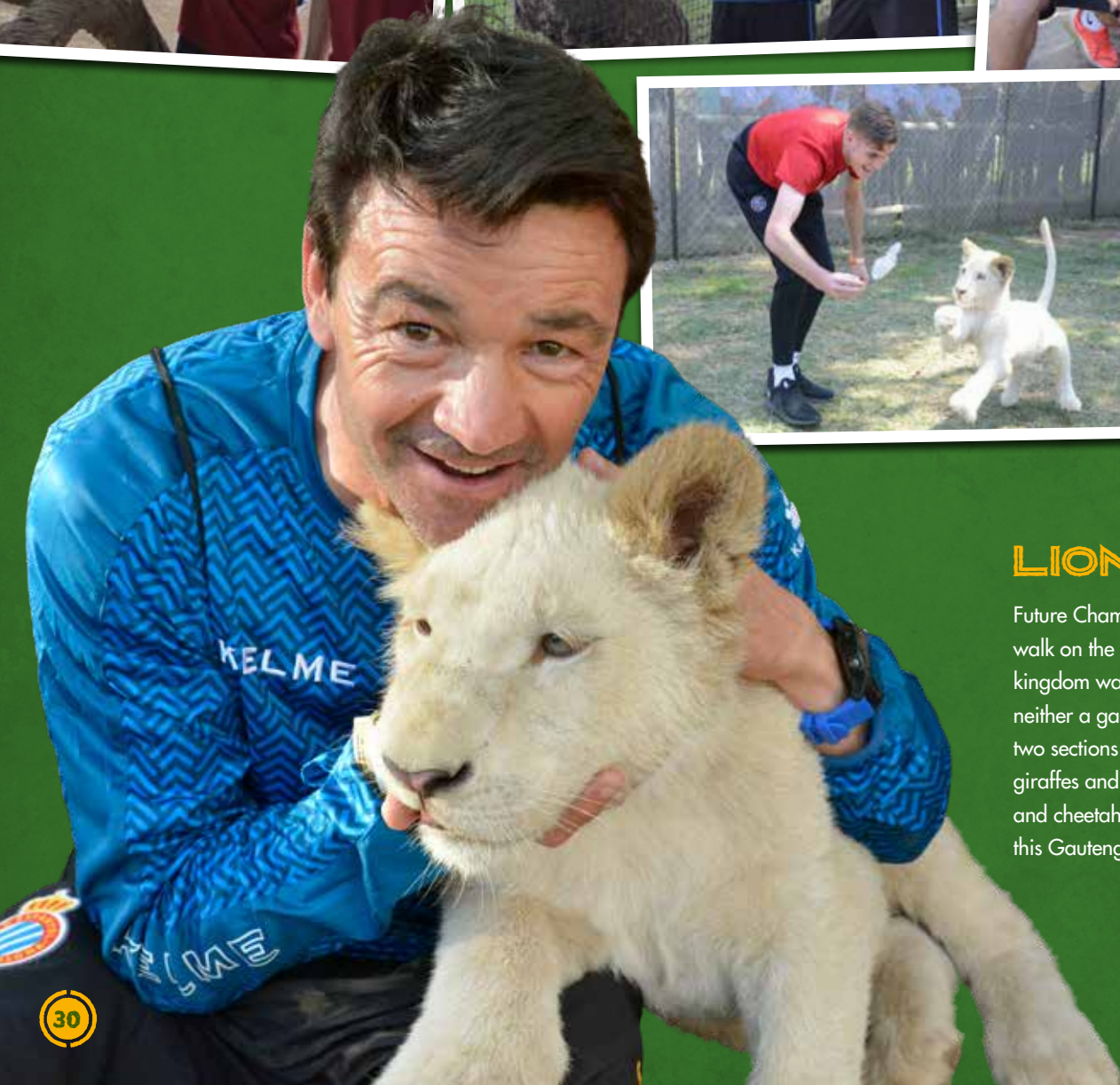
Vilakazi Street in Soweto is a symbolic landmark in political history with two former Nobel Peace Prize winners having lived here. Former South African president Nelson Mandela and human rights activist Archbishop Desmond Tutu shared the same road. Mandela House, where the South African President lived, has been restored to its former glory. Teams also had the opportunity of visiting the Hector Pieterse Monument built in remembrance of the first victim of the 1976 student uprising.



LESEDI CULTURAL VILLAGE

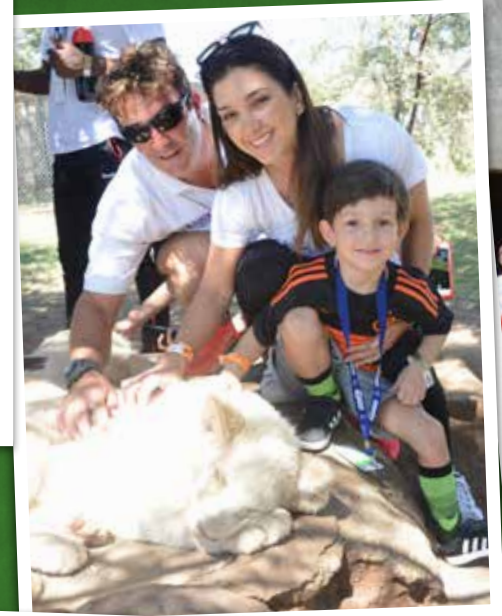
Lesedi is a fascinating tourist destination where visitors are transported back in time to learn about the South African way of life. Families from traditional homesteads including Zulu, Xhosa, Pedi, Basotho, Nguni and Ndebele entertained guests through traditional song and dance. The Musi's Ndebele Theatre took visitors through South Africa's history from the Cradle of Humankind to the Cultures of Lesedi.





LION PARK

Future Champions guests went on safari and took a walk on the wild side at the Lion Park. Africa's animal kingdom was there in all its glory. The 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 lions, hyenas and cheetahs. It offered teams an enthralling day in this Gauteng wonderland.



DAY FIVE

THE PLAY-OFF MATCHES

A new name was about to be engraved on the trophy for the 2019 Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament.

The big question was whether a team from host country South Africa, or Russia, would claim the glory after FC Spartak and Orlando Pirates advanced to the final.

FC Spartak, making their third successive appearance in Gauteng, ran out comfortable 3-1 winners over local side SAFA Gauteng to book their place.

Ryan Manning scored a penalty for the invitational side that could not contain the rampant Russians for whom Aslan Mutaliev, Stepan Melnikov and Sviatoslav Kozhedub were on target.

In the other semi final, Pirates knocked out defending champions Club Brugge 4-2 on penalties after a hard-fought game ended goal-less.

The Young Buccaneers held their nerve in the shoot-out with goalkeeper Blake Franzen their hero.

In the other final group matches, Kaizer Chiefs striker Mthokozosi Balakasi scored a hat-trick in a 3-1 win over Highlands Park to make him the tournament's leading scorer with five goals, while Club Tijuana beat RCD Espanyol 2-0.

The two Asian clubs had yet to score in the competition. Beijing Sinobo Guoan lost 3-0 to Reggione Audace while the All India Football Federation were also searching for their first goal after losing by the same score to Bidvest Wits.









MATCH RESULTS

Kaizer Chiefs	3	v	1	Highlands Park
Beijing Sinobo Guoan	0	v	3	Reggio Audace
BidVest Wits	3	v	0	All India Football Fed.
Club Tijuana	2	v	0	RCD Espanyol
SEMI FINAL 1				
Club Brugge	0	v	0	Orlando Pirates
Orlando Pirates win 4-2 on penalties				
SEMI FINAL 2				
FC Spartak Moscow	3	v	1	SAFA Gauteng

DAY SIX

THE FINAL DAY

The long wait for South African champions is finally over. Orlando Pirates became the first club from the host country to win the Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament.

It had taken 10 years for a home winner to emerge, as one of South Africa's oldest clubs became the eighth side to lift the glittering prize.

The proud Johannesburg club defeated FC Spartak 8-7 on penalties after the teams had drawn 1-1 in a dramatic final.

The Pirates hero was goalkeeper Blake Franzen who produced two spot kick saves to earn his side an historic win. Franzen had also come to his side's rescue during a penalty shoot-out in the semi-final.

It was an exciting climax to a magnificent six days of action with some of the world's top players competing for the prestigious under 17 prize.

Pirates had taken the lead when Thabani Gumede pounced on a loose ball before the Russian outfit equalised when leading scorer Magomedemin Rabadanov headed home a cross.

Club Brugge secured the bronze medal, edging out SAFA Gauteng 2-1 in the third-placed play-off.

Samuel Mbangula and Ben van Lommel were on target for the 2018 winners. Riandre Vries scored his fourth goal of the competition for SAFA Gauteng.

Club Tijuana - winners in 2013 - came fifth after defeating Kaizer Chiefs 2-1. RCD Espanyol took seventh place after a 4-2 penalty shoot-out win over Highlands Park following a 1-1 draw.

Bidvest Wits eased to a 3-0 success over Reggjo Audace to take ninth spot, while the All India Football Federation and Beijing Sinobo Guoan registered their first goals of the competition. The Indians won 2-1 to take 11th position.









MATCH RESULTS

Beijing Sinobo Gouan	1	v	2	All India Football Federation
Reggio Audace	1	v	3	BidVest Wits
Highlands Park	1	v	1	RCD Espanyol
RCD Espanyol win 4-2 on penalties				
Kaizer Chiefs	1	v	2	Club Tijuana
SAFA Gauteng	1	v	2	Club Brugge
FINAL				
FC Spartak Moscow	0	v	0	Orlando Pirates
Orlando Pirates win 8-7 on penalties				

FUTURE CHAMPIONS GAUT



GROUP A	
Kaizer Chiefs (RSA)	
Beijing Sinobo Guoan (CHN)	
Club Brugge (BEL)	

GROUP B	
BidVest Wits (RSA)	
Club Tijuana (MEX)	
FC Spartak Moscow (RUS)	

GROUP C	
Orlando Pirates (RSA)	
Highlands Park (RSA)	
Reggio Audace (ITA)	

GROUP D	
SAFA Gauteng (RSA)	
All India Football Federation (IND)	
RCD Espanyol (ESP)	

MONDAY 25 MARCH 2019				
Highlands Park	4	v	0	All India Football Fed.
Regio Audace	0	v	1	Orlando Pirates
Beijing Sinobo Guoan	0	v	2	Club Tijuana
RCD Espanyol	1	v	1	SAFA Gauteng
FC Spartak Moscow	1	v	3	BidVest Wits
Club Brugge	2	v	0	Kaizer Chiefs

TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2019				
Club Tijuana	0	v	2	FC Spartak Moscow
All India Football Fed.	0	v	3	RCD Espanyol
Kaizer Chiefs	3	v	0	Beijing Sinobo Guoan
SAFA Gauteng	2	v	1	Reggio Audace
BidVest Wits	1	v	1	Club Brugge
Orlando Pirates	1	v	0	Highlands Park

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2019				
SAFA Gauteng	5	v	0	All India Football Fed.
Beijing Sinobo Guoan	0	v	4	Club Brugge
Highlands Park	0	v	0	Reggio Audace
BidVest Wits	0	v	1	Club Tijuana
Kaizer Chiefs	0	v	2	FC Spartak Moscow
Orlando Pirates	0	v	3	RCD Espanyol

GROUP A									
TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	
Club Brugge	3	2	1	0	6	1	+5	7	
Kaizer Chiefs	3	1	0	2	3	4	-1	3	
Beijing Sinobo Guoan	3	0	0	3	0	8	-8	0	

GROUP B									
TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	
FC Spartak Moscow	3	2	0	1	5	3	+2	6	
Club Tijuana	3	2	0	1	3	2	+1	6	
BidVest Wits	3	1	1	1	4	3	+1	4	

GROUP C									
TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	
Orlando Pirates	3	2	0	1	2	3	-1	6	
Highlands Park	3	1	1	1	4	1	+3	4	
Reggio Audace	3	0	1	2	1	3	-2	1	

GROUP D									
TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS	
SAFA Gauteng	3	2	1	0	8	2	+6	7	
RCD Espanyol	3	2	1	0	7	1	+6	7	
All India Football Fed.	3	0	0	3	0	12	-12	0	

FUTURES CUP 2019 FINAL RESULTS



FRIDAY 29 MARCH 2019				
Kaizer Chiefs	3	v	1	Highlands Park
Beijing Sinobo Guoan	0	v	3	Reggio Audace
BidVest Wits	3	v	0	All India Football Fed.
Club Tijuana	2	v	0	RCD Espanyol
SEMI FINAL 1				
Club Brugge	2	v	4	Orlando Pirates
SEMI FINAL 2				
FC Spartak Moscow	3	v	1	SAFA Gauteng
SATURDAY 30 MARCH 2019				
11th Place				
Beijing Sinobo Guoan	1	v	2	All India Football Fed.
9th Place				
Reggio Audace	1	v	3	BidVest Wits
7th Place				
Highlands Park	1	v	1	RCD Espanyol
RCD Espanyol win 4-2 on penalties				
5th Place				
Kaizer Chiefs	1	v	2	Club Tijuana
3rd Place				
SAFA Gauteng	1	v	2	Club Brugge
FINAL				
FC Spartak Moscow	1	v	1	Orlando Pirates
Orlando Pirates win 8-7 on penalties				

FINAL STANDINGS	
1	Orlando Pirates (South Africa)
2	FC Spartak Moscow (Russia)
3	Club Brugge (Belgium)
4	SAFA Gauteng (South Africa)
5	Club Tijuana (Mexico)
6	Kaizer Chiefs (South Africa)
7	RCD Espanyol (Spain)
8	Highlands Park (South Africa)
9	BidVest Wits (South Africa)
10	Reggio Audace (Italy)
11	All India Football Federation (India)
12	Beijing Sinobo Guoan (China)





FUTURE COACHES

GOOD COACHES ARE VITAL TO DEVELOPING TOP YOUNG TALENT ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD.

So it is only right and proper that the role of the coach is recognised via the prestigious Future Coaches Gauteng programme. Each year a promising young coach is selected as the new Future Coaches Gauteng Ambassador. The 2019 prize went to a delighted Setshedi More from Pimville in Soweto, coach of the George Best More Football Academy.

Setshedi will act as coach and mentor to the three winners of the Future Players project when they visit Spain to gain insight into how one of the world's top leagues works. The trip takes place during the 2019-20 season when they will get a glimpse of the leading clubs in action, both on the training field and on the pitch.

The Spanish adventure is a rare privilege for the quartet, led by Setshedi, whose inspirational skills were recognised by Future Champions. The visit is courtesy of LaLiga, who run the hugely successful Spanish Premier Division from their Madrid headquarters. Setshedi follows in the footsteps of last year's winner, Andile Zulu, who enjoyed the same unforgettable experience.

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 the training of youth and embracing aspects such as nutrition, fitness, and the 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 2019 programme, running skills tests for the Future Players programme. The coaches play a vital role sourcing talent among Gauteng's youth, while being empowered in their development.



FUTURE PLAYERS

THREE LUCKY FOOTBALLERS HAVE BEEN PLUCKED OUT FROM THOUSANDS OF HOPEFULS FOR A DREAM TRIP TO SPAIN.

The winners of the Future Players Gauteng Talent Search will enjoy a unique experience thanks to the generosity of Spanish Premier Division LaLiga.

All of them will make the once-in-a-lifetime trip to Spain, courtesy of LaLiga, to learn what it takes to compete at the highest level.

Over 10,000 Gauteng youngsters aged between 12 and 16 took part in the Future Players programme, which in the interests of fairness was an open walk-in process for boys and girls.

The programme has the support of GSI Global, the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, the Gauteng Department of Education and SAFA Gauteng.

The field was reduced to 120 talented young hopefuls from across the province that featured in the semi-finals. After more gruelling trials, the final round consisted of a small group of 10 learners.

The winners were announced on the same day as the 2019 Future Champions Gauteng International final at the Nike Football Training Centre.



THE WINNERS ARE



AYEESHA MOOSA
from Nirvana Secondary
School in Lenasia



BULELANI MKHWANAZI
from Emshugantambo High
School, Pimville



MPHO MAIKHOSO
from Reashoma Secondary
School, Protea North

Joining Ayeesha and the two boys on the plane will be Future Coaches winner Setshedi More from Pimville.

We're thrilled to have once again had such a huge response to the Future Players Gauteng Talent Search this year, which showcases the rich pool of talent that we have in our province. Football is a vehicle for these youngsters to dream of a better life and we hope that we have helped many on the path to a successful professional career. We've had enormous success with our Talent Search in previous years and trust that our 2019 winners take on board all they've learned, and will learn on their once-in-a-lifetime trip to Spain.

Philasande Muvevi,
Director of Competitive Sport in the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts,
Culture and Recreation

FROM GAUTENG TO SPAIN

The winners of the 2018 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 four young star footballers, Nkanyiso Maphosa, Zara Wilkinson, Moosa Sahail and Khanyezi Maphosa, alongside Future Coaches winner Andile Zulu, made the journey to Barcelona in October 2018. They were accompanied by representatives of Gauteng Provincial Government and GSI Global.

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 South Africa.

Thanks to all who made this trip possible for us. It's a memory that we'll treasure forever and hold onto for life. This experience has made our story stand out from our peers and has given us the confidence to start training and building for a destination that we now have in sight.

Nkanyiso and Khanyezi Maphosa,
Future Players winners

They witnessed a LaLiga clash between FC Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao at Camp Nou stadium, and had the incredible opportunity of training with the academy sides of FC Barcelona, RCD Espanyol and Girona FC.

The group also visited the famed FC Barcelona Museum, along with training at the impressive facilities of Marcet Foundation. The week included cultural excursions and tours of Barcelona's spectacular sites, offering a taste of the Spanish way of life.

It was a week of discovery and learning that left its mark on all the fortunate participants, as they rubbed shoulders with legends of football along the way.

I've realized that football has an incredible history and legacy in Spain. It's great that we've been fortunate to share in this journey because it gives us, the young generation, knowledge about football that is not just about football – it has a deep meaning that can build a society for the better.

Zara Wilkinson,
Future Players winner



The training we did with teams was at a very high standard and the facilities were the best I've ever seen. With more training like this, my game would get better quickly. All the sessions with teams gave me valuable lessons and helped improve my game, which I've brought back to SA.

Sahail Moosa,
Future Players winner





A wonderful friend, brother and a blessed man from LaLiga, Sergio, made our stay a life-changing week. From the second we arrived in Barcelona, he greeted us with a warm smile and an enthusiasm that only grew during our trip. A dream moment for me was seeing FC Barcelona v Athletic Bilbao live in Camp Nou Stadium. And seeing Messi warming up close to our stand was a moment above all moments!



Andile Zulu,
Future Coaches Ambassador



LaLiga



GAUTENG

it starts here



Our Future Champions became honorary Spaniards during this trip! They clearly felt at home in the warm and vibrant city of Barcelona, displaying a sense of comfort and confidence when meeting new teams and having to readjust their mindsets to new forms of training. They were eager to gain more knowledge and learn specialised techniques to use in their footballing journeys, and have vowed to use the skills that they gained to help others along the way.

This has been an experience that they will always treasure. GSI, LaLiga and Gauteng Provincial Government have once again played a pivotal role in engaging and inspiring the youth through this once in a lifetime experience.



Lydia Phala,
GSI Global Logistics Director





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, provided merchandise, football gear and kit to hundreds of schoolchildren and players attending the tournaments, 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 donations to support their youth activities year-round.

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 indispensable experience during the planning and execution stages



LOVE LIFE

As a long-term partner of the Future Champions Gauteng project, LoveLife ran a life skills and youth leadership programme at all major events, offering activities, entertainment and support for players and students as well as fans attending the tournaments. They provided an interactive space for youth to access information on sexual, emotional and physical health.

Their programme encompasses a comprehensive life-skills curriculum that seeks to address and dismantle stigmas around HIV/Aids. LoveLife groundbreakers facilitated sessions on issues around HIV prevention, building self-esteem and improving social agency. They aimed to educate and inspire youngsters to live a positive, proactive and healthier lifestyle, providing them with tools to make more informed choices.

ADOPT A TEAM CAMPAIGN

Schoolchildren from across Soweto were invited to join in the fun as part of the Future Champions Gauteng Adopt a Team Campaign, giving them a chance to get involved in the prestigious International Tournament.

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 onto 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, creating an unforgettable experience for all concerned.



SUPPORTING THE WOMENS' GAME



IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO THAT REFILOE JANE WAS IDENTIFIED AS A STAR OF THE FUTURE, THANKS TO THE FUTURE CHAMPIONS GAUTENG PROJECT.

At the age of 15, she arrived on the scene as a winner of the Future Players Gauteng Talent Search.

Now, after a decade of caps for South Africa, she makes her debut for her country in the FIFA World Cup in France in 2019.

Jane's rise from promising junior to the world stage is a perfect example of what can be achieved by youngsters dreaming of glory.

Jane is vice captain for Banyana Banyana and has represented her country at two Olympic Games, in London in 2012 and Rio de Janeiro in 2016. She played a pivotal role in the national squad's victory at the African Women's Cup of Nations in 2018.

Jane recently signed with global sports brand Nike, and has been recruited as a star player for top Australian outfit Canberra United. She credits the Future Players as her big breakthrough and hopes others follow in her footsteps.

Coaches as well as players are flourishing thanks to the Future Champions programme.

Christa Kgamphe became an Ambassador for the Future Coaches Gauteng in 2016 and subsequently went to Spain courtesy of LaLiga, gaining exposure and knowledge in how football is coached there.



I look at football in a different way since my Future Champions experience and have seen the number of possibilities now at the disposal of women in the country. It's given me the opportunity to learn and grow, not just domestically, but internationally as well. We've so much talent in the country and just need the platforms for it to grow and shine.

This year is a huge one for women's football with the World Cup and hopefully that will inspire many more girls to take up the sport and realise what football can do for them as a career.



Christa Kgamphe,
2016 Future Coaches Ambassador



The coach of South Africa's women's team likewise hails the impact of the Future Champions Gauteng and its platform to allow young girls to develop their football careers. Banyana Banyana coach Desiree Ellis believes the future of the women's game in the country is strong, aided by such initiatives.

Future Champions Gauteng has focused on girls and women's development since its inception through the Future Players

and Future Coaches programmes. The inclusion of an Under 17s tournament in 2018 increased girls' participation and this year's edition led to further involvement, with 16 teams competing at the Schools Cup.

The honour of winning the 2019 girls competition went to SAFA Johannesburg. They ran out 2-1 winners over Dr BW Vilakazi Secondary School on the final day of action at the Nike Football Training Centre in a live televised match. The two sides earned their place in the showpiece final after qualifying from 6 teams that took part in the Gauteng Cup.

Aliyaah Allie and Giovanna Barbosa scored for SAFA Johannesburg, with Akhona Hadebe getting the only goal for Dr BW Vilakazi.



I've been very excited about the quality of the girls' football on display at the Future Champions Gauteng tournaments this year, with players that could be included in our girls' national Under-17 side Bantwana. Compared to last year, I can really see that the girls have gone away and worked hard on improving. This project gives us coaches the opportunity to look for talent and see it nurtured. A big thank-you to the Future Champions Project, Gauteng Provincial Government and SAFA for providing this opportunity.

Desiree Ellis,
Coach of Banyana Banyana



LEADING OFFICIALS FROM THE WORLD OF POLITICS, SPORT AND TOURISM JOINED CELEBRATIONS FOR THE 11TH 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.



HEAD OF GAUTENG CONVENTION AND EVENTS BUREAU FOR GAUTENG TOURISM AUTHORITY

NONNIE KUBEKA

"We are delighted to once again have welcomed all of the international teams to the Gauteng Province and we hope they enjoyed our warm hospitality. This project provides a chance for young players 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.

"We pride ourselves on being a premier sports tourism destination across all different codes and hope that our visitors for the 2019 Future Champions Gauteng International Tournament took in the vibrant sights and sounds of our wonderful province. We are confident they will take this experience back to their various countries and return one day, either as professional sportspeople or as visitors to our wonderful country."



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

MBALI HLOPHE

"It's hard to believe that we've had a decade of the Future Champions Gauteng and seen so many budding young players go on to have excellent careers, both in South Africa and for their clubs abroad. We're particularly excited to have an expanded platform for girls' football through the project. The Gauteng Province is passionate about providing equal opportunities to our young sportsmen and women, and the recent success of Banyana Banyana has demonstrated to the world the potential our girls have on the soccer pitch.

"We're proud to have staged a bigger and better edition of Future Champions Gauteng, a project that continues to grow from strength to strength thanks to the valued support from all stakeholders."



MEC FOR GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PANYAZA LESUFI

"The Gauteng Department of Education is once again thrilled to lend our support to the Future Champions Gauteng, a project that has become a vitally important component of our calendar. Educating youngsters is much more than classrooms and textbooks; on the sports field they learn how to work as a team, to succeed together, and that it's difficult to achieve anything without hard work. Future Champions has always been a superb platform for players to showcase their skill and we're proud to see those who emerged in 2019."



**PRESIDENT OF SAFA
JOHANNESBURG &
FUTURE CHAMPIONS
GAUTENG TECHNICAL
DIRECTOR**

PHIL MOGODI

“SAFA Johannesburg is proud to be a long-term partner of the Future Champions Gauteng. We have seen how beneficial this project has been to our players through the years and the expansion of the girls’ competition should be applauded. We have always encouraged our teams to broaden their football education and for any young player it is important to expose them to contrasting styles and ways of playing the game. For all teams that compete in the Future Champions Gauteng, this is the case.

“As ever, this project is a crucial steppingstone that gives our academies, schools and SAFA districts the opportunity to showcase their talent and take that next step to fulfilling their dream of becoming professional footballers.”



**LA LIGA AFRICA
DIRECTOR**

ANTONIO BARRADAS

“It is a privilege for LaLiga to support the Future Champions project for the fourth year. Football is central to the Spanish way of life, with LaLiga forming an important part of this culture. We believe that the amazing experience of visiting Spain, offered to winners of the Future Players and Future Coaches programmes, will support their football knowledge in numerous ways. The winners will get the chance to train with LaLiga clubs, and it’s our hope that this helps them in both their personal and career development.

“Part of the reason that we as LaLiga continue to be part of Future Champions Gauteng is because of our on-going commitment to help develop football from a grassroots level. It’s been a pleasure to be involved in this initiative once again, and we wish the winners all the best during their travels.”



**PRESIDENT OF
SAFA GAUTENG**

WILLIAM MOOKA

“Having players from schools teams, academies and international clubs all mixed into one campaign gives them great exposure to different styles, tactics and levels of ability. As SAFA Gauteng we know we have some tremendous talent in the Province but they will not reach their potential unless they’re able to perform in tournaments such as the Future Champions Gauteng, where they can test their ability against their peers. We are excited to see the growth of girls’ football through the project and hope that within this year’s group, there are some future Banyana Banyana stars.”



**BANYANA BANYANA
VICE-CAPTAIN**

REFILOE JANE

“The Future Players Gauteng Talent Search changed my life because when I won a trip to England in 2009, I had the opportunity to train with Manchester City Ladies and Everton Ladies, and that showed me just what it takes to be a professional. I told myself that when I got back to South Africa, I’d work that hard on my football and take it very seriously. I had a dream to play in England and I still want to fulfill that. It set me on the path to make the team that qualified for the 2012 Olympic Games and since then my life has not been the same. It changed my outlook and allowed me to dream big, to know that I can play in major tournaments and maybe one day the World Cup, which I’ll realise this year.

“It’s exciting to see the project evolving to give more women and girls an opportunity. This is the perfect platform to showcase talent and you never know – some players may get a call-up to the junior national teams.”

THANK YOU FUTURE CHAMPIONS GAUTENG



"Ubuntu is the magic word that we heard when we arrived in South Africa. The 2019 Gauteng Future Champions tournament has taught us the meaning of this word: enriching our life day by day through ourselves and others. The experience both on and off the field for our players was really Ubuntu: union, pride, dignity, respect, brotherhood and solidarity have been the pillars of this tournament for all those who participated.

"Under the scorching sun of the Soweto Nike Training Center and through the welcoming accommodation situated in a fabulous area of Gauteng, we have really appreciated playing and living with teams embodying different styles and philosophies, dealing with the live broadcast TV protocols or just enjoying African traditions such as an unforgettable night of drumming. All this, and everything else, has been organized perfectly at a world-class level.

"On behalf of all the Reggion Audace FC players and staff, I would like to both thank and congratulate the organizers and volunteers of the 2019 Gauteng Future Champions tournament. We are very proud to have been part of it.

"Last but not least, we would like to warmly thank the Gauteng Provincial Government and its Italian community, because through this week of competition, once more, it has been possible to strengthen the friendships between the city of Reggio Emilia and South Africa, that was born more than forty years ago, in 1976. It was truly an honor to represent and renew this twinning and transfer it to our young players and their families. Thank you Gauteng! We look forward to coming back again in what we feel has become our second Home!"

PAOLO GRASSELLI
U17 Reggion Audace FC Team Manager



"I would like to thank the organizers of the Future Champions Gauteng for the invitation and the warm welcome during the stay of our team. We appreciated the opportunity to participate in your tournament both from a sporting perspective and the rich cultural experience for our players.

"Participation in the Future Champions Tournament and the time passed in South Africa left many memorable impressions! It was a great experience for the players and the coaches. It gave us the opportunity of playing against teams of different styles, so that each match was interesting. I am sure this experience will contribute to the professional development of our players.

"The cultural program was an unforgettable experience. Visits to the lion park, cultural village and the musical evening with drums - these activities were really surprising and unique.

"Thanks once again and we wish your tournament a long future with many more successes!"

VIATCHESLAV VASHKEVICH
Head Coach of Spartak Moscow U17



"On behalf of Safa Gauteng and the Gauteng Technical team that participated in the Future Champions International 2019, we would like to thank the organizers and staff who made this tournament a success and a great competition for all teams involved. It was an incredible experience and opportunity for our players and coaches to compete with both international and domestic teams for the prestigious trophy. We had a life enriching cultural experience and football competition with different teams from all over the world, which will help our players improve tremendously.

"The Future Champions professionalism and standard of play was really amazing and we enjoyed every moment of it. It was indeed an honour that we got the invitation to participate in the tournament and the experience will help the entire staff and players to grow as they move forward with their football careers.

"Thank you to the Future Champions team and all teams that participated, as well as to Safa Gauteng for the wonderful opportunity given to players and coaches to take part in the memorable 2019 tournament."

LEHLOHONOLO KHAREJANE
SAFA Gauteng Team Manager



"It was a great experience for us to participate in Future Champions Gauteng, with unique moments both at a sporting level and at a personal level. We thank the organizers for the treatment we received.

"It was truly an unforgettable experience and a privilege to take part, affording us the opportunity to travel to South Africa to play football and grow as a team."

POL GARCIA
RCD Espanyol U17 Head Coach



"The Future Champions Tournament was very well run and the boys enjoyed themselves a great deal. From a football perspective, it was a great learning curve for the technical team and players were exposed to different football cultures.

"I hope the Future Champions Gauteng continues to be a leading catalyst in the growth of football development in South Africa."

SIMON MARINGE
Orlando Pirates U17 Head Coach



"A fantastic week and a great tournament!"

"All the staff members and players enjoyed every single moment. We really liked the cultural day, and staying at the hotel with the other teams was great. But the most important thing is that we enjoyed playing this fantastic tournament and we learned a lot from it! Although we came to win again, we can be happy with finishing in 3rd place and with the overall performance of our team.

"We would like to congratulate Orlando Pirates on their victory!"

Coaches of Club Brugge





Gauteng Coaches

