

FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2015 VOL 2 #1

**2015 CROP OF STUDENT-ATHLETE RECRUITS IMPRESS IN CLASS AND ON THE FIELD**



**BASKETBALL Miguel Ferrão**

**Miguel Ferrão** started playing basketball at St Albans in 2012, where he quickly made the 1st team. That year he helped the school to a 4th-place finish at the St Johns tournament, and to win the Pretoria schools u-16 title. For his efforts he was voted an All Star.

He held his place in the St Albans 1st team the following year, finishing season top-scorer. In 2013 St Albans finished 16th at the St. John's tournament, and though the school side finished a modest 4th at the DHS tournament Miguel was voted a tournament All Star. Having represented SA at and graduated from the Basketball without Borders camp, he was invited to be part of a hi-performance programme in Portugal. That gave him the opportunity, in 2014 to play for Queluz in the Taça Nacional, the team finishing 3rd. He went on to play for the Centro de Alto Rendimento and represented Portugal at the Estudiantes tournament in Spain. Welcome to Wits, Miguel!



**HOCKEY Luche Klaasen**

**Luche Klaasen**, currently an SA u-18A hockey squad member, is a history buff as well as a hockey and golf prodigy. Moving to Wits from East London's Clarendon High School for Girls, Luche has been a regular in the junior SA age group sides ever since she first played at u-16 level.

She earned her national colours by virtue of having featured in Border provincial age group sides from her u-13 days in 2007. Luche honed her skills playing for the local Hams Hockey Club, rising through the ranks to the club's premier team. She earned the most Valuable Defender of the Interprovincial Tournament accolade in 2011.

Fortunate to be arriving at Wits in a year in which our women's side play Varsity Hockey, Luche hopes to complete a BA, specialising in Human Resources. You'll find the artificial turf is bluer on this side, Luche. Welcome!

**Bryce Cressy**, last year's Parktown Boys' High School head boy, has been a PBHS 1st team regular since making his debut in 2011 as a ninth-grader. In that same year he made the Gauteng u-15A schools' team. The following year, as a Grade 10 learner, he represented Gauteng in the schools' u-17 age group, and in the u-19 age category in the 3-day version of the game. He was struck down by injury in his pre-matric year and, sensibly, was rested.



**HOCKEY Bryce Cressy**

But cricket's only part of the story: Our lad's also represented Southern Gauteng at schoolboy hockey since Grade 8. That was way back in 2010. In 2011 he debuted for the PBHS first team. Bryce's matric year, in 2014, saw him captain the Southern Gauteng u-18B team. Bright as a button, Bryce achieved four distinctions (Mathematics, Life Sciences, Accounting and LO), and a just missed out on one for English. He's enrolled for a BCom degree. So is there likely to be a tussle between the two codes at Wits over who will eventually claim him? Time will tell but, wisely, Bryce is keeping his options open.

**WSC EXEC MEMBER A RHODES SCHOLAR TOO**

Wits karate exponent and sports council member **Simba Tevera** is the proud recipient of the prestigious Mandela Rhodes scholarship, and a Merit Award that will ensure he's able to continue his studies in 2015.



**Simbarashe Tevera**

Simba's commitment to his honours-level studies in industrial and organisational psychology, serving the Hillbrow community through volunteer work at the Scees NGO, helping run Wits Karate Club and serving on the WSC exec earned him the highly valued distinction.

Simba says that as a Mandela Rhodes scholar it gives him great joy to be able to represent both his faculty and Wits Sport. Congratulations, Simba!

**NEW 1st XV CAPTAIN**



Former KES schoolboy and now 3<sup>rd</sup>-year BSc (Construction Studies) student **Richard Crossman** (2<sup>nd</sup> from right, standing) has been named captain of the Wits 1<sup>st</sup> XV for 2015.

The announcement was made shortly before the media launch for the Varsity Cup and Shield rugby competitions. In 2015 Wits play in the Varsity Shield rugby competition and Crossman will hope to lead Wits in reclaiming the spot in the premier Cup competition they relinquished last year. Unfortunately, Wits are on the road for their first two games (against Fort Hare and UKZN) and only return to their East Campus home on 19 Feb for the showdown with newcomers TUT.

**BASKETBALL Five, maybe six Witsies in action at FIBA Africa Zone VI qualifiers**

Wits Basketball achieved a remarkable feat when five regulars from the 2014 men's and women's sides were called up to their senior national squads. From last year's all-conquering Lady Bucks team, **Modiegi Mokoka** (top left), **Bronwyn Tyler** (below right) and **Fortunate Bosega** (top right) will do duty in the SA women's side, while **Yowana Nyangu** (below left) will represent Zimbabwe. Wits Bucks' **Jonathan 'Jono' vd Bijl** (bottom-most, pic: www.schoolofbasketball.co.za) made the SA men's side. All five students will be in action in the FIBA Zone VI qualifiers in Zimbabwe next month. Also, an as-yet unnamed Lady Bucks team member will trial for the Zimbabwe squad in February. We hope she makes it, giving us six Witsies at Africa's top basketball contest and cementing the Lady Bucks' claim to be the highest-achieving Wits team has had in recent years.



**WITSVIBE REELS IN THE DISCOUNTS**



**2014 TABLE TENNIS USSA's**



USSA Table Tennis men's singles champion, Wits' Tevia Sapire is hoisted aloft by his jubilant teammates.

Wits Table tennis hosted the December 2014 USSA Table tennis tournament here on campus. Wits entered two men's teams, A and B, and one women's team.

The tournament saw nineteen universities from around South Africa coming to represent their Universities. This was the first time that Wits Table tennis has managed to assemble a female team and they did very well as they managed to reach the group stages but, unfortunately, they got knocked out by UKZN. The men's team also represented Wits quiet well in that section as they also managed to reach the semi-finals.

Wits maintain the 4<sup>th</sup> position after losing in the semis and group stages. In the mixed doubles Tevia, Kajal, Bhavik and Meenal prevailed to make the QF's. During the female's singles event, Meenal Manga was able to reach the group stages. In the main event, the men's singles, Bhavik Patel was knocked out in the quarter finals and Tevia Sapire won the Championship, beating last year's silver medalist.

**CRICKET Inaugural schools KO tourney**



King Edward School (KES, pictured below) won the inaugural Wits T20 Knockout Challenge on Friday evening, beating St Stithians by 15 runs. The tournament was staged at Wits' Walter Milton Oval over three days.

KES batted first, scoring a very competitive 141/8 in their allotted 20 overs. Liam Smith top-scored with 48 off 40 balls and Naps de Beer hammered 36 off 25 balls. Brandon Glover was the best bowler for St Stithians, bagging 2 wickets for 18 runs in 4 overs.

In reply St Stithians only managed 126 in their allotted 20 overs. Tristen Blackie-Roden batted well and scored 62 of 48 balls, but they unfortunately kept on losing wickets at crucial times. KES' Dean Horn was the pick of the bowlers, taking 3 for 14 in his 4 overs. Man of the match was Naps de Beer for his 39 off 25 balls and took 1 for 13 in his 4 overs.

Coach Neil Lewinson and Wits Cricket chair Marius Henn are hopeful the series will help them identify and entice young cricket to Wits.



**WATER POLO**

The fourth Thursday of January marked the start of the water polo season or the Wits women's team. The previous years' early fixtures have always had a sluggishness about them with many students still on holiday. However, if our first game was anything to go by, this is going to be an exciting season for Wits water polo. Wits is blessed with some of the best inland aquatics talent in SA.



We played against the St Mary's first team and came through with a convincing 9-2 win. This victory was a good confidence boost for the girls on the back of a challenging USSA, and as we re-build the women's team.

The start of the season has also seen the introduction of many young and exciting players. The club is sure to show huge growth this year and the training sessions have been well attended, especially considering how early it is in the year.

The USSA aquatics championships are always a highlight of our year. Although we lost the play-off for 7th place in Coetzenburg in 2014, this year, with our new talent, we're determined to put up a spirited fight and compete for a medal.

**WITS RUGBY SEASON 'BA-CON' TRACK**



AWESOME FOURSOME, AFTER BREAKFAST, NATUURLIK! (L-R): Adrian Carter, Rudolf Straueli, Hugo van As and Kevin de Klerk

On the last Wednesday of January, Wits Rugby hosted an early-morning breakfast to rally support for the first XV ahead of this year's Varsity Shield campaign. The event was MC'd by renowned rugby commentator Hugh Bladen, and guest speakers included Golden Lions head coach Johan Ackermann, and captain Warren Whiteley.

Among the 160-odd guests in attendance were the entire Wits Shield squad, a sprinkling of the 2015 crop of Wits student-athletes from other codes, parents, alumni and staff. Even UJ sent a small delegation to 'recce' the talent

they'll be up against when Wits do get back into the Cup competition in 2017!

Some of the dignitaries on the morning included GLRU president Kevin De Klerk, deputy-president Neville Jardine and CEO Rudolf Straueli. As MC, the legendary Hugh Bladen was his usual brilliant, effusive self, and as a supporter of Wits Rugby made clear his backing for our development programme that targets a return to the Varsity Cup in 2017.



Inveterate Wits Rugby supporter and inimitable host, Hugh Bladen

Lions coach Ackermann delivered an inspiring talk, emphasising the importance of student-athletes living their values off and on the field; commitment, respect, faith, hard work, trust and tenacity were some of the important values mentioned. He said that by investing in players' lives and futures, Wits and the GLRU were helping to inculcate these shared values in future generations of sporting talent.

**BUSY START TO YEAR FOR WITS SPORT COUNCIL EXEC**

The Wits Sport Council executive committee (exco) has a full programme of events to contend with during O-Week. The exco rallies student support for many of the traditional sporting and related activities at this time of the year. Things kick off with the Welcome Day exhibition football match between PSL side Bidvest Wits and the university's men's team at the Bidvest Stadium on Sun 8, followed by the WSC Street Party (see poster on p1) on Mon 9 Feb. Tue 10th sees the staging of the Wits Nike Night Run from 18h30, and on Fri 13, from 9am-1pm, the exco holds an induction session with sports club committees, at the Wits Sport Building, Sturrock Park, West Campus. Throughout the week too, the committee oversees clubs' signing up of new members from their stalls on the Macrone walkway and the Old Mutual Sports Hall (OMSH). But there is respite: the first Varsity Shield home game for our rugby XV is on Thur 19 Feb, enough time in which to mobilise a full Wits Rugby Stadium to welcome them back from two away games. Wits is the place to be!



**FUTSAL PROGRAMMES MANAGER APPOINTED**

Former Wits Juniors FC coach **Bevan Fenner** (left) joins Wits Sport as manager of the Wits Sport's Futsal facilities and programmes. He plans to have internal leagues with men's and women's streams, a lunch time staff league and a junior holiday programme up and running this year. Follow @WitsFutsal and monitor their web page. Bevan is based at the Wits Sport Building, Sturrock Park, West Campus and can be reached on 011-717 9436, or witsfutsal@gmail.com. Look out for the Wits Futsal stall during O-Week! Welcome to Wits Sport, Bevan!

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