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Sport and recreation

Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) aims to improve the quality of life of all South Africans by promoting participation in sport and recreation in the country, and through the participation of sportspeople and teams in international sporting events.

The key objectives of the SRSA are to:

- increase the level of participation in sport and recreational activities
- raise the profile of sport
- maximise the probability of success in major sporting events
- place sport at the forefront of efforts to address issues of national importance.

The SRSA is responsible for:

- Co-ordinating and contributing to the drafting of legislation on sport and recreation.
- Interpreting broad government policy, translating government policy into policies for sport and recreation, revising such policy if and when necessary, and monitoring the implementation thereof.
- Aligning sport and recreation policy with the policies of other government departments in the spirit of integrated planning and delivery.
- Providing legal advice to all stakeholders in sport and recreation from a government perspective.
- Subsidising clients of the SRSA in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act 1 of 1999), its concomitant regulations, as well as the SRSA funding policy; monitoring the application of such funds; and advising clients on the management of their finances.
 - Managing inter- and intragovernmental relations.
 - Acknowledging the outstanding contributions of sportspeople to South African society.
 - Procuring resources from abroad for sport and recreation, through the appropriate structures in National Treasury.
- Communicating sport- and recreation-related matters from a government perspective.
- Co-ordinating and monitoring the creation and upgrading of sport and recreation infrastructure through the Building for Sport and Recreation Project (BSRP). Projects have been identified in line with the Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme and the Urban Renewal Strategy.

The main focus of the BSRP is the construction of outdoor and indoor facilities and the rehabilitation and upgrading of existing ones. Key elements of this project are the provision of training in facility management, and the implementation of sustainable maintenance projects.

The majority of the projects are located in rural poverty nodes.

By the end of 2004/05, government had invested R550 million in basic outdoor and indoor sports facilities in disadvantaged communities throughout the country. A further R140 million was allocated to such facilities in 2004/05. Since 2001, government had built more than 360 basic, multi-purpose facilities and established some 360 community sports councils. More than 15 500 temporary jobs were created over a four-year period.

The allocation for 2004/05 also allowed the SRSa to undertake projects in the areas where the 2010 Soccer World Cup matches are planned, to benefit the poor in those urban areas. The projects are, however, not restricted to soccer or to these areas alone.



In May 2005, South Africa sent five athletes to the inaugural Paralympic World Cup in Manchester, England.

They brought home seven gold medals between them – boasting two world records in the pool and a sprint double on the track by two people who are bridging the gap between able-bodied and disabled athletes.

Natalie du Toit established new world records in the 50-m and 100-m freestyle, breaking both world records in the heats and then smashing them in the finals. She completed the 50 m in 29,35 seconds and the 100 m in 1:01.68.

Double leg-amputee Oscar Pistorius claimed the 100 m in 11,23 seconds and the 200 m in 22.01.

Ernst van Dyk, the wheelchair marathon world record holder and winner of the Boston Marathon wheelchair division for a record fifth consecutive time, added two more golds to the South African haul. He claimed the pursuit title in 4:20.80, and also won the 1 500 m in 3:21.85.

High jumper David Roos came close to a medal in Manchester, finishing fourth, while Dewald Reynders settled for seventh place in the discus.

From 2005/06, the allocation became part of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant, which is located in the Department of Provincial and Local Government. The SRSa will continue with its policy, advocating and monitoring roles. In accordance with a contract concluded with the SRSa, local authorities own the facilities once they have been completed and are responsible for their maintenance.

The SRSa assists with the creation of sports councils in the communities where facilities are built, and empowers individuals to manage and run activities at these venues.

Sport and recreation benefits from the proceeds of the National Lottery, subject to the Lotteries Act, 2000 (Act 10 of 2000). The Distribution Agency for Sport and Recreation was established to create and consolidate thriving, sustainable, mass-based sport and recreational structures and programmes, especially in disadvantaged rural communities.

Programmes

Sports Tourism Project

The primary motivation of the Sports Tourism Project is to exploit the substantial benefits that the tourism industry presents for job creation in South Africa.

Tourism is widely recognised as a major growth sector internationally and it is estimated that 30% of all tourism comprises sports tourism.

A survey conducted by Standard Bank indicated that tourism outstripped gold earnings as a revenue generator for South Africa.

SRSa aims to enhance the sustainability of the project by:

- promoting 'home-grown' events such as the Comrades Marathon, Dusi Canoe Marathon, Argus Cycle Tour, Midmar Mile (swimming), Berg and Breede river canoe marathons and the Two Oceans Marathon, which attract large numbers of international participants and spectators
- working closely with South African Tourism and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to promote more attractive tourist packages for spectators who want to accompany touring sports teams to South Africa

- assisting agencies, in line with a major events strategy and the hosting and bidding regulations, to attract major international sports events to South Africa
- marketing South Africa's sport and recreation facilities, such as golf courses and beaches, abroad
- producing an interactive CD-ROM to provide information on sport and recreation events and associated information on South Africa.

Mass participation

The Mass Participation Programme was launched in 2005 to facilitate access to sport and recreation by as many South Africans as possible, especially those from historically disadvantaged communities. Previously, this programme's activities comprised the development programmes of federations and the recreation programme of the department.

It has proven to be highly successful and should meet some of government's priorities such as moral regeneration and social cohesion. The programme exceeded its target of 36 hubs (four in each province) in 2004/05, by launching 60 hubs. A further 36 were expected to be launched in 2005/06.

The programme provides opportunities for identifying talent. Athletes will be channelled into the support systems, including the National Sports Academy, and nurtured throughout the development continuum to reach their maximum potential. This system should contribute to greater representation at all levels, particularly of athletes from historically disadvantaged backgrounds. Unemployed youth from the communities where the programme has been launched, have been trained as co-ordinators and are running the hubs' activities.

Young Champions Project

The project is a joint effort of the SRSA, the South African Police Service, provincial and local departments responsible for sport and recreation, the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, and national and provincial sports federations.

It forms part of the SRSA's commitment to encourage the youth, especially those in crime nodes, to take part in sport.

Transformation in sport

Sports Transformation Charter

The Sports Transformation Charter guides all macro-bodies, national and provincial federations, and clubs on the need to transform sport.

The charter is complemented by performance agreements that national federations enter into with the Minister of Sport and Recreation. The main focus of the charter and the performance agreement is to:

- increase participation levels in sport and recreation
- make sport and recreation accessible to all South Africans
- ensure that provincial and national teams reflect South African society
- ensure that all sport and recreation bodies meet their affirmative-action objectives
- promote greater involvement of marginalised groups – such as women, people with disabili-



South Africa will host the 2010 Soccer World Cup. This will create significant direct and indirect economic benefits for the country.

South Africa expects some 400 000 visitors for the 2010 World Cup, which is the first to be held in Africa.

Television coverage of the World Cup will bring South Africa into the homes of new tourism markets such as Brazil, Argentina, eastern Europe, Russia, Japan and South Korea.

An economic-impact study predicts that 2,72 million tickets will be sold, generating revenue of R4,6 billion.

Capital expenditure on the upgrades of stadia and other infrastructure is expected to amount to R2,3 billion. The event will lead to an estimated direct expenditure of R12,7 billion, while contributing R21,3 billion to the country's gross domestic product. Some 159 000 new employment opportunities are expected to be created and an estimated R7,2 billion will be paid to government in taxes.

ties, people living in rural communities and the youth – in sport and recreation.

Ministerial task team into high-performance sport

In December 2004, the first steps were taken towards the implementation of the ministerial task team's recommendations into high-performance sport that were approved by Cabinet. The South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) opened its doors and SRSA took over the functions of the South African Sports Commission (SASC) and its personnel.

The expanded SRSA has the capacity to provide mass-based sport and recreation at community level in the most remote parts of the country. Government resources for sport and recreation will be channelled into the Mass Participation Programme.

SASCOC has taken over all the high-performance sport activities and works in close co-operation with national federations that constitute their primary stakeholders.

National Sports Academy

The National Sports Academy was launched in 2004 to improve sports performance and to bring South Africa on par with other sporting nations. The academy seeks to create opportunities for talented athletes to exploit their potential to the full.

Its short-term focus is to provide a one-stop, world-class training and support environment for identified sport, offering elite athletes the opportunity to prepare for the Olympic and Paralympic games.

The academy's work is complemented by the Mass Participation Programme.

The sports academy system comprises a significant aspect of the delivery system in sport and recreation at the high-performance level that will eventually provide the necessary support for talented athletes. It will ensure that talented athletes from disadvantaged backgrounds receive the support they need.

Government allocated R15 million to sports academies in 2005/06.

During 2004/05, 300 athletes received high-performance training for the first time through the National Sports Academy Programme. This contributed to the South African team winning a total of six medals (one gold, three silver and seven bronze) at the Olympic Games in Athens, 35 at the Paralympics (15 gold, 13 silver and seven bronze), 66 in the Zone VI Games, and 56 at the Junior Commonwealth Games.

Sporting accolades

South African Sports Awards

The South African Sports Awards are the highest honour a South African athlete can receive, short of Presidential honours.

South Africa's sports heroes who excelled during the past year were honoured in Johannesburg on 25 November 2005.

In 2004, Roland Schoeman, Olympic swimming sensation, was voted Sports Star of the Year.

The Order of Ikhamanga

In September 2005, President Thabo Mbeki bestowed the Order of Ikhamanga (silver class) to Fanie Lombaard (Paralympic gold medallist) and Lucas Radebe (soccer) respectively, for their exceptional contribution to sport.

Sports organisations

South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee

The SASC Act, 1998 (Act 109 of 1998), provided for a commission to administer sport and recreation under the guidance of the Minister of Sport and Recreation. In 2005, the SASC Repeal Act, 2005 (Act 8 of 2005), de-established the SASC. The functions of the SASC are now shared between SRSA and the newly established SASCOC.

SASCOC is the controlling body for all high-performance sport in South Africa. It also controls

the preparation and delivery of Team South Africa at all multisport international games, including the Olympics, Paralympics, Commonwealth Games, World Games and All Africa Games.

It has assumed functions relating to high-performance sport that were carried out by the following controlling bodies: Disability Sport South Africa, the National Olympic Committee of South Africa, South African Commonwealth Games Association, SASC, South African Student Sports Union, and the United School Sports Association of South Africa.

SASCOC will also:

- affiliate to and/or be recognised by the appropriate international, continental and regional sport organisations for high-performance sport
- initiate, negotiate, arrange, finance and control multisport tours to and from South Africa
- ensure, and if necessary, approve that the bidding process relating to the hosting of international or any other sporting events in South Africa complies with the necessary rules and regulations
- facilitate the acquisition and development of playing facilities, including the construction of stadia and other sports facilities
- ensure close co-operation between government and the private sector relating to all aspects of Team South Africa
- ensure the overall protection of symbols, trademarks, emblems or insignia of the bodies under its jurisdiction.

In October 2005, SASCOC announced that it would be sending 252 athletes to the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Australia. South Africa will be participating in all 12 individual sport codes.

Boxing South Africa

Boxing South Africa was established in terms of the South African Boxing Act, 2001 (Act 11 of 2001), and is partly funded with public money.

Its function is to promote boxing and protect the interests of boxers and officials. Its main responsibilities are to:

- consider applications for licences from all stakeholders in professional boxing

- sanction fights
- implement the regulations pertaining to boxing
- promote the interests of all stakeholders in boxing.

Boxing South Africa's new academy was launched in August 2003.

The boxing academy was established using part of the R27 million invested in boxing by cellular service-provider Vodacom. The academy is spearheaded by the Sports Information and Science Agency in conjunction with the University of Pretoria's High-Performance Centre.

The academy offers boxers high-performance, physical fitness, athletics and life skills. In 2004, Boxing South Africa trained 67 boxers, promoters, ring officials, trainers/managers and administrators against the expected target of 62.

South Africa's professional boxing categories comprise 17 weight divisions.

South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS)

The SAIDS is a public entity established by the SAIDS Act, 1997 (Act 14 of 1997). It is funded by the SRSa with a mandate to promote participation in sport free from the use of prohibited substances or methods intended to artificially enhance performance, in the interest of the health and well-being of sportspeople. The SAIDS is the only recognised body in the country permitted to authorise and enforce national anti-doping policy.

It has 54 certified doping control officers who conduct testing throughout South Africa, assisted by 70 trained and certified chaperones. SAIDS is one of



In November 2005, South Africa's rugby wing sensation Bryan Habana and Protea cricket team star Jacques Kallis were named as the joint winners of the SA Sportsman of the Year award, while swimmer Natalie du Toit scooped the SA Sportswoman of the Year title, at the SA Sports Awards held in Midrand, near Johannesburg.

the few national anti-doping agencies worldwide to achieve ISO 9001:2000 certification in compliance with the International Standard for Doping Control. This is the internationally recognised benchmark for quality assurance and excellence, and represents world best practice in doping control in sport.

SAIDS' key focus areas are:

- Drug testing: The institute conducts a comprehensive, independent and effective national drug-testing programme on South African athletes from 54 sporting disciplines competing at regional, national and international level. Over 2 300 tests were conducted in 2004. SAIDS also provides testing services for international sports federations and anti-doping organisations.
- Education: The SAIDS provides accessible education and information resources and services to its target groups. These include a telephone information service manned by qualified pharmacists (Tel 021 448 3888); a website with up-to-date information on anti-doping issues (www.drugfreesport.org.za); and monthly workshops and seminars for athletes, sports federations, sports coaches, school learners, educators, and members of the medical, pharmaceutical and sports science professions. The SAIDS collaborates with the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence and other organisations and facilitators providing

drug education and awareness programmes at schools and in communities throughout South Africa, to incorporate information about sports drugs into their education programmes. Sports drugs are included in the Department of Education's National Policy on the Management of Drug Abuse by Learners in Public and Independent Schools and Further Education and Training Institutions.

- Research: The SAIDS conducts sociological research into the knowledge, attitude and use of performance-enhancing drugs among South African sportspeople, for the purpose of planning and implementing effective drug-testing and education programmes.
- International collaboration: South Africa and the SAIDS are active participants in the global effort to combat drugs in sport. The SAIDS collaborates closely with its counterparts throughout the world to achieve international harmonisation and improvement of standards and practice in anti-doping. South Africa is a member of the 13-country International Anti-Doping Arrangement.

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

The Africa regional office of WADA was established in Cape Town in 2004. Its role is to coordinate the anti-doping activities of WADA throughout Africa. This includes promoting and maintaining effective lines of communication between WADA and all the relevant stakeholders, governments and public authorities, the broad sports movement, national anti-doping agencies and laboratories.



The South Africa Games 2005 took place in Durban in September 2005. At least 5 500 athletes from all over South Africa participated.

The games, under the theme *Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Stars*, were aimed at unearthing sporting talent among South African youth. Thirteen different sporting codes were included, namely athletics, gymnastics, table tennis, golf, rugby, boxing, tennis, netball, goal ball, soccer, swimming, hockey and cricket.

To ensure that different communities received a slice of the action, the games were played in Pinetown, Umlazi, KwaMashu, Cleremont, Cato Manor and at Kingspark Stadium in Durban.

2005 sports highlights

Athletics

In January 2005, Oscar Pistorius, the 18-year-old 200-m paralympic champion and world record holder for double leg amputees, set a new global 400-m record in the same category with a time of 47,43 sec at Pilditch Stadium in Pretoria.

Boxing

In October 2005, almost all South African fighters holding World Boxing Council (WBC) international

titles had their ratings boosted, following the WBC Convention in Spain.

The big movers were Border fighters Hawk Makepula (WBC international junior bantamweight champion), Mhikiza Myekeni (WBC international fly-weight) and Gabula Vabaza (World Boxing Association international junior featherweight).

Vabaza moved from sixth to fourth spot, Makepula moved from ninth to seventh position and Myekeni moved from ninth to sixth spot.

Another big mover was South African and WBC International welterweight champion Joseph Makaringe, who gate-crashed to sixth spot from ninth in the most competitive division in the world.

This, despite the fact that Makaringe was yet to defend his WBC B-grade belt which he won when stopping Philip Kotey in 11 rounds in September 2005.

Cricket

In February 2005, Ashwell Prince scored his maiden half-century at Supersport Park in Centurion to steer South Africa to a three-wicket win over England. This also wrapped up a 4-1 series victory in the seventh and final one-day international.

In March 2005, South Africa won the one-day series against Zimbabwe by 3-0. They also clinched the test series.

Also in March, more than 120 women from eight countries gathered in South Africa for the eighth Women's Cricket World Cup. It was won by Australia.

In April 2005, Protea fast bowler Makhaya Ntini claimed the best bowling figures in South African test history, helping his team dismiss the West Indies on the final day of the second test at Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad.

Ntini took seven wickets for 37 as the home team slumped from 170 for five at the start of the day to 194 all out. South Africa then reached 45 without loss at lunch, 99 short of victory. Ntini already had six for 95 in the first innings – a record for a South African team against the West Indies. That completed overall match figures of 13 for 132, beating off-spinner Hugh Tayfield's record 13 for 165 against Australia in 1952. South Africa won the test series 2-0.

Cycling

In February 2005, South African cyclist Ryan Cox won the Tour de Langkawi in Malaysia. Cox, from the Barloworld team, won the 10-day tour in 30 hours, 18 minutes and 18 seconds. South Africa also retained the team title.

Golf

Women's World Cup of Golf

Early in 2005, South Africa hosted the first Women's World Cup of Golf. Twenty countries participated.

The competition was endorsed by the Ladies European Tour, the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour, and South Africa's Women's Professional Golf Association and drew a host of top names from around the world.

The event featured a different format on each day. Day one was 18 holes of foursomes, followed by 18 holes of four-ball on day two. The third day was stroke-play. The purse was US\$1 million.

South Africa's Ashleigh Simon, one of two amateurs in the field, was the youngest player in the competition.

The event was won by Japan with Ai Miyazato leading her country to a two-shot victory. The 19-year-old fired a six-under-par 67 in the last-day singles, while her playing partner Rui Kitada managed 82 as the Japanese duo finished on three-under 289.



The South African Sports Commission hosted the Indigenous Games Best of the Best event in March 2005 at the Mmabatho Stadium in North West. North West was the overall winner at the first Indigenous Games Festival held in Limpopo in 2003 and was the province that had the most delegates represented in the team to Canada for the World Indigenous Games in 2004.

The provinces that took part in the 2005 games were Gauteng, Mpumalanga, North West, Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Limpopo. More than 90 athletes participated in five indigenous games, namely kho-kho, dibeke, intonga, ncuva and jukskei.

The Philippines came second and South Korea third. South Africa finished in 12th position.

Dubai Desert Classic

In March 2005, Ernie Els won an unprecedented third Dubai Desert Classic in dramatic style, holing an eagle putt from 18 feet at the last hole for a one-shot victory.

He went into the final round a stroke behind leader Miguel Angel Jimenez and fired a four-under-par 68 to finish at 19-under 269.

Qatar Masters

In March 2005, Els fired a seven-under 65 to storm to a one-shot win over Sweden's Henrik Stenson at the Qatar Masters.

It gave the South African, who carded eight birdies and one bogey, a 12-under aggregate 276, and a second victory in seven days after his Dubai Desert Classic success the previous weekend.



In May 2005, *Golf Digest USA* ranked the top 100 golf courses outside the United States of America (USA). South Africa achieved five listings, with Leopard Creek Golf Estate and Country Club in Mpumalanga, coming in at number 25.

The survey covered 1 005 golf courses around the world and was overseen by a panel of over 800 course-rating specialists, 22 editors of *Golf Digest* and its affiliates, and an undisclosed number of other expert panelists.

The magazine ranked the Old Course at St Andrews first among courses outside the USA, followed by Australia's Royal Melbourne Golf Club and Ireland's Royal Portrush.

Five South African courses, all regular stops on the Sunshine Tour annual calendar, ranked in *Golf Digest's* top 100.

Leopard Creek ranked 25th, followed by the Gary Player Country Club at Sun City, home to the multimillion-dollar Nedbank Golf Challenge and the Dimension Data Pro-Am, at 29th.

The Links at Fancourt, venue for the 2003 President's Cup, joined the list at number 59, followed at number 62 by the Durban Country Club. Arabella Estate and Country Club, which plays host to the annual Nelson Mandela Invitational, completed the list at number 100.

Asian Tour

At the beginning of May 2005, Els recorded his third win of the season in record-breaking style at the Tomson Shanghai Pudong Golf Club in Shanghai. He carded a tournament best 26-under par 262 to win by 13 shots.

Scottish Open

In July 2005, South African Tim Clark holed a 20-foot birdie putt at the last to shoot a four-under 67 and clinch his third European tour title by two shots at the Scottish Open in Loch Lomond.

International

In August 2005, Retief Goosen beat Brandt Jobe to win the International at Castle Rock, Colorado. Goosen averaged only 1,596 putts per green he hit in regulation, which was the best showing of the tournament. His total of 27 putts per round was also the sixth-best putting performance of the event.

China Masters

In September 2005, Goosen won the China Masters by six shots over Michael Campbell.

German Masters

In September 2005, Goosen shot a five-under 67 to win the German Masters by a stroke.

The two-time United States (US) Open champion's total score was 20-under 268.

Hockey

In October 2005, South Africa's women hockey team thrashed Ghana 6-1 in the final to win the Africa Cup of Nations.

Marathons

In April 2005, South African wheelchair athlete Ernst van Dyk won the Boston Marathon for a record fifth consecutive time, coming home almost six minutes clear of his nearest challenger.

Van Dyk's winning time of one hour, 24 minutes and 11 sec was some way off the world record 1:18:27 he posted in 2004.

Another South African, Krige Schabort, claimed second place in 1:30:03.

A week prior to the Boston Marathon, Van Dyk won the Paris Marathon.

On 16 June 2005, Siphon Ngomane from Mpumalanga won South Africa's annual premier athletic event, the Comrades Marathon.

Paddling

In May 2005, South African ski paddler Oscar Chalupsky won a record 11th Molokai Challenge, widely regarded as the unofficial world surf ski championship.

Swimming

In February 2005, South African swimmer Ryk Neethling won the 50- and 200-meter freestyle short-course races, capturing the overall Fina World Cup title.

Neethling won a total of five races in the World Cups' last leg in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. The 27-year-old won the 50-m butterfly, the 100-m freestyle and the 100-m individual medley.

Neethling, who won 21 gold medals in the World Cups' eight events, finished ahead of countryman Roland Schoeman in the overall standings and took home US\$50 000 for the title.

In July 2005, Schoeman set a world record in the semi-finals of the men's 50-m butterfly at the World Championships in Montreal. He went on to win South Africa's first world swimming title by setting another world record in the final of the men's 50-m butterfly.

He also won the men's 50-m freestyle final in 21,69 sec, the second-fastest time in history and only 0,05 outside Alexander Popov's world record of 21,64.

The South African team brought home a total of five medals.

In November 2005, Neethling won six gold medals at the first leg of the Fina World Cup Series in Durban.

Rugby

In April 2005, the Baby Boks retained the 2005 International Rugby Board Under-19 Rugby World Championship title when they defeated New Zealand 20-15 at the Absa Stadium in Durban.

In June 2005, South Africa defeated Australia 24-20 to win the U-21 Rugby World Championship.

Also in June, South Africa defeated the French 27-13 in Port Elizabeth to clinch the series. The first test was drawn 40-40.

In July 2005, the Springboks ensured that the Nelson Mandela Challenge Plate stayed in South Africa by beating Australia 33-20 at Ellis Park in Johannesburg. Two weeks earlier they went down 12-30.

At the end of July 2005, South Africa beat Australia 22-16 in the first match of the Tri-Nations. A week later they also beat the All Blacks 22-16 at Newlands.

In August 2005, Bryan Habana scored two amazing long-range tries to give South Africa a 22-19 victory over Australia in their Tri-Nations match in Perth. However, later in August, they went down 27-31 against the All Blacks in Dunedin. New Zealand beat Australia in the final to win the Tri-Nations Cup.

Soccer

In February 2005, South Africa's national soccer squad, Bafana Bafana, were held to a 1-1 draw by Australia in a hard-fought friendly international played at Durban's Absa Stadium. Bafana led 1-0 at halftime.

At the end of February 2005, Bafana Bafana went through to the final stage of the Confederation



Protea fast bowler Makhaya Ntini was named the 2005 Mutual and Federal South African Cricketer of the Year.

Ntini bagged 58 wickets in 14 tests, including a South African record 13 for 132 against the West Indies in the second test. He knocked over six for 95 and then devastated the islanders' second innings with a haul of seven for 37 during this test.

The Border paceman's fine performances lifted him to a career-high fourth in the LG International Cricket Council test bowling rankings.

In October 2005, Jacques Kallis and England's Andrew Flintoff shared the International Cricket Council's 2005 Player of the Year Award.

of Southern African Football Association Cup when they defeated Mauritius 1-0 in the A Group final.

In June 2005, Bafana Bafana came through with a vital 2-1 World Cup qualifying win over the Cape Verde Islands to move three points clear at the top of Africa Group Two. However, they later lost crucial matches and failed to qualify for the 2006 World Cup.

In July, Jamaica and South Africa drew 3-3, joining the USA and Costa Rica in the quarterfinals of the Concacaf Gold Cup, while Mexico beat Guatemala 4-0 to recover from their upset loss to Bafana Bafana two days earlier. However, South Africa lost narrowly to Panama in the quarter-final in Houston, in the USA.

In October 2005, South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo drew 2-all in their final 2006 World Cup qualifier at Absa Stadium to finish joint second in their group on 16 points. Bafana Bafana's draw in Durban was enough, however, to secure South Africa a spot in the 16-nation 2006 Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt.

Surfing

In March 2005, Nikita Robb outclassed a field of top junior surfers to win the inaugural Rip Curl GromSearch International Final at Bells Beach in Australia.

Tennis

Second seeds Cara Black of Zimbabwe and Liezel Huber of South Africa won the Wimbledon women's doubles title for their first Grand Slam title since joining forces at the beginning of the year.

They defeated the duo of Amelie Mauresmo of France and Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia 6-2, 6-1 in the final.

South Africa's Wesley Moodie teamed up with Australia's Stephen Huss to beat Bob and Mike Bryan, the American second seeds, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, 6-7 (2/7), 6-3, to become the first qualifiers to clinch the title.

In October 2005, Moodie earned his first single career victory at the Japan Open tennis tournament in Tokyo. The win improved his ranking by 41 places, to a career high of 57.

Mountaineering

In June 2005, South African game ranger Sibusiso Vilane summited Mount Everest with fellow mountaineer Alex Harris. Vilane became the first black African to reach the top of Everest in 2003.

Yachting

In April 2005, Team Shosholoza, South Africa's America's Cup challenger, unveiled the hull of the world's first fully constructed new generation V5.0 America's Cup class yacht.

The Shosholoza RSA 83, sponsored by German firm T-Systems, is the first America's Cup class yacht to be designed and built in South Africa, and the first in the world to meet the new Version 5.0 rule of the 2007 America's Cup.

The crew left for Europe in May to take part in six 2005 Louis Vuitton Acts, or pre-America's Cup regattas in Spain, Sweden and Sicily.

Acknowledgements

Beeld

Disability Sport South Africa

Estimates of National Expenditure 2005, published by National Treasury

National Olympic Committee of South Africa

news24.com

Standard Bank

South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport

South African Sports Commission

Sowetan

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