

PE CHRONICLE SPORT



1995 World Cup winning Springboks Hennie le Roux, Hannes Strydom, Garry Pagel and 2007 World Cup winning Springboks manager, Zola Yeye, chat to presenter Gavin Cowley at the Bok Banter fund raiser. Photo: Supplied

Boks leave lasting legacy for Madibaz rugby

Stories from the glory days of South African rugby and a look ahead at the 2015 Rugby World Cup contributed to the theme of leaving a lasting legacy for Madibaz rugby during the Bok Banter fundraiser at NMMU on Thursday night.

A host of former Springbok skippers, World Cup winners and stalwarts from days gone by came together at their alma mater in support of plans to build a rugby clubhouse near the north-western edge of the Madibaz Stadium.

Close to 600 guests attended the event at the Vodacom NMMU Indoor Sports

Centre, which served as a fundraiser for the proposed R3.2-million clubhouse.

"Legacies are hard to leave behind, but we hope to create a home for Madibaz rugby. A place where players from the past, present and future can come together to support their team," said former Springbok scrumhalf Garth Wright.

An auction of signed rugby memorabilia kick-started the fundraising effort and contributed R28 000 to the clubhouse construction.

Wright was joined on stage by, among

others, former Bok flanker and NMMU sports manager Bernard Petersen and recent international rugby hall of fame inductee Danie Gerber.

They were followed by Bok skippers Hannes Marais and Andre Vos, and 1995 World Cup winners Hennie le Roux, Hannes Strydom and Garry Pagel, who were joined by 2007 winning team manager Zola Yeye.

Television presenter Gavin Cowley, a rugby legend himself, played master of ceremonies and got the Springboks to share their knowledge and insights with

the guests.

Looking at the current state of rugby in South Africa former Bok centre Eben Olivier shared his concerns about a Springbok structure focusing more on size than skill, and the possible "over-coaching" of professional players.

"In some cases, bad coaching is worse than no coaching at all. I think a lot of the guys receive too much coaching and not enough freedom to express themselves on the field."

Old Bok forward Schalk Burger snr echoed this by saying rugby is a "socio-cultural extension of a lifestyle" and coaches should allow players to lose themselves in the game.

"Then you will see the real players," Burger said to applause from the crowd.

Yeye emphasised the importance of balancing education with sport, saying that players should have something to fall back on after rugby, and adding that smarter people off the field made smarter players on the field.

Looking at the current Bok squad, Yeye felt the selectors put too much emphasis on experience and did not balance it with enough young talent.

"I think the coach took too long to blend youth and experience, and now he has a long list of players with recurring injuries. I think the Springbok medical team is going to have their hands full during the World Cup."

When asked "to put their houses on the line" in predicting the outcome of the 2015 World Cup, only Burger backed the Springboks to bring the Webb Ellis trophy home. The majority backed the All Blacks, while Ireland and Australia also made the cut as possible World Cup winners.

Sway in the Bay... Ballroom dancing...



At Sway in the Bay were: Unathi Faku & King Athenkosi Fani



Sway in the Bay Winners from left: Mr SA Armand du Plessis, Winner Mikaela Oosthuizen, Brazi Clemence and Div Burger. Backwalk Mr PE Jordan Zeelief. Photos by Gracie Media

Sway In The Bay is a ballroom dancing contest organised by Dr Crystal Watson that was held in order to raise funds for the MTR Smit Children's Haven. This fabulous contest took place at the weekend on

22 August 2015 at Walmer West School. Funds will assist with the promoting of cultural empowerment of ballroom and Latin dancing for the youth. Funds will also assist MTR Smit Children's Haven in establishing a sport enhancement programme aimed at improving motoric and muscular skills.

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16th Calamari Bowls Classic

From 25-27 September the local bowls club is hosting the annual Calamari Classic Bowls Tournament in St Francis Bay.

This year will be the 16th Classic hosted by the club. The club is expecting bowlers from far and wide - from East London and the Western Cape-to participate. It is the biggest tournament of the year.

The first prize is sponsored by Personal Trust International. It is not only good bowling, but also good fun as well. There will also be dinner, dancing and a booze cruise.