

PE CHRONICLE SPORT

Athletes descend on NMMU for Track & Field event

Junior and senior track and field athletes from across the Eastern Cape and beyond are coming to the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University on 17 October for the Madibaz EP Track and Field league 2, the second major athletics meet of the year. Athletes from local schools and clubs, federations in the South Western Districts plus Border and Free State will compete in the event at the Stadium.

Madibaz athletics manager Nellie Bothma says this event is one of the first of the new season and will give athletes a good indication of how well they needed to prepare before the 2016 season started in earnest. "Athletes will be able to test themselves against their peers to a certain extent but, importantly, they will be able to gauge their own standard before competing in the 2016 events. Athletes will compete in the age groups they qualify for next year, giving them an indication of the standard they can expect in their various disciplines heading into the new season."

Some of the Madibaz athletes expected to compete will include 22-year-old Eastern Province shot put and discus champion Isheke Senekal and 24-year-old and middle distance track star Mariano Eesou. Eesou in Senekal were named Madibaz male and female

athletes of the year in student and senior categories at an AGM earlier this week. Senekal won gold and silver for the shot put and discus respectively at the South African Senior Track and Field Championships and followed that up with a silver medal in discus at the African Games in Brazzaville last month.

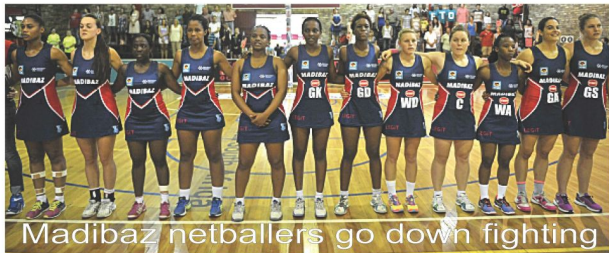
Eesou has represented Madibaz in track events ranging from 1 500m to half-marathons and claimed bronze in the 10km race at the 2015 University Sport Africa cross-country event. He was also part of Team SA at the African Games, and came 15th in the half-marathon.

Bothma adds that this athletic event will also give Madibaz the opportunity to scout for talent. Some of the junior athletes might be looking for a university to further their studies or sporting career next year.

"By inviting some school teams to the event we have an opportunity to see young talent in action. This can help us identify talent that can be further developed at Madibaz from next year. Athletes identified to possibly join the Madibaz team can then benefit from NMMU's newly opened High Performance Complex and all its facilities."



Mariano Eesou from NMMU Madibaz. Photo: Richard Huggard



Madibaz netballers go down fighting

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The SPAR NMMU Madibaz team went down fighting in their final Varsity Netball game in the seventh round of the 2015 tournament against Pukke in Potchefstroom recently.

The team from the North West University claimed a 65-32 victory, and a bonus point, to secure a spot in the semi-final, with the team from PE finishing their campaign in fifth place after what was essentially a quarter-final battle for fourth spot.

Madibaz head coach and former SPAR Proteas player Dumisani Chauke said that although the game had not gone according to plan, the team had exceeded expectations throughout the tournament.

"We wanted to qualify for the semi-finals but the game didn't start off well; we didn't follow our game plan and it cost us."

"The girls are good enough to compete against teams like Pukke and Maties and they've shown it throughout this tournament," she said.

Chauke added that, from an overall perspective, the tournament had been a success for the Madibaz. "We exceeded our expectations. The girls worked so hard and it's just unfortunate that we couldn't tick that last box."

"She added: "We're going to go back to the drawing board and come back stronger, ready to push for better results next year."