

THE CHRONICLE SPORT

Mazibaz cricket aims for the top

The Mecer NMMU-Madibaz cricket team were fighting to reach the knock-out phase of the Varsity Cricket tournament held in Potchefstroom at the beginning of February.

"Our immediate goal is to improve on last year's performance where we narrowly missed out on the semis," head coach Bakker-Abrahams said.

Lloyd Brown captained the Madibaz in the six-day T20 tournament that showcases South Africa's top eight university teams, with Matthew Christensen his deputy.

"As a maturing side, we are looking to stick to our processes and ensure we execute our game plan. We will take it day by day in a competitive tournament." A player like all-rounder Onke Nyaku will bring balance to the side and create an impact during the week. Others who could turn a match for the Madibaz, he said, were hard-hitting stroke player and wicketkeeper Hanno Kotze and bowler Junaid Dawood, who recently joined the Cape Town team.

"It's awesome for us to be able to play on live TV and in front of crowds. We are hoping to do it justice by putting in the performance that we know we are capable of."

Abrahams said Varsity Cricket, and the T20 format in particular, was exciting and presented an opportunity for university cricketers to showcase their skills on a national platform that formed part of the Crick South Africa pipeline. Tukes that won the inaugural tournament last year will be up against NMMU-Madibaz,



Mecer NMMU-Madibaz cricket captain Lloyd Brown going through his paces during pre-season training. Photo: Supplied

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Excitement ahead of 92nd Spar River Mile

The annual Spar River Mile Festival is set to anchor Nelson Mandela Bay's vast water sports calendar this month.

The 92nd River Mile on the Sundays River at Cannoville outside Port Elizabeth on 20-21 February, attracts thousands of open-water swimmers and supporters to its shores.

Race director Michael Zoetmulder of Zsports says the event has shown tremendous growth over the past decade. "Ten years ago the race drew just over 500 entrants and in 2014 it topped out at 1600."

The extended two-day programme, which culminates in the Spar Ladies' and Men's Miles, offers events for swimmers of all ages and ability. Children 12 years and under can enter the Kids Across the River races and veterans even in their 80s can do well, Zoetmulder says.

Other events include the 5km Wimpy Family Run and the 10 and 30km Oracle Media mountain bike events.

"We recognise the need for family activities in PE and provide a variety of events during the festival. It also allows us to offer a triathlon component."

Spar Eastern Cape marketing director, Abri Swart, says it is the retailer's 17th year of involvement in Africa's oldest open-water swimming event.

"Our affiliation with the River Mile is synonymous with the Spar culture of



family, fun, fitness and a healthy lifestyle.

"We remain committed to making a contribution to the community by supporting events of this nature."

The River Mile supports the Smile Foundation and Cleft Friends through raising awareness and collecting donations.

The News Café PE Disabled Mile and the Wakarusa Kids Across the River races, feature a special needs category and cater for swimmers with disabilities.

The Wimpy Rotary Kids' Zone, Castle Beer Tent and stalls will offer festival goers plenty to do and see.

Zoetmulder says they have selected an assortment of food vendors plus craft and general stalls ranging from swimwear to art.

SCENE AROUND PE

PE Through the eyes of Mrs Claw

No more rising at sparrows now that Mrs Claw is gainfully unemployed...

Bliss! One morning recently found her looking for something new to occupy her mind which was slowly going along the route of being ever so slightly bored... She picked up the phone and managed to twist her sisters arm into a breakfast at Fratelli's (again - that scrambled egg and pancetta on ciabatta was calling).

The twisted sisters had decided to do a recce along the Baakens which as you all should know by now is the new future "go to" destination. This neck of the woods has been her stomping ground for eons and she has always known that one day people would realise just how special it is!!!

She never gave up on her dream. First stop was the Tramway Building which not only looks magnificent from the outside but is stunningly beautiful inside with its contemporary industrial feel, it's glass lift and wonderful deck over the stream that was once a river and soon to become a body of water again via a series of weirs...

Standing on the deck which Mrs C watched emerging from nothing over the months of the renovation, and glancing up at her home perched on the cliffside was magical. In the long distant past when the building was leased to a well known PE personality (who shall remain nameless, the nosy sisters visited the building to have a koekoeler at what was potting and found many many "homeless" people occupying the building - some even living in the large wall in safe!) Those were the days!!! Rumour has it that during the ice rink days, it was used to store perfume!!!! How inventive!!!! Enough said about all that jazz, the area round this magnificent structure will be revitalised as part of the plan to bring new life to the inner city which of course makes perfect sense. Plans are afoot for a bridge to span the expanse of water to be created which will lead to parking



for many more cars than the present parking under the freeway can facilitate.

So all in all plenty to look forward to if she is still around...she has waited this long so maybe she will have to stick around for a couple of more decades!!!! No more rising at sparrows fast now that Mrs Claw is gainfully unemployed.....Bliss! Yesterday found her looking for something new to occupy her mind which was slowly going along the route of being ever so slightly bored..... She picked up the phone and managed to twist her sisters arm into a breakfast at Fratelli's (again - that scrambled egg and pancetta on ciabatta was calling). The twisted sisters had decided to do a recce along the Baakens which as you all should know by now is the new future "go to" destination. This neck of the woods has been her stomping ground for eons and she has

PE Wedding



Wessel & Alet Oosthuizen after their wedding ceremony and reception at Champagne Events & Function Venue - Coordinated by Champagne Events Photos: Courtesy of Leze Hunter Photography

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Have a clawicious one skattes...

- Carole Law