

RASHID KHAN

SOUTH AFRICA lost a great sportsman today. At the age of 66 Rashid Khan succumbed to his illnesses.

Rashid Khan was a teacher, athlete and one of the best soccer players this country has seen. He was also a great administrator and coach.

He was born on the 5 September 1947 in Ferreirastown, attended Newclare Primary and matriculated at William Hill High in Benoni in 1965. He received his Teachers Diploma from the Rand College of Education. At school he represented the school and won provincial colours for athletics and soccer. His speciality was the 1500 meters.

Rashid Khan was the first black South African officially timed at clocking a flat 2 minute mile. Apartheid denied him access to advance his natural skill and ability. He played non racial sport under the banner of SACOS, something he was proud of and actively supported.

He went on to get his teaching qualifications and taught mainly in the Western Cape and Transvaal because of his soccer ambitions. He taught at Bonte Heuvel Primary, Salt River High in the Western Cape. He was at Salt River when the 1976 riots started. In Transvaal he taught at Coronationville High, Westbury High, CJB High and finished his teaching career at Saint Theresa's Convent School.

Rashid was suspended as a teacher because of his support for the striking children marking the 1976 riots while teaching at CJB High, in the early 1980's. He was persecuted by the forces of apartheid and their agents in the Tricameral Parliament for his opposition to apartheid and support for non racial sport.

Rashid was best known for his skill on the soccer field. He played for some of the greatest clubs the country has seen, including Blackpool, Dynamos, Verulam Suburbs, Cape Town Spurs, Sundowns and Orlando Pirates. With the help of the legendary administrator Barney Gaffney he went for a trial to Leeds United in England.

Rashid Khan was forced to leave Orlando Pirate because of their decision to enforce the elements of apartheid. He together with Ralph Hendrick, Gareth Van Der Haer, Bernard Hartse. All the coloureds were asked to leave Orlando Pirates. He won numerous league and knockout cup titles with all the clubs he played for.

In his later soccer career he played and coached Bosmont Chelsea FC in the Federation FPL.

In 1985 he was a leading player in the formation of the Transvaal Snooker Association. As a result of the formation he enabled great snooker player like Solly Davids to attend a national championship in Port Elizabeth and win 7 titles in the first year Transvaal competed.

Rashid Khan is survived by his 2 sons (lost his daughter to cancer 3 months ago)