



Jakes Autolot: Back – (left to right): Yacoob Pandor and Ash Manack (officials), Ronnie Thompson, Patrick Nxumalo, Victor Mthembu, Andries Vilakazi, Anselo Santos, Vincent Mthembu, Balamram Govender, Albertino Manyisa and Shiraz Bha
Front: Gavin Robertson (captain), Innocent Mncwanso, Lawrence Pereira, Billy Francis, Didisa Nyalunsa, Derreck Bennet, Louis Thomas and Goldsworth Mlambo.



Santos: Back – (left to right): Bardies Nazmie (official), Duncan Crowie, Kevin Valentine, Steven Williams, Isaac Mapo, Ganief Fataar, Steven Hendriecks, Cassim Vallie, Goolam Allie
Front: Carl Solomons, Rashad Davids, Rodney Reiners, Keith America, Donovan Ronnie, Darryl Roelf and Cassim Mohammed.

THE FEDERATION PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE

Compiled by Pule
Mokhine

Battle for the top spot

Street Address: Suites 30-31, CNR House,
22 Cross Street, Durban 4001.
Postal Address: PO Box 1140, Durban 4000
Telephone: (031) 306-0586/7

COMPETITIONS

THE FPL in 1987 had a single first division league of 10 clubs – five from Natal, four from the Transvaal and one from Cape Town.

It ran three competitions – a two-round home and away league and two knockout competitions.

OFFICE BEARERS

President – Ashwin Trikamjee; vice-presidents – Dr MSA Arbee and Sam Khan; Chiefs executive officer – SK Chetty; treasurer – Gaff Osman; executive officer – A Hira; records clerk – Danny Naidoo; public relations officer – Mike Royappen.

THE CLUBS

Berea Football Club
49-51 Beatrice street
Durban
Tel: 031-316729
President: MS Govender

Birds Football Club
P O Box 13502
Laudium
0037
Secretary: N Dawood.
Bus: 011-539020
Residence: 012-3742290

Bluebells United
PO Box 232
Lenasia
1820
Secretary: D Moonsamy
Work: 011-8353201
Residence: 011-8544833

Chelsea Football Club
PO Box 88602
Newclare
2112
Chairman: Pat Sass
Tel: 011-673 6546
Jakes Autolot United
PO Box 469
Dundee
3000
Manager: A Manack
Bus: 0341-24206

STATISTICS 1969 – 1986

LEAGUE COMPETITION WINNERS

Mainstay League

1969: Verulam Suburbs
1970: Cape Town Spurs
1971: Cape Town Spurs
1972: Glenville
1973: Cape Town Spurs
1974: Cape Town Spurs
1975: Berea
1976: Cape Town Spurs
1977: Swaraj

Castle League

1978: Durban City

Seven Seas League

1979: Cape Town Spurs
1980: Glenville
1981: Cape Town Spurs

FPL League Cup

1982: Glendene
1983: Lightbods Santos

Quindrink League

1984: Lightbods Santos

FPL League Cup

1985: Swaraj
1986: Lightbods Santos

Mainstay KO

1969: Aces United
1970: Verulam Suburbs
1971: Martizburg City
1972: Glenville
1973: Verulam Suburbs

Coca-Cola Shield

1974: Berea
1975: Cape Town Spurs
1976: Berea
1977: Manning Rangers
1978: Durban City

Seven Seas KO

1979: Glenville
1980: Cape Town Spurs
1981: Vereeniging Old Boys

FPL KO

1982: Chelsea
1983: Maritzburg United
1984: Crusaders
1985: Lightbods Santos

Golden City Homes

1986: Real Taj

Osman's Spice Works

1985: Manning Rangers
1986: Real Taj

Residence: 0341-22775

Lightbods Santos

85 First Avenue

Claremont

7700

General manager: Goolam Allie

Bus: 021-6334451

Res: 021-612456

Manning Rangers

3 Bond Street

Durban

4001

Secretary: Gary Naidoo

Work: 031-428631

Res: 031-434897.

Mia Investment Swaraj FC

PO Box 7063

Johannesburg

2000

Secretary: Shaik Noorbhai

Work: 011- 331 5671

Res: 011- 852 4524

Real Taj

PO Box 248

Laxmi. Pietermaritzburg

3207

Chairman: Pops Chetty

Bus: 0331-72241

Res: 0331-912021

Tongaat Crusaders

PO Box 15

Tongaat

400

Secretary: LN Pillay

Office: 0322-21147

Res: 0322-22000

THE LEAGUE COMPETITION

THE La Mercy Beach Hotel League was for most of the season a battle for supremacy between race between Santos and Jakes Autolot.

Both shared the league leadership several times and often alternated between first and second positions.

It was a close contest right up to

the end.

Santos, the 1986 winners, were unbeaten and eventually won on a superior goal average.

Earlier in the season, Jakes Autolot's application for first division status was rejected twice. They then bought the franchise of Maritzburg United.

Bolstered by a number of talented players, among them Goldsworth Mlambo and Derrick Bennet, Autolot lost only one match.

Tongaat Crusaders were the most disappointing team. Despite the fact that they had some of the best players – among them Harry de la Cruz, Salie Adams and Mark Buckley – they failed to produce good results. They finished second from bottom on the log.

Sponsorship

R40 000 La Mercy Beach Hotel League Cup Competition	
Winners	R8 000
Runners-up	R6 000
Third Prize	R5 000
Fourth Prize	R3 500
Six remaining clubs, R2 000 each	R12 000
Administration	R5 000
Advertising	R1 000

THE GOLDEN CITY HOMES KNOCKOUT

THE Golden City Homes KO was sponsored for R30 000.

It was fraught with problems – there was a series of disputes on and off the field which resulted in some

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Goldsworth Mlambo proudly displays the Osman's Spice Works trophy

Special & regular
0033-1360 1988

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OSMAN'S SPICE WORKS KNOCKOUT

Sponsorship	
Winners	R7 000
Runners-up	R4 000
Two semifinalists:	R2 000 each R4 000
Six remaining clubs:	R750 each R4 500
Function-Sponsorship announcement	R2 500
Administration	R3 000
Total	R25 000

THE Osman's Spice Works Cup is the FPL's premier knockout competition, and in 1987 it produced some fierce contests.

Swaraj started on a high note, sailing into the quarterfinals with a 5-1 victory over Birds in the opening round.

But they were withdrawn from the competition when they refused to meet Jakes Autolot in a scheduled semifinal replay in Dundee. They wanted the match played in Lenasia.

Autolot also had a smooth passage into the quarterfinals, whipping Berea 5-0 at the Fred Kallie Stadium in Dundee. They impressed in beating Santos 2-1.

Bluebells United nearly caused an upset when they held Swaraj to a 1-1 draw before bowing out 4-2 in a penalty shootout.

The clash between Swaraj and Autolot ended in a deadlock, and penalty kicks were not taken. Swaraj refuse to replay the game in Dundee and the game was awarded to Autolot.

On November 22, an estimated crowd of 8000 saw Manning Rangers and Jakes Autolot contest the final in Durban's Curries Fountain.

It was a disappointment, and end-



FPL's Ashwin Trikamjee

**By Ashwin Trikamjee
President, Federation
Professional League**

THE 1987 season for the FPL was, for the first time in many years, less demanding on the finances of the clubs for the simple reason that after some five years of uncertainty, the League was fortunate to have all three of its competitions sponsored.

The timely gesture by the companies concerned, and by some generous individual well-wishers, made the season a very comfortable one for us all.

The question of sponsorships has always been a huge bugbear for the clubs and officials in previous years, when the season would commence with a great degree of uncertainty.

That did not happen in 1987, and this clearly resulted in improved performances from all 10 clubs in the League. Such was the improvement that the difference in the standard between league champions Santos and the last team on the log, Bluebells, was hardly noticeable.

This speaks volumes for the stan-

ed 1-1 after extra time.

But the replay provided plenty action and excitement, with Autolot lifting the cup with a 2-1 win.

RESULTS

PRELIMINARY ROUND

August 23	
Lenasia	
Swaraj 5	Birds 1
Dundee	
Jakes Autolot 5	Berea 0

QUARTERFINALS

October 11

Chatsworth	
Rangers 2	Chelsea 1
October 25	
Tongaat	
Crusaders 0	Real Taj 1
Dundee	
Jakes Autolot 2	Santos 1
Lenasia	
Bluebells 1	Swaraj 1
☐ Extra time penalty shootout:	
Bluebells 2,	Swaraj 4

SEMIFINALS

November 1	
Dundee	
Jakes Autolot 1	Swaraj 1
☐ After Extra Time	
Maritzburg	
Real Taj 0	Rangers 1

REPLAY

November 15	
Jakes Autolot walked over Swaraj	
☐ Swaraj failed to fulfill this fixture, match awarded to Jakes Autolot	

FINAL

November 22	
Curries Fountain	
Rangers 1	Jakes Autolot 1
☐ After Extra Time	

REPLAY

November 29	
Curries Fountain	
Rangers 1	Jakes Autolot 2

FPL Players of the Year

1973: Danny Abrahams (Cape Town Spurs); 1974: Daya Maistry (Berea); 1975: Virgil Padayachee (Swaraj); 1976: Michael Moodley (Manning Rangers); 1977: Bernie Van Niekerk (Cape Town Spurs); 1978: Deena Naidoo (Manning Rangers); 1979: Paul Bishop (Avalon Athletic); 1980: Boebie Solomons (Cape Town Spurs); 1981: Edwin Fredericks (Berea); 1982: Noel Goodall (Chelsea); 1983: Farouk Abrahams (Maritzburg United); 1984: Ravi Pillay (Maritzburg United); 1985: Derreck Naidoo (Manning Rangers); 1986: Dorrington Webster (Real Taj).

Top Goalscorers

1970: Bernard Hartzze (Cape Town

Spurs); 1971: Benard Hartzze (Cape Town Spurs); 1972: Patrick "Bomber" Chamane (Maritzburg City); 1973: James George (Cape Town Spurs); 1974: Neville Londt (Cape Town Spurs) and Scampy Bissessor (Berea); 1976: Vincent Julius (Sundowns); 1977: Jimmy Joubert (Swaraj); 1978: Ian Gillies (Maritzburg City); 1979: Kader Sulaiman (Cape Town Spurs); 1980: Elvis Singh (Leeds); 1981: Kader Sulaiman (Cape Town Spurs); 1982: Duncan Crowie (Glendene); 1983: Duncan Crowie (Glendene); 1984: Derrick Eastwood (Swaraj); 1985: Michael Mtshali (Real Taj); 1986: Harry de la Cruz (Maritzburg United).

A successful year all round

dard of soccer played by each and every team in the league, and I'm sure that the majority of our teams will hold their own against any team in any other league in the country.

It is a pity though, that in the present climate and with the hard-lined attitude that we in the FPL have (justifiably), this is unlikely to happen.

While finance is an important consideration, history has proven time and again that it is not the only consideration in the FPL.

Our League can survive without sponsorship, but we ask whether the other leagues can.

The first competition, the Golden City Homes, was delayed to some extent because of the over-enthusiasm on the part of one or two clubs which decided to take their defeats to the appeal board.

This is a feature that appears to have crept into our league and it is quite astonishing that despite the

fact that we have very little sponsorship, the clubs are incredibly keen to win games.

The competition ended successfully with Real Taj emerging winners again – despite the fact that they lost three of their top players during the course of the season.

Santos were the unlucky runners-up for the third time in succession. This led to a rather frustrating time for them, and they rather unsportingly decided not to come up to receive their losers' medals.

Santos has won the league championship many times. It speaks volumes for their consistency and for their tenaciousness. They are financially the hardest-hit club in the FPL.

They have been a model of consistency, and it is no secret that many of us believe that their captain, Duncan Crowie, is probably one of

the most complete and skillful footballers gracing the soccer fields in this country.

The league competition was one of the closest for many years as it was eventually decided on goal average. Jakes Autolot, a team which came in from the cold and which produced outstanding performances during the season, were a trifle unlucky to be pipped by Santos.

Jakes' brand of football has won them many friends throughout the country.

Finally, it is always encouraging at the end of the season to wind up our affairs in administration without any major problems.

We are fortunate that our clubs co-operate and share the responsibility of keeping the FPL alive. After all, it is a League which belongs to those people who are prepared to make the sacrifices for a better South Africa for all of us.

1987 LOG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Santos	18	10	08	00	42	17	28
2 Jakes Auto	18	11	06	01	34	18	28
3 Mia Swaraj	18	08	07	03	32	19	23
4 Chelsea	18	07	06	05	32	21	20
5 Rangers	18	09	01	08	27	33	19
6 Real Taj	18	06	06	06	29	29	18
7 Birds	18	05	05	08	34	35	15
8 Berea	18	02	08	08	19	33	12
9 Crusaders	18	03	05	10	18	42	11
10 Bluebells	18	01	04	13	14	34	06

AWARDS

TEAM: The Outstanding team of the Year was Manning Rangers. They won the R1 250 award sponsored by Post Newspaper.

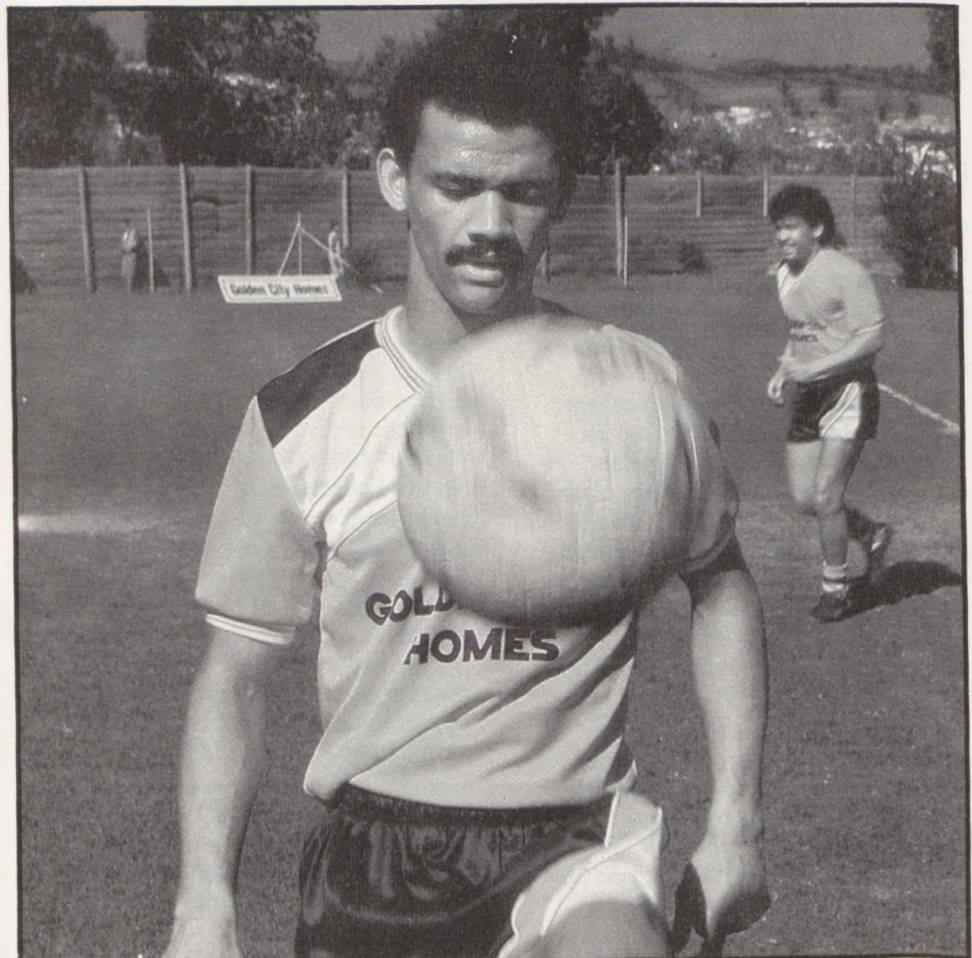
PLAYER: Outstanding Player of the Year was Duncan Crowie (Santos) – R2 000 sponsored by Luner Electrical Wholesalers in Durban.

PLAYERS' PLAYER: Outstanding player of the year chosen by players was Lionel Mabas (Real Taj) – R750

GOALSCORING TEAM: Highest goalscoring team of the year in the League Cup series: Santos – R2 000

MANAGER: Outstanding manager of the year was Ash Manak (Jakes Autolot) – R1 000

CLUB: Best administered club of the year was Berea FC – R1 000



Duncan Crowie – the FPL's Footballer of the Year for 1987. He left for a trial with English football league club Chelsea in December.

By **Hugo Olivier**
President of the
SA Sports Federation

Uniting sports body our salvation

THE effective and efficient functioning of the total sports and recreation promotion action in a country depends on an infrastructure that will provide the necessary means, services and facilities.

The providers of sport and recreation are various sectors of a community: the government authorities, the private sports community, education and the business sector.

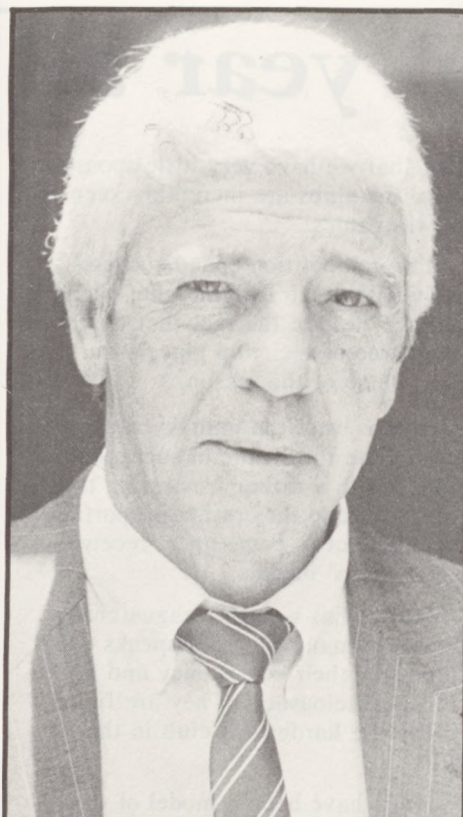
Because this clearly involves a partnership in provision, it is obvious that a central body as chief co-ordinator will be necessary if provision is not to occur in an unplanned, inadequate, uneconomical and even discriminatory manner.

Unfortunately, the latter has happened and is happening in South Africa. This fact was perhaps the single most important reason for the urgent re-assessment of the situation, and resulted in the key recommendation of the steering committee that was appointed some two years ago by sport.

The committee, consisting of myself, Dr Danie Craven, Mr Joe Pamensky and Mr Rudolph Opperman, had at hand the findings of the Human Sciences Research Council sports investigation, and the reaction of the government to this – which, in short, opted for the privatisation of sports provision with the government playing only a supportive role in future.

The history of sport throughout the world and also in South Africa clearly reveals a need for the establishment, on the macro-level, of a body to order sport provision and to co-ordinate common matters, and thus to act as a mouthpiece for the respective sports codes that are members of such a representative body.

Because this co-ordination of common interests does not have any-



Hugo Olivier, president of the SA Sports Federation and chairman of the steering committee appointed to make proposals for the structure of South African sport.

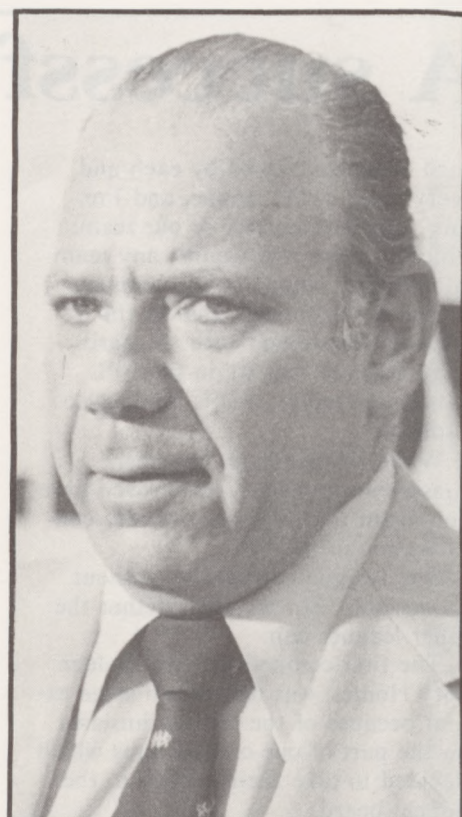
thing to do with control, the process of the establishment of a combined body with service as its chief motive does not threaten the autonomy of members or the control over their own affairs.

In the Republic of South Africa the trend to form macro-structures has over the years led to the establishment of a large number of both government and private institutions – in fact too many, the steering committee discovered.

There is also an overlap and a clash of functions. A body like the Sports Federation is criticised for being little more than a government agency because of its overdependence on State funding, and the macro-management of sport carries a character of fragmentation and can be accused of not having the necessary management mobility to offer equal opportunities to members of the various population groups.

Sport is a general, common matter and consequently all national groups together have an interest therein. Everybody should be afforded the opportunity of planning and of decision-making.

This situation required urgent rationalisation in order to improve, expand and order the quality and ex-



Joe Pamensky, president of the SA Cricket Union.

tent of sports provision (sports administration and funding, the provision of sports facilities, parity in opportunities, training and coaching) to all inhabitants of the Republic.

The complexity of the sports provision at present requires high professional standards and, although the amateur input will always remain essential, there should be a change to professional practices, especially as far as the macro-level is concerned.

Sport is a multi-million rand industry. It is an important human cultural asset. It is woven into communities and is, therefore, one of the most unifying factors in our community.

It is in the interest of our country, its communities and populations that there should be fair and adequate opportunities for everybody to participate in sport and recreation. But it is also important that it should be practiced, organised, managed and provided on a healthy and non-discriminatory basis.

Because of the fact that sport lends itself to politicisation, the central authority of a country should not take the initiative to arrange and organise the practice of sport. This is the responsibility of the private sports sector.

SPORT RSA



The Rationalisation
of Macro-Sport
in the RSA

The committee's report.

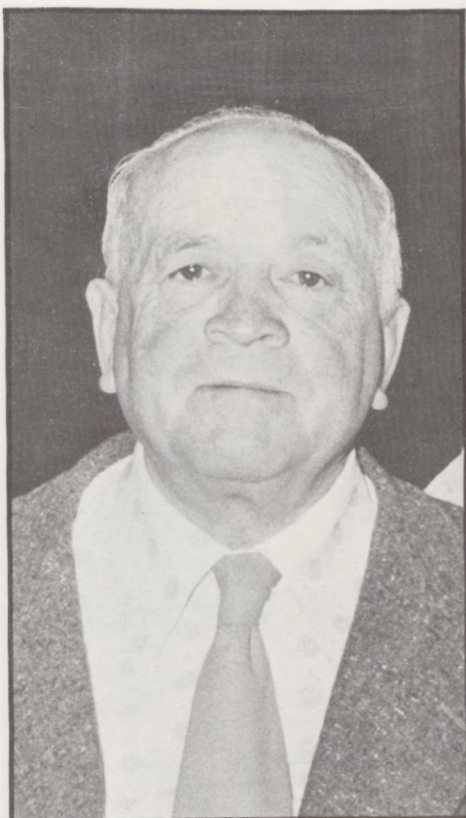
The political system of apartheid has done great harm to South African sport; it has left a virtually indelible mark on sport – not only on our international affiliations but also on the domestic scene.

There exists today an unfortunate gulf of mistrust between “white” and “black” sport, which is part of the socio-economic climate in the country. In some quarters this feeling is so strong that it seriously complicates dialogue.

Yet we, as responsible sports leaders, must not stop trying. We must use sport as a vehicle to create the necessary social changes in our society and, above all, we must try to unify our sport into one dynamic structure.

There is little doubt that South African sport should seriously consider the proposal of the steering committee – to organise itself into a new, autonomous, non-racial representative body, called the Confederation of South African Sport, which will be free from any political and government intervention.

The constitution of the proposed body clearly spells out the provisos for membership: the fundamental freedom of the individual and of groups to participate in sport, the freedom of



Danie Craven, president of the SA Rugby Board.

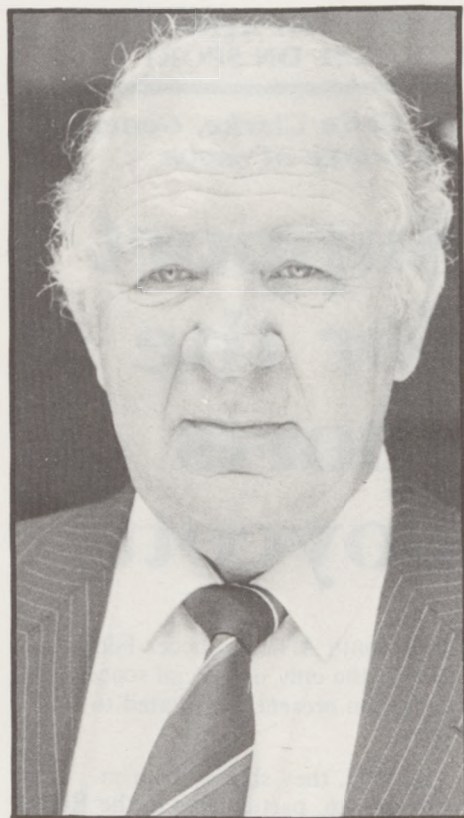
association and of choice and the equality of opportunities regardless of race, colour or creed.

I believe that on this basis it has a chance of success; it could then co-ordinate and represent sport with the government, the public and the outside world and serve as a symbol with which a sports-conscious South Africa can feel free to associate.

But the following pre-requisites are required from all parties concerned:

- Sincere good intentions of wanting to create a better future for our sportsmen and women that would rid sport of any form of discrimination and to create, through sport, equal opportunities and a better quality of life.
- A total and sustained dedication and commitment to achieve this goal.
- A desire to meet each other in an unselfish spirit of give and take.
- An honest conviction to create a better sports dispensation for South Africa and all its peoples and not to try and satisfy international demands or to achieve some or other cosmetic objective within the country.

In this entire process, the biggest and most popular sport in the country,



Rudolph Opperman, chairman of the SA National Olympic Committee.

soccer, has a decisive role to play. A new representative body can only be one hundred percent successful if it can harness the support of every national sports organisation.

Soccer owes it to itself to contribute to sports management at the macro-level and not to stand aloof of an exciting and challenging development that is in the national interest.

One is aware of the relative dormant position of the existing soccer affiliate of the SA Sports Federation, the Football Council of South Africa, which comprises the SA National Football Association, the Football Association of South Africa and the South African Football Association.

We are aware, too, of the existence of the South African Soccer Federation, and of its recent aspirations for recognition with the African Football Confederation, and of many other organisations like the SA National Soccer Association (Sansa) striving for recognition.

I, for one, am impressed by the spectacular rise in stature and of the impressive record of the Soccer Association of South Africa and the National Soccer League, and the huge number of players they represent.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL ON SPORT

By Colin Clarke, General Secretary of Sacos

Support for the sports boycott

THE South African Soccer Federation is the only non-racial soccer organisation presently affiliated to Sacos.

In 1987, they showed tremendous growth, particularly in the Eastern Cape and Border where they control the majority of soccer clubs.

Sacos did not have any formal contact with any of the other soccer controlling bodies in 1987.

While it is our aim and desire to see a united soccer controlling body in the country, we will be guided by the attempts of the SASF to forge principled unity in soccer.

Many efforts at unity are thwarted by divisions caused by big business, which, through high preferential sponsorships, play up the organisations against each other.

We are of the firm belief that all sportspersons of the oppressed and exploited masses should unite in the fight against racism and exploitation.

We note with concern that professional soccer in particular was further fragmented during 1987, and hope that in the near future commitment to the struggle for freedom and justice will triumph over the short-term monetary gains to some which have fragmented the national sport of the masses.

Sacos, the South African Soccer Federation and the Federation Professional League support the moratorium on sports tours to and from South Africa.

As such we reject all attempts to organise rebel soccer tours.

Apartheid sports organisations have made numerous futile at-



Colin Clarke.

tempts to get back into international sport.

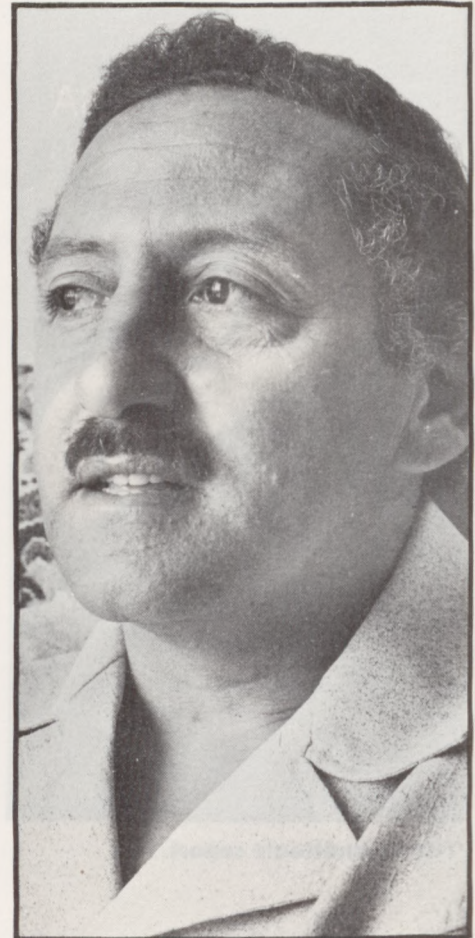
The South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee early in 1987 exposed a manoeuvre to gain recognition by the African Football Confederation.

At the International Sports Conference Against Apartheid Sport held in Zimbabwe from November 5-7, it was made clear again that no sports organisation from South Africa will be accepted internationally unless there is fundamental change in the apartheid society.

The creation of soccer academies to promote junior soccer among "all population groups" can only be seen as another attempt to create the impression that the society in South Africa has changed to the extent that children can play together on an equal footing.

It is in the interest of big business to support such schemes since their continued existence and development in this country depends on creating false impressions.

The National Party in 1987 confirmed that certain cornerstones of apartheid are non-negotiable. The



Sacos president Frank van der Horst.

Population Registration Act, the Group Areas Act and separate schooling will remain.

So will exploitation of the masses until there is an equitable distribution of wealth and the removal of apartheid laws in this country.

Soccer cannot be divorced from the other facts of the social life of the people and the Sacos motto, "There cannot be normal sport in an abnormal society" will remain relevant.

Sacos, and through it the South African Soccer Federation, was part of the Zimbabwe conference, and its role in South Africa is recognised by the international anti-apartheid sports movement.

The official declaration adopted after the conference included under the heading, "The Tasks Ahead" the following:

"The special contribution being made by anti-apartheid sports bodies and their members inside South Africa, who staunchly support the international boycott in the face of repression and harassment, should be made more widely known around the world."

SOCCKER AND POLITICS

Meshack Motloung

THE National Soccer League caused a stir in January 1987 when it took a decision on the sponsorship of rebel tours that had far-reaching implications for it.

The matter caused considerable controversy, and considered together with subsequent events, led to confusion about its political stand.

On January 12, the league's management committee decided to withdraw from its sponsorship agreement with the National Panasonic company over the latter's financial involvement in a rebel cricket tour by a group of Australian players.

National Panasonic and the NSL entered into an agreement in 1986 in terms of which the company would sponsor the Champions of Champions tournament for R500 000 over a period of three years.

The company also sponsored a rebel tour of South Africa by a group of Australian cricketers in 1986.

The league said in an official statement on January 28 that:

□ It "could not reconcile the attitude of National Panasonic in spending a disproportionate R400 000 to R500 000 in supporting local South African sportsmen over three years, while being prepared to spend in a matter of a few weeks as much as R2-million on foreigners who could take much of that money out of the country."

The money spent on foreigners was "especially unacceptable" as there was "so much unemployment in the RSA," it added.

□ It had to "take into account the fact that the rebel tour was sponsored by Panasonic being a factor which was embarrassing and sensitive to the majority of the NSL soccer players and its fans".

In the same statement, the NSL said it was an "apolitical body" and that it had "at no stage shed its apolitical stance".

It did not attempt to explain the apparent contradiction other than to say that "whatever the political views of its members may be are their own affair".

Later the NSL announced that it would not associate itself with companies which sponsored rebel tours, and would insist on a clause in its sponsorship contracts which prevented the companies involved from sponsoring rebel tours.

National Panasonic threatened legal action, and then decided against



Celtic's Ambrose Mosala in action against Kaizer Chiefs in the 1986 Champs of Champs.

Controversy and confusion in NSL

it.

In a statement it said:

□ "The NSL were aware of our participation in the first leg of the tour (in 1986) before they entered into the sponsorship agreement."

□ The NSL had continued "to associate itself with others who are connected with so-called "rebel tours".

□ The NSL "appear to be using this as an excuse to blackmail us into increasing our sponsorship of soccer".

The company also produced a copy of an agreement (which the league said it did not feel bound by) which would change the time of its competition to the end of the 1987

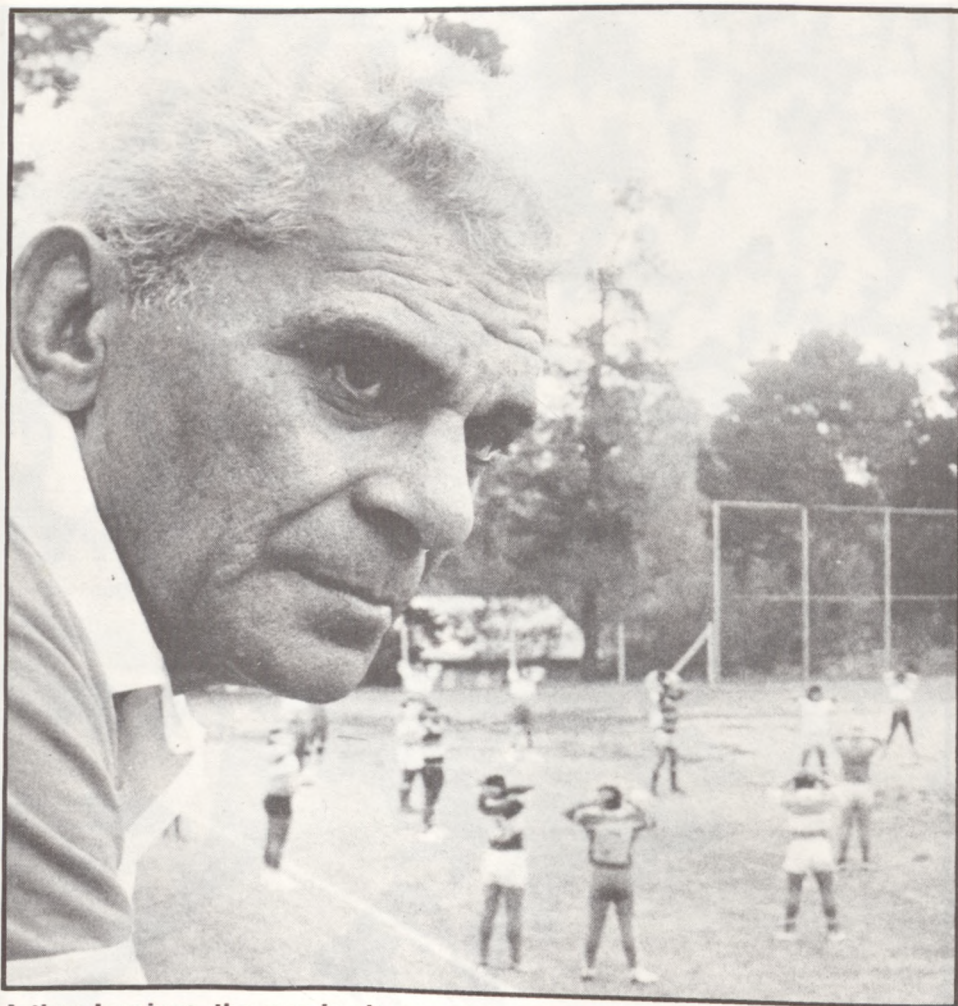
season, after the Mainstay Cup.

About the time of the controversy, the NSL's name appeared as one of the signatories in a published newspaper advertisement calling for the unbanning of the African National Congress.

This, together with the National Panasonic rebel tour issue, seemed to indicate that the NSL was adopting a more overt and "militant" political stance, despite its claim to be apolitical.

In view of the Panasonic decision, the NSL standpoint regarding rebel tours came under scrutiny in Sep-

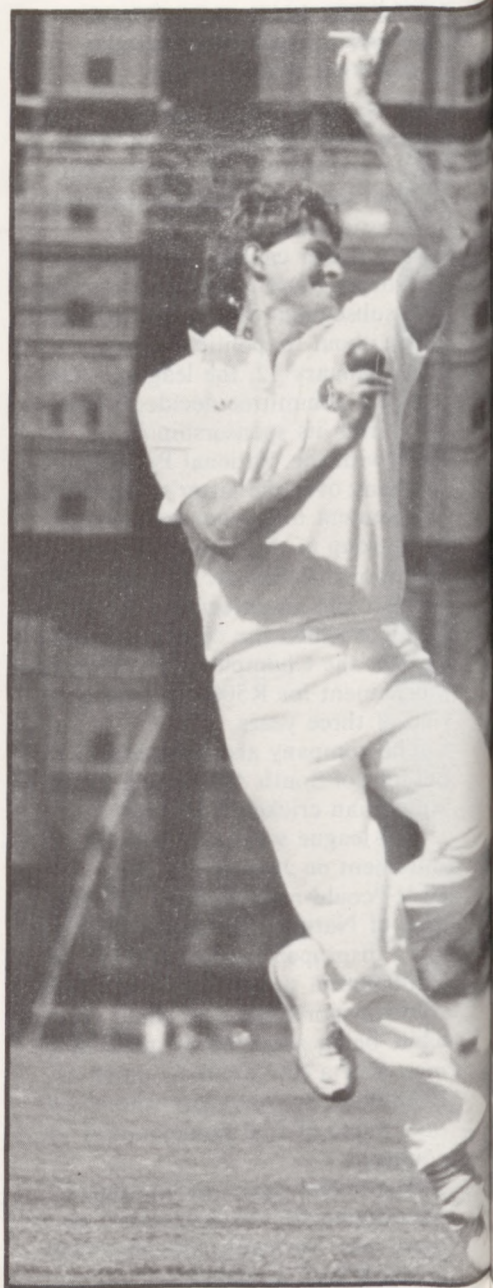
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Arthur Jennings, the man in charge of the rebel rugby team.



The Barbarians on their arrival.



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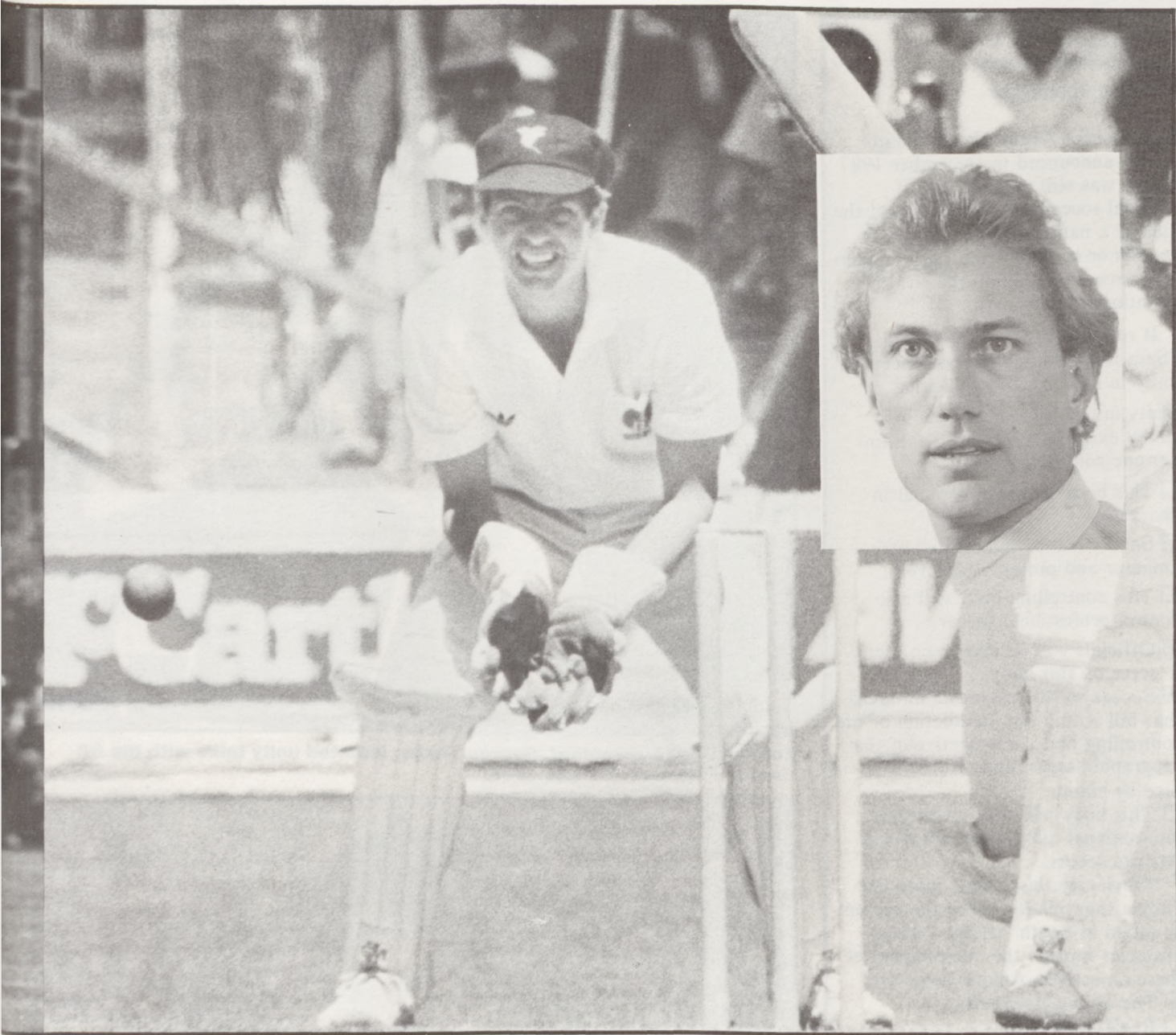
tember when it accepted a massive sponsorship from First National Bank for the "Soccer City" project, which included the building of a stadium.

The bank sponsored a South Pacific Barbarians rugby tour of South Africa, but explained that it was only after the players had arrived in South Africa that it realised that the tour was not an official tour.

In the circumstances, the bank said, it decided to support the tour.

In November, one of the NSL's clubs, Jomo Cosmos, received sponsorship from a company, King Midas, which earlier in the year sponsored a tour of Portuguese indoor soccer players.

It appears that the NSL will not



Terry Millar (inset), and the rebel cricketers in action.

accept sponsorships from companies that will sponsor rebel tours in the future.

The league subsequently accepted a sponsorship from the South African Broadcasting Corporation for what was officially called an "international" match.

The league did not clarify its position, and soccer followers were left wondering just what the league was against and what it was for.

Apparently conflicting Press reports on some policy matters since the NSL was formed in 1985 have not helped the league's image.

The Soccer Association of South Africa, to which the NSL is affiliated, kept a discreet distance from the Panasonic controversy.

Both it and the NSL refused on political grounds to participate in the SA Games in 1985, and both have accepted a moratorium on tours.

Sasa has not announced any policy on the sports boycott, and the NSL does not entirely agree with it.

However, both suspend their activities on the anniversaries of June 16, Soweto Day.

The only other soccer body which took new political decisions was the South African Soccer Federation.

In 1987 it pursued a policy of establishing contacts with "community-based" organisations, and announced late in the year that it had held talks with the United Democratic Front and the Congress of

South African Trade Unions.

The sports desk of the United Democratic Front, in an article in *City Press*, seemed to approve of the political direction of the South African Council on Sport, to which the Federation is affiliated.

The Federation decided to appoint persons in each province "to coordinate the promotion of contacts with community organisations having similar aims and objects as the SASF".

In November it decided that "all relevant community organisations should be met and these meetings must be on an on-going basis".

The Federation also observes Soweto Day on June 16, as do Sanfa and the NPSL.

SOCCER UNITY

Vivian Reddiar

THE Soccer Association of South Africa announced in December 1987 that it was still committed to national soccer unity, and revived the idea of a national soccer unity convention or conference to explore common ground among all the rival associations and leagues.

It released a statement saying: "Sasa is committed to the concept of unity in soccer in South Africa.

Unity in our view means:

- All existing bodies must fall under one controlling body.
- This body will be non-racial in character.
- Soccer will be intergrated at amateur and professional levels.
- This controlling body will also control professional soccer.
- Officials will be chosen on merit to serve on this body.
- Soccer will be played in all areas that fall within the jurisdiction of the controlling body, irrespective of the geographic separation of people by race by statute.
- This body will also act as the international mouthpiece for South African soccer.

"Obviously this sounds more like Utopia than reality, given the current situation in South Africa. Serious obstacles impede the achievement of these objectives. Among these are:

- The Group Areas Act.
- Racial attitudes.
- The existence of many rival soccer bodies.
- Non-recognition by Fifa.

"In spite of these problems we believe that efforts must be made to unify soccer in our country. To this end the following steps may be necessary:

- Contact must be made with other bodies with a view to finding common ground between us.
- A genuine attempt must be made for a round-table conference.
- Rival bodies must refrain from attacking each other needlessly.
- Personal prejudices and personality clashes must be eliminated.
- Organisations must recognise each other's strengths and weaknesses without feeling superior or inferior.
- A climate for exploring common grounds must be created.

"By the fate of providence some good may come out of it."



Former SANFA president, George Thabe, initiated unity talks with the SA Soccer Federation late in 1985.



SASF president, Rama Reddy, whose organisation insisted on affiliation to the SA Council On Sport. SANFA found this unacceptable.

Across soccer's great divide

UNITY MOVES 1985-1986

THE National Professional Soccer League made an official public call for national soccer unity in 1984, but whatever ideas it wanted to pursue had to be abandoned when the NSL and Sasa were formed.

Sasa declared at its inaugural meeting in Durban in May 1985 that one of its priorities was to try to achieve national unity.

In the climate of confusion, suspicion and hostility that existed then, its public call for a national soccer unity conference, to be convened by a small independent group of eminent people, was rejected by Sanfa and the SA Soccer Federation.

In July 1985 the SA Soccer Federation issued a policy statement which laid down five "standpoints".

These were:

- Sport cannot be viewed in isolation from the rest of society. Therefore the removal of all forms of discrimination from the sports fields cannot in itself be a basis for claims that South African sport is non-racial.
- A non-racial sports structure must address itself to a South African society which will become non-racial in all walks of life.
- In acknowledging the need for fundamental changes in the structure of society, sports organisations must accept, ipso facto, that as a prerequisite for non-racial sport to be played at all levels, no tours shall take place to and from South Africa until the broader struggle for non-racialism is achieved.
- It would be necessary for bodies who presently shelter under government policy to denounce apartheid as an obstacle to a free sports society before their overtures for talks are acceptable.
- Soccer bodies committed to a free sports society cannot, because of that very commitment, operate within or collaborate with the State or any of its agencies.

In August 1985, Sanfa invited the Federation to have "exploratory talks".

At their first meeting, in December 1985, the official delegations of both bodies agreed in principle to a merger, subject to the direction of their respective affiliates.

In January 1986 the council of the SA Soccer Federation decided



SASA secretary general, Sol Morewa (right) and treasurer Molefi Oliphant SASA mooted a national unity convention.

that as a prerequisite to moves in uniting soccer, Sanfa would have to:

- Disaffiliate from the Football Council of South Africa.
- Accept that its members refrain from participation in government-created bodies such as community councils.
- Agree on affiliation to the South African Council on Sport.

A second round of talks took place in Johannesburg in March 1986. Sanfa asked for, and was later given, clarification on the aims of Sacos.

Subsequently Sanfa issued a statement which, in part, read: "Sanfa has carefully and objectively studied the principles and workings of the Sacos document, *Twenty-two questions and answers on Sacos*."

"Based on this study and our experience generally of the performance of this organisation in the South African sporting scene, we are convinced more than ever before that Sacos is essentially a political body which uses sport for the attainment of its goals.

It would, therefore, be counter-productive for Sanfa, or any other sporting body involved in unity talks or for that matter, to even contemplate joining Sacos.

"It is our considered opinion that any insistence that we affiliate to Sa-

cos at this stage will jeopardise the strategies that are to be adopted for the successful implementation of the principles already debated and agreed upon.

"Looking further down the road it seems a moot point whether the envisaged new football body would espouse the idea of affiliating to the minority-representative Sacos or some democratic majority-representative political body operating in South Africa.

"The other two preconditions set by the Sasf – the participation of our members in government-created bodies such as community councils, and the disbanding of the Football Council of SA, have already been addressed by the Sanfa delegation during the talks.

"As a body, Sanfa does not dictate to its members how they should lead their lives outside football, provided that they do not engage in matters that may bring the association or any of its units into disrepute.

"In this respect we find the 'double standards' policy of the SASF to be impractical in the present South African socio-political situation.

"As far as the disbanding of the Football Council of South Africa is

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concerned, Sanfa has rightly pointed out that this body should in no way be perceived to be a stumbling block to the formation of a new body. Depending on an agreement to a merger, this body may be disbanded.

“With due consideration to the above, it is proper for Sanfa to make its standpoint known regarding the talks generally and make recommendations as to the future of these negotiations:

The main objective of the talks being to form a new football-controlling body in SA, Sanfa will contribute everything within its policies and power to establish the envisaged organisation. Such a new body shall be established on democratic principals and shall be autonomous and a catalyst with all other progressive organisations seeking peaceful but effective change in South Africa.

Pursuant on its aims emanating above, Sanfa reiterates its rejection of apartheid in the South African society and will always abide by the universally accepted principles of non-discrimination, basic human rights and democracy in all transactions purporting unity with Sasf.

Weighed against the background of these democratic principles, to which the Sasf also agrees, the affiliation to Sacos by Sanfa is presently considered irrelevant to the unity talks and Sanfa will consequently not join Sacos under the circumstances.”

In November 1986, Sanfa – which in August elected Titus Malaza to succeed the retired George Thabe as president – approached Sasa for talks.

Sasa issued the following statement on November 11, 1986:

“Sanfa has formally requested Sasa for a meeting to discuss unity between the two bodies. The Sanfa letter was considered at an executive committee meeting of Sasa on Sunday November 9, 1986. The committee resolved as follows:

Because Sasa is still in its early formative and developmental stages, it would be both imprudent and in-

expedient to contemplate merging with other organisations at this stage.

There are very real differences between ourselves and our associate units on one hand, and Sanfa and its associate units on the other hand. These differences cannot be wished away or ignored. The reasons for the breakaway that led to the formation of Sasa cannot, and must not, be underestimated.

The ultimate and most desirable unity in soccer is one of a single or unitary non-racial controlling body. We at Sasa do not perceive this as an objective that can be easily attained because of the following factors:

– The socio-political order in this country is not conducive to the promotion of unity in sport, or of unity in soccer in particular. This is a veritable problem. The difficulties encountered as a result of the implementation of the socio-political aspects of apartheid over the years are well nigh insurmountable. The Group Areas Act has resulted in separate residential areas for the various racial groups, thus making playing of sport on a fully intergrated basis impossible, especially at grass-roots level.

– One soccer organisation has adopted a “holier than thou” political attitude which, in fact, borders on arrogance.

– The fact that South Africa is not recognised by Fifa further complicates the situation. With no ultimate authority to account to, minor groups will continue to exist. Some groups are so small that they are actually a nuisance variable on the soccer scene.

The solution to the Fifa suspension is actually a political one. The Fifa stand is well known and abundantly clear.

It is for these reasons that we at Sasa believe that unity talks will be just that, talks for the sake of talking.

“We, therefore, further resolved as follows:

Those bodies or organisations who wish to co-operate with us or participate in projects of common interest are most welcome. Examples here are the Chappies Little League where we participated jointly with Fasa. All our competitions, including those of the NSL, are open to all interested parties.

Any club, team or individual is free to join our organisation and become a recognised member who will enjoy all the benefits we offer.

Our primary objective is to organise soccer activities on an efficient and fair basis in order to strengthen our position as the leading organisation in the development of amateur soccer in the country.”

The reasons why attempts at laying the foundations for eventual unity – or at least at lessening the tensions between rival organisations – have failed during the last three years are numerous.

Among them are historical factors, many of the officials and members of the older organisations having deeply ingrained loyalties.

They have been adamant that their associations will not disband and join any of the others.

The NSL and Sasa response to this was that they expected to grow in membership, influence and power at the expense of the other bodies.

In the last three years, the effects of disunity have generally been most acutely felt in the black townships, where Sasa and Sanfa footballers play.

The competition for clubs and players has been intense.

There are also sharp differences in the personal and political outlook of rival officials of the various organisations – differences that are often not shared by many of the footballers they represent.

Not to be underestimated by any means is the the personal distrust, antagonism and sometimes open hostility that exists between certain officials in rival groups.

Squabbling among rival officials is endemic in South African soccer, and the degree of disunity that exists is due in no small measure to the pettiness of some of them.

All this – in addition to the daunting challenge of solving the enormous practical difficulties that have to be overcome in forming a single unitary controlling body while apartheid exists – has led to the widespread and quite realistic belief that overall national unity can only be achieved in a post-apartheid society.

Collection Number: AG3403

Collection Name: Non-racial Sports History Project, Transvaal

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: **Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand**

Location: **Johannesburg**

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