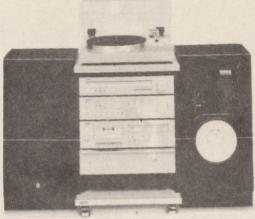
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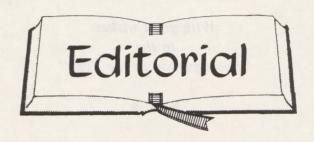


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For the second time since its inception the coveted "M.N. Pather Sportsperson of the Year" award has set the scene for a friendly tussle among Natal's provincial sports codes for pride of possession. And once again, against the backdrop of a proliferation of illustrious credentials and evocative pen-pictures, submitted in support of nominees, the selection fundis have had to tread through a minefield of tense decision-making before having to declare with unanimity on this year's choice of Natal's leading sportsperson.

Given the situation that each of the nominees promoted by participating codes is worthy in his own right for this most prestigious of awards, few would dispute the selectors' protestations that the prospect of singling out for honours of the one sportsperson whose all-round qualifications score a nuance of an edge over the others is a daunting one - especially so when the participants are the products of a tradition among their sponsoring codes for nurturing sporting greats. Moreover, the application of stringent judging criteria notwithstanding, abstract predispositions like a sportsperson's commitment to non-racialism are largely beyond the powers of quantification.

But then such are the risks of competition that the search for Natal's most versatile sportsperson has engendered. So, if there's going to be a tinge of disappointment among complaining 'partisans' who bewail their personal favourites having been pipped at the post, let good senses prevail on the fact that the race for honours was excruciatingly close.

To qualify for the selectors' attention the onus rested on participating codes to support their candidates' credentials on the basis of some rather demanding criteria.

As would befit the stature of the award more than physical talent was needed to ensure pride of place in the honours list. In addition to having excelled in a chosen code of sport, some tangible evidence of assisting in promoting the sport, and a sound reputation of declared allegiance to non-racialism, had to be proffered.

Perhaps, even at this stage of the progress of nonracial sport, inherent naievety, or ignorance, of the complexities of sport in this country might prompt questions in some quarters of the relevance of the latter factors to the selection process. Let us then take this opportunity of re-iterating a simple home truth. Sport in this country is no exception to the oppressive laws that govern our lives. While some international renegades of the western alliance cavort with South Africa's racists, innocent children born in the ghettoes of apartheid suffer deprivations of sports opportunities.

Such deprivation is the direct result of the country's political system. And the fight for sports freedom would entail a broadly based opposition to such a system. Charged with such a task it has become a calling on the members of the non-racial sports movement to promote that cause for freedom at every available opportunity.

For the Natal Council on Sport, the initiating of such a prestigious title as the "M.N. Pather Sportsperson of the Year" has been inspired by considerations beyond that which tradition usually dictates. In keeping with its objective of aligning itself with, and promoting, the cause for a better society, where the deprivation of sports opportunities would one day be relegated to the annals of apartheid's shameful history, it has enunciated for the benefit of its sportspersons a perception of the many sacrifices that the non-racial struggle demands.

It is a matter of pride then, that in return, loyalty from its members have never been found wanting. In tribute to their courage, their perseverance, and their allegiance to the greater interests of society, the presentation of the award has taken pride of place in the NACOS calendar.

Another year of serious activity in the promotion of non-racial sports has reached a fitting climax of light-hearted celebration to round off the season. And while in the spirit of the occasion's festive mood we revel in the beauty of its aesthetic design, let us once again ingrain in our hearts the unwritten aspiration embodied in the intention of the award: that of a tireless striving of a nation toward unfettered greatness.

We trust that Natal's 1981 Sportsperson of the Year will in some measure epitomise that aspiration and inspire qualities worthy of emulation. With good wishes to the "Sportsperson of the Year"

* * *

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



It's time again for another "Sportsperson of the Year" Contest.

The first attempt last year proved successful in so many ways that the Executive had no choice but to include it again in the 1981 calendar. In fact, this competition - for the M. N. Pather Award - is now here to stay. There is certainly much interest in this competition as affiliates and sportsmen have shown; from a public relations point of view it is a very useful exercise in promoting the image of the Natal Council of Sport; financially, it offers much scope to build badly needed funds - only, of course, if there is full cooperation from all quarters.

I know the judges have had a difficult task, first, in nominating the six finalists and then, in determining the ultimate winner. I would like to offer my congratulations to all the contestants - whether they made it to the finals or not. Not all can get into the finals and, unfortunately, there can only be one winner - but all of you are worthy examples of the type of non-racial sportsmen we have in our midst.

We in the Natal Council of Sport hope you have enjoyed participating in the competition just as much as we have enjoyed organising it. We trust, too, that this little incentive for sportsmen (and women!) will help to boost the sport in Natal that extra bit.

Tragan Topolas

MORGAN NAIDOO, PRESIDENT NATAL COUNCIL OF SPORT

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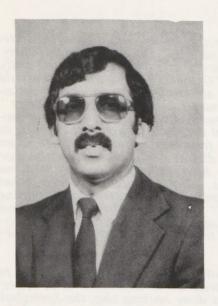
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D. P. NAIDOO

Mr. D. P. Naidoo's career as a sports administrator has two dimensions. He served adult sport through swimming and school sport through provincial and national schools' bodies. From the position of Assistant Secretary of the Natal High Schools' Sports Federation in the year in which he started teaching (1972), he became the President of the Natal High Schools' Athletics Association (also in 1972) - a position he held for six consecutive years. He was thereafter elected Deputy President of the Natal High Schools' Sports Federation and he is presently serving his second term as its President. In July 1981 he was elected to the highest post open in high school sport - President of the South African Senior Schools' Sports Association.

In swimming, from humble beginnings as a delegate of the Penguin Amateur Swimming Club to the Amateur Swimming Union of Natal, he rose to become Records Clerk of the SA Amateur Swimming Federation. As a member of the SAASwiF delegation which presented a memorandum to the International Swimming Federation, in 1973, he helped to highlight the racialistic regime of the white SA Amateur Swimming Union.

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THE ROLE OF SACOS

The South African Council on Sport has played a seminal role in the field of sport during the past few years. It has cleared the polemic, clarified the issues involved in sport, and set us on the correct road. SACOS has cleansed the mental fog and dismissed the mythology created by the establishment, and at the same time ideologically equipped us with a new thrust.

The question that arises is: what is its future role? There are many, foe, and perhaps erstwhile friends, too, who hope that the conscience of true non-racialism will conveniently disappear or die a natural death. This is pure wishful thinking.

Let us briefly touch on some aspects of the role of SACOS.

The Establishment is in a state of acute paranoia. Witness the disarray, the confusion, and conflicting statements that come forth from their spokesmen in various fields including sport. The copious, and often meaningless verbosity, by their spokesmen on varying subjects of national importance such as education, sport, labour relations, etc., is astounding. Furthermore, it is the height of impertinence that this explosion of verbosity is expected to be taken seriously.

The last decade has seen a polarisation of human consciousness in our country, a new thrust in leadership amongst our people, and a total rejection of the old mythologies. The people, that is, those who are actually productive, have matured through experience and struggle. We oppose the status quo with our own ideas of what a society should be. The intellectual confrontation has only begun and will not cease. In all spheres of society and activity, there is a questioning and serious enquiry into all aspects of life. All fields of human endeavour are under scrutiny.

In the field of sport, SACOS had opened up new horizons. Nothing is accepted on face value. In the organisation, there is constant debate, discussion, evaluation of new concepts, and assessment of strategy for the future. One of the endeavours of the organisation is never to neglect our lines of theoretical supply. At this point, let us look at a recent statement made by Dr. Dawie de Villiers. He is quoted as saying in the Rand Daily Mail of 3 October 1981: "South Africa would never be able to satisfy international agitators no matter what changes take place". This is merely quoted to illustrate the naievety and simplistic approach that seems to emanate from some quarters. There is no need to discuss "official" changes because this had been exhaustively dealt with on numerous other occasions. However, what kind of animal is an "international sporting agitator"? Is Mrs. Thatcher an international sporting agitator when she called for a boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow?

On the other hand, the Rand Daily Mail, in an editorial, on 15 September 1981, states: "If it has done nothing else, the Springbok tour of New Zealand has demonstrated the futility of trying to separate sport and politics."



By Dr. E. I. Vawda Vice President, Natal Council of Sport Secretary for Finance, SA Council on Sport

This point deserves some comment. Perhaps a further quotation may be helpful here. In the Journal of Modern African Studies, 18, 2 (1980) on page 237, Dean E. McHenry Jr. says: "There is general agreement that sports are used for political purposes. The controversy over WHETHER this should or should not be the case is really a struggle about HOW they should be used...... Although some involvement of politics in sports appears universal, the degree varies considerably from country to country".

The government's call on "Indians" to participate in the SAIC "elections" on November 4 has intensified widespread opposition to this ethnic body. Institutions of this type have been condemned as a fraudulent offering for full political rights and a divisive weapon to foster separation by race. What are the implications of participating in the election process for the non-racial sportsman? Satish Jaggernath, national secretary of the South African Amateur Swimming Federation offers an overview



Reject racial elections!

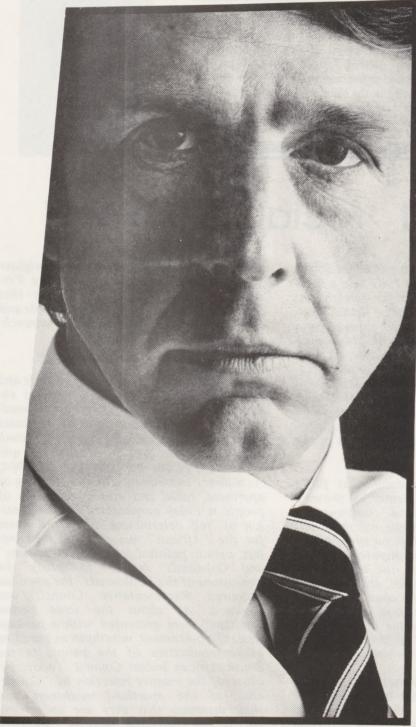
There is a racially exclusive group in South African society for whom 1981 held a special emotional significance for celebration. Twenty years ago the flags of British Imperialism were finaly lowered to usher in a new political order, and with this newly acquired sovereignty came power, glorious power - to suppress once and for all by legislation the aspirations and quest for a meaningful political destiny of South Africa's deprived majority. With the declaration of a new republic, a host of parliamentary laws broadened the pages of the statute book.

Perhaps it is understandable that for a group of people whose history has shown a poor capacity for moral compunction, Black disdain and international scorn left no permanent impressions on them of the hollowness of their self-imputed hour of victory. For, steeped in the tradition of three centuries of prejudice, the carving of a permanent niche in the country's wealth that political emancipation ensured for them, continued undaunted in the perpetuation of law and ideology that would protect the mentality of white supremacy.

But the winds of change that blew for them held no warmth for the black faces that worked the mines and tilled the soil and for their children who cried in perpetual hunger. So much like a cruelty of nature, they bit incisively into the wounds of their mutilated dignity and eroded even the trickles of precious freedom that they desperately clutched with their toiling hands. For, these winds of ill-omen that

darkened the skies of hopes for a brighter South Africa carried with them the Verwoerdian dream of a unique doctrine - that of permanent subjugation of a people and their quest for justice through entrenchment of the laws of separation.

Three centuries of a history of struggle and the quest for political rights remains entrapped in the recesses of legislative bondage. And after three decades of Afrikaner nationalist rule over 80 per cent of South Africa's people are still denied the universal right of any parliamentary franchise. As a direct consequence of the ideology of apartheid, racial and ethnic separation of people is today perpetuated by the creation of 'self determining' homeland states for the "African" majority and meaningless, pseudo political councils for "Indians" and "Coloureds". In 1967, to "satisfy" the aspirations of the "Coloureds" the so-called Coloured Representative Council was spawned. At about the same period 'Indians" were presented with a package deal of government mouthpieces parading as representatives of the people in the South African Indian Council. Today, because of the massive rejection by "Coloureds" of the apartheid machinery and their assertion that they are an integral part of the oppressed majority, the CRC has closed shop. On November 4 this year, after a shameful history of seventeen years of the perpetuation of the status quo, "Indians" of the oppressed nation will be cajoled into electing opportunists who will once again purvey apartheid stock. And



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today, no homeland "leader" would dare release authentic statistics to deny the charge that they are tottering on the brink of economic bankruptcy.

Such has been the magnitude of the denial of human rights. Yet in spite of the overwhelming rejection of these racial institutions, history will one day record that their continued perpetuation was nurtured not only by statutory law, but also by renegades from the oppressed majority who manipulated them as springboards for individual political opportunism and financial gain.

It is against such a background of the political situation that characterises South Africa today that non-racial sportspersons must consider the implications of any association they may have with racial political organisations, or of any part they may have played in their perpetuation. But at this stage let us sort out a fundamental consideration that needs to be examined carefully. Is it within the scope of sportspersons functioning as a cohesive unit to indulge in the examination of political phenomena or to publicly comment on political matters?

One of the basic premises of the non-racial sports movement has been that political deprivation has been the root cause of inequality in sports. It is argued, and correctly so, that only a democratically progressive form of government can ensure for its people full freedom in the development of its aspirations in sports.

It is in terms of this perspective that the validity of the contention that there can be no normal sport in an abnormal society can be appreciated. And it is equally in terms of this perspective that the sportsperson as a definitive entity reflects the multi-faceted nature of the social being.

In the light of this, of all the vindictive criticisms levelled by racists against the non-racial sports movement, perhaps none can match up to the impertinence of the one that charges that non-racial sports organisations are politically inspired in the pursuance of their goals.

The impertinence arises not because the charge is substantially incorrect. but specifically because it is calculated to foster impressions of non-racial sports organisations being used as cloaks for political activity. The inherent purpose of those who make this charge becomes clear when it is appreciated that it is exactly because of political considerations that racist South Africa has been ditched into the doldrums of international sports isolation and exactly because of the racist mentality that has inspired their own apartheid ideology that they see non-racial sports organisations as a threat to their devious aims.

What is ironical, however, is that while it is South Africa's own political dogma that has encroached on the right to freedom in sports, it is the non-racialist's quest for freedom in sports that has impelled him to challenge this dogma.

Man being the political animal that he is can never be free from the political influences that govern his surroundings. In order to adapt correctly to his environment every decision he makes is basically a political act. A point of cardinal importance, however, is the moral basis of such decisions. If they are in any way in conflict with the quest for human rights they have no place in the realms of co-existence. If they promote that quest then no force can prevent the coming of the new order towards which we aspire.

Non-racial sportspersons of this country are, therefore, an integral part of the campaign against oppression. As sportspersons they highlight one aspect of the effect of apartheid on the lives of the people. As complete social beings they are subject to the same deprivations that others have had to suffer. In rejecting apartheid in sports they reject apartheid as a whole. As a logical extension of their convictions they reject those political institutions that perpetuate the denial of human rights. And in doing so they reject any overtures for participation in any election process geared entrench these racially inspired *** institutions.

NATAL COUNCIL OF SPORT

OFFICIALS: 1980/81

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PRESIDENT Mr. Morgan Naidoo

VICE-PRESIDENT Dr. E. I. Vawda

SECRETARIAT
Mr. Clive Vawda, General Secretary

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Natal Men's Hockey Union
Natal High Schools' Sports Federation
Natal Squash Rackets Federation
Northern Natal Darts Union
Southern Natal Darts Union
Natal Primary Schools' Sports Board
Southern Natal Tennis Union
Southern Natal Table Tennis Union
Southern Natal Women's Hockey Union

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Tongaat Volleyball Association Isipingo Sports Federation

A Summary of NACOS Annual Report

TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 31, 1981

In keeping with the primary role of explaining the principles and policies of the South African Council on Sport (SACOS), the Natal Council of Sport (NACOS) embarked on an ambitious programme of holding province-wide symposia in a bold attempt at reaching the sportsperson at the grassroot level. However, because of the extreme pressure of an ever increasing work load, it was not possible to complete the scheduled programme.

A critical assessment of the nature of audiences at symposia that were held indicate the need to exploit more opportunities to meet sportspersons at grassroot level.

In addition to having convened eight well attended symposia an in depth seminar was held this year at which some outstanding papers were presented.

Every effort was made to meet codes individually as the need arose, and officials responded to numerous invitations to meetings and functions of the various codes.

AFFILIATES

With the exception of rugby, Natal provincial units of all national affiliates of SACOS are members of NACOS.

The Isipingo Districts Sports Federation and the Tongaat Volleyball Association enjoy associate membership. While excellent support has been enjoyed from our members, it is imperative that attention be given to the organising of angling, badminton, boxing, chess, golf, judo and karate, netball, snooker and billiards, and softball.

DURBAN GOLF CLUB

It is regrettable that in spite of an overwhelming body of opinion against the advisability of the Durban Golf Club using the Windsor Park Golf Course this code persisted in doing so. Ultimately, the Club's refusal to implement a SACOS directive to cease using the venue forced NACOS to expel it from its ranks.

ADMINISTRATION

Seven Council meetings, eight symposia and numerous Executive meetings were held during this term of office. Attendance at meeting was very satisfactory.



by Clive Vawda General Secretary Natal Council of Sport

An interesting development was that many codes which showed a poor attendance record the previous year were among those attending meetings more regularly this year. A novel idea of inviting codes to host the various Council meetings proved most successful. NACOS also had the pleasure of hosting the SACOS bi-ennial conference in May this year.

SA COUNCIL ON SPORT

NACOS enjoys a very good relationship with its parent body as well as with the national codes and other provincial councils of sport. All SACOS Conferences were attended. NACOS is also proud to see its President being elected to the Presidency of SACOS.

This page kindly sponsored by Rajan Ramsaroop

SPORTS ADMINISTRATORS' COURSE

Preparations have been under way to conduct a sports administrators' course and for the awarding of diplomas to those who attend. It is hoped that good use would be made of the opportunity by all the codes. It is also envisgaed that the course be later translated into Zulu to facilitate more organisations participating in the course.

RECOMMENDATIONS

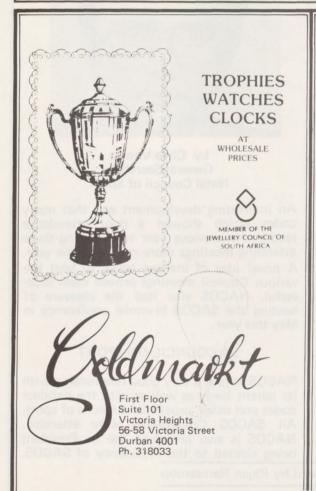
It is hoped that in the new season discussions on the following suggestions will be pursued: centrally situated office with access to

secretarial facilities by member codes; information library; changes in meetings format; regular newsletters on specific topics; symposia for sportspersons and a sports equipment shop.

CONCLUSION

Overall, it was a most successful year, resulting in a hectic and a tight schedule. Planning last year's programme soon after the annual general meeting proved most beneficial and the experience gained from this kind of organising should prove quite useful to the incoming Executive.







A Word from

some Affiliates

The "Sportsperson of the Year" Award is a fitting and a worthy reward to the successful candidate. To excel at one's chosen game; to give back to that game some of what one got out of it and finally, and most importantly, to remain committed to the cause of true non-racial sport are attributes which I think every sportsperson within our folds should cease-lessly strive to cultivate, that is, if he or she does not have them already. But to be chosen as the best of those exhibiting such attributes is a matter for considerable and justifiable pride - surely a victory well deserved and an occasion to be celebrated.

Turning to squash rackets, we are growing encouragingly. Until last season, because of the fewer numbers, clubs were directly affiliated to the Natal Squash Rackets Federation. This season we had to change to accommodate district unions. At the moment we have two, that is Durban and Districts and Isipingo. In the offing are Stanger, Pietermaritzburg, Ladysmith and Newcastle. On the national scene, the SA Squash Rackets Federation (SASraF) was launched in September.

CLIVE VAWDA, PRESIDENT
NATAL SQUASH RACKETS FEDERATION

My Board and I, together with all our supporters, congratulate NACOS on its achievements so far. While the Natal Rugby Board has been conspicuous by its absence at meetings, it does, however, unequivocally support the ideals and doctrines of NACOS,

It is my wish that our unofficial recognition will soon become official so that a stronger link, rugby-wise, can be achieved within the ranks of non-racial sport in the province.

In conclusion, I see nothing but a rosy future ahead with an organisation that knows what it wants and how to get it.

V. BOWERS, PRESIDENT NATAL RUGBY BOARD



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1299 UMGENI ROAD DURBAN 4001 Best wishes from the tennis fraternity to Natal's outstanding black sports stars. We salute them for their dedicated efforts to reach high standards in spite of oppressive limitations and handicaps. The "Sportsperson of the Year" contest is a small but important event to these true sports stars. I am sure future generations will bestow lasting honour and recognition on them for their sacrifices and contribution to the cause of true sport and sportsmanship in this country.

E. OSMAN, PRESIDENT SOUTHERN NATAL TENNIS UNION



A. G. NAIDOO

Northern Natal Darts Union is indeed proud to be associated with the Natal Council of Sport and in particular with the "Sportsperson of the Year" function.

To this end we will continue to promote our code of sport interwoven with the principles and policies of non-racialism. The acquisition of players from the various mines in our area is sufficient evidence of the kind of people who support both our stand and our struggle.

Darts, being one of the two codes in South Africa that has international recognition, makes a sacrifice by foregoing international participation in world tournaments. I make this point, because I would like to think that today's function, some way or

the other, pays tribute to those sportsmen who are dedicated and committed.

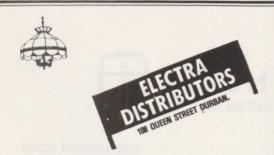
May I conclude by extending my Union's sincere best wishes to the winner.

A. G. NAIDOO, PRESIDENT NORTHERN NATAL DARTS UNION

The Natal High Schools' Sports Federation joins the other affiliates of NACOS in congratulating the "Sportsperson of the Year". The fact that these sports stars were nominated by their respective codes is in itself a major achievement. To their greatest credit is that they have been unwavering in their support for non-racial sport.

Sincerity and dedication of these sportspersons serves as a tremendous motivation for the sports stars of tomorrow who, I am convinced, will soon be playing on sports arenas devoid of any form of racial discrimination.

D. P. NAIDOO, PRESIDENT NATAL HIGH SCHOOLS SPORTS FEDERATION



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1981 AWARD WINNER: Cheryl Roberts is shown receiving the M.N. Pather Award from Mr D.P. Naidoo, the Guest of Honour.



Cheryl Roberts holding up the award she had just won.



Cheryl Roberts is shown with the Guest of Honour, Mr D.P. Naidoo, and (left), Mr Morgan Naidoo, the president of the Natal Council of Sports, and third from left, Dr R.I. Vawda, Vice-President of SACOS

These pictures were taken by Nithia Naidoo of POST Newspapers at the 1981 Award Presenttation ceremony on Saturday October 24. We are grateful to POST for allowing us to reproduce these pictures.

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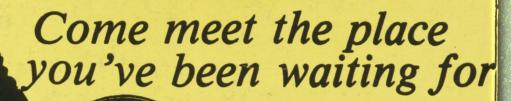
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Location: Johannesburg

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