

SOUL SPORT

June 2017



**Top SA golfer
Stacy Bregman
Exclusive Interview**

**The Grand Sports
Raffle Returns**

**Sports Entrepreneur
Extraordinaire**

**Selwyn
Nathan**

**Getting Ready for the
20th Maccabiah**



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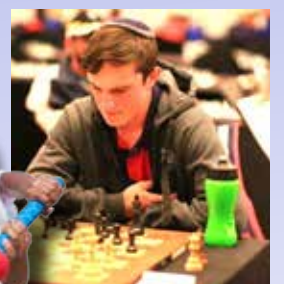
The JU Sports Event was a spectacular success of sun, soccer, unity and lots of fun

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Letter from the Publisher



Welcome to Soul Sport number 8! This blockbuster edition leads with golf and one of South Africa's outstanding sports entrepreneurs, Selwyn Nathan, someone I have admired for the longest time. The number 8 carries special value for me. It was my late father Jorge Santoro who wore the red and white number 8 on his Highlands Park & on his native Brazilian club Botafogo's jersey's.

In Jewish mysticism the number 8 is referred to as the transcendent number, representing that which defies the natural order. Number 8 is also special because it has two circles. A circle is something which has no beginning and has no end - a characteristic of transcendence. Taking this idea further, the higher circle on the number 8 refers to the One above. G-d has no beginning and no end. The lower circle of the number 8 refers to the nation of Israel, a nation that has and continues to defy the odds. In perspective of our edition, we feature the soon to be held, 20th Maccabiah Games in Israel. It will be a special Maccabiah as it falls out in the year of the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. 50 years ago Israel was surrounded by 5 armies bent on its destruction. Then in 6 days the impossible happened, Israel defeated her enemies and reclaimed the greater territory of her ancestral homeland, including the Western Wall. When today a Maccabian kicks a ball, swings a golf club, swims a length, or does a drop-kick in Israel, this is a miracle. We wish our SA delegation the best of luck!

A few years ago I was told that I was dreaming to think a Jewish sports magazine could successfully take off. Considering no such precedent existed it was the realistic view point. So, I'd like to dedicate the number 8, transcendent edition, to the dream coming true. This tribute goes out to EVERYONE that has been a part of the journey through the last four years. I'm confident we will continue! The amazing feedback from across the country in appreciation of our publication is testimony to the value and place Soul Sport has.

I invite you to participate in Soul Workout's second, unbelievable, Grand Sports Raffle! The spectacular prize is 2 tickets to the World Cup quarter finals in Russia in 2018. See page 30

I am grateful to all the effort put in by the wonderful staff. I cannot thank our advertisers enough. I acknowledge and praise our contributing writers for their brilliant articles. This team effort has ensured another stunning edition of Soul Sport is out. That you!

Please write in with your feedback, comments, or anything else that is on your mind to soulsportsa@gmail.co.za - we'd love to hear from you!

Finally, Soul Sport is now on-line and you can catch all the action on www.soulsportsa.com

Enjoy number 8!

Ilán Daniel Herrmann

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TRIBUTE
from
TOKYO SEXWALE



Few individuals in the world are crazy enough to chase around the field of play, an object as large as a soccer ball and one as tiny as a golf ball. That is just what Nathan Selwyn does. On the one hand he was a fellow director on the board of the FIFA 2010 World Cup, while on the other he was Chairman of the South African Golf Development Association Board. That's Nathan the sport loving promoter!

On more serious issues he is a stickler to good corporate governance and sound administration fundamentals within the various organisations he has lent his name to. That's how one came to admire him during the meetings of the FIFA 2010 Local Organising Committee which saw South Africa host a successful world class World Cup. Selwyn loves life, he loves fun. He is jovial and has that captivating and disarming smile of a trusted gentlemen and friend.

However, there is another side of the man; he shows no smile and he is not gentle at all when it comes to taking a stand against Child Abuse. Hence his involvement as chairman of the Women and Men against Child Abuse. That makes Selwyn a man of substance. South Africa and the world needs more such substantial personalities. They say one's name says a lot about one's character. Selwyn - which means "a true friend in the house" carries his name with dignity.



Sports Pioneer & Trailblazer Selwyn Nathan

Bringing the Sunshine Back to South Africa

By Ilan Herrmann

Gary Player (L) and Steve Waugh (R) with Nathan Selwyn in action during the Laureus Golf Challenge in Abu Dhabi 2011. (Photo by Ian Walton/Getty Images for Laureus)



TRIBUTE from GARY PLAYER



What can I say about my friend Selwyn Nathan and his longstanding love affair with the game. He has unquestionably been a key contributor to the growth of golf in South Africa.

No doubt his influence in local communities, on the Sunshine Tour, and overall contribution to golf in South Africa has brought us to new heights.

Nate is a unique character who will be forever cherished in the golf world and whom you really don't want to ever play for money!!

He pauses, thinks and makes a quick calculation, "It's forty years this year." He then smiles and continues, "looking back, all I can say is, what a journey!" These are the words of one of SA's most prolific sports administrators and entrepreneurs, Selwyn Nathan, describing his four decades of involvement with The Sunshine Tour, SA's eminent golfing organisation where he currently serves as executive director.

Selwyn Nathan is a flamboyant, colourful character, balanced with a constant sober reminder to remain humble, straightforward and driven. His story is a rollercoaster ride of both the rise to great successes, yet coupled with momentous falls, periods in which he hit rock bottom. "There were some really tough times, where I had to pick up the pieces and rebuild. These were mostly when I moved out of my strong area of business acumen and made some mistakes." But perseverance, hard work and integrity, ensured the wheel would turn, and it did.

South African sports and particularly golf and soccer, will always have Selwyn Nathan's stamp indelibly marked on them.

Nathan was an instrumental part of the bid committee that successfully brought the FIFA Soccer World Cup to SA in 2010. The tournament was one of FIFA's most successful ever and established SA on the global sporting map in a way that it hadn't enjoyed before.

Nathan recalls how the opportunity came knocking. "I was with Vodacom at the time and Dr Ivan Khoza approached them telling them that he wanted me on the Bid Committee. Dr Khoza and I had known each other a long time, since we were young when he caddied for Harold Henning in the 1960's. We'd had a long standing friendship and he trusted me. We went to work and put forward the bid for the 2006 tournament and it failed. That only served to drive us forward and the result was that we successfully secured the 2010 bid. It was monumental and thrilling, having come

as a result of many months and years of hard work, that eventually paid off."

Nathan served on the oversight, finance, and marketing & events Committees for the World Cup and together with his partners Danny Jordan, Dr Ivan Khoza and Tokyo Sexwale, saw the first ever FIFA tournament hosted on the African continent kick off on 11 June 2010, with South Africa playing Mexico at Johannesburg's Soccer City.

Yet, although the Soccer World Cup stands out as a high on Nathan's achievements, it has been golf that has been his special passion. The sport has seen him to the best of times and he in turn, has contributed to it more than any other. "Golf was always in the background. Although I played soccer, rugby and a bit of cricket, it was golf that stuck for me and it has to this day."

Nathan attended Athlone Boys and then Damelin College. He laughs when

he recounts: "I was always trying to find a way to skip class and get onto the golf course." After graduating, he went to Smith Street Trade School where he became an Auto Electrician and went to work for his father.

"My most memorable years were growing up in the neighbourhood of Observatory, Yeoville, Bez Valley and Cyrildene. Those were special times"

"My most memorable years were growing up in the neighbourhood of Observatory, Yeoville, Bez Valley and Cyrildene. Those were special times." Nathan is one of three boys. He lost his older brother at a young age through tragic circumstances and has always been very close to his

brother Andy, who lives in San Diego.

Golf was always the common denominator throughout his career. "Whether I was at work, trying to do business in the mines, in the army, or just about anywhere, I constantly looked to get a game of golf with a business head, the mine manager, or with the lieutenant, or sergeant, or whomever I could. It was my angle and way in."

Having to find a livelihood and be a bread winner, and having an adventurous nature, Nathan was drawn to trying to make a quick buck on hedging bets. "I was always looking for a way to make some extra, so I tried horses, snooker, cards, the casinos and then of course on the golf course. I found it easiest to make that extra buck on the golf course."

Nathan was offered a job with Brian Henning, the executive responsible for founding the Sunshine Tour. Henning

Over the past 20 years Selwyn Nathan has been both a visionary and leader in the commercialisation of sports in South Africa. SAIL is proud of our long and rich relationship with Selwyn as a true South African legend who has achieved phenomenal success in various business spheres.



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established it, but then in the 1970's he left to go overseas to work on the US Seniors Golf Tour and Nathan, together

TRIBUTE from Johann Rupert



Our friendship goes back decades. Throughout that time Nate has enriched all of our lives with his loyalty, passion, humour and, most importantly, empathy for others.

Apart from being a superb golfer (only held back by his woeful short game), Selwyn is a very capable administrator of golf. The Board can rely on him to make the correct decisions when needed.

Ultimately the two things that make us all love him most must be his generosity and caring. What a boytjie!

er with other board members: George Bloomberg, Jimmy Hempel and Basil Kurtland - steered the Sunshine Tour ship forward. It's now been a whopping 40 years. Three, Nathan served as commissioner, 20 as deputy chairman to Mr Rupert (the Chairman), and all the time he was on the board. Only in the last five years has his position been as a paid executive, having previously been of a voluntary nature.

Lightning struck for Nathan opening the doors to "big business" opportunity, in 1995. At that time he was managing a business with an approximate R4million annual turnover. Then, business mogul and Chairman of the Sunshine Tour, Johan Rupert, asked the CEO of Vodacom Alan Knot Craig, to play a round of golf with Nathan.

"We played 54 holes together and got on very well. By the end of the day he asked me how much I was doing. I said R4million. He said how would you like to do a billion a year. I said to him, can I have some time to think about....ok you have a deal." That's how his success with Vodacom

started. 'Sail' (South African Leisure and Entertainment) was formed, driving forward Vodafone's events, promotions and entertainment. The company continues today as a leader in its market under the stewardship of Chief Executive Officer Jaco Beukes.

Nathan has strong roots in his Judaism. His parents came from Lithuania, both from strongly observant homes. "My mom's side of the family, my grandfather were deeply religious." Nathan lays tefillin everyday since his Bar-Mitzvah and, together with his family, is a long-time member of the Sydenham Highlands North Congregation.

Nathan is passionate about Israel and he has travelled there many times since his first visit in 1969. Nathan has represented SA at two Maccabias for Golf. In 1977 he won Gold in the Individual tournament and with the SA Team he took Silver. Then in 1993 as a Senior he won Silver in the Individuals and with the SA Team he took Gold. "I love Israel. With my partner David Hirschowitz we have pursued a number of business deals in Israel." Part of his

involvement was his role in creating common ground with Young Zionist and ANC Youth in the 1980's and '90's.

Citing some of the Jewish personalities he has come across in the world of golf, the name Sol Kerzner of course comes to Nathan's lips. "He came in and did something special with the Nedbank Sun City Challenge which put the golfing world's eyes on us." Nathan recalls how Kerzner introduced him to Sam & Hazel Feldman and how the 'shidduch' bore tremendous fruit. The two began a business partnership forming 'Showtime International Sports Promotions'. They ran 12 major golfing tournaments in SA, including the Million Dollar Challenge, and spurred on the sport of Motor Racing, including establishing the Southern Sun Formula One Grand Prix. Then there were George Blumberg and Brenda Blumberg who were also instrumental in propelling the game of golf forward in this country.

"There were some really tough times, where I had to pick up the pieces and rebuild"



As the chief executive of the Sunshine Tour, Nathan is working on a few projects leading into the immediate future. "I want to get Women's golf advanced to the point that we are seeing our women compete internationally. We've had some great success with the Woman's Sunshine Tour in the last few years."

The Sunshine Ladies Tour has just come out of its successful fourth season. Investec is the event sponsor. Director of Investec Property, Robin Magid, said: "We have a proud history of supporting women's sport in South Africa and the Sunshine Ladies Tour has exceeded even our own expectations in the last few years."

Investec has indeed been among the most prolific names in Golf sponsorship in the country. Nathan makes special mention of Sam Hackner, the Chief Executive Officer for Investec Private Bank. "Larry Nestadt and I have been friends since we were Junior Golfers and Larry introduced me to Sam. Investec has been our vital partner and golf in this country has become almost synonymous with the Investec Brand."

Golf Development in the disadvantaged areas is also a part of Nathan's project portfolio. "I am excited about the incredible Soweto Golf Club that has been renovated. The club house is unrecognisable since its rebuilding. We are fixing up the whole course and it has already received droves of membership, interest and participation across the Soweto and surrounds area. This will also create 100's of jobs through caddies, hospitality, managerial, leisure etc. I'm hoping we can see this through by the end of 2017."

Amongst Nathan's most passionate projects has been the Gary Player Class Of 2017. These golfers came out of Johan Rupert's Golfing Development Board. They are a group of 30 golfers of colour who were discovered and head-hunted with the aim of advancing their training with a view to their competing at the highest level.

Nathan becomes sombre when he speaks of his movement out of the leadership of The Sunshine Tour. "I have found the right guy for this position, but can't disclose names at this time. He is a talented young man, with great ability. I'm confident he will competently step right into my shoes and will take it to the next level."

Right through the interview there is the constant repetition by Nathan of the fact that all these major achievements have been a result of a team effort and that in no way can he be singled out to take credit for the advances that have happened in SA sport where he's been involved. "I've worked with great people every step of the way, to get these projects done."

TRIBUTE from DR IRVIN KHOZA



Cuzzy Mzala, the activist, otherwise known as Selwyn Nathan exemplifies the people our former President Thabo Mbeki referred to when he talked of Africans who have chosen to define themselves in action.

18 years ago when the Vodacom Sport & Entertainment was just an idea, Selwyn like a true visionary saw the potential in the Vodacom Challenge pre-season tournament and also in Vodacom S & E that was later to be called SAIL. Through Vodacom S & E and the Vodacom Challenge, many jobs were created and these employees should give thanks for their fortunes rose as a result of the talents and good office of Selwyn Nathan. Selwyn in my books joins a list of deans whose contribution to the sport of the people is unequalled.

In a project you know where you stand with Selwyn. When you go off track left or right, he stops you and pulls you in a straight and narrow and gets you back on track. When you work with him there is always a solution to the problem.

I have been privileged as Chairman of the 2006 and 2010 FIFA WC Bid Committees, the WC 2010 Preparatory Committee and 2010 FIFA WC Local Organising Committee SA, to work with Selwyn, who took his responsibilities in all these as a cause to serve as an activist, selflessly with diligence and integrity. He put the interest of football and the country above the many others in his busy life and schedule.

Any cause requires activism. Activists register every step forward as a victory to be built on. The future they seek is built every day, one day at a time, visible for believers to see the progress.

The prophet Samuel says: "For a person sees the eyes, and the Lord sees the heart." I trust Selwyn will be judged accordingly, as the Lord has the tools to judge the true status of a person.

Hollywood actor, Samuel L. Jackson (2nd L) chats with Sunshine Tour's managing director, Selwyn Nathan (R) at the Observatory Golf Club on March 12, 2013 (Photo by Christiaan Kotze/Foto24/Gallo Images/Getty Images)



TRIBUTE from SAM HACKNER



I have known Nate for more years than I care to mention. We have been golf partners for years and together have won every Pro-am in SA, at least once. Besides his golfing prowess (he drives the ball better than most pros) he is an absolute mensch.

He is totally besotted for golf and his drive, flair and enthusiasm for the game has seen him become Commissioner of the Sunshine Tour. During his tenure the number of co-sanctioned events has increased so dramatically that SA has more European Tour events than any other country. His personality has allowed him access to all facets of Government and business and as a result the golf pros have seen the purses they play for increase from a pittance to well over R200 million per year.

Whilst he is a giant in the realms of SA golf, to me, more importantly is how he is loved by young and old alike and his stories can keep an audience for hours. He is a great father and amazing friend and a super connected business colleague. I think a saying that typifies the man is "he treats adults like children and children like adults" and everyone wants a piece of him. I love you Nate.

Nathan is optimistic about South Africa. He has travelled the country for golf and has worked closely with Premiers, Mayors, and civil servants across the spectrum in bringing major golfing events to cities in SA. "There are some outstanding up-and-coming leaders out there. I'm positive about the future in SA. There are a few rotten apples, but the calibre of people I have and continue to come across within civil society are exceptionally good and I believe the rotten apples will fall off the tree and the good



ones will find their place at the helm. "Since the age of 14 I have been engaging with and observing our fellow black South Africans. I have forged deep and meaningful relationships with many of them. I've watched the transformation, which is unique, that this country has gone through. There is no place like it anywhere and I just hope and pray the country is steered forwards towards the colorful Rainbow Nation promise of tomorrow I believe it could be."

"I've watched the transformation, which is unique, that this country has gone through"

The motor racing industry in SA has also benefitted greatly from the years in which Nathan was involved.

In the mid 1980's Nathan was behind the restructuring of the Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit. In many ways he was responsible for the reemergence of Motorsport in South Africa. In the late 80's he established the JVC South African Kart Grand Prix at Kyalami, the first international Motor Race in South Africa since the lifting of sanctions. He was also the brainchild behind the 1993 Formula One Grand Prix in SA and the World Superbikes in SA from 1996 – 2000.

Due to his strong ties with Bernie Ecclestone, FIA Boss, The Flammini brothers (World Superbike) and various other sporting bodies, the circuit saw an emergence of international events.

Despite his impossibly busy schedule,

which includes regular travel both locally and abroad, Nathan is generous with sharing his knowledge and dispensing advice be it on talk shows, business forums or behind closed doors. His honesty in assessing a venture or idea can be clinical and not for the faint-hearted. But, all along he will inspire, with encouragement to be bold, of courage and to press on, with the ethic that action is paramount and that time is a commodity not to be squandered. When I asked Nathan for a singular message to offer, I expected an astute business and entrepreneurial guiding principle. His surprising choice of words showed a glimpse into the menschlichkeit of the man when he said: "Be nice, be generous. You never know when someone might do the same to you." He then sealed that with a hearty "Amen!"

In generations to come, South African sports will look back at some of its most important transitional experiences this country has had. For millions of citizens these will have been times of joy and celebration. For many they were watershed moments that opened up opportunities that to generations that preceded them, were unthinkable. These have been milestone events that have shaped South Africa and enriched the countries esteem, its culture and national character. What's often forgotten, are the pioneers that forged the path and direction and that fed the fuel that was needed to give birth to many of these breakthrough achievements. At the summit, amongst these 'movers and shakers', who have peeled away at the dark, to eventually create a brighter sporting South Africa, stands Selwyn Nathan.



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The Stacy Bredman Interview

By Jules Urdang

SS: Where were you educated?

SB: At King David Sandton, then King David Linksfield and I ended off with a year of home schooling.

When did you start playing golf?

SB: At the age of 13.

SS: What were your best achievements as an amateur?

SB: In 2006, I won the World Amateur (the girls equivalent to the Eisenhower Cup) with Ashleigh Simon and Kelly Shean at De Zalze golf course outside Stellenbosch.

SS: You won the Maccabi Sportsman of the Year award in 2007, were runner up in 2005/6, and nominated in 2008. How important were these awards to you?

SB: It is very important to be honoured

and recognised in one's own community.

SS: When did you turn professional and what was your motivation for doing so?

SB: After winning the World Amateur, which is the highest possible achievement in the Amateur ranks, I decided that I was ready to take the next step up into the professional world.

SS: When did you join the Ladies European Tour (LET)?

SB: When I turned professional in 2007.

SS: Which is your favourite event on the LET, and why?

SB: Dubai. It is a great course - the same course on which the men play the Dubai Desert Classic, the organisation is excellent and we are treated fantastically well.

SS: You were second in the SA Women's Open in 2013. What would it mean

to you to win your National Open?

SB: It is pretty important. It would be something special to win one's own National Open, especially in front of one's own family and friends.

SS: 2014 was your best year on the LET with 6 Top 10 finishes and 12th place on the Order of Merit. To what do you attribute this success, what were the high points, and how frustrating was it not to secure a victory?

SB: Nothing really changed and, in fact, I didn't really train and took things easily. I putted really solidly throughout the campaign. It was really frustrating not to be able to get over the line and win a tournament.

SS: In 2015 you had a purple patch on the Sunshine Tour, winning 3 events in a row. How important is the Sunshine Tour to you?

SB: The Sunshine Tour is really important because it comes at the start of the year following the off-season, during which you work on your game. A number of good players come from overseas, so you can see where your game is at and it sets you up for the rest of the year.

SS: This year you have had 5 Top 10 finishes on the Sunshine Tour. What are your plans and goals for the rest of the year?

SB: To secure a maiden victory on the LET, finish in the top 5 or 10 in the Order of Merit, and to get a card for the LPGA, preferably not through qualifying school (tournaments that enable one to qualify for big events), but through LET performance and world ranking.

SS: Which tournament would you most like to win, and why?

SB: The Scottish Open at Loch Lomond, as Scotland is the home of golf. Also, it is a co-sanctioned event, and a win gives entry to the LPGA Tour.

SS: What is the state of women's golf in South Africa?

SB: Very healthy. Prize money on the Sunshine Tour has increased significantly and the tour is now over two months long. Investec, through their sponsorship of the Investec Cup, have pumped in a lot of money. At the same time, there is now greater exposure to women's golf on TV, with

highlights' packages being aired of most of the events.

SS: If you have a choice of watching an LPGA event or a PGA event, which would you choose, and why?

SB: Outside of the majors, an LPGA event because I can relate to it better and it gives me a chance to see the girls that I am competing against.

SS: Laetitia Beck of Israel is a regular on the LPGA tour. Have you met her or played with her? Are there any other Jewish golfers?

SB: I have met Laetitia once but have never played with her. The only other Jewish golfer that I know of is Morgan Pressel.

(Ed. Morgan has 2 LPGA Tour wins, was second in the US Open in 2005, and is the niece of the well known tennis player, Aaron Krickstein).

SS: On tour, do you seek out places of Jewish interest or history in the cit-

ies where you play?

SB: Yes. In Munich I visited Dachau Concentration Camp and in Prague I always visit the Jewish Quarter.

SS: What are the strengths of your game, and what area are working on and looking for improvement now?

SB: My iron play is my strength and my putting has improved over the years. I have been working on my game off the tee with my driver as well as my short game, particularly, pitching.

SS: Thank you Stacy, and good luck from all at Soul Sport

Jules Urdang studied at Wits University in the late 70's and early 80's where he was heavily involved in all areas of football administration. He has held various Treasury and Finance positions at a couple of banks and a large private company. He is currently a Pension Fund and Treasury consultant. Jules is a self confessed sports nut whose sporting passions are soccer, cricket and golf, at which he can at best be described as a "hacker".



In deep concentration, Stacy measures her next putt

GARY PLAYER'S BIG 5



Gary Player is one of the most illustrious Golfer of all time winning 165 tournaments on six continents over six decades including 9 Majors. Player is also a philanthropist, businessman and a golf course designer. Soul Sport spoke to Gary Player and asked him which he considers to be the top 5 golf courses in South Africa and why. Here are GARY PLAYER'S BIG 5.

1 The Links at Fancourt

This course is particularly close to my heart, and easily can be considered one of the best courses in the world. There were challenges when we first started designing the course with the ground being flat and covered in clay. It was designed to make you feel as if you are at Ballybunion or St Andrews in Scotland with its links style and feel. This is a truly special golf experience for South Africans and those visiting from around the world. The 2003 Presidents Cup was played here. If you travel to South Africa, don't miss out on this incredible and challenging playing experience.



2 Gary Player Country Club

Considered one of the toughest courses in South Africa, I am proud this spectacular setting is home of the Nedbank Golf Challenge of which I am the host. With it being part of the European Tour and Rolex Series, it makes this event even more important with many implications on line at the end of the year and season. The course captures the spirit of golf in South Africa. Carved out of dense bushveld in an old volcano, golfers enjoy their experience on the course with baboons, elephant and many other species of game nearby.



3



Lost City Golf Course No doubt one of my favourite courses out of our nearly 400 worldwide. Debatably, it is tougher than the Gary Player Country Club, especially if you set it up on the back tees as a championship course. It requires the best shot making of any golf course in South Africa, with it being a very strategic layout. Big baobab trees, set high in the hills with massive rocks in an African desert style theme makes this unique. We even design a hole that has crocodiles on the edge of the green that is in the shape of the African continent.

4

Blair Atholl

From elevated tees above the Crocodile River to carefully bunkered greens that hug the water, Blair Atholl is a golf course built in literally the backyard of my former home. We designed it be an African experience with indigenous olive trees and natural veld throughout. Our vision was to create the very best golf course and estate ever seen in Southern Africa which hopefully it will become in time.



5



Leopard Creek

Like the Gary Player Country Club and Lost City Golf Course, Leopard Creek is surrounded by one of Africa's largest game reserves in Kruger National Park. The fact that you could be playing and hear a hippo snort, or see giraffe cross the fairway, is quite unique. I am proud this magnificent course plays host to the European Tour's Dunhill Championship and consider it one of the worlds very best courses within a unique setting with impeccable service.

A treasure chest of unrecorded stories & personalities

Free State Fairytale

By Steven Katzew



The achievements and stories of the many Jewish Sportsmen and Sports-women who have represented South Africa at Sport are well documented and recorded.

Not so however the feats and records of their counterparts below the national tier. They may enjoy a mention here and there but as memories of admirers recede, so too will the recall of their feats fade and eventually be completely erased.

I believe it is up to individual members of communities to record their recall of Jewish Sportsmen and Sportswomen in their milieu who excited their interest, fascination, admiration and support. By so doing they will preserve a treasure chest of unrecorded stories.

I grew up in Virginia on the Orange Free State Goldfields in the sixties and seventies. My parents were still living there in the early eighties. My earliest experience of Jewish Sportsmen below international level is rooted in that space and time.

My great friend Anthony (nicknamed Toenie) Hersch from Welkom was the first esteemed Jewish sportsman I encountered. He was without peer in the Free State Jewish community, at school-boy level, in that era (the early seventies).

Toenie was selected to represent Free State Schools at the Nuffield Interprovincial Cricket Week from his second year at Welkom High School in 1971, when he was barely 15 years old. This feat was matched one year later in 1972, when Kepler Wessels of Grey College in Bloemfontein, made his Nuffield debut for Free State Schools, also at the age of 15.

Kepler Wessels went on to play 24 Test Matches for Australia from 1982 to 1986

and later captained South Africa in 16 Test Matches from 1991 to 1994.

Toenie's prodigious skills and talent, coupled with a fierce determination, extended to the soccer and hockey field as well. He was lost to soccer when Welkom High School discontinued the sport in 1972, but he continued playing hockey and cricket until well into his twenties.

"Toenie's remarkable achievements and inspiration rubbed off on other youthful members of the community"

During his military service, Toenie represented Defence in Pretoria in both cricket and hockey. Thereafter, he represented Eastern Province Country Districts in hockey while at Rhodes University and then played hockey and cricket for Free State Country Districts while doing law articles in Welkom.

Toenie eventually settled in London, Ontario, Canada where he represented the province of Ontario in cricket.

Toenie's remarkable achievements and inspiration rubbed off on other youthful members of the community.

I have a newspaper cutting from the Bloemfontein daily 'The Friend' from Thursday October 10 1974, reporting on the Goldfields and Bloemfontein sides that participated in the OFS Nuffield cricket trials for the selection of the Free State team to attend the Nuffield Cricket Week in December 1974. My brother, Rodney Katzew, is in the Goldfields team and Kepler Wessels' name appears in the Bloemfontein team.

Rodney never made the Free State Nuffield side, but he did play soccer for

Northern Free State schools at an interprovincial tournament held at Johannesburg's Rand Stadium. Northern Free State was captained by Liam Kirkham who in later years played many rugby games at fullback for Transvaal and very nearly earned a Springbok cap when he warmed the bench as a reserve for the full duration of a Test.

I had a taste of Toenie's inspiration too. I was generally out of my depth in the company of truly talented and skillful sportsmen in my chosen sporting pursuits, but my perseverance was rewarded on the soccer field in 1971 when, in a sublime gesture of friendship and camaraderie at the trials to select the team to represent Northern Free State under fourteen soccer at an interprovincial schools tournament, Toenie by dint of special effort, played me in to selection for the team.

It was an experience that to this day fills me with trust, faith and appreciation of friendship and support.

In the seventies when the flow of Jewish migration was away from the country towns to the big cities, the Dusheiko family from Johannesburg moved against the flow, to Virginia. Amongst them was lean and wiry Louis, in his twenties, who had been a formidable schoolboy fast bowler in Johannesburg.

Louis joined the Harvinia Cricket Club in Virginia and it was not long before he became an influential figure in Northern Free State Club Cricket.

Louis' prolific wicket-taking earned him a place in the Free State Country Districts Cricket Team in 1977. In 1978, Louis won the cup for the best bowler that season for Harvinia Club and again represented Free State Country Districts in 1978 and 1979. This was followed by a call up to open the bowling for the Free State Senior Team in two Currie Cup B section



Free State Captain Neil Rosendorff in the nets

interprovincial matches.

I often wonder whether in the history of Free State Cricket there has ever been another Jewish opening bowler for the Free State Currie Cup Team. Perhaps a reader can enlighten me.

Louis emigrated to Los Angeles in the 1980's and sadly passed away young of leukemia.

Without doubt, the most illustrious Jewish Sportsman in the Free State since Junior Springbok Rugby player Henry Joffe from Kroonstad in the late forties and early fifties was Neil Rosendorff, a left-hand batsman and right-arm medium paced bowler who represented Free State cricket in the Currie Cup B Section for 17 years from 1962 to 1979. He also played 11 limited-over matches from 1969 to 1980.

Excluding the 11 limited-overs matches, Neil amassed 5 014 First Class runs at an average of 42,49 and also captured 68 wickets at an average of 37,82.

I believe that closer scrutiny of Neil's career will reveal overtures by Currie Cup A Section provinces amidst speculation that he could have forced himself into reckoning for national honours.

Neil however, remained a loyal servant to Free State Cricket. On Wednesday 8th March 2017, I tracked down Stol Jacobs, a Free State cricketing stalwart, to Phalaborwa in Limpopo Province. Stol was Club and First Team Captain of Harvinia Cricket Club in Virginia in the days when Louis Dusheiko was playing for the club in the late seventies. (By the way, Stol informed me that he retired from playing cricket at the age of 54 in 1995 after playing for Harvinia for 36 years.) Stol also informed me that he, Piet de Jager and Neil Rosendorff were Free State Cricket selectors together at some stage.

Sadly Neil also passed away relatively young on 12th September 2015 in Bloemfontein at age 70. I have spoken to his cousin Dr. Rosendorff from Stel-

lenbosch who said he would help put me in touch with potential sources for further information on Neil's prodigious sporting career. (I understand that after retiring from the cricket field Neil took to bowls with great success as well.)

Neil Rosendorff, without doubt, deserves an article entirely devoted to him, with particular focus on details of his captaincy of Free State, which need to be ascertained, as well as on the speculation that he could have forced himself into reckoning for national honours. It is worth bearing in mind that Neil's career spanned eras of formidable South African teams, coupled with the dawning of isolation of South Africa from International Cricket.

For all the wonderful achievements of the personalities mentioned, the achievement that most fires my imagination is that of my late cousin Tony Katzew, as a schoolboy rugby coach at Welkom High School in the late seventies and early eighties.

Tony was a model educator and an inspirational schoolboy rugby coach. When he arrived at Welkom High School in 1977

"I often wonder whether in the history of Free State Cricket there has ever been another Jewish opening bowler for the Free State Currie Cup Team"

he had already achieved success as a first team rugby coach at Bryanston High School in Johannesburg where he produced Bryanston High's first Transvaal Craven Week player.

When Tony took up his post at Welkom High, the school had a below par First Rugby 15 that was confined to friendly matches against lesser known schools and occasionally against age group teams of the Northern Free State power houses like Goudveld Hoër and Gimnasium Hoër.

Within the space of a few years, Tony transformed Welkom High School into a force in the local league, producing no less than five Northern Free State Craven Week players, including a Captain, over a period when Northern Free State twice reached the final of the Craven Week, including a 9-6 victory over Free State in the one final.

In the process, the Welkom High School First 15 toppled the Northern Free State power houses Goudveld Hoërskool, Gimnasium Hoërskool and Kroonstad Hoërskool (known as "die Blouskool").

I am sure that anyone with a knowledge of schoolboy rugby in South Africa will agree that this achievement ranks with the best inspirational coaching stories in South African Schools rugby and perhaps, even in South African rugby in general. These stories and achievements are of course only a very small part of the enormous contribution of Jewish personali-

ties to Sport in South Africa, below international level. I hope that they will inspire others to record their memories as well.

Steven Katzew has been a practicing advocate for over 25 years. He played sport at Provincial and the University level including soccer, squash and rugby. He is an avid sports fan and follows Jews in sport closely.

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Leon crossing the finish line at the 1990 Southern Sun Super Triathlon. (Opposite) Cruising to the finish of the 1986 Business Day/Leppin Iron Man Ultra

Trials of a Triathlete

- and all that Jazz!

By Desiree Firer



SOUTHERN SUN/AVIS
SUPER TRIATHLON 1990

According to Ken Doherty, snooker champion supreme, the 5 'S' 's of sport are: stamina, speed, strength, skill and spirit — but the greatest of these is spirit. This could be the mantra by which Leon Tobias, triathlete extraordinaire, has lived his sporting life, which has spanned almost four decades.

Yet who would have thought that such an illustrious career could have been sparked by six simple words: "Come to the gym with me". Saul Ozynsky, a teacher at Redhill High School which Leon attended, must have realized that being called "Fatty Tobias," was not conducive to a teenager acquiring self-confidence. Having a positive rapport with his pupil, Saul introduced Leon to a fitness regime that would reduce his weight. And he succeeded. To look at Leon today — a lean, mean, athletic machine — a person would find it very difficult to believe that he could have been anything other than this man of muscle that he is.

Being a triathlete was not his original intention. The first discipline, which eventually led to his participation and success in International Iron-Man Ultra triathlons, as well as many top National triathlons, was canoeing. He began canoeing at the age of fourteen at Redhill High. In a short space of time, he was selected for the Transvaal Schools' canoeing team. During the off-season, as part of the winter training schedule, his coach insisted that the team cycle. This began the second phase in the three-phase disciplines required in triathlon.

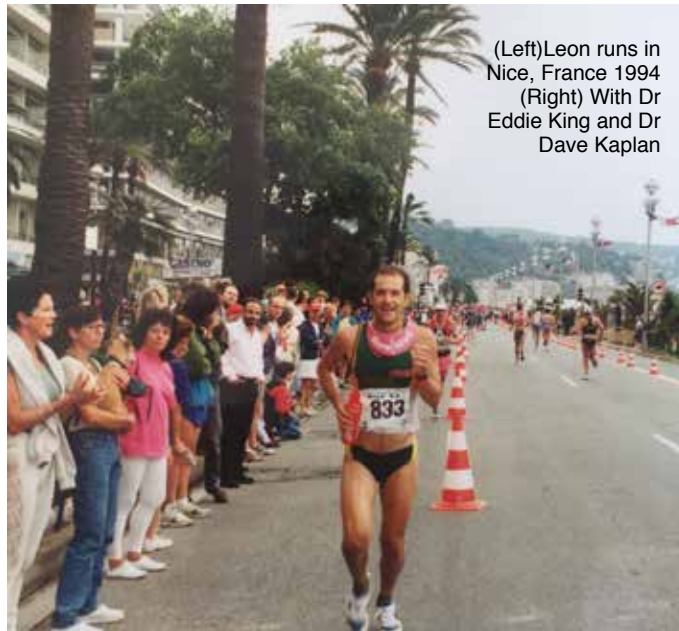
In 1984, during his stint in the South African Defence Force, he met up with the son of his family doctor, also a doctor, Dave Kaplan. This was the beginning of a life-long friendship and Leon's introduction to running. At this time, canoeing was still accepted as one of the three disciplines. By 1986, Leon had already mastered canoeing; was a proficient cyclist and thanks to his army buddy, Doctor Dave, was now a 'runner-of-note' too! Dr. Eddie King, one of the most highly ranked triathletes of the time, was a par-



ticipant in the Leppin Rand Daily Mail Iron Man, Leon's first foray into triathlon. This was the most prestigious event at the time, comprising a 21km canoe race on the Haartebeestpoort dam; a 120km road cycle race to Voortrekkerhoogte and a full marathon (42.2 km) to Megawatt Park. Dr. Dave Kaplan was also an entrant. For Leon, this became the famous 'Doctor First and Doctor Last race,' as Dr Eddie King came first and Dr Dave Kaplan came last! Fortunately, Dave redeemed himself in other triathlons! Joel Weinberg and Vic Boston were two other major competitors in the world of triathlon. Leon spoke of

these four notable sportsmen with a great deal of warmth and admiration.

In the mid 1990s, canoeing was replaced by swimming as a third sport. Leon now entered the Rave Sports Sun International Ultra triathlon in which he had to complete a 32 km open water swim, a 120 km cycle race and 32 km run. He was placed 10th overall in a field of approximately 300 competitors. In 1997, a team of 20 triathletes was selected to represent South Africa in Nice, France, in the World Long Distance Triathlon championships, and Leon was one of the chosen! This was despite the



(Left) Leon runs in Nice, France 1994
(Right) With Dr Eddie King and Dr Dave Kaplan



fact that his swimming training had started so much later in his sporting career.

Then came the Maccabi Games. Being very proud of his Jewish Heritage, he was determined to participate in the Games in Israel - which he did with great success. His second Games in 1997 saw him gaining a silver medal in his age group. Eight years later in 2005 he achieved the coveted gold medal in his age group. 2002 was a phenomenal year for Leon. It was the year he followed what is known as the 'Holy Grail' of triathlons. He said, "The Iron Man in Kona, Hawaii, is the Holy Grail to which every triathlete aspires". It consists of a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile cycle race, and a 26.2 mile run. "I was able to participate because I won the Lottery which selects a certain amount of competitors a year. I remember that swimming in the waters of Hawaii was easier than swimming the South African seas. In Kona, I swam with shoals of fish swimming right alongside me".

He completed the event in an excellent time, much to his satisfaction. When this race had started in 1978, with only 15 participants, each one was handed 3 sheets of paper with a few rules and a course description. The last page read: 'Swim 2.4 miles! Bike 112 miles! Run 26.2 miles! Brag for the rest of your life!' Although Leon does not boast, being the modest man that he is, his achievement is certainly one to

brag about!

More recently, Leon has taken part in several 5150 Triathlons in Bela Bela (Warmbaths). He achieved first place in his age group in four consecutive years and achieved second place twice. When I asked him how he felt about being chased

"Being a triathlete was not his original intention. The first discipline, which eventually led to his participation and success in International Iron-Man Ultra triathlons, as well as many top National triathlons, was canoeing"

and sometimes overtaken by the young upcoming triathletes, he said, "I'm content with where I am and what I am. It means nothing to me and I recognise their prowess".

A number of these 'up-and-comings' are being mentored by this amazing man who refuses to accept the title of coach and corrected me several times when I used the term. Mark Sack, Gavin Mofsowitz, Greg Sacks and Mike Seligson are four of his protégées. Mark and Gavin are currently in the top echelon of South African

triathletes. Why Leon refuses to be called a 'coach' is that he regards himself as a 'contestant-mentor'. He enjoys the camaraderie of being a co-competitor among sportsmen.

During the 2009 Gold Coast Olympic Distance event in Australia, he tore a hamstring. However, this did not prevent him from completing the triathlon and going on to enter and complete the Half Iron Man in East London early in 2010, despite his being told that he needed surgery. When he finally had the operation, he was told that 13cm of his hamstring had been detached and was hanging from his ischium. It is astonishing that anyone could have the fortitude and mental strength to ignore what must have been excruciating pain. But this is what drives this man of iron; what motivates him to be a champion and the builder of champions.

Despite his passion for his sporting life, Leon ensures that he spends much of his time with his family. His wife, Kim, schlepped with him all over the world as he represented South Africa 13 times in 13 countries. "This was her reward for sticking by me!", he chuckled. Amy and Megan, his two daughters, and his son Zack, have become accustomed to their father's idiosyncrasies regarding 'Time-Out'. When they ask, "Dad, what do you want for your birthday?" he answers, "A very long run and then time together!".

As an expression of their devotion to their families, he and his older brother were two major sponsors in the writing of a Sefer Torah. So he combines his love of family with his Yiddishkeit. This is tremendously important to him. He is a member of both the Sydenham Highlands North congregation and the Lions Shul. He attends Shabbat services regularly, even when he is away participating in competitions. Quite unbelievably, he has not encountered anti-Semitism anywhere in his travels.

So what is Leon Tobias doing now? He still exercises his core abdominals as Saul Ozynsky instructed him to do years ago. He still follows the Barry Sears Zone Diet as he has for 15 years. This diet is based on maintaining insulin levels. Leon has chosen not to eat red meat or any form of processed sugar since he was a teenager. Protein however, features largely in his diet and he is an admitted 'cheesaholic'!


Family and Judaism are still his main considerations and he still owns and manages Jazzman Plumbing supplies, as he has for the last 28 years. The Mall of Africa in Midrand and Sasol's new Head Office building in Sandton are two of his satisfied customers.

But what has changed, is his sporting preference. Nowadays, Leon has become very involved in Mountain Biking (MTB). 2008 was the year that the Mountain Bike bug bit him. He knew nothing about MTB, yet he entered his first Epic with Mark Sack. His reason for the change was that he wanted anonymity and he wanted to be relieved of the pressure of being chased. Mountain biking has taken over to such an extent that he participates in triathlons only occasionally. In 2012 he again took part in the Epic, and again more recently in 2016 (B Position; 136 GC; 36 Masters).

When I asked Leon if age plays any part in his long sporting career, his response was, "My endurance remains the same, but

post-event recovery is definitely slower. I now use tapes of all colours and shapes to assist my muscles. I have been told that each affects different areas of the body". Then he began to laugh, "I don't know if I believe in any of it — but I still do it. Just in case!"

Desirée Firer holds an MA in English Education and a Licentiate Diploma in Speech & Drama. She is married to Steven and they have four children. She is a regular contributor to Soul Sport.



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The Grand Sports Raffle

Soul Workout non-profit org hosted The Grand Sports Raffle in 2016. Two mega-sports prizes were on offer. Two VIP seat tickets to a top Premier Leagues fixtures Chelsea vs Arsenal & two tickets to Melbourne to watch the quarter finals of the Australian Open.

The fundraiser assisted the Tshireletso school in Soweto with much needed relief from a range of water, toilet an overall sanitation problems, experienced in the school of 450 learners. "We had broken systems with numerous problems including our toilets, pipes, water systems, sewerage, blockages. Soul Workout through the Grand Sports Raffle enables us to have a functional and operational sanitary system at Tshireletso," said Ghady Mokgethi, the school principal. The Angel Network and Hughs Haven orphanage also worked with the raffle to raise funds for their causes.

The amazing Grand Sports Raffle is now being repeated with 2 Tickets to the World Cup quarter Finals in Russia! Kia is the Grand Raffle brand supporter. Last raffle's winners, Sol Gordon & Lewis Weinstein share their winning experiences.

No. 01638475

Winner to the Australian Open Lewis Weinstein

Lo and behold my wife and I found ourselves going Down Under.

How amazing the surprise I got when I received a call to say I had won 2 tickets to the quarter finals of the Australian Open.

I must admit Australia was not somewhere I'd ever thought of visiting. Although Crocodile Dundee made Down Under look heroically exciting, being arch rivals in rugby and cricket, I was not quite supportive of anything really Australian. I must admit that that all changed once we landed in Melbourne. From the time we arrived the friendliness and service of the people bowled us over. The city was charming and beautifully manicured. The Rod Laver Arena was spectacular. Having always watched the tennis on TV, it was overwhelming sitting with thousands of people watching Serena Williams and the other top seeds playing. Every effort was made to ensure that our stay and experience at the Australian Open was exciting and the Grand Sports Raffle didn't disappoint.

Thank you to all the sponsors, Soul Workout npo, Kia SA and Tennis Australia for the most wonderful experience.



Winner to London - Chelsea vs Arsenal Solomon Gordon

I bought two tickets for the Soul Workout raffle as the cause - education for underprivileged children - was worthwhile.

When Ilan Herrmann phoned to tell me that I had won, I was blown-away and phoned him back to confirm it was for real!

The prize was airfare for two to London, accommodation for four nights at a centrally situated hotel in London, two tickets for the Premier League Chelsea vs Arsenal match at the Chelsea Football Club at Stamford Bridge. At 12.20 we were invited to take our seats for the game. We had an excellent overview of the grounds and the club.



We had carefully selected our colours in tones of blue (the Chelsea colours) with not an iota of red (the Arsenal colours). The air of excitement, with 55 000 fans crowded into the majestic Stamford Bridge, was palpable.

Linesmen came onto the field with banners and a few minutes later the teams ran on to the field to tumultuous screaming, which never stopped for the duration of the game - especially the chaos that erupted when a goal was scored! It was incredible to watch players like Diego Costa in action. The final score was Chelsea 3 - Arsenal 1.

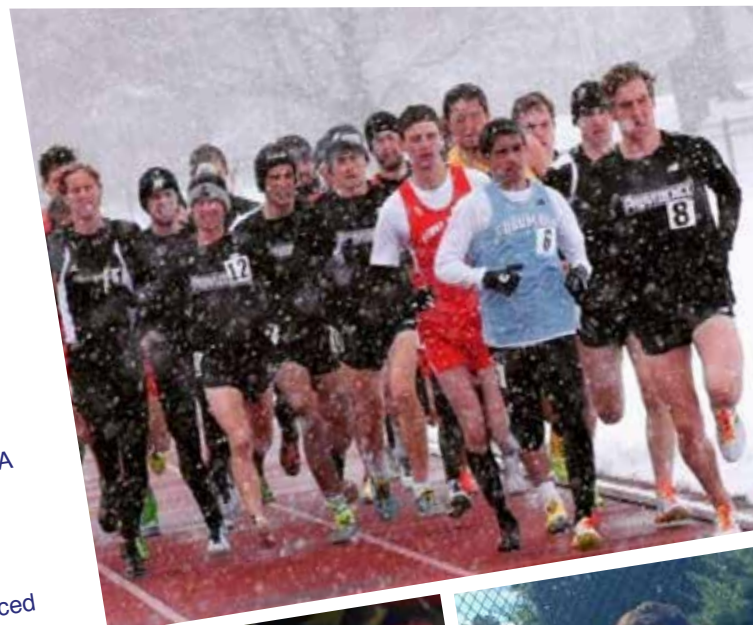
This marvellous and memorable event is one of the most exciting things that I have experienced to date!



The South African emigration phenomenon over the past few decades has made a significant impact on our once thriving Jewish community. SA ex-pats have made their homes almost everywhere abroad, where they have significantly influenced the countries and communities to which they have relocated. In spheres such as Jewish life, commerce and industry, philanthropy and sport, South African Jews have made enormous contributions to their new homes.

But as Toto, one of the pop groups of the 80s, say in their song 'Africa': "It's gonna take a lot to take me away from you" - there remains a strong tie to their country of origin and we take much pride in the success stories of our homegrown heroes.

A generation or two ago it was Jody Sheckter, Ilana Kloss, Shaun Tomson and other such illustrious SA Jewish sporting legends who carried the green and gold flag with its flying Springbok, onto new turf. In our 'Ex-Pat Feature', we take a look at some SA Jewish athletes, or their children, who have excelled in sport in their new homes abroad.



In 1995, the Carreira family made Aliyah to Israel. Lior, 20, lives in Ra'anana, Israel, with his parents Dion (ex-Durban) & Jodi (ex-Johannesburg) and his 3 brothers: Eitan (16), Yaniv (10) and Shai (5).

Sports runs in the family. Lior's dad played rugby for Israel and his mother started netball in Israel 18 years ago and has played with and coached the national team.

Lior is 2 meters tall and is a professional basketball player for Ironi Raanana. This is his second year as a 'pro' in the senior team and he plays in Israeli Division 2 where they are the top side and are aiming for promotion.

Lior's successes in Israel and internationally, include: 2 national championships including an MVP award in his second championship season; 1 national cup; a high school championship which led to the world championships in Limoge, France and, as he states: "Probably the best moment in my life! We finished 3rd in the world, winning a bronze medal. I was named MVP (Most Valuable Player) along with four other players from different countries. This was a huge honour as there were 24 countries participating and almost 300 really great basketball players and I was one of the MVPs."

With the national team, he won a silver medal, which promoted

Israel to Division A in the U18 European Championships in Austria. A gold medal followed in an U19 Christmas tournament in Belgium.

In October 2015 he went in to the army as an elite sportsman. Towards the end of last season, one game before the playoffs he suffered a bad knee injury (anterior cruciate ligament), partial tear of the MCL (medial collateral ligament) and a lot of pain. In three months following the injury he had two surgeries. He was on crutches and a wheel chair for a while.

He recalls: "Facing my biggest fear and biggest challenge I had to fight the pain and the mental breakdowns and work hard. After my second surgery, I was going for physio everyday for 5 hours a day. After almost 8 months now of intensive physiotherapy and training I am now almost back to full action and training. The positive side of this injury is the people I met along the way who helped and continue helping, and my appreciation for the small things in life like having a healthy body, walking and being independent."

"During the first stages of rehab I was in bed or on the couch most of the day so I used the time to read books and get into nutrition so hopefully one day I can study nutrition."

"The army has partially released me, every three months I go for a committee meeting and they decide what to do with me. My service finishes in June 2018 unless I get released permanently at my next medical review in April this year."

Lior was asked to be the assistant coach of his Ra'anana team. "I am still invited to the national team trainings, I coach kids in school basketball twice a week, 3 different age groups and I am a personal trainer for about 8 teenagers."

LIOR CARREIRA

JOSHUA BERMAN

Joshua Berman is our first ex-pat. He's an incredibly talented chess player and tennis star.

Josh holds dual citizenship. He currently lives in the USA but considers SA, equally, his home. He is very much 'proudly South African'.

"I've had the privilege of growing up in both New York City and Cape Town and I consider myself both American and South African. My mom Sara, is American and my dad, David, is South African." Born in New York, Joshua and family divided their time between locations. "January through April we lived in Cape Town and for the rest we were in New York."

Thanks to a culture of sports and academics in his family, Josh has achieved impressively on both fronts.

When he was in grade two, Josh played in the US Chess Championship in Houston, USA, winning five of his seven games and finishing ninth in his age group. He came away with a trophy that was "as big as I was".

At age 8, while in SA, Josh was home-tutored and played tennis for six hours a day. School tutors were arranged around his tennis schedule. "It was a rigorous schedule, but one on which I thrived."

In 2010, at age nine, Josh won the Under-12 Western Province chess tournament, as well as the WP tennis tournament under-10 age group.

Although he still plays competitive tennis and recently won a Level One Eastern US tournament, Josh does not have the time to participate in sufficient tournament.

Josh has qualified for the USA Maccabi U18 Tennis squad to go to Israel this June. Excitedly he says, "It will be fun and particularly special as I will have my brother Jacob also competing in the Maccabiah" (in chess for SA!).

"I love tennis more than ever and may take a gap year after high school to pursue it. Most of the players from my early days in tennis are already playing at the highest level."

Josh attends Yeshiva Ramaz School in NYC. Ramaz offers a dual curriculum in both English and Hebrew. His school day ends at 4:45pm after which he eats, changes, commutes to tennis and back and only at 9:45pm does he start school work!

Tennis in the USA is so competitive that the two hours daily tennis Josh plays cannot compete with the multiple that other top players spend playing.

Josh's focus on his academic studies has positioned him so well as to be able to apply to any college in the country. "I'm looking at applying early, to either Princeton, Yale or Stanford."

He concludes: "Being involved in chess and tennis constitutes a key part of who I am and the dreams that I have. I am forever grateful for the lessons I have learned through these respective sports, that will stay with me for the rest of my life."



PHILIP BEHR

Philip Behr recalls growing up in South Africa as being, "Fantastic! Sport was a culture that flowed through the communities' veins!"

He and his siblings had very supportive parents who loved sport and enjoyed schlepping their children around to sports practices and fixtures, "I loved listening to all my father's sports stories and accomplishments!"

When Philip was three years old, his parents realised that he had a special talent for swimming. He was enrolled at the Janet Price swim school and, at the age of six, he began competing at swimming events, where he excelled from the outset.

Then, at King David Linksfield Primary school, Philip came under the swimming tutelage of Jeff Allan, a former Olympian. Philip recalls that "We had a very strong team and won the regional school champs." Philip received the titles of both junior and senior Victor Ladorum in sport. He represented Transvaal at the Nationals for backstroke.

Philip moved to Highlands North Boys High school. It was at this stage that he lost his passion for swimming. It was soon to be replaced with a passion for golf: "My cousin and I started playing golf when we were 16 and soon I began to show a keen interest. My grandfather was a 4 handicap golfer who had 'put away his putter' for bowls. He very kindly gave me his clubs - which was

the beginning of my career."

School holidays at Huddle Park was par for the course. He developed friendships with guys who had played the game and with whom he subsequently spent many years of competitions, Maccabi tours, Nationals, Barney Gordons and with whom he has remained close friends until today.

Philip's golfing achievements include:

- 1982 - Junior Maccabi Team tour to Israel
- 1985 - Played Israeli Open
- 1989 - Maccabiah Games for SA
- 1997 - Barney Gordon champion
- 1998 - Glendower Club champion
- 2006 - 6th place Dunhill Cup Scotland
- Glendower National League champion twice

Philip emigrated to Australia in December 2007 and lives in Bondi, very close to the beach. The pendulum has swung again and he has taken up swimming where he had left off. "I joined a group of guys in the mornings, running on the beach and swimming in the ocean. I started to get my love of swimming back. I started getting fitter and I began to swim ocean races. I joined a swimming squad and had to rebuild my stroke and work on my strength. It took me about three years of persistence to start swimming properly again."

Philip has gone on to represent Australia in the Masters Swimming team and has won:

- Three silver medals:
- 50 meter freestyle
- 200 meter freestyle
- 100 meter backstroke

- One bronze
- 50 meter backstroke

Philip regularly finishes in the top three in his age group in many ocean races covering distances of between one and three kilometres.



TAL BRAUDE

Tal Braude left South Africa when he was six years old after attending King David Linksfield nursery and pre-primary school. His family settled down in San Diego, California, in 2001, soon after the September 11th Twin Towers attacks.

When Tal and his two older brothers completed their schooling, he enrolled to study Psychology and Sociology at Columbia University in New York. Tal currently runs track for Columbia and balances this with university work and a social life. His oldest brother is also planning on studying at Columbia for his post-grad, while his other brother has gone on to become a rabbi living in Jerusalem.

"I hope to finish school at Columbia and work towards running professionally. I am even considering moving to Israel to try to run professionally for Israel. My life to date has been a dream - to say the least! I enjoy my studies at university, I love my daily runs with my friends through Manhattan and Central Park, and I have even started a weekly study session with my Chabad rabbi." Tal jests with a hint of seriousness, "Who knows, maybe one day I'll become a running rabbi."

"In running, I believe that I have tapped into something innate within myself; a talent and love for something so simple, but which really brings me happiness and has surrounded me with friends that care about me. My family has played an essential role in my development as a runner because without my brothers chasing me around the house with a cricket bat, I doubt I would have realized that I had such running prowess! I would encourage everyone to try to get out for a jog every now and then - purely for the breaths of fresh air and the momentary pause from the modern day pace."

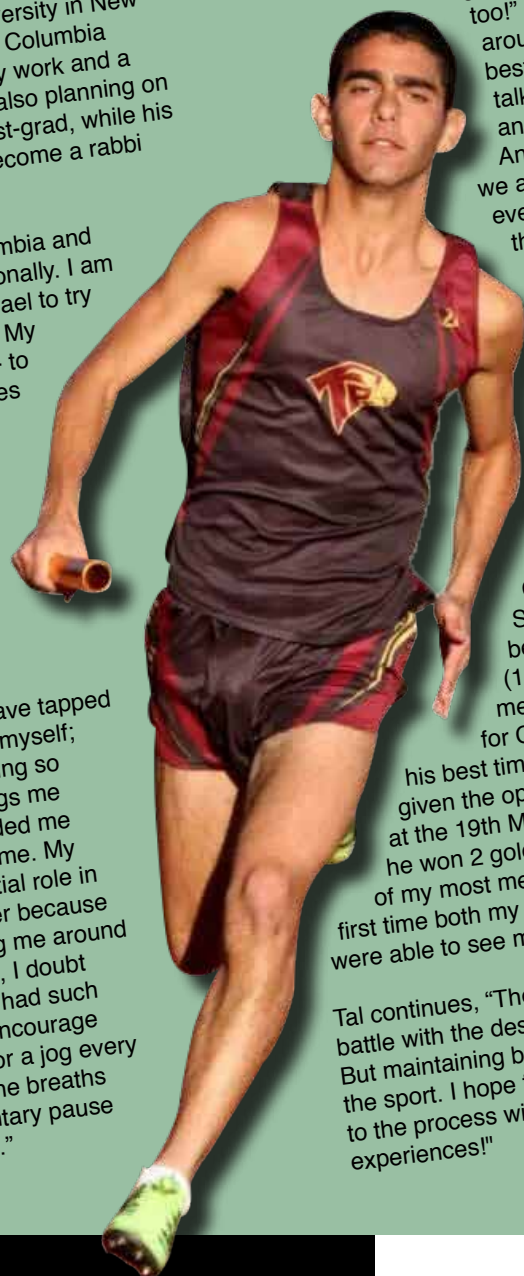
Tal describes running track and cross country as "very demanding but very rewarding."

He is given a weekly mileage schedule by his coaches that includes workouts and any other plyometric training the runners have to do. He typically runs about 90 to 95 miles a week (around 150km) including a long run of 17 miles (27km).

Sounds painful right? "I'd have to agree, but it does have perks too!" says Tal. "I get to run around New York with my best friends, every day. We talk about the goofiest things and just hang out for awhile. And if we're not talking, then we are contemplating! There is even a certain feeling 'on flow' that comes over us. Probably the release of endorphins contributes to the energy and stamina that running breathes into us. I really do love running. It is something so liberating and it gives me an altered perspective on the world we live in."

While still growing up in California, Tal became the State Champion with personal best times of 1:56 (800m), 4:10 (1600m), and 9:00 for 3200 meters. He currently runs the 5km for Columbia as his main event and his best time for that is 14:23. He was also given the opportunity to race for Team USA at the 19th Maccabiah Games in Israel, where he won 2 gold medals. "That remains as one of my most memorable moments, as it was the first time both my family in South Africa and Israel were able to see me run."

Tal continues, "The challenges are constant. I still battle with the desire to sleep in and skip some days. But maintaining balance comes with experience in the sport. I hope to 'go Pro' and I'm looking forward to the process with all its challenges, highs, lows and experiences!"



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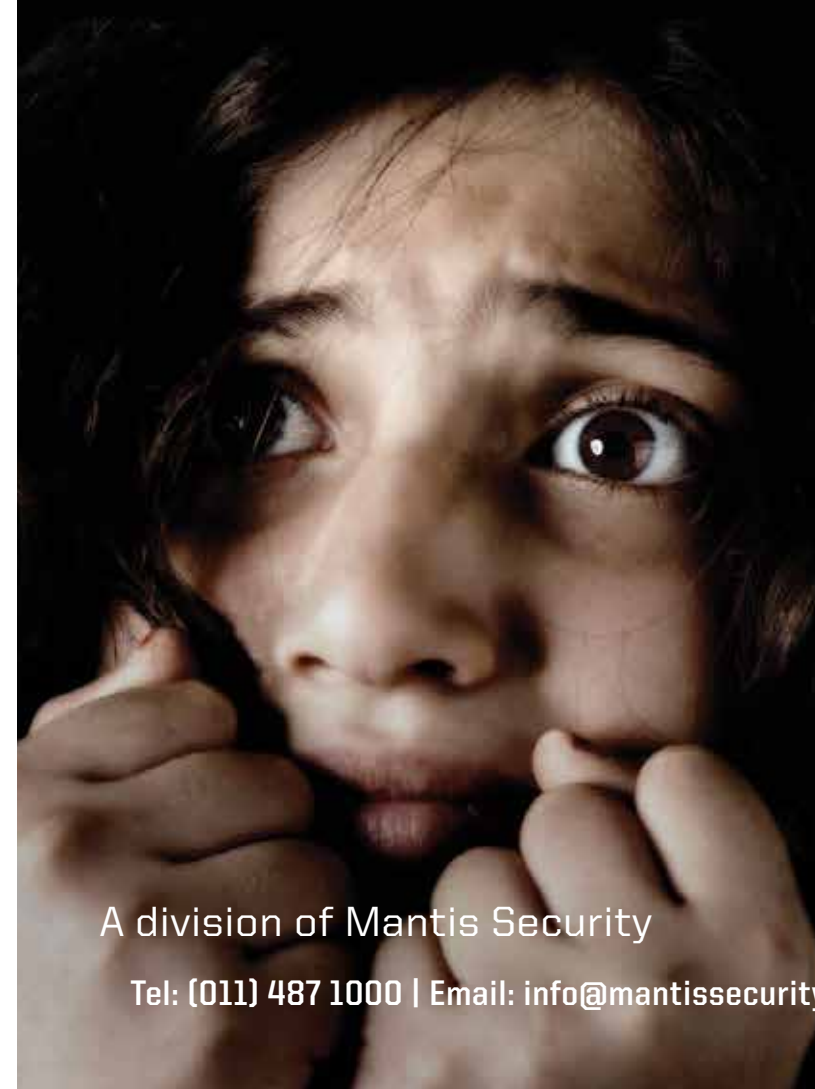
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The background image shows a large-scale event at night. A massive, illuminated Star of David is the central backdrop, with bright spotlights shining down on it. In the foreground, several Israeli flags are visible, hanging from a structure. A large orchestra is performing on a stage in front of the backdrop. The overall atmosphere is grand and celebratory.

Let the games begin

History of the Maccabiah

By Soul Workout

This July, the 20th Maccabiah will be held in Israel. It will be a milestone Maccabiah, as it takes place in the year that celebrates the 50th anniversary of the re-unification of Jerusalem.

The Maccabiah, like the Olympic Games, takes place every four years. The best Jewish athletes from around the globe gather to compete in this spectacular sporting event and, with approximately 9000 participants, the Maccabiah is the 3rd biggest global sporting event behind the Olympics and the Pan American Games. For some athletes, it is their first visit to Israel, while for others, it is an every four year occurrence. What is true for all however, is that the Maccabi Games is a spectacular and memorable experience that inspires every athlete for a lifetime. The camaraderie, unity and brotherhood is felt by all - despite the contrasts in the spectrum of colours,

kits and languages. The Maccabi Games is filled with emotion, excitement and patriotism and every athlete carries home the spirit of Israel as they say their goodbyes.

Where did it all start?

Maccabi is a proud Zionist movement and has a history dating back to the late 1800s. The movement began when Jewish sports clubs were formed in Eastern and Central Europe. The first club was established in Constantinople, Turkey. It was called the "Jewish Sports Club" and was founded by expatriate Jews from Europe who were denied membership in their national clubs. Instead of merely accepting their exclusion from these institutions, they formed the Constantinople Maccabi Society, which spread rapidly as a model across the Bosphorus to other European centers of Jewish life. These

clubs grew in number - but operated independently of one another.

In 1921, at the 12th World Jewish Congress in Karlsbad, Czechoslovakia, the Secretariat of Jewish sports leaders decided to form one umbrella organization for all Jewish sports associations and to name it The Maccabi World Union. Dr. Heinrich Kuhn of Germany was elected President. Maccabi thus operated as a part of the World Zionist Movement, with headquarters in Vienna. This then was moved to Brno, Czechoslovakia in 1927 and to Berlin, Germany in 1929. By the end of the decade, Maccabi had grown to encompass 22 regions and over 100,000 members.

Then, at the World Maccabi Congress held in 1929 in Czechoslovakia, the Maccabi Movement decided to establish a youth movement, "Maccabi Hatzair",



which would extend beyond sports to include the handling of areas such as scouting, camping, field training, culture and current affairs. These were combined with the sporting element to establish an educational branch of the Maccabi Movement with the aim of fostering Jewish, Zionist, and Maccabi values through outdoor, cultural, educational and athletic activities.

The first Maccabiah was held in Mandate-era Palestine in 1932. Tel Aviv Mayor, Meir Dizengoff, riding on a white horse, led a parade honoring the Games through the city streets. Approximately 400 athletes from 14 countries participated in the event. The Maccabiah had a profound effect on the athletes who participated. Following the Games, a handful of these participants stayed behind in Israel and, through them, eight kibbutzim across Eretz Yisrael were founded.

The concept of the Maccabi Games was the brainchild of Yosef Yekutieli, a 15-year old Russian-born teen who had relocated to Israel. He was inspired by the buzzing news and discussion of the 1912 Olympic Games and it was then that he conceived of the notion of

a worldwide Olympics for Jewish athletes in Palestine. With little encouragement, but with belief in his vision, Yekutieli spent the next ten years developing the details of the radical concept.

'Yekutieli's 'Maccabiada', as the Games were originally called, was the right idea at the right time'

In 1928, Yekutieli presented his far-fetched proposal to the Jewish National Fund, with the suggestion that a Maccabi Games be organized to commemorate the 1800th anniversary of the Bar Kochba Rebellion (Jewish revolt against the Romans). Coincidentally, the Maccabi Organization was simultaneously trying to formulate a plan to include the participation of Jewish athletes living in the then British Mandate of Palestine into important international sporting events. It was hoped that this might facilitate the international recognition of Palestine as the Jewish National Home.

Yekutieli's 'Maccabiada', as the Games were originally called, was the right idea at the right time. With the blessing of the Eretz Yisrael Soccer Association, Jewish sports groups across the globe fell in line to give the proposed Games their approval. But it was the approval of the ruling British-Palestine High Commissioner that was the final hurdle to overcome for the realization of the dream. In the Fall of 1931, Great Britain appointed Sir Arthur "Andy" Wauchope as High Commissioner of Palestine. Contrary to previous High Commissioners, Sir Arthur admired the achievements of Zionist Palestine, including the burgeoning Jewish sports movement. The new High Commissioner gladly extended his patronage to the Maccabiada, on condition that it host Arab and official British Mandate athletes as well as Jewish sportsmen. The Maccabiada was scheduled for March 1932.

With British approval came the next conundrum: reaching the world Jewish

community with news of this unique sports extravaganza. So, in a world absent of television, the internet, significant radio coverage, and common language print media, two delegations of Jewish motor-bikers set off from Tel Aviv on an epic promotional tour to the Jewish communities of Europe, where most Jews lived. Delegations of promoters were dispatched. In 1930, bikers rode from Tel Aviv to Antwerp (Belgium) and in 1931, a set of riders left Tel Aviv for London. Yekutieli himself rode with one of the delegations.

On this second tour, the intrepid Maccabiah bikers covered 5,825 miles (9,375 kilometers). From Tel Aviv, they traveled across the Sinai desert through Cairo and Alexandria (Egypt); hopped a ship to Salonika (Greece); then on to Gorna, Sofia, (Bulgaria); Belgrade, Novy, Sad (Serbia), Osijek and Zagreb (Croatia); through Vienna

and Linz (Austria) to Nuremburg and Frankfurt (Germany); through Metz to Paris (France); and by ferry to Brighton and the English cities of London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds; to Glasgow (Scotland); and then home via Beirut (Lebanon). Wherever they went, they announced the "Jewish Olympics", the Maccabiah, taking place the following spring in Eretz Israel (the Land of Israel).

The original Maccabiah was held from March 28 to April 6, 1932. The Games' overwhelming success guaranteed its future permanence. Originally conceived to be a quadrennial event, Maccabiah II was moved up a year to 1935 because of the rising tide of Nazism in Europe. The rumblings of World War II forced postponement of the third Maccabiah, a delay which lasted 15 years. The Games were resumed in 1950 in the new State

of Israel, and Maccabiah IV was held in 1953. Thereafter, the Maccabiah established its current quadrennial formula, held the year following the Summer Olympic Games.

The Games today are organized by an International Maccabiah Committee and are sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee and the World Federation of Sports.

For each participant, the Maccabiah Games are "two weeks to experience and a lifetime to remember." For many, the Maccabiah is the athlete's most significant connection to the State of Israel and for some, to Judaism itself. This brief encounter, inspires in some athletes an awakening of a love for their Jewish heritage that touches the heart and soul for a lifetime.

maccabiah facts



The first Maccabiah was held in Mandate-era Palestine in 1932 and was nicknamed the "White Horse Olympics" because Tel Aviv Mayor Dizengoff led a parade honoring the Games through the city streets while riding a white horse.

The 1st Maccabiah opened on March 28, 1932. 380 athletes from 18 countries took part. The Polish delegation took first place at this 1st Maccabiah.

Maccabi World Union is the largest and longest running Jewish sports organization spanning over 60 countries, 450 clubs, and 400,000 members. MWU is a Zionist organization that utilizes sports as a means to bring Jewish people of all ages closer to Judaism and Israel.

The 2013 Maccabi Games brought together 9,000 athletes, making it the third-largest international sporting event in the world after the Olympics and the Pan American Games.

Originally, the Maccabiah was held every three years; since the 4th Maccabiah, the event is held every four years, in the year following the Olympic Games. The Maccabiah incorporates four distinct divisions – Juniors, Open, Masters, and Disabled.

An attempt was made in the mid-1930's to organize a winter Maccabiah. The 1st Winter Maccabiah was held in Zakopane, Poland February 2 to 5, 1933. The Poles opposed the "Jewification of Polish winter sports venues". The second and last winter games was held in 1936 in Czechoslovakia. 2000 athletes from 12 nations participated.

The name Maccabiah was chosen after Yehudah the Maccabee, a Jewish leader that defended his country from King Antiochus of Chanukah renown.

Modi'in, the birthplace of Yehudah the Maccabee is the starting

location of the torch that's used to light the flames at the opening ceremony, a tradition started at the 4th Maccabiah.

The 3rd Maccabiah originally scheduled for spring of 1938 was postponed due to British concerns of large-scale illegal immigration, then came World War II, and the War of Independence War. The 3rd Maccabiah was therefore held in 1950.

Tragedy struck in the 1997 Games when a bridge leading into the Ramat Gan Stadium for the Opening Ceremony collapsed. Four Australians, Greg Small, Elizabeth Sawicki, Yetty Bennett, and Warren Zines, were killed and 60 injured.

Just like at the Olympics, the Maccabiah starts out with a "Parade of Nations", during which most participating athletes march into the stadium, country by country. Maccabiah's

tradition is that the Israeli delegation always enters last.

The opening ceremony has Israeli dignitary address the crowd followed by artistic displays of music, singing, dance, and theater representative of the Jewish culture. In recent games, renowned Jewish singers from around the world were invited to participate as in 2013, Grammy Award-winner Miri Ben-Ari and X-Factor USA finalist Carly Rose Sonenclar.

Because of their apartheid policy South African athletes participated in the 1989 Maccabiah individually under the heading 'Shaar Ha Olam: The rest of the world), since their participation had been forbidden by the International Olympic Committee.

Maccabiah is open to Jewish athletes as well as Israeli athletes regardless of religion. Arab Israelis have also competed in it.





Maccabi S.A. Greats

Jack Milner explores some of our most prolific Maccabi medalists

By Jack Milner

With the 20th Maccabiah taking place in Israel later this year, it is interesting to reflect on the number of leading South African sportsmen and women who have represented our country since 1950.

Because of the way the Maccabiah is structured, with Junior, Open and Senior events taking place, some of these people started out at the Maccabiah as youngsters and went on to become top sportsmen and to represent the country.

Tennis, probably because of the nature of the sport - where international participation is key in order to get recognition - seems to have the largest number of high profile participants.

Although there are many others, the individuals I have selected, cover a broad spectrum in both time and sporting accomplishments. They are: Pinkie Danilowitz (bowls), Marlene Bethlehem (nee Gerson - tennis), Abe Segal (tennis), Ilana Kloss (tennis), Lawrence Seeff, Terence Lazard, Adam Bacher (cricket), Eda Greenway (hockey), Mandy Yachad (hockey), Malcolm and Shane Dorfman (karate), David Nainkin (tennis) and Guy Caminsky (ten pin bowling).

Although South Africa was represented at the first two Games in what was then still Palestine, the first Maccabiah to take place after the establishment of the State of Israel took place in 1950. In that team was a 20-year-old Abe Segal. He came home empty handed, but Segal went onto support the Games for many years, even in the Masters events.

He missed out in 1953, but when he returned to Israel in 1957, he turned that tournament into a South Africa triumph. He won gold in the singles and the doubles, beating his doubles partner, Julie Mayers, in the final. He also won

silver in the mixed doubles. It took Segal more than 40 years to return to the Maccabiah - but he went on to play in the Masters event at the 2001 games. He took silver in the singles and together with Aaron Searll, won Bronze in the doubles.

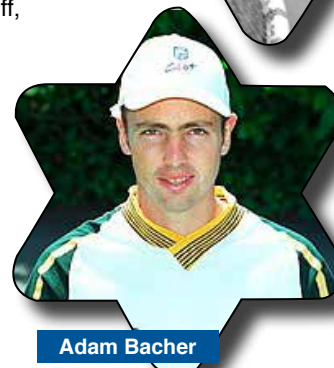
Anybody who knew Abe was aware that he never went down quietly. The singles became quite acrimonious as Abe continually accused his Israeli opponent of cheating.



Abe Segal

Larger than life on and off the court, Segal was one of South Africa's most prolific tennis players in the 1950s and 60s. Along with Gordon Forbes, he formed one of the country's best doubles teams.

Also in 1957, a young Marlene Gerson played at the Maccabiah but did not win a medal. She went back in 1961 and won silver in the singles.



Adam Bacher

Teamed up with Ruth Wolpert in doubles and Rodney Mandelstam in the mixed doubles, she went on to win gold in both. South Africa won the team event. Interestingly, part of that group was Ian Froman, who went on to run tennis in Israel and to establish the tennis centre at Ramat Hasharon.

A year later, Marlene Gerson went on to win the Wimbledon Plate at the All England Club. In 1985, Marlene was back at the Maccabiah to play in the women's seniors tournament, where she won another gold medal in the doubles.

Pinky Danilowitz was a top bowls player who represented Western Transvaal. In 1953 he did not have the most successful of Maccabiah's, but South Africans was the runner-up in the team competition behind Rhodesia.

Danilowitz returned to Israel in 1957 and won gold in the

singles event. He made his name however in the international arena in 1958 when he was selected to play for the South African team to contest the Empire Games (now the Commonwealth Games) in Glasgow. At that stage, the tournament could be equated with a world championship and Danilowitz shone as the gold medal winner.

In 1973, a 17-year-old tennis player arrived on the scene who was probably one of the most exciting youngsters to have played at a Maccabiah. Ilana Kloss was a Junior Wimbledon Champion at 16 and, a year later, she added the Junior US Open title to her resume. She played in the senior tournament in Israel and won the singles, the doubles with Helen Weiner and the mixed doubles with another talented young player, David Schneider. He had also won gold in the singles and doubles (with Errol Kilov) and also went on to play on the international circuit. Ilana was back at the 1977 Maccabiah where she could only manage a Bronze medal in the singles, but she won the doubles - once again with Weiner.

She was ranked No 19 in the singles, but held the World No 1 doubles spot. She formed a formidable team with Linky Boshoff, winning the US Open doubles title in 1976 as well as the mixed doubles at the French open with Australian Kim Warwick. Boshoff and Rhodesia's Colin Dowdeswell were on the opposite side of the net.

David Nainkin made his only appearance at a Maccabiah in 1985 and won the junior boys singles, the doubles with Jason Sher and the mixed doubles with Laresa Perlman. He went on to have a good run on the international circuit with wins over the likes of French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten and countryman Wayne Ferreira at the 1996 US Open. He won four doubles titles, including the Italian Open with Grant Stafford. David Nainkin went on to work for the USTA and has



Eda Greenway

coached players like Ferreira, Mardy Fish and Sam Querry.

There have been a number of sportsmen who have gone to the Maccabiah but have participated in sports other than the ones for which they are famous! Lawrence Seeff, opening batsman for Western Province, is in that number. He did go for cricket in 1977 and the team won gold; however, when he went again in 1985, he played in the football team which came away with a bronze medal.



Terence Lazard

Fellow Western Province player, Terence Lazard, was a regular in the Maccabiah cricket team, playing in 1989 when they won gold, in 1993 (silver) and in 1997 (silver). RSA had a particularly strong team in 1993 when Lazard, Adam Bacher and Chad Grainger were in the team. Bacher went again in 2005 and this time he earned his gold medal.

Hockey was another sport which attracted some strong South African players - none better than Eda Greenway and Mandy Yachad.



Mandy Yachad

Eda was a triple "Springbok" with colours in hockey, cricket and basketball. Eda has proven to have remarkable longevity. She

played in her first Maccabiah in 1989 in a team that came away with a silver medal when she was already in her 40s. She then went as coach, captain and player for the 2001 and 2005 Maccabiah Games. The team won silver in both years. She coached and played for the women's Maccabi hockey team in the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile in 2003. Eda captained the South African women's hockey team and later went on to coach them. Mandy Yachad played both hockey and cricket for South Africa. Field hockey seems only to have come into the Maccabiah in



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the 1980s. Mandy played in the 1985 team which won silver and in the 1989 team that went on to claim gold. In 1997, Mandy went as coach and the team won silver.

Karate proponents par excellence, Malcolm Dorfman and his son Shane, were medal accumulators at the Maccabiah whenever they participated. Malcolm first went to the Maccabiah in 1977 and came away with gold in the Under-75kg. He was back in 1981 and won gold in the 75kg again and silver in the open weight division. In 1993, Malcolm came home with gold in the individual kata, silver in the individual kumite and men's team kata and bronze in the men's team kumite in which Shane was also a member. In 1997, Shane participated in the Maccabiah and won two gold medals.

In 1993 and 1997, South Africa took a Ten Pin bowling team for the first time. Included in the group was Guy Caminsky from Durban. In 1993, at the age of 16, he won the gold



Lawrence Seef



Malcolm Dorfman



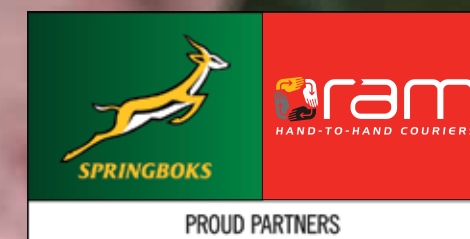
Ilana Kloss

medal for the men's trio along with Max Cassel and Nigel Plen.

In 1997, at the age of 20, Guy made a clean sweep - winning four gold medals. In 2008, Guy was crowned the 2008 World Ten Pin Masters Champion when he defeated PBA Bowler of the Year, Chris Barnes, in a nail-biting finale. He has represented South Africa on numerous occasions, including the 2006 World Championships and the 1998 Commonwealth Games. In 2013, he was runner-up in the 49th Ten Pin Bowling World Championships in Russia. There were 78 countries participating, and, at the end of the event, only two people were left standing, Guy Caminsky and Israeli Or Aviram, runner-up in 2005. It was Aviram who became the first Israeli bowler to win the Bowling World Cup in the finals as he defeated Caminsky 2-1 (279-245, 214-277, 258-182).

Jack Milner is Managing Editor of Phumelela Gaming & Leisure's publishing department. He has been Sports Editor of the SA Press Association (SAPA) and Deputy Sports Editor of The Citizen. He is currently the Sports Editor of the Jewish Report.

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Israel's Baseball Miracle

An Exclusive to Soul Sport Magazine
By Knesset member Dov Lipman

Dov Lipman is a rabbi, political activist, educator, author and sports enthusiast based in Bet Shemesh, Israel. In 2013 he was elected to the Israeli Knesset.

World Baseball Classic

Held every four years since 2006, the World Baseball Classic (WBC) is an international baseball tournament sanctioned by the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC). The tournament provides a forum for the best baseball players in the world to showcase their skills while representing their home countries.

In 2017, Israel competed in the World Baseball Classic for the second time - and for the first time qualified for the main tournament. Ranked 41st in the world, Team Israel entered the tournament with starting odds of 200-1!

Israel went on to beat all three opposing teams in the first round to finish top of the pool and to go undefeated into the WBC's main draw. It finished in third place in pool E and sixth overall in the tournament.

Pitcher Josh Zeid was chosen for the 2017 All-World Baseball Classic team and Team Israel received automatic qualification for the 2021 World Baseball Classic.



Team Israel's unlikely journey to the quarterfinals of the World Baseball Classic will long be remembered as a moment of great pride for Israel. Many view this remarkable story as a basis from which to elevate baseball in Israel to greater heights. As the father of a boy who played baseball for Israel for over 10 years - from Little League to the under-21 European championships - I certainly applaud this goal. But I see the true accomplishment here as being much broader, and with far greater implications for Israel and the Jewish people.

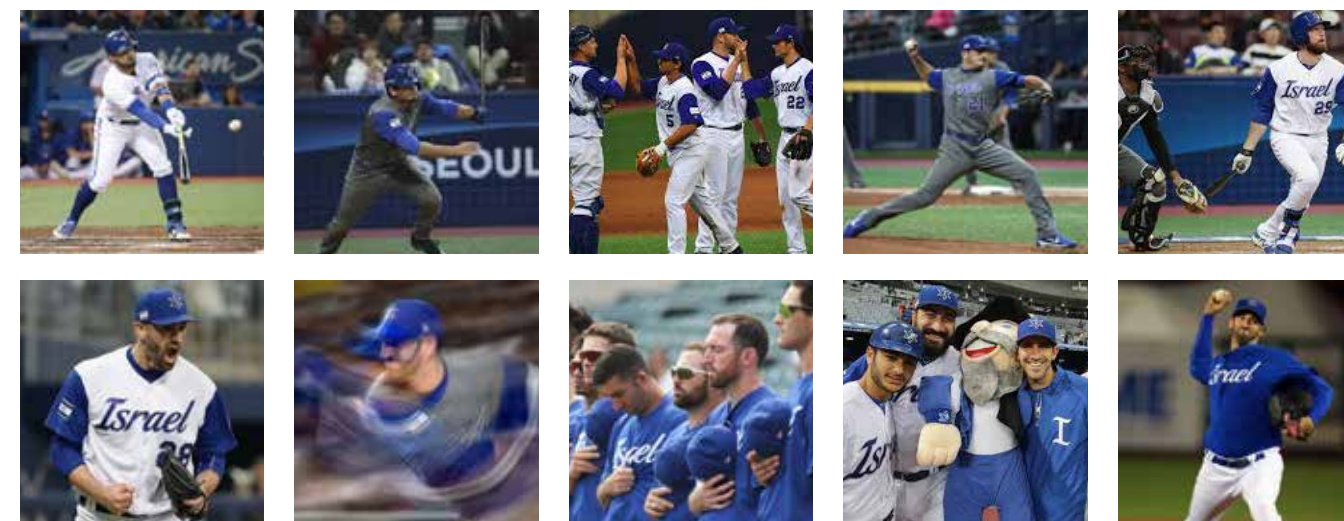
News coverage of Israel around the world is generally quite unfavourable. People constantly read, hear, and see negative stories about Israel - boycotts, conflict, terror, "occupation," war, etc., but for a few weeks, the headlines were quite different:

ESPN - "Team Israel - and its mascot, Mensch on a Bench - is the Jamaican bobsled team of the WBC."

ABC News - "Why the Israeli baseball team is making waves in the World Baseball Classic."

CBS Sports - "Israel 'Mensch on the Bench' mascot is the best in WBC, and so is their 2-0 record," and "Team Israel is the biggest thing going in the WBC right now, and they have an awesome mascot."

The New York Times - "Israel at the World Baseball Classic: From Curiosity to Contender," a headline which was accompanied by a large picture with the caption: "Members of Team Israel removed their caps and put on their yarmulkes for the national anthem on Monday. Israel won its World Baseball Classic tournament de-



but by beating South Korea, 2-1." Sports Illustrated - "The biggest underdog story of the World Baseball Classic kept rolling right along, as Israel topped the Netherlands to win its group and stay undefeated in the tournament."

USA Today - "Israel, darlings of World Baseball Classic, vows to keep 'emotional' run going."

These were some of the positive, feel good news feeds about Israel coming out of the WBC. The average person following the news doesn't have time for in-depth analysis of what is happening in Israel and the Middle East. They get their information from sound bites and quick images or videos, and when it comes to Israel, it is mostly negative. But what Israel accomplished in the WBC provided Israel with feel-good, positive headlines that had nothing to do with conflict or controversy - just a nice story about something which a normal country enjoys: baseball.

But, a second and more important accomplishment, was the way in which this team established that Israel is the national home for Jews around the world. These players don't live in Israel, and don't even hold Israeli citizenship. But World Baseball Classic rules allow for anyone with the automatic right to citizenship in a country to play for that country; and since all Jews have the right to automatic Israeli citizenship under the Law of Return, these Jewish players were allowed to play for Team Israel. And they very

much saw themselves, as Elli Wohlgerlinter wrote in the Jerusalem Post, as "Team Jew" in the tournament.

When Team Israel got its first hit of the game against Cuba in the fourth inning, Cody Decker, Team Israel's raconteur and outsized personality, yelled out: "Nobody, and I mean nobody, no-hits the Jews!"

As the players saw their increasing success in the tournament build, they began to talk about the possibilities about this unlikely story. It would be a Hoosiers kind of story - only this one would be titled "Jewasers."

What Israel accomplished in the WBC provided her with feel-good, positive headlines that had nothing to do with conflict or controversy

Nate Freiman, Israel's first baseman, captured the team's incredible story with this thought: "The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah celebrates the miracle of one day's worth of oil burning for eight days. As a team, we may have written a new chapter in that lore. In this case though, the miracle lasted for seven days, and manifested itself on an artificial turf baseball diamond 5,685 miles from the Holy Land."

Freiman also relates in his article for

The Players' Tribune how a few days after he returned to the United States from the tournament in Tokyo, he went to the gym and saw someone wearing a "Jew Crew" T-shirt, which many Team Israel players wore during warm ups and on off days. He asked the person, who did not recognize Freiman, about the shirt, and was told: "We had a really good team. We went 4-0 before losing those last two games."

"We." The Jewish people all saw themselves as connected to this team of Jews who played in blue and white uniforms with "Israel" across the chest, because it is understood that Israel is home for Jews no matter where they live in the world.

Webster's Dictionary defines "home" as: "4a. An environment affording security and happiness. b. A valued place considered to be a refuge or place of origin."

According to these definitions, and based on the teachings of Jewish thought and tradition, the Land of Israel qualifies as the "home" for all Jews.

This team, and this story, cemented this idea in the hearts and minds of Jews around the world, and introduced this reality to non-Jews worldwide.

Kudos to Team Israel for their accomplishments. May the feel-good, positive stories about Israel continue, and may the recognition that Israel is the Jewish homeland continue to spread.

Sportsmanship Defined

At the Rio Olympics, in a true demonstration of sportsmanship, a 5,000 metre runner stopped mid-race to help a fallen athlete.

New Zealand's o of the United States.

With Hamblin lying on the floor behind her, D'Agostino got back to her feet - but sacrificed her race to help the still prone New Zealander.

D'Agostino, 24, appeared to have twisted her right knee in the collision and was only able to limp over the line. She was later photographed on the side of the track in a wheelchair.

Albeit that they finished well back from the rest of the field, the pair hugged at the finish line. Hamblin's 16:43 finish was just ahead of D'Agostino's eventual 17:10, more than two minutes after the winner of the heat, Almaz Ayana, from Ethiopia.

After the race, Hamblin was quick to thank the American: "That girl is the Olympic Spirit right there. I went down and I was like 'what's happening? Why am I on the ground?'

"Then suddenly this hand on my shoulder, like 'get up, get up, we have to finish this' and I was like, 'yep, you're right'. This is the Olympic Games - we have to finish'.

"Regardless of the race and the result on the board, that's a moment that you're never ever going to forget for the rest of your life, that girl shaking my shoulder, like 'Come on, get up'."

"I really hope she's okay. And I know that she's young and she's going to have so many more opportunities. And being such a good human being, she's going to go so far."

The pair were given places in the 5,000m final after a successful appeal from the USA and New Zealand teams.



The Meaning of Sport

As the End of Days near, sports' hidden spark shines

By Rabbi Yossi Banishewitz

I now understand the meaning of sports. I always thought that I did, but now I realize that I was wrong.

It began as a thought experiment, a scene taking place in my mind. I closed my eyes and saw a grand stadium full of colours and flashing cameras and people, lots of people. Their eyes fixed upon centre stage, for there, a contest was taking place. Olympic runners streaked down the track, limbs and muscles tuned at their highest performance capacity. Years of training, through endless seasons of heats and rounds have brought them here. And this was the moment, it could not get more intense - the final event, upon which everything hinges. Here, now, all that they have worked toward, from when first they dreamed of glory - Herculean strength and courage, and mental focus, bent on a single goal: to win, to be the best! And there are no second chances, there can be only one winner.

They round the bend into the home stretch and the pace quickens. The look of concentration on their faces sharpen to the point of a needle, as they strain every last inch of power that they can muster, towards the finishing line.



Up until here the scene is crystal clear, but then the unexpected. Suddenly, one of the runners trips. He comes crashing to the ground, tumbles forward and finally comes to a grinding halt, sprawled between lanes, merely yards from the finish line. It is a catastrophe, awful to behold; the fall of the mighty, the demise of the great, of icons who carry with them the hopes and dreams of nations.

The crowd is stunned is silent. A man is down and out of the race. Yet before anyone can react, something else, even more surprising happens. The runner two lanes over, seeing his competitor on the floor, stops running and rushes to see if he is okay. Acting on the impulse of concern for his fellow, he has sacrificed his position in the race.

And then I thought, could this scene be real? Could it be played out in

real life? The answer is, yes.

It is a rare moment in professional sports, when one competitor makes a sacrifice on behalf of another and yet it happened in the Rio Olympics 2016 and the very idea made me think about what the meaning of sports and sportsmanship is.

Sport has been around since man first walked the earth, for there is the primal need within every person to have fun, be active and to achieve in performance, both physically and mentally. For kids, it's a natural expression of the energy of youth. In older people, a healthy form of recreation that keeps one vital. Sport celebrates the miracle of our physical body. So Sport was sport. It inspired people and brought them together. This is how it always was and this is how it always would be.

But then the Greeks arrived. They built stadiums and temples and developed society as no-one else ever had. They achieved in the secular sciences and pioneered the building blocks of mathematics and philosophy. Their systems of law and municipality and innovations in architecture took the world from the Bronze to the Iron Age and ushered in a new era of enlightenment for humanity.

Yet the Greeks turned the temperament of Sport into something that it had not been before. To them, Sport was the realization of what they considered to be the ultimate ideal, the supremacy of man's ego. Sport was a way for mortal man to rise through physical excellence and athletic skill, to the stature of Zeus and Olympus. They did not recognize the existence of the soul, nor did they regard with any sanctity, the value of human life. Under this new institution, Sport became a contest of

strength, in which one person must dominate over another. Brute force and physical perfection became a worship unto themselves and social sciences replaced the belief in G-d. Thus there was created The Olympic Games. The next to inherit this legacy were the Romans, who adopted and took much further, what the Greeks had begun. In Roman civilization, the value of life was lost entirely, and sports became openly barbaric - a blood lust. The highlight of social life was the Emperor's declaration of public holidays with 'Games' to celebrate the victories of The Empire. Tens of thousands of people of all ages would gather at the Colosseum, or other such venues and cheer and applaud as gladiators were pitted against each other in gruesome fights to the death. At the end of the event, those that had survived and proved most brutal, became popular heroes and champi-



ons of the people. The most enduring of these 'heroes' were immortalized in busts and statues that are still seen in Greece and Rome today.

Neither the Romans nor the Greeks liked the Jewish ideology that greatness lies deep within a person - not in his body, but in his soul. They intensely disapproved of the concept that the physical is not an entity unto itself, but finds its purpose and fullness only in subservience to the spiritual. They each, in their own

way, adoringly admired the intellect of the Torah and the brilliance of its many commandments, but they did not like the idea that the Torah and its commandments were given by G-d. In time, their admiration of the Jews turned to envy and then desperation, for they perceived something indomitable in this people. They began to see that they could not make them, through force or persuasion, become like them. They started to realize that the Judaic concept of strength lies in a different place, in the domain of the soul, a place that their arm, no matter how long it grew, could never reach.

In the end, both the Romans and the Greeks tried to destroy us; the Romans, physically, the Greeks, spiritually. Yet, after the brief age of their physical strength was over, they disappeared, while we are still very much here. Ironically, despite their war of

attrition against us, they did not depart without leaving us a gift, something that would serve the Jewish concept of greatness. The Greeks gave us Chanukah, the Festival Of Light, and the Romans disseminated the Jewish Bible throughout the world. As Maimonides explains, the rise of Christianity, its establishment as the state religion of Rome and its subsequent success in becoming prolific among the Nations, only took place in order to teach the peoples of the earth that there is a G-d and a soul and a Messiah (Moshiach) - Jewish concepts that all mankind must know, before the coming of Moshiach. One of the signs that the Torah predicts about the time in history that we are now in, the time just before

'And then I thought, could this scene be real? Could it be played out in real life? The answer is, yes'

the redemption, is that all things will start to express their essential nature and purpose, including how the holy sparks within the non-Jewish ideals integrate into the values of Torah and Judaism. This is evidenced in our time particularly in Christianity, the legacy of Rome, as it displays itself no longer as the enemy and oppressor of the Jew that it once was, but in fact has transformed itself almost entirely. The Christianity of our age is being used as a global force for good and modern Christians are some of the greatest supporters of Israel and the Jewish people.

Similarly, the Olympics have also returned. In our age they have been reinstated. Yet, the Olympics of today are not the same as they once were. Though fierceness of competition and the glorification of physical excellence still remains in them, we nevertheless see that the spirit and meaning of it has changed. It is no longer about the domination of one man over another to his detriment, or the abject denial of the spiritual. There is now a human element to sport that is not exclu-

sively about winning. There is now the concept of sportsmanship. The triumph of the soul, as it is embodied in the ideals of camaraderie, brotherhood and friendship. The building bridges between nations, of peace and mutual respect, in accordance with the prophecy of Isaiah, "One nation shall no longer raise weapons to another, and no more shall they teach war".

Torah, like the Olympics, also has a gold medal. In Torah it is referred to as the 'Machatzis Hashekel' or the 'Half Golden Coin.' It was a contribution that all men between the ages of 20 and 60 were obligated to donate. Unlike the Olympic Gold that is 'whole', the Torah's Golden Coin is always half, a Half Shekel. The lesson is that each individual, no matter how large his accomplishments, or wondrous the gifts he possesses are, is incomplete and that only through the concern for another and by giving to another, can he be complete. It is to show that the real Gold Medal in life is not one that is received, but one that is given.

The scene continues: there is great festivity and rejoicing as the winners' podium is wheeled onto centre stage. It's a perfect day and the stands are awash with the colours of the flags of the world. The atmosphere is peaceful, yet there is an excitement that cannot

be explained, for this is no ordinary award ceremony. Through the heroic deed of one athlete the "spirit of Moshiach" has pervaded these games. It is an indication, a sign, of something great that is yet to fully come.

The moment arrives. The athletes step up onto the podium and there is a thunderous burst of applause. An all-encompassing sense of joy and fellowship is felt by everyone, for today, two awards will be given. The first, to the athlete that smashed the World Record and ran the best time of his life. And the second, to the athlete whose simple humanity and care for his fellow showed that sportsmanship is a greater ideal than sport itself and the victory of the soul means more than the finishing time on any race.

I open my eyes. It is now clear. I now understand the meaning of sports.

Rabbi Yossi Banishewitz graduated at Torah Academy school. He received his Rabbinic ordination in New Jersey in 2007. He is a classical pianist and completed his Unisa Licentiate degree in music, one of the most decorated musical awards. He is a writer, a sought after lecturer, a teacher of Jewish philosophy and mysticism and is currently authoring his first major set-work.

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A TRIBUTE

Mentsch of the “match of life”

My friend..Our friend.. Allan Karp z'l

By Ilan Herrmann

I'd known Allan since I was a young boy. We would spend hours on end talking “soccer”. Allan was a ‘Mayven’, a walking sports encyclopedia. He knew most of everything about virtually every sport, but soccer was his passion. He grew up in Springs and would often speak of those special years of his life. He'd spend hours and weekends playing football with his mates, arriving home after dark, listening closely to the BBC radio for sports commentary and avidly following sports in the tabloids. When he spoke of those days, his boyish passion would rise and keep rising.

He loved football and for him it was the Dutch, who played “Total Football”, the great sides of the 1970s, led by the maestro Johan Cruyff, the team and players he knew with intimate insight and knowledge, that reigned supreme on the global stage. He was able to cite virtually every move of every game, let alone the goals and highlights. He spoke passionately of the Dutch coach he rated as “probably the best of all time”, Rinus Michels.

Allan was preparing to pen an article for this edition of Soul Sport on: “The greatest coaches of all time”. In our discussions, when he'd sing the praises of Michels and Holland of 1974, I'd remind him of the other team I knew he revered, Brazil 1982 (my favourite side of all time), and of the coach he also considered to be a master and wizard of the game. Allan would raise his

head and with a boisterous smile he'd say, “You're right, you're right Ilan, Tele Santana, it's a dead heat!”

Allan knew my roots before I was around. As a teenager he'd heard of “The Brazilians” that were coming to town in 1965: Jorge Santoro and Walter Da Silva, who were brought across by Mario Tuani to play in South Africa. A few years later, as a Powerlines supporter, Allan would go watch them at training.

When I interviewed Allan about my late father, Santoro, for the production of a documentary, Allan, with his unique descriptive prowess, had the most expressive, eloquent, recollections of any. Down to the smallest minutia of detailed memory, he delivered the best interview of any I'd had.

Allan was often tasked by top flight soccer personalities in South Africa to formulate speeches for public address. His blend of bringing to bear the drama, the passion and the nobility, found in sports (a unique talent of his), to use them to create majestic and inspirational talks, would earn the speakers ovations, which they duly revelled in.

Allan saw in Sport things that others didn't. For him it was the poetry of life in motion, where a tale of adventure and character played out heroic episodes that were lush with emotion, wonder and imagination. For him Sport captured the epic, the intense and throbbing gallantry of the human spirit. What we tend to not see due to being submerged in the hardships and challenges of daily living, he did. For him the stage of life was more like a sports field and in the subtle movements, he detected a different theatre at play.

Allan saw the heroism of a

great athlete, the spirit of the underdog and the guts and glory of the minnow who challenged the giant. He saw the camaraderie of teams that displayed a brotherhood that inevitably would prevail even against the mightiest. He saw the humility of the star player who deferred any personal glory, and the grace in loss by the player and team that showed dignity in defeat. He had a sense of the inner character of the sports experience, an almost romantic relationship with it, akin to what is conjured when one reads a “Roy of the Rovers” comic.

Aah, those glorious comic stories that brought to life the best in sports and men; that as youngsters, we sat absorbed in and were utterly consumed by: Billy's Boots, Hotshot Hamish, Roy of the Rovers and others. Allan never lost the adventure, excitement and passion of the comic.

Most emphatically was Allan's deep

appreciation for ‘the supreme athlete’. This meant: To play the game beautifully, with passion and with fair-play. To model behavior to others that spoke of character and nobility, the athlete that practiced tirelessly, that played with bravery and courage, deferred to others, stood up to be counted, rose in leadership through adversity, had humility, sacrifice and those other spirited traits that the true hero of the game possesses - these for Allan were the crowning mantle of the great athlete.

When one looks back at Allan Karp, one realises that he lived his life in the way he dreamed the ultimate sports hero was. He played the game of life with extra-ordinary commitment. He rallied those around him with encouragement and motivation to play their best

game. Though his commitment was total and his performance supreme, he never looked to take any credit, always lauding the achievements of others and never stopped, even momentarily, to consider his own.

Most of all, it was his rooted and anchored ethical and moral posture, that saw him play the game with such grace, respect, a consideration for others, and in a way of deep and abiding honesty. Allan took great care not to demoralise, downcast or hurt anyone. Quite the opposite, he did all he could to empower all that he came across, to offer a word, a hand, a shoulder, to support another's journey in the often precarious road of life. Were there to be the accolade and a trophy, Allan Karp, in my humble opinion, would be well deserving to bear the title and take home the trophy, Mentsch of the “match of life!”



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The Channel of Dreams

Kiki Marx - An intrepid adventurer of the water

By Colin Gluch



Sport can be viewed as being for fun or recreation, or it can be considered the domain of champions. Our article focuses on one such sporting champion.

For Kiki Marx, becoming a champion has been less about standing atop a podium to receive a medal than it has been about challenging her own limitations. In doing so, she has overcome obstacles many would consider impossible.

Kiki speaks of her early love for swimming recalling her many hours spent in the pool at the tender age of six and seven training lengths and creating synchronised swim routines. It was around that time that news of an English Channel swim inspired her to announce "I am going to swim the Channel".

Forty years on and Kiki, now a practicing anaesthetist, had taken her life in

another direction. While that notion of swimming the Channel had never been extinguished, it had certainly been relegated to her gallery of dreams.

Then, in 2012, the seeds of sprouting that dream into reality were planted through a friend, Robyn Smookler. Working for ORT at the time, Robyn organised a trip for herself and 17 other women to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa and the fourth highest in the world, to raise money to start a women's empowerment academy. As a practicing doctor, Kiki never quite considered herself as having the makings of a classic sportswoman and yet, by joining this quest, she set in motion an incredible chain of events.

Kiki found for herself a personal trainer, Andy Laurie, and began a purposeful and dedicated training regime. These included regular group climbs up

the Westcliff stairs and hikes around greater Gauteng. For Kiki, summiting Kilimanjaro turned out to be a truly spiritual experience and a springboard for future adventures.

Robyn informed Kiki that a short swim in the Atlantic Ocean was the next fundraising adventure challenge: Cape Town's "Robben Island Crossing". What followed was a period of twelve weeks of intense preparations and in September 2013, after a successful completion of the swim, something sparked in Kiki. She recalls how as she exited the water on the beach at Big Bay, it dawned on her that the swim was really a part of her preparations for her childhood ambition to swim the English Channel. It was as though a childhood fantasy had just been revisited but now to possibility and reality.

Kiki followed her Robben Island crossing

with further crossings and a variety of long distance swims. She had made up her mind to see through the "Channel Dream".

The eight months leading to the English Channel swim included night swims in Langebaan Lagoon and a six hour qualifier in water below 16°C, all in preparation for the elemental conditions expected in the Channel crossing. Since Mathew Webb's maiden crossing in 1875, to date, 1729 swimmers have completed solo channel crossings. As a country, South African has the 5th highest number of successful swimmers at 51. Such limited numbers indicate how swimming the English Channel is an extreme and difficult challenge.

On Sunday the 3rd September 2016, Kiki timidly stood on the cliffs overlooking the Channel, on the outskirts of Dover, contemplating the sheer audacity of such an undertaking. Kevin Shermann, her boatman, forecast a Tuesday night start and with Toni Enderli's video from his crossing the year before fresh in her mind, Kiki began her swim at 1:15am. Toni's personalized advice to Kiki was to swim from feed to feed till finished and to "keep your mind strong and your body will follow". Kiki's own resolve was that "stroke for stroke; and, I will do it".

Despite the daunting sensation of being engulfed in the dark with five hours to first light, Kiki felt comfortable and confident in the water. Derrick and Debbie Frazer, who accompanied Kiki on a boat, motivated her through the long, dark, cold hours of the swim. They kept her fed every half hour and Derrick even joined her twice in the water to provide support and encouragement.

Kiki joined 24 other international swimmers in attempting this first-ever crossing of the Dead Sea

Kiki battled the cold, physical fatigue and jellyfish stings, but persevered, adamant that nothing was going to stop her walking onto a French beach. It was but a few kilometers off the French coast when a critical turn for the worse occurred. Kiki needed to reach her marker, a buoy, which was only 200 meters in front of her. She had ten minutes to reach it before the tide change. Then, owing to a strong current, the buoy

moved 750 meters away. Kiki missed her marker, and with the tide having turned, she had to swim an extra 3 to 4 hours, against the tide, to complete the swim.

It was not to be. After swimming for 19^{1/2} hours and trying for the last three of those to complete the final kilometre, and with the light fading and a new evening imminent and still no guarantee of success, Kiki was told that she would have to terminate her swim.

Kiki was devastated! Devastated, but not defeated. Failure to touch land so tantalisingly close took its toll, but having previously committed to her next swim, she had little time to dwell on her disappointment. Instead she had to mentally regroup and to begin preparations for something completely unique: the first-ever swim, across the Dead Sea.

It was her spiritual connection to Israel that drew Kiki to this exciting challenge. This would be an altogether different encounter with a unique set of circumstances. Besides the common knowledge that it is difficult to swim in the water of the Dead Sea, let alone undertake the full 17km crossing, other complications



The Aquatic Anaesthetist - Dr Kiki Marx



Kiki elated at the end of the Dead Sea swim

threatened such as water getting in the eyes which could lead to blindness and swallowing the water which could harm internal organs.

On the 15th November 2016, Kiki joined 24 other international swimmers in attempting this first-ever crossing of the Dead Sea. The official "cause" being backed by the swim was bringing awareness to the plight of the ever shrinking Dead Sea. For the South African-based Mad Swimmers Association, the crossing was the second part of a two part quest. On the 5th of December 2015 they had swum

lake Tres Cruces Norte on the border of Chile and Argentina, in the Andes Mountains, the highest point a swim has ever been undertaken. Now the "water-warriors" were attempting the world's lowest point recorded swim. For Kiki it was about connecting her soul to her beloved Israel.

The tapestry of life as Kiki Marx has woven it over the past five years, has been a blend of embracing new experiences, breaking the mold and facing challenges with tenacity. Kiki acknowledges her blessings and, with the grace and poise for which she is

renowned, she is now sharing her story with many audiences. At schools, ladies conventions or shul evenings, Kiki shares her experiences in the hope that she will inspire those around her, and uses a favorite motto to drive her point: If you dream it, you can surely do it!

Colin Gluch is an engineer, manufacturing specialized components for the plastic, rubber, explosive and feed industries. He began extreme swimming to offset his passion for snow skiing, not realizing that a speedo, cap and goggles are the only affordable part of this sport.



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The Neural Pathway of Champions

Use positive self-talk to bring out the champion in you

By Dr. Gregg Steinberg

Novak Djokovic has been one of the most dominant players in the tennis world for the past five years, but now he finds himself in a slump, not winning a major for over a year. At Wimbledon 2014 Novak had reached the finals and was facing the greatest tennis player who ever lived, Roger Federer, in a place he had completely dominated — Wimbledon Centre Court. The crucial moment came at two sets

each. Roger Federer had won the fourth set and was gaining momentum. Novak knew he needed to find a surge of confidence to fend off Federer and win the final set.

Djokovic took a needed bathroom break after the fourth set, but it was much more than a physical moment, it also became an important mental moment. He looked in the mirror and began to

fill himself with positive affirmations. He told himself how good he really was and that he could win the title. Novak repeated in a confident tone that he deserved it and he was meant to win the championship. He was being his own best friend.

In one of the best tennis matches in the past decade, Djokovic went on to beat Federer and win his second Wimbledon

singles crown. His positive self-talk made an important difference in tennis history.

Positive mental boost

Self-talk is actually a type of self-hypnosis. By repeating positive self-statements over and over again, Novak hypnotized himself into a pure level of confidence. He created a mental tape that played only a positive energy song.

Novak Djokovic shows us that even the greatest people in their profession need a positive mental boost time and time again to perform at their best. Unfortunately, many people do the opposite: They fall flat from the negative tape playing in their head. Instead of developing a habit of affirming statements, many people have created a tape full of self-doubt and fear of failure.

Do you have a negative tape continuously playing in your head? Is it hurting your performance at work and in your life?

Here are a couple of recommendations I use with my clients to create a positive mental tape that plays in all pressure-packed situations:

Create a best-friend's journal

In your journal, write a positive self-statement every day about what you want to happen at work or in your life. For instance, you would write, "I am a top sales producer" or "I am a tough negotiator." Keep this journal in your office and write one best-friend statement each day. At appropriate times, such as before a big meeting, read a few entries for a positive jolt of energy. Most important, by doing this exercise, you are building a habit of positivity.

Snap out of negativity with a rubber band.

Tie a rubber band around your wrist and every time you have a negative thought, snap it. Not so much that it hurts, but enough to know you mean business. If your mental tape is filled with negativity, the rubber band will continually bounce off your wrist all day long. But over time, your snaps will start to diminish and so will your negative self-talk. You can keep wearing the rubber band as a fashion statement — if you wish.

Dr. Gregg Steinberg is a professor of human performance at Austin Peay State University. He is author of the best-selling business book "Full Throttle" and speaks to businesses about improving attitude and performance. Learn more at www.drgreggsteinberg.com. Reprinted from The Tennessean with permission (www.tennessean.com)

Affirmations

"Positive thinking attracts positive outcomes."
Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Lubavitch

"Adversity cause some men to break; others to break records"
William A. Ward

"You can't put a limit on anything.
The more you dream, the farther you get."
Michael Phelps

"The mind is the limit. As long as the mind can envision the fact that you can do something, you can do it, as long as you really believe 100 percent."
Arnold Schwarzenegger

"When all the dust settles, you are exactly in the space where you were meant to be."
Tzvi Freeman - Wisdom of the Rebbe

"A mistake repeated more than once is a decision."
Paulo Coelho

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life."
Steven Jobs

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible!'"
Audrey Hepburn

"Keep your face to the sunshine and you can never see the shadow."
Helen Keller

"Believe and act as if it were impossible to fail."
Charles Kettering

"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra."
Jimmy Johnson

"You must not only aim right, but draw the bow with all your might."
Henry David Thoreau

"Everything you've ever wanted is on the other side of fear."
George Addair

"A year from now you may wish you had started today."
Karen Lamb

"Rabbi Zusya of Anipoli once said - 'In the world to come, they will not ask me: 'Why weren't you Moses or Abraham?' They will ask me: 'Why weren't you Zusya?'"
Zusya of Anipoli



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Sport & Tikun Olam



By Elaine Miller & Des Firer

Hearing the voices of those in need propel Jewish activists using sport to bring opportunity to the less fortunate

At the inaugural Laureus World Sports Awards in 2000, President Nelson Mandela stated: "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. Sport can awaken hope where there was previously only despair."

Judaism introduced to the world the idea of tzedakah, charity, and not just as a voluntary act, but as a Divinely compelled pursuit.

Since the time of Abraham, where the book of Genesis tells of how desert wayfarers were invited to partake of his hospitality, until our present day and the multitude of institutions and initiatives that exist across the world that assist the needy - the legacy of charity driven by Jewish values runs long and deep and is at the forefront of transforming the world for the better.

The mechanisms through which tzedakah operate are numerous and, in many cases, highly creative. Soul

Sport searched out some outreach projects, created by caring and idealistic individuals in our community, which use the medium of sports to advance their goals.

Egolisquash

In 2009, Glenn Lazarus together with Dikana Mthombeni, founded Egolisquash. Egolisquash affords kids from Johannesburg Inner City, particularly Alexandra and Soweto, an



Businessman Lewis Weinstein, co-founder of the Johannesburg Cubs Project



Glenn Lazarus
co-founder of
Egolisquash

opportunity to learn the game of squash, to have fun and get a good education. So successful was the initiative, that within a short space of time, it was engaging 5000 kids. The programme incorporates squash, fitness, tutoring, community service and mentoring. A core focus is helping youth break away from the dangers they are exposed to in their 'back-yard'. They are often exposed to chronic environments of crime, violence, drugs and alcohol and the Egoli formula gives them the opportunity to get out of the slums, providing educational and bursary programmes to live their dreams. The Youth have accepted the challenge and many of them are now top players in their age group in the country.

The achievements of Egolisquash were recently acknowledged at the highest level in SA when they received the award for Recreation Body Of The Year at the SA Sports awards and, more recently, was adopted onto the Laureus Sports For Good Foundation.

The programme caters to a wide age range including: school children, post-matric youth & adults, as well as a special girls and ladies programme. The entrepreneurial skills programme includes sewing and business skills that provide school leavers, as well as parents, the skills to improve their own lifestyles and income. Glenn was motivated through his own success and passion for the game. He

has been playing squash since the age of 16 and wanted to give back through the sport that had enriched his life so significantly.

The Johannesburg Cubs

In 2007, Lewis Weinstein, a Johannesburg businessman, co-founded The Johannesburg Cubs Project together with concerned parents of Cubs members. This amazing organization creates multi-racial and cross-cultural cricket training programmes for school children in Gauteng.

The way it operates is that disadvantaged, mostly black



participants are chosen from among the approximately 2,500 school children actively involved in GCB (Gauteng Cricket Board). development areas, such as Kagiso, Soweto, Lenasia and Alexandra. Privileged (mostly white) participants are recruited via parents and schools, and are assisted with integration and social awareness skills and activities by project representatives. The kids from privileged backgrounds travel to community townships to play cricket. The split between advantaged and disadvantaged participants is kept to a 50:50 ratio. Social awareness and integration among parents is also promoted.

With the Cubs Project, kids are exposed to high-level coaching from former South African international cricketers such as Darryl Cullinan. They get to play in top-class facilities and are taught the most advanced techniques of the game. In certain instances they are also offered opportunities to win scholarships and bursaries to attend prominent schools. An additional focus of the programme is the development of



various social skills to complement the game of cricket. These include training in etiquette and ethics, budgeting and finance, project planning, personal administration and first aid.

The Cubs Project enjoys the support of brand partners including Mercedes Benz, IWC Schaffhausen, Vodafone and The Laureus Sports Foundation. Lewis sees it as giving back and because he has such a passion for

sports it was a natural fit for him to use sports as the medium through which he could reach out.

Alex Schools Cricket

Blue Label Telecomms has a strong sporting footprint. Recently you may have seen the company branded on the Springbok jersey, as National team sponsors. Brett Levy, Blue Label CEO, has partnered with the



Entrepreneurs Brett and Mark Levy of Blue Label Telecoms

Gauteng Department of Education and The Cricket Company, to form the Alex Schools' Cricket Development Programme which commenced in July 2016. The programme targets Alexandra Township children and instructs them in cricket as well as in life skills. 12 primary schools in the township participate in the programme over a period of four weeks. Approximately 6,000 pupils feel the impact of this inspiring initiative.

The Alex Schools Programme comprises 3 key pillars: life skills, social cricket participation and competitive cricket participation. The life skills programme is conducted during Life Orientation classes at schools and a special curriculum of lessons is conducted that includes subjects such as leadership, time management, respect, HIV/Aids, hygiene, road-safety and finance management. A holiday camp is hosted during the October school break to keep children off the streets and in a safe and productive environment.

From the 2016 Alex Schools Cricket Development Programme, 160 'high-potential' cricketers were identified and were invited to participate in a four-day trial that culminated in a team of 16 players being selected to form part of the Alex XI and to go on to participate

in the Montrose Night Series in January 2017 and other competitions.

Brett Levy says: "My brother Mark and I started out as entrepreneurs with a vision to create a business based on distributing prepaid airtime. Today, thankfully, we manage a R12 billion enterprise listed on the JSE. Our dream has been given an opportunity to blossom. We want to offer the same to all 'wanna-be' sports stars - you have to start with a dream! That is part of the Alex Schools' Cricket Development Programme ethos."

'For Glenn, Lewis and Brett there is a strong common denominator in that all three are motivated by wanting to give back to South African society'

For Glenn, Lewis and Brett there is a strong common denominator in that all three are motivated by wanting to give back to South African society. Glenn expressed his drive and motivation as being rooted in his Jewish education and upbringing: "Jewish values play an integral role in everything I strive to do. Tikun Olam, the Jewish ethic of

mending and uplifting the world, extends to all areas of life whether it's family, friends, business, sport or leisure. For me, it's something I have learned from my parents and that has been filtered through our family for generations."

Living the ethic of reaching out can be challenging, as it requires time, effort and commitment. This is especially so when one has a family and a demanding career. "It's a major challenge. The programme has taken over every aspect of our lives. Not a day goes by that we are not working an aspect of assisting the Egoli Squash family. But it is very difficult to pull back when one sees and feels the benefit that people have experienced through the programme," says Glenn.

South Africa is a country in need on a great many levels. While it may be easier to throw our hands up in the air, or to have an insular focus, the Divine mandate of Tikun Olam reminds us that we have a responsibility to reach out where we can and make a difference. As the words of Hillel in Ethics of our Fathers tell us: "If I am only for myself who am I?"

The pious and scholarly sage of Israel, the Chofetz Chaim, in his teachings, shared this call to action: "Every person is a potential chesed entrepreneur. Once a person takes stock of what 'inventory' he has to offer and finds an effective way to offer it, he is on his way to making his first million, in a currency that forever keeps its value."

Elaine Miller is currently employed as Personal Assistant, however her interests are varied and include photography and writing. Supporting and assisting people and meaningful projects is one of her passions.

LEGENDS SERIES



Michael 'Mickey' Davidow

Mickey Davidow (82) is one of the South African Greats in the world of Martial Arts.

He has reached the top ranks of multiple Martial Arts disciplines including Judo, Jujitsu and Fanchento - in which he holds a 10th Dan Grand Master Black Belt. Fanchento is a practical fighting discipline, which hones the fighter in the art and skill of self-defense.

In Judo, Mickey has garnered many titles and has been awarded Springbok (National South African) ; Provincial (Transvaal) and Maccabi Colours.

He is an internationally-graded Martial Arts referee and has groomed and produced several South African Martial Arts instructors and champions (including the acclaimed Sensai Irv Ginsberg!).

Mickey is currently involved in cultivating and training young Jewish Martial Arts exponents in two Shul-based dojos.



Geoff Wald

In 1977, The Sowetan newspaper reported:

"It is indisputable that soccer would not be the same without him. In fact, take away Geoff Wald from soccer and a big and irreplaceable amount would be missing."

This was at a crisis point in South African soccer. Barred from the international sports arena it had fragmented into three different organizational bodies.

Enter 25 year old Wald, 'The Whizz' who became a central figure in the marketing and organization of:

- the Mainstay Cup, at that stage the biggest soccer competition in Africa
- the Chappies Little League, the biggest soccer competition in the world with in excess of 1 500 entered teams - acknowledged in the Guinness Book of Records
- A record sponsorship of R100 000 for soccer.
- The launch of the Gillette Cup Limited 50-Over cricket series in South Africa



George Mendelsohn

In 1977, George Mendelsohn was the 5th South African recipient of the Yakir Award – the highest honour bestowed by the Maccabi World Union for outstanding services to the Maccabiah.

His term of office as Chairman of Maccabi South Africa from 1982-1987, was followed by his being instated as the second Honorary Life President, South Africa, after Ian Maltz, who was coincidentally, the 1st recipient of the esteemed Yakir Award.

George was a Traansvaal Maccabi soccer player for years, representing South Africa against (then) Rhodesia in the 1970s. It was Tots Rubinstein and the Gecelter brothers who approached George in 1970, while he was still at Balfour Park, to join the Maccabi Committee to assist in the organization of a National Under-16 Tournament. George ended up becoming Chairman of the entire tournament. Encouraged by Bill McGarry, who came out from the UK to participate in this tournament, he also attained a coaching certificate, being trained by Roy Bailey – who was the Chairman of the Coaching Committee

In 1981, when the South African soccer team took Gold at the Maccabi Games – George was the General Manager of the team and Louis Miller the Manager.

Letters From Our Readers

soulsportsa@gmail.com

Dear Soul Sport,

It was a most pleasant surprise to find a copy of a publication dedicated to Jewish sport and sportsmen in South Africa. I really did not know it existed until I found a copy at the Institute of Advanced Medicine.

I saw an article on chess. I am sure that you are not aware that Contract Bridge is an official Olympic sport – the bridge governing body, the South African Bridge Federation, is affiliated to SASCOC and chosen players receive full Springbok colours. A little while back South Africa sent a team to the World Bridge Games (formerly known as the Bridge Olympiad) that were held in Poland in September. This team included: Alon Apteker, Neville Eber, Val Bloom, Merle Modlin, Charmaine Lipschitz and Renee Kenny - all Jewish and all from Gauteng!

*Stephen Rosenberg
(Committee Member, Gauteng Bridge Union)*

Dear Soul Sport,

Congratulations Soul Sport and team on another fantastic and insightful Soul Sport magazine. Thoroughly enjoyable.

I would like to add another Jewish boxer that you may or may not have heard of from the golden age of boxing. He may not have qualified to be included as I don't know if he ever held a unified title. His boxing name was Dave Newsboy Brown. His real name was David Montrose, a first cousin of my late

father. You can see a very interesting clip on Youtube on him by typing in Dave Newsboy Brown.

I met him once in California when I was 10 years old. He was working at Columbia Studios. In addition to showing my family his boxing scrapbooks, he also took us around Columbia Studios.

*Best regards
Moshe Montrose*

Dear Soul Sport,

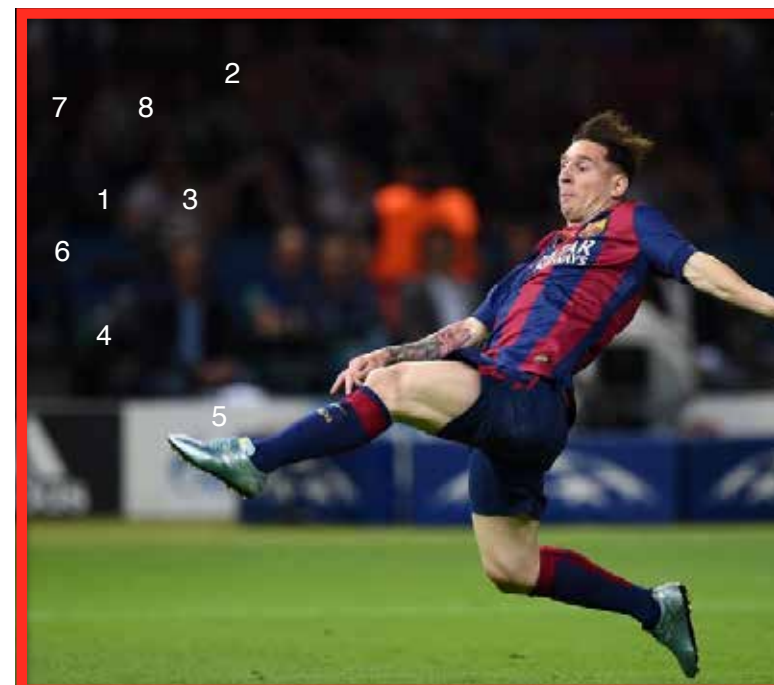
I enjoyed your excellent article on boxing .

A little known fact is that Daniel Mendoza of Sephardic descent was the Heavyweight champion of England from 1792 to 1795. Peter Sellars the comedian was always proud of his great great grandfather.

A comment on chess. A great many of the Masters, Grandmasters and World Champions were Jewish, eg Emanuel Lasker, Michail Tal , Michail Botvinnik, Garry Kasparov. Also Susan Polgar a Hungarian Jewess was considered the strongest woman world champion in chess.



*Best Regards
Hessel Meil*



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Jokes



Crash Landing

Three heavyweight men; an American, and an English man and a sumo wrestler were going to commit suicide by jumping of the top of a building. The American jumped off and shouted "G-d save America!" The English man jumped off and shouted "G-d Save The Queen!" The Sumo wrestler jumped off and shouted "G-d save the person who I land on!"

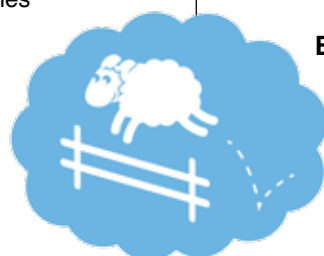


Coach needs a raise

The basketball coach stormed into the university president's office and demanded a raise right then and there. "Please," protested the college president, "you already make more than the entire History department." "Yeah, maybe so, but you don't know what I have to put up with," the coach blustered. "Look." He went out into the hall and grabbed a jock who was jogging down the hallway. "Run over to my office and see if I'm there," he ordered. Twenty minutes later the jock returned, sweaty and out of breath. "You're not there, sir," he reported. "Oh, I see what you mean," conceded the president, scratching his head. "I would have phoned."

The pro and the novice

A retiree was given a set of golf clubs by his co-workers. Thinking he'd try the game, he asked the local pro for lessons, explaining that he knew nothing whatever of the game. The pro showed him the stance and swing, then said, "Just hit the ball toward the flag on the first green." The novice teed up and smacked the ball straight down the fairway and onto the green, where it stopped inches from the hole. "Now what?" the fellow asked the speechless pro. "Uh... you're supposed to hit the ball into the cup," the pro finally said, after he was able to speak again. "Oh great! NOW you tell me." said the beginner.



Blame the parents

Three fans were bemoaning the sorry state of their soccer team. "I blame the general manager," said the first fan. "If he signed better players, we'd be a great team." "I blame the players," said the second fan. "If they made more of an effort, we'd score some points." "I blame my parents," said the third. "If I'd been born in Chelsea, I'd be supporting a decent team."

The gambler, neighbor & professor

A group from Chicago spent a weekend gambling in Las Vegas. One of the men on that trip won \$100,000. He didn't want anyone to know about it, so he decided not to return with the others, but took a later plane home - arriving back 3 a.m. He immediately went out to the backyard of his house, dug a hole and planted the money in it. The following morning he walked outside and found only an empty hole. He noticed footsteps leading from the hole to the house next door, which was owned by a deaf-mute. On the same street lived a professor who understood sign language and was a friend of the deaf man. Grabbing his pistol, the enraged man went to awaken the professor and dragged him to the deaf man's house. "You tell this guy that if he doesn't give me back my \$100,000 I'm going to kill him!" he screamed at the professor. The professor conveyed the message to his friend, and his friend replied in sign language, "I hid it in my backyard, underneath the cherry tree." The professor turned to the man with the gun and said, "He's not going to tell you. He said he'd rather die first."

Boxer's insomnia

A boxer goes to a doctor complaining of insomnia. 'Have you tried counting sheep?' asks the doctor. 'It doesn't work,' replies the boxer. 'Every time I get to nine, I stand up.'



Jewish Unity Sports Event

This year recorded another phenomenal Soul Workout Unity Sports Event

This year the event was held on Sunday 26 February at Discovery Indoor Soccer Park. The sponsor was Blue Label Telecoms. Teams from all over Johannesburg assembled for the tournament which was played in a competitive but friendly spirit.

"This year we extended the tournament to the broader community offering it as a community-building-event. Companies and organisations that operate in the heart of the Jewish community were invited to be a part of the camaraderie and connect through sport. Maxi's butchery fielded a staff team and were thrilled to be involved," said Lauren Saltz, an organiser of the event. To the soccer and last years winners, Team Maccabi, looked set to take the trophy again after resounding victories in the early round robin games. They were however knocked out on penalties in the semi-finals by a hungry and energetic Saujs. In the other semi final Super Strikers beat Pine Street.



At this stage, teams had played 80 minutes of grueling soccer. Delicious hamburgers were served from Maxi's deli before the teams took to the field for the grand final.



Super Strikers took the lead mid-way through the first half and looked the stronger side. But the tide turned and Saujs struck with clinical attacking soccer scoring once in the first half to tie the game and then a brace in the second to go 3-1 up. Super Strikers played stoically and pulled another goal back. They pressed in the dying minutes for an equalizer, but Saujs held firm and threw their hands up in the air in ecstasy and exhaustion at the final whistle.

The trophy, gold medals and R2000 in cash were handed over by organizer Ilan Herrmann, from Soul Workout to the victorious captain and team.

"It was a fantastic and successful day of sports, fun and unity and Soul Workout looks forward to holding more of these events as there is a great demand for it," said Herrmann.



Jewish Sports News In Brief

Record 30,000 take part in Jerusalem Marathon

Friday March 17 and some 30,000 runners descended on Jerusalem to take part in the 7th Jerusalem Marathon, the biggest yet. It was an amazing leap from a race that started in 2010 with only 3000 runners.

Over 3,500 of the participants were international competitors, coming in from more than 65 countries. There were nine world-class runners from several African countries.

Finishing first in the 26-mile run was Shadrack Kipkoge of Kenya, who completed the race in two hours, 17 minutes and 36 seconds.

"It's not just a sporting event, it's a spiritual event," said Barkat. "We're in the holy city of Jerusalem, running where kings and prophets walked, where the Bible happened."



Jewish NFL owners come face to face in Super Bowl

This year's Super Bowl featured the NFL's two most talented quarterbacks, Tom Brady of the New England Patriots and Matt Ryan of the Atlanta Falcons. Amazingly both teams are owned by Jews.

Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots, was victorious winning his fifth championship since taking over the franchise in 1994. Arthur Blank, owner of the Falcons since 2002, was denied in the biggest sports event on the US calendar.

Blank, 74, is the chairman of the Arthur

Blank Family Foundation, is a signatory of The Giving Pledge, committing himself to give away at least 50% of his wealth to charitable causes. He has a net worth of about \$3 billion.

The Kraft family over recent decades has donated more than \$100 million to an array of causes, including health care, education, the Jewish community, Christian organizations and local needs.

Robert Kraft, 75, is a prominent supporter of American football in Israel, including the Kraft Family Stadium in Jerusalem and the Kraft Family Israel Football League. Both are big supporters of Israel.



Aly Raisman in ESPN '100 most famous sports stars

Aly Raisman has won six Olympic medals of which 3 are gold. She captained the victorious 2012 and 2016 U.S. women's gymnastics teams. Now can add one more accolade to her list: Most famous Jewish athlete in the world.

Raisman, 23, is the only Jew on ESPN's 2017 list of the 100 most famous athletes worldwide. She just made it in at number 99 but when you consider the swarm of incredible athletes around, this is an achievement of note. Cristiano Ronaldo, topped the list. LeBron James, was number two.

Raisman won her first Olympic golds as an 18-year-old in 2012, performing her first-place floor exercise to the tune of Hava Nagila.

ESPN calculated the rankings by looking at endorsement money, social media following and Google search results. Raisman has a mere \$450,000 in endorsement deals (by comparison, LeBron James does \$55 million in endorsements). She has a massive 2.2 million followers on Instagram and nearly a million on Twitter.

Maccabiah Eytan out for a Golden Duck

Naomi Eytan, 14, has played all season in the Israeli National under-19 cricket team — the only girl in a squad of the top 15 youth players in the country. With the Maccabi Games set to start next month, she expected to pad up with her team-mates as they battle it out against Jewish cricket teams from across the globe. However, she was informed by the organizers that she has been left out of the squad because the Maccabi cricket team is supposed to be for men only. The rest of her team were also surprised at the news.

The Maccabiah explained its reasoning in a statement to Ynet, saying, "The competition is conducted in accordance with international regulations while maintaining professional and safety standards. The Maccabiah received a request from the cricket association to include a female player in the youth team. Apparently this does not meet the international regulations upon which the Maccabiah relies." The decision has caused an uproar among many local adult players, who are seeking to help Naomi Eytan compete.

"If there was a national cricket team for girls, I wouldn't have a problem; however, there are no girls in Israel at present who play cricket at national level besides me. I was chosen to represent Israel as one of its best 15," Naomi Eytan told the Hebrew-language Ynet website. "What kind of message is the Maccabiah sending out to girls and to the world? Instead of being proud of me, they are sending me home because of rules and regulations put in place by some unknown regulators."



Israeli Amputee Sets New World Record

On April 24th Israel's Eitan Hermon set a world record in the marathon for single-leg amputee runners, clocking a time of 2:56.53 hours in Vienna.

Hermon, who lost a leg in the 2006 war in Lebanon, is a T42 athlete, which means he competes with one prosthetic leg.

Hermon spent six weeks in hospital after the armored vehicle he was riding hit a roadside IED in the summer of 2006. After eight months, he decided to have his leg amputated below the knee so he could run with a prosthetic leg due the

excruciating pain he was suffering from. "Running was something I had done my whole life and this was the way for me to get back to what I was," he said before the 2015 London marathon.

Hermon receives help from Tikvot, a non-profit, volunteer-based organization which rehabilitates Israel's victims of terror and wounded soldiers through sports.

Minister of Culture and Sport Miri Regev called Hermon to congratulate him, and linked between his achievement and Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day. "You proved that we are a strong and steadfast people, and that we cannot be destroyed," she told Hermon. (J'lem Post)

Miltz makes the SA Cricket Team

Jacob Miltz has made the SA under-19 cricket squad which will face the West Indies visiting side in Durban and Pietermaritzburg in five One Day internationals. This will take place from 9th - 19th July.

Miltz, 17, attends St David Marist in Inanda and is in Grade 11.

Miltz has had a string of career highs. He made the U-17 Gauteng Provincial week in 2016. He then made the Lions Franchise U-19 team in January which competed in Stellenbosch. This led to

his selection for the Lions Academy team in January 2017 playing against other Franchise academies, these being the elite in the country, featuring all the budding, future stars.

From here Miltz was selected to go to SA trials. 30 boys were selected and then the final squad was picked of the 15 best players. Miltz was not only picked, but carries a double lead role. He is both wicket-keeper & opening batsman.

This is the first Jewish Protea in quite some time and an excited Miltz says he looks forward to the prospect of hopefully playing for the SA National side one day.



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*Gandy JJ, Meeding PM, Snyman JR, Van Rensburg CE. Phase 1 clinical study of the acute and sub-acute safety and proof-of-concept efficacy of carbohydrate-derived fulvic acid. Clinical Pharmacology: Advances and Applications 2012;4 7-11 Dove Press

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Shmuel Dovid Goldberg

Reaching for greatness

By Candy Angel Ephron

It has been said: "The starting point of all achievement is desire".

From the tender age of five Shmuel Dovid Goldberg clearly had a zealous inclination to learn, to compete and to win.

Physically, this was expressed early, in Judo. It was through the tutelage of Sensei Irv Ginsberg, whose unending care and unique gift for teaching nurtured Shmuel's development through martial arts childhood, to becoming a focused young man, secure with the knowledge that "anything is possible so long as the mind is in control".

Mentally, these traits were expressed in his discovering chess. Here, his indomitable character and the ultimate cerebral battlefield, collided. His passion for the sport grew exponentially, leading him to rapidly leap over his age category and become a leading junior player.

Shmuel has an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, a passion to achieve and a seemingly never ending will to conquer his dreams. The tougher the challenge, the more impassioned he seems to be.

Beginning with his first Judo tournament at age five, while still feeling very unsure of what he was supposed to do, he managed to deliver a stunning blow to the ribs of his opponent, knocking him down and winning his first gold medal. That marked the beginning of his gaining confidence across many areas of his life. Confidence in Judo was of paramount importance because Shmuel was always the smallest boy his age when sizing up against his opponents. To this day, he has yet to be teamed up to fight someone smaller, or even the same size as himself.

His teacher and mentor, Sensei Irv Ginsberg, was the first to take Shmuel under his wing. Not only did he teach him martial arts, but also inculcated morals and ethics. Irv, who himself is 8th Dan, has been instrumental in his character development through the years. Shmuel learned Judo,

Karate, Jujitsu and how to handle certain weapons under Sensei Irv's tutelage. By the time Shmuel had his Barmitzva, he had a Junior Black Belt in Judo and by the time he matriculated he was a Senior Second Dan.

"He challenged me to dream big, pursue and achieve. He ingrained in me confidence, as well as teaching me that the pain of the struggle in the pursuit of one's goals is temporary, however quitting, lasts forever. Relinquishing is never an option. My Sensei is largely responsible for the person I am today," says Shmuel, of the man he has admired for most of his life.

And equally praiseworthy, Sensei Irv gleans the following: "Shmuel has been a loyal pupil and friend for many years. We have evolved from Sensei-Pupil status, to buddies and 'family'. He was always stressing that martial arts strength lay in brain power, not brawn; and as such I would have to go through the techniques to satisfy his analytical nature. I think these attributes ran hand in hand, with Judo complementing chess, or visa-versa. Shmuel was always willing to assist younger and weaker children. I always taught my pupils this Torah teaching, 'The ultimate aim lies not in the defeat or victory of one's opponent, but the perfection of one's character.'"

Pam Goldberg, his mom, never dreamed that teaching her four year old son to play chess, would lead to him becoming a formidable player on the South African national and international team, representing South Africa as captain of the chess team for the Maccabi Games in 2013, at fourteen years old. His mom reminisces, "The day Samuel was born he was tightly wrapped up in a papoose and put into an incubator. His late zeida, Abe Ephron, gazed into the incubator in utter disbelief exclaiming, "Can you believe this! He has just loosened the papoose. This boy is a champion!" His father, Israel Goldberg says that Shmuel "has a determination to succeed in whatever he does as he is serious and this is coupled with a sincere nature."

Clive Mthunzi, Head Coach for Ekurhuleni Chess Union,





Shmuel Dovid is an internationally recognized chess player



became a big part of Shmuel's life when he began coaching him at age 13. He praises Shmuel as one of the best students he has worked with. "Shmuel Goldberg is an exceptional young man. I first met him in 2011, where as a young boy - he was already battling it out and giving grown men a hard time over the chess board. Later that year he was part of the provincial team that went to the South African Junior chess championships representing the Gauteng South Union. I was, at that time, a junior myself.

This is when we got formally introduced. He showed dedication and passion that I hardly ever saw in any of my students. With his talent, hard work and dedication, Shmuel soon became one of the top junior players in the country. His passion and understanding of the game is inspiring. He is highly disciplined and has great ambitions."

Shmuel matriculated from Yeshiva College in 2016. For his gap year, he chose to go to Israel, and attend Mayanot Yeshivah in Jerusalem. Once again, this young achiever finds himself living life to the fullest: spiritually, mentally, physically and of course - socially.

He is currently loving the challenge of his Torah learning, and is proving to be a very diligent talmid. His mind is being stretched into different avenues of yiddiskeit and he has taken upon himself the challenge of really delving into his learning.

He has not relied on the odd chess game with a friend. Instead, after one week of being in Israel, he went out and found a chess club - of which he is the only English speaker amidst a genus of Russian Olim. Language difficulties did not seem to faze him, and he was made captain of the youth League after only being in Israel for two and a half months! He has won two tournaments and has come fourth three times.

One of Shmuel's greatest passions is playing chess blindfolded. He is able to play three opponents at a time, and beat them!

Shmuel is not impulsive. Due to his training, everything is planned and thought out. Of playing blindfolded he says pensively, "My favourite part about playing chess blindfolded is that it amps up the challenge especially when

I play two or three people at once ... the whole world blanks out. I am able to create a reality, in a sense becoming part of the game."

In a normal game, my thoughts are an expression of the board whereas in a blindfolded game the board becomes an expression of my thoughts. That's the difference!"

Joining the Judo Club in Jerusalem led him to apply for the Maccabi Games taking place in July of this year. He was duly accepted to represent South Africa, and he sees this as a tremendous honour. His Sensei, Mickey Davidow, 10th Dan, said, "Shmuel is making a mark for himself in the martial arts world. He is currently graded as an international Second Dan, very unusual for a boy his age, 18. His grade is internationally recognized by the International Jui Jitsu Organisation. Unless one can see him in action you will not be able to comprehend his Judo acumen."

Only two judo participants have been selected to represent South Africa competing in this Maccabi Games.

Shmuel will be joined by Yossi Abraham.

Shmuel seems to succeed in everything he sets his mind to. Besides judo keeping up his optimal fitness level, he also took part in the famed Jerusalem Marathon, where he landed up coming in 20th for his age group.

Shmuel can also be found on Thursday nights, frequenting the local Jerusalem night life scene, where he has undertaken to socialize and party with as many people as possible, until as late as possible. As he says, "Every Thursday night is a national Israeli holiday!" He has also managed to traverse the Holy Land, and has fallen in love with her magnificence and greatness.

"He ingrained in me confidence, and taught me that the pain of the struggle in the pursuit of one's goals is temporary, however quitting, lasts forever"

If you meet Shmuel personally, you would never know of his achievements. He is humble, not one to brag and seldom shares his achievements, so that even own parents at times don't know when he has a won chess championship.

Shmuel is very personable and has an outrageous sense of humour, sprinkled with small doses of naughtiness. He has a good rapport with people across the age spectrum.

Shmuel has shown and too a vast extent realised, his great potential. He sees nothing as an obstacle. Sensei Ginsburg says of him, "He is a courageous fighter who never quits." At the moment, he is taking each day as it comes, enjoying living in the moment and experiencing all that he can. This is, of course, all while traversing the gargantuan path that inevitably challenges one's Herculean dreams, and makes them a reality.

Candy Engel recently made Aliyah to Israel with her husband and 5 daughters. Her blog www.thesweetlifeofcandy.wordpress.com is her sounding board and coping mechanism, for her very busy life filled with unpredictable events and happenstances.

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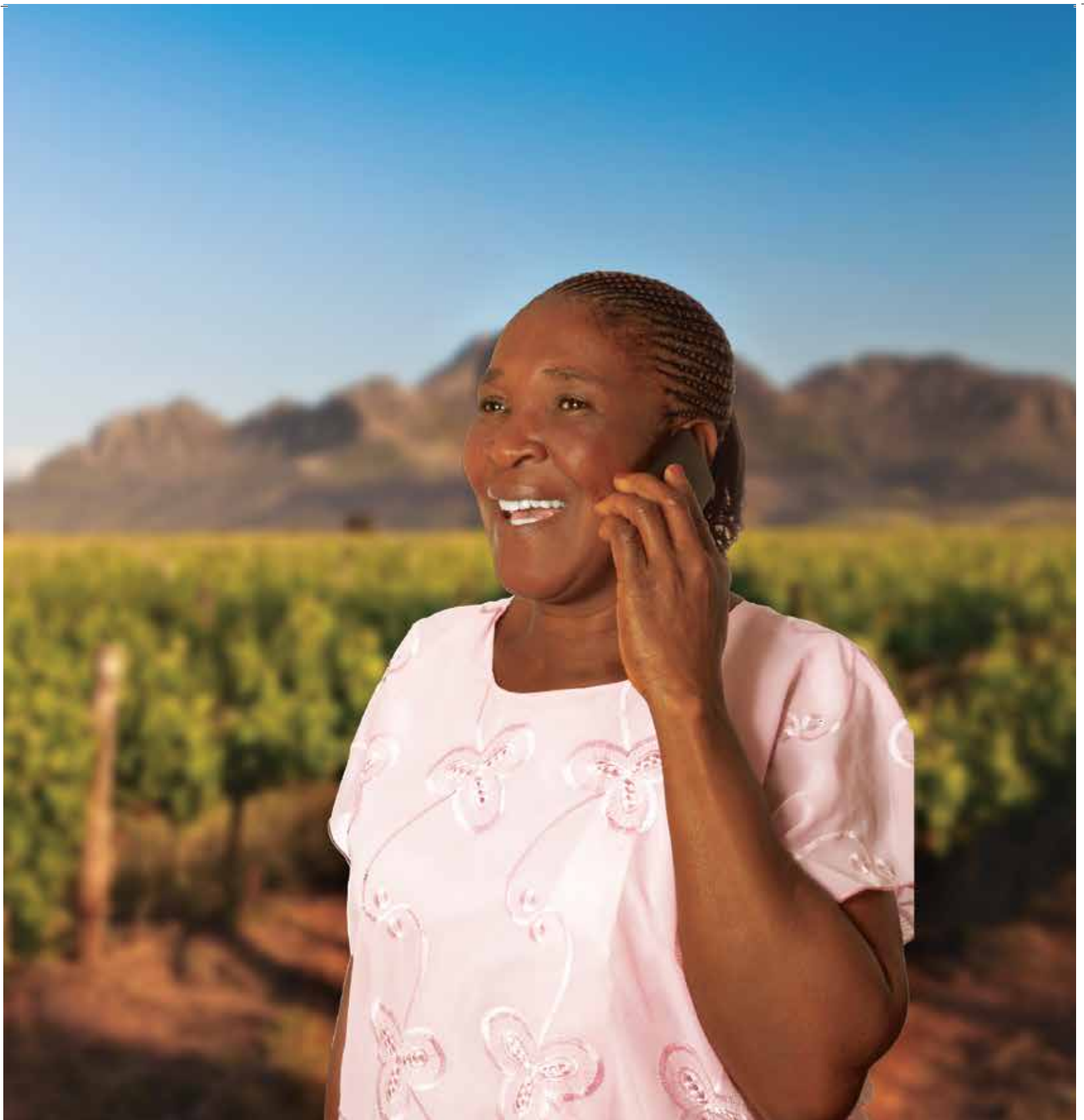


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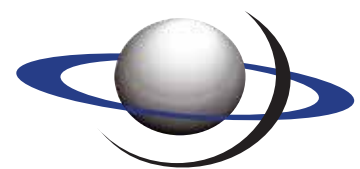
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