

## **TuksAthletics Club – Athletics Hall of Fame Special Awards inductees: 2000-2008**

MARC MUNDELL AND JANITA VAN WYK

*Department of Biokinetics, Sport and Leisure Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, University of Pretoria, Pretoria 0002, South Africa; Email: janita.vanwyk@up.ac.za*

### **Abstract**

The TuksSport Hall of Fame comprises three categories, each acknowledging the involvement and outstanding sporting performances of representatives of the University of Pretoria, namely for national representation, exceptional services to sport at the University, and exceptional achievements in sport. Since the inception of the TuksSport Hall of Fame in 2000, the University of Pretoria has inducted 172 sportsmen and sportswomen, and has presented 36 Special Awards until 2008. This article focuses on each of the TuksAthletics Club Special Award recipients inducted into the TuksSport Hall of Fame from 2000 to 2008. Twelve Tuks Athletics Club representatives have received Special Awards while a further 36 representatives have been inducted. The purpose of this study was to document the outstanding achievements of the TuksAthletics Club Special Award recipients, and to reflect on their career performances which resulted in their induction. As this study was sport-history orientated, the historic method was applied. Preference was thus given to primary sources of information. These sources included interviews with people involved in the TuksSport Hall of Fame, and the interpretation of reports. Secondary sources of information included University publications, books, articles, and newspapers. The TuksSport Hall of Fame Special Awards acknowledge only the very best Tuks sports stars and personalities. Tuks Athletics Club has nurtured and developed many of these inductees, each of whom have contributed to the University of Pretoria and the community at large.

**Keywords:** TuksAthletics Club, TuksSport, hall of fame, special awards, University of Pretoria.

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### **Introduction**

The University of Pretoria introduced the TuksSport Hall of Fame in 2000 to honour the sporting achievements of the alumni. This followed on the success of the TuksSports Awards Dinner, the first of which was held in 1974. The TuksSports Awards were initially introduced to honour the best sportsman and sportswoman at the University of Pretoria, and has grown to acknowledge a large number of sporting personalities annually. In 1999, TuksSport appointed former Springbok rugby captain Wynand Claassen to head the TuksSport Alumni drive. Claassen, the son of Springbok athlete and Comrades Marathon winner George Claassen, conceptualised the idea of the TuksSport Hall of Fame banquet.

The TuksSport Hall of Fame comprises three main categories. The first one is for sport alumni and members of TuksSport clubs who have represented South Africa. The second category recognises individuals who have rendered exceptional services to sport at the University over a long period, either as an administrator or as captain of a first team for many years, or for exceptional performance in an individual sport and becoming a household name in the country. Finally, the third category is for exceptional achievements in sport, such as winning medals at the Olympic Games, IAAF World Championships or Continental Championships, captaining a national team, serving as president of a national sport federation, or any similar achievement.

In order to be inducted in the TuksSport Hall of Fame, a potential recipient must be nominated by the relevant TuksSport Club manager or executive committee. Calls for nominations are distributed to all affiliated TuksSport managers by the TuksSport alumni office. Nominations from the individual clubs are then submitted for consideration to the TuksAlumni review committee which are comprised of the director of TuksSport, the TuksSport alumni manager and the TuksSport marketing manager. Nominees who meet the criteria discussed above are then considered for induction at the next TuksSport Hall of Fame banquet (Claassen, 2009).

The inaugural TuksSport Hall of Fame banquet took place in the Rembrandt Hall at the L.C. de Villiers Sports Centre of the University of Pretoria in 2000. During this event, 18 players, three club captains and three Springbok captains were inducted. Noteworthy was the induction of Wynand Claassen in three separate categories, namely as a TuksRugby Springbok, TuksRugby Club captain, and finally the captain of the Springbok Rugby team. Two Special Awards were also conferred at this inaugural banquet. Professor Fritz Eloff received a Special Award for his contribution to rugby as the president of the Northern Transvaal Rugby Union for 25 years and as president of the South African Rugby Football Union. The second recipient, Professor Daan Swiegers, was acknowledged for his contribution to rugby as the TuksRugby Club president for 20 years and as a Springbok selector for 23 years (Claassen, 2009).

Wicksell (2011) indicated that the TuksSport Hall of Fame banquet took place annually until 2006. The 2007 TuksSport Hall of Fame banquet was postponed in order to host a joint banquet during the 2008 Centenary year which commemorated the University of Pretoria's centenary year. Thereafter, the TuksSport Hall of Fame banquet was scheduled to be held biennially.

As this study focuses on the history of sport performance, the historic method of research was followed. Preference was given to primary sources of information, such as interviews with people involved in organising the TuksSport Hall of Fame and the TuksAthletics Club, questionnaires and reports. Secondary publications consulted included University publications, books, articles and newspapers (Mundell, 2010).

Despite the importance of TuksSport Hall of fame and its contribution to sports development in South Africa, very few studies, if any, have documented the biography of TuksAthletics Club Special Award recipients. The researcher sourced information from the University of Pretoria's archives, the TuksAthletics Club archives and the annuals of South African Athletics as compiled by the South African Athletics statisticians. All the documents available to the researcher were consulted and incorporated into this research. This article focuses on the TuksAthletics Club Special Award recipients inducted into the TuksSport Hall of Fame from 2000 to 2008.

The aim of this research is to provide a summarised biography of each of the TuksAthletics Club Hall of Fame Special Award inductees during the period 2000 to 2008.

### **Methodology**

In light of the aim of this study, it is important to clarify the parameters of the study. This study covers the nine years of existence of the TuksSport Hall of Fame, namely from 2000 to 2008. The 2007 TuksSports Hall of Fame banquet was postponed in order to host a combined TuksSport Hall of Banquet during the 2008 Centenary year. Although the TuksSport Hall of Fame Awards were held annually between 2000 and 2006 and again in 2008, TuksAthletics Club recipients were only honoured in 2001, 2002, 2005 and 2008. All information available in this period and relevant to the TuksAthletics Club was incorporated. This article, which was extracted from the dissertation titled, "TuksAthletics Club: A History 1918-2008", focuses solely on the achievements of the TuksAthletics Club Special Award recipients inducted into the TuksSport Hall of Fame (Mundell, 2010).

### **Design**

A historical research design was used in which the researcher reviewed literature that focused on the history of the TuksAthletics Club and in particular the achievements of the TuksAthletics Club athletes and management members inducted into the TuksSport Hall of Fame. Primary and secondary sources were consulted in order to give an overview of the outstanding achievements of the TuksAthletics Club members.

The primary literature sources used included personal interviews, questionnaires and reports. The secondary literature sources consulted included internet websites, dissertations, scholarly books in the field of study and magazine articles.

Ethical aspects

The Dean of Students, University of Pretoria and the Research Proposal and Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Humanities approved the research.

### **TuksSport Hall of Fame (2000-2008)**

#### *TuksSport Hall of Fame Athletics Inductees: Special Awards*

Table 1 provides a comprehensive list of the Special Awards conferred on TuksAthletics Club athletes inducted into the TuksSport Hall of Fame.

Since the inception of the TuksSport Hall of Fame, 12 TuksAthletics Club representatives have been inducted as Special Awards recipients into the TuksSport Hall of Fame during the period 2000 to 2008. These recipients either rendered exceptional services to sport at the University of Pretoria or their achievements in sport were exceptional. Each recipient is briefly discussed below.

#### *TuksSport Hall of Fame 2001*

In 2001, the second year of existence of the TuksSport Hall of Fame, four Special Awards were made. Matt Maré and Professor Hannes Botha were both recognised for their outstanding tenure as presidents of the South African Amateur Athletics Union, while Willie le Roux was acknowledged for his years of exceptional service to TuksSport. Llewellyn Herbert was inducted for having received a bronze medal in the 400 m hurdles at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

In 1927 **Matt Maré** became the TuksAthletics Club captain and remained in the position until 1931, with the exception of 1929. In 1928 Maré was the first Club captain to receive the celebrated Dalrymple trophy. He served as TuksAthletics Club chairperson from 1937 to 1947, during which time the TuksAthletics Club celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Due to the outbreak of the Second World War, which caused tension between the English and Afrikaans universities, no intervarsity sporting competitions took place from 1942 to 1945. From 1942, Maré acted as the president of the Afrikaanse Studentebond vir Atletiek (ASB), which included the universities of Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Potchefstroom and Stellenbosch.

Table 1: TuksSport Hall of Fame Special Awards (Athletics)

Year	Name	Performance
2001	Llewellyn Herbert	Bronze medal in the 400 mh - Olympic Games, 2000
2001	WJS (Willie) le Roux	Years of exceptional service to TuksSport
2001	Matt Maré	President SA Amateur Athletics Union
2001	Prof Hannes Botha	President SA Amateur Athletics Union
2002	Prof CF Nieuwoudt	President SA Amateur Athletics Union
2002	Adv DH van Zyl	President SA Amateur Athletics Union
2002	George Claassen	Winner Comrades Marathon 1961; Member of SA team vs British team – Comrades Marathon 1962
2005	Mbulaeni Mulaudzi	Silver medallist 800 m – Olympic Games, 2004
2008	Steve Rautenbach	Years of exceptional service to TuksAthletics
2008	John Short	Years of exceptional service to TuksAthletics
2008	Dup du Preez	Years of exceptional service to TuksAthletics
2008	Bessie Windell	Years of exceptional service to TuksAthletics

*Source:* Claassen (2009)

In conjunction with several teacher training colleges, they continued to hold annual athletics competitions. Under Maré's leadership, the athletics organisations of English and Afrikaans universities amalgamated in 1947 to form the South African Universities Athletics Federation (SAUAF). Maré championed the inclusion of teacher training colleges and the participation of female athletes in the intervarsity championships. He served as the president of the South African Amateur Athletics Union (SAAAU) from 1959 to 1971, and also acted as the president of the Northern Transvaal Amateur Athletics Federation (NTAAF) (Senekal, 1968; Rautenbach & Van Zyl, 1981; Joubert, 1985).

Professor **Hannes Botha** excelled as an athlete competing in both the shot-put and the discus, and displaying excellent leadership qualities. In 1956 Botha captained the TuksAthletics Club and represented South Africa at the 1958 Commonwealth Games in Cardiff, Wales. The following year he was selected to compete against the touring West Germans in South Africa, and in 1961 he competed at the World Athletics Championships in Helsinki, Finland. In 1962 Botha became the first athlete in Africa to exceed 60 feet in the shot-put, setting a new record of 18.29m. He captained both the 1962 and 1966 Springbok athletics teams against the touring teams of West

Germany, Belgium and England. Botha served as president of the SAAAU from 1971 to 1977 after which he served as TuksAthletics Club chairperson from 1982 to 1988. In 2001, Botha was inducted into the TuksSport Hall of Fame as both a Springbok and the recipient of a Special Award (Senekal, 1968; Rautenbach & Van Zyl, 1981; Bergh, Ferreira, Pretorius, Grobler & Stals, 1996).

**W.J.S. le Roux** served as the TuksAthletics Club secretary in 1941 before captaining the Club from 1942 to 1944. During Le Roux's tenure as Club captain, the Club won the coveted Dalrymple Trophy. He later served as Club chairperson from 1947 to 1949. Working in conjunction with Matt Maré, Le Roux served as secretary of the ASB from 1942 to 1946. Thereafter he was retained as secretary of the SAUAF until 1965. Le Roux represented the SAAAU at both the Olympic and Commonwealth Games (Senekal, 1968; Pelzer, 1982).

Competing in the 400 m hurdles, **Llewellyn Herbert** achieved the absolute highlight for Team South Africa at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000. Herbert set a new South African record of 47.81 seconds and went on to win an Olympic Games bronze medal. This was the first Olympic Games medal won by a member of the TuksAthletics Club or the University of Pretoria. Furthermore, Herbert is the only Club athlete to have achieved three separate top 10 performances at the IAAF World Athletics Championships and the only Club athlete to date to have done so in two different events. In 1997 in Athens, Greece, Herbert finished second in the 400 m hurdles and was part of the 4x400 m quartet that finished fifth in the final. In 1999 in Seville, Spain, Herbert finished eighth in the 400 m hurdles finals. He is also one of the select few to have won multiple medals at the African Championships, and was the first Club athlete to defend a title, namely his 400 m hurdles title from 2002 in 2004 (Claassen, 2009; Le Roux, 2009).

#### *TuksSport Hall of Fame 2002*

The TuksAthletics Club received three Special Awards in 2002. As former presidents of the SAAAU, both Professor Charles Nieuwoudt and Advocate Deon van Zyl were acknowledged for their terms. The final recipient, George Claassen, was inducted for marathon running. Claassen won the Comrades Marathon in 1961 and was a member of the South African team that competed against the British team in the 1962 Comrades Marathon (Claassen, 2009).

Professor **C.F. Nieuwoudt** served as the TuksAthletics Club secretary in 1958, 1959 and 1961 and as the TuksAthletics Club chairperson from 1964 to 1967 and again in 1970 (Senekal, 1968). Nieuwoudt also served as chairperson of the Northern Transvaal Amateur Athletics Federation (NTAAF) for a period of time from 1966. Athletics was one of the four leading sports in South Africa during the 1970s and 1980s, and was the first South African sport to open its doors to all South Africans.

Professor Nieuwoudt served as president of the SAAAU from 1977 to 1989, and will be remembered for the abolition of racial discrimination in athletics during his tenure. Professor Charles Nieuwoudt passed away in 2008 (SAPA, 2008; Claassen, 2009).

**D.H. van Zyl** was appointed as TuksAthletics Club chairperson in 1976, a position that he held until 1981. In 1980, Van Zyl received TuksSport honorary colours for service, and the following year he published *Universiteit van Pretoria: Atletiek 1930-1980* in collaboration with the TuksAthletics Club and Steve Rautenbach. In 1991, Advocate D.H. van Zyl was elected as president of the SAAAU, a position which he also held in 1992. The structures of the SAAAU were adapted and changed in 1992 and Athletics South Africa (ASA) was formed. Van Zyl was at the helm of these changes and continued to serve as president until the end of his term in 1993. In February 1999, he was appointed as a member of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Lausanne) and served on its ad hoc arbitration panels. He performed duties at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester and at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games (Rautenbach & Van Zyl, 1981; Bergh *et al.*, 1996).

**George Claassen** won the arduous Comrades Marathon in 1961; the first time that a member of the TuksAthletics Club had ever done so. He was awarded the prestigious "SA Distance Runner of the Year" award by the National Federation. The year before (1960), Claassen finished third in his debut Comrades Marathon, breaking the novice record by more than an hour. That same year, Claassen was selected as a member of the South African marathon team which competed in the London-Brighton Marathon, and he became the first marathon athlete to receive Springbok colours. The following year, Claassen was selected to compete against a touring British marathon team in the 1962 Comrades Marathon. As a university student he was a regular member of the cross-country team and also played rugby for Tuks u19. Claassen was often required to hand out prizes at the TuksAthletics Club's Annual Road Race. In 1973 he established the Pretoria Marathon Club and served as its president until 1987. The popular January Road Race hosted by the Pretoria Marathon Club is named after him. Wynand and George Claassen are the only father and son combination inducted into the TuksSport Hall of Fame (Senekal, 1968; Claassen, 2009).

#### *TuksSport Hall of Fame 2005*

The TuksAthletics Club received a Special Award in 2005. Mbulaeni Mulaudzi was inducted into the TuksSport Hall of Fame for his outstanding performance at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

In 2003, the year before the Athens Olympic Games, **Mbulaeni Mulaudzi** joined the TuksAthletics Club. Mulaudzi went to the Olympic Games in Athens as the 2004

IAAF World Indoor and 2002 Commonwealth Games champion in the 800 m (Prinsloo, 2002). With a personal best of one minute 42.89 seconds (1:42.89) he was the favourite to return with a medal. Mulaudzi did not disappoint, winning an Olympic silver medal in Athens. This was the second ever medal won by a member of the Club at the Olympic Games, and he was crowned TuksSportsman of the Year in 2004. Mulaudzi is the TuksAthletics Club's top performer at the IAAF World Indoor Championships. In 2004 he was crowned IAAF World Indoor Champion in the 800 m event in Budapest, Hungary and finished second over the same distance two years later in Moscow, Russia. Mulaudzi is one of an elect few that have won two All Africa Games medals, finishing runner up in the 800 m in Nigeria in 2003 and again in Algeria in 2007. Also in 2007, Mulaudzi set a new 1 000 m South African record of 2:15.86 (Van Schalkwyk, 2008).

### *TuksSport Hall of Fame 2008*

In 2008 the University acknowledged four outstanding coaches of the Club by conferring Special Awards on Steve Rautenbach, John Short, Dup du Preez and Bessie Windell (posthumously) (Claassen, 2009).

While coaching at the University of Pretoria, **Steve Rautenbach** was appointed team coach for the 1969 South African Games which included several TuksAthletics Club athletes. In 1975, Rautenbach was appointed as the first full-time official sports manager of the TuksAthletics Club, and was responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the Club. From 1975 to 1980, he served as the Club secretary and performed the same role for the SAUAF from the end of 1975 until 1980. In 1981, the year that he resigned from the University of Pretoria, Rautenbach published *Universiteit van Pretoria: Atletiek 1930–1980*, a collaborative effort between him, the TuksAthletics Club and D.H. van Zyl. Because of South Africa's isolation during the apartheid years, no national teams were selected to represent the country at international competitions. In 1976 the South African Coaches Association covered Rautenbach's travel expenses to head a group of observers to the Olympic Games in Montreal, Canada. In 1992 he was selected as the athletics team manager for the Summer Olympic Games held in Barcelona, Spain. This was South Africa's first post-isolation Olympic Games since re-admittance to international sport the previous year. Rautenbach was a prominent TuksAthletics Club coach and coached many talented athletes, most notably Johan Fourie. He was a national selector for the SAAAU from 1979 to 1992 and for the newly formed ASA from 1992 to 1995. Since then he has been involved with many university athletics teams that have competed at the World Student Games. As an accredited International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) coach and presenter, Steve Rautenbach has presented numerous IAAF and ASA coaching courses throughout South Africa and Africa. In 2002 Steve Rautenbach received the TuksSport Personality Award at the TuksSport awards dinner (Atlete na Engeland, 1976;



Rautenbach & Van Zyl, 1981; Pelzer, 1982; Badenhorst, 1992; Van Schalkwyk, 2008; Claassen, 2009).

Major **John Short** replaced Steve Rautenbach as Club secretary from 1981 to 1983 and went on to become the Club manager from 1985 to 1986 and again in 1990. Short was previously a South African decathlon and shot-put champion and had also held the national record for a period of time. Short was a founding member of the South African Coaching Society established in 1964, and served as chairperson for five years. A coaching career highlight for Short was when his athlete, Paul Nash, equalled the 100 m world record. Short received the State President's Award for his contribution to coaching in 1975. Marcel Winkler was one of the more than 40 Tuks athletes coached by Short that became South African champions and the first to participate in the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992 (Atletiek ... Bestuur verander, 1983; TuksSport, 2008).

**Dup du Preez** received his Springbok colours in 1973, competing in the shot-put against a touring German team. From competitive sport Du Preez moved on to coaching and has coached many prominent throwers (shot-put and discus) over the years while associated with the TuksAthletics Club. These athletes included South African and African discus record holder Elizna Naude, All Africa Games shot-put medallist, Roelie Potgieter and the outstanding athletes, brothers Karel and Frits Potgieter. Du Preez's distinguished coaching career includes more than 40 South African champions, several Springboks, senior and junior Proteas, a world junior champion and a world youth champion. In 2000, Du Preez was selected as a coach to represent Team South Africa at the Olympic Games held in Sydney, Australia. His coaching achievements were acknowledged in 2006 when he was awarded the TuksSport Coach of the Year award at the TuksSport awards dinner (TuksSport, 2008; Van Schalkwyk, 2008; Claassen, 2009; Le Roux, 2009).

**Bessie Windell** was a prominent hurdles coach at the Club, having coached numerous South African record holders in many events. These former record holders included Myrtle Bothma (400 m hurdles in 1986 – record still stands at 53.74 s), Yvette de Klerk (100 m – record still stands at 11.07 s, and 200 m – record still stands at 22.06 s), Marcel Winkler (SA junior champion 100 m – record still stands at 11.25 s and SA u23 champion 200 m – record still stands at 22.80 s) and Hennie Kotze (400m hurdles, best time 49.26 s). Several of these athletes became top international athletics coaches themselves. Before her coaching career, Windell was a provincial gymnast and national korfbal player. In 1984 she was awarded the State President's Award for her contribution to athletics in South Africa. Her presence at her induction in 2008 was not possible as she had lost her battle with cancer earlier in that year. She will be remembered by the athletics community and the athletes that she coached and mentored (TuksSport, 2008; Claassen, 2009; Le Roux, 2009; Siedler, 2009).

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The TuksSport Hall of Fame acknowledges the outstanding performances and contributions of the University alumni, several of whom have become household names in South Africa. All former Springbok athletes and national representatives have been honoured by being inducted into the TuksSport Hall of Fame. In that way the alumni have been encouraged to remain involved with the University of Pretoria, its sporting programmes and facility upgrades. The TuksSport Hall of Fame recognises the contributions made not only by prominent athletes, but also by sport administrators, several of whom have been associated with national sport federations or organisations. Many of the recipients have given up their time to share their expertise and experience and to promote and enhance the TuksSport brand. In so doing they have excelled on and off the track.

The continued existence of the TuksSport Hall of Fame, and the future acknowledgement of athletics icons by the TuksAthletics Club are strongly recommended. Sport clubs must delve into their archives and nominate athletes and administrators for induction. Although Springbok or Protea athletes are inducted for national representation, very few prominent national coaches and national team managers have been inducted during the same period of time. The TuksSport Club committees must acknowledge the contributions made by all their Club members throughout the years. It is imperative that successful sporting alumni performances be acknowledged by the University of Pretoria on a regular basis (biennially), and in order to achieve that, all clubs must do research to find their achievers from the past and nominate them. The longevity of many of the University of Pretoria's sport clubs depends on the contributions and support of their alumni members.

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