



1. Batswadi was born in the Vryburg district in 1950. His parents died when he was three and their five children were brought up by an aunt. He did not have much schooling, and might never have been heard of if he had not gone to work on the Rand mines. He played soccer and took up cycling. It was soon clear that he had a natural talent for sport.

Cartoon: Batswadi on the cycle track

2. In 1974 Titus Mamabola won the South African title for the 5000m. foot race. This inspired Batswadi. He trained for a couple of months, and only Mamabola could beat him in his first race. In 1975 he won the South African cross'-country championships open for the first time to blacks. In 1976 he won the 10,000m. and was third in the 5000m and 3000m. On 16 April 1977 he beat Ewald Bonzet in the 5000m. and made a spectacular finish with arms outstretched. In 1978 he broke the Transvaal record for the 10,000m, with a time of 28m.46.8secs, and the free State record with 28m 56.2 secs.

Cartoon: Batswadi winning the 5000m, in 1977 (See picture in "top sport" May, 1977)

3. Batswadi is now determined to break the South African records for the 10,000m., 5000m., and 3000m. He was recently given Springbok colours and is the first black athlete to wear the coveted blazer.

- Cartoon: Batswadi in Springbok blazer (Full page picture of Batswadi "top sport" Jan 1977)