

Happy eleven win Secunda soccer

IF ANY soccer clubs like a good challenge - the Happy Boys of Kinross mine are out there waiting for you.

The smiling eleven won the NUM Secunda regional tournament on 12 February.

Secunda NUM is setting an example as far as cultural activities go to other NUM regions. It arranged a soccer tournament in which 18 clubs participated.

First kick-off

The first kick-off was on 22 January. Eighteen clubs registered. About 1500 workers from different branches attended the tournament.

There was a good spirit of comradeship as teams chased that elusive ball. Spectators included comrades from other COSATU unions and the community. The day was characterised by the singing of freedom songs.

One club from New Denmark caused the only problem of the day. They staged a walk-out after their request to play early ahead of other clubs was rejected by the cultural committee. They had not attended any meetings prior to the tournament and arrived late on the day.

For the second round of the tournament on 5 February Kinross soccer field was used.

On the day of the semi-finals and finals on 12 February it was raining. But the clubs decided to go ahead with the matches.

The final was played by Happy Boys of Kinross Mine and Eleven Kaartjies of Withaak Mine.

Just before kick-off the two clubs and spectators in the grandstands observed a minute's silence in remembrance of Comrade William Rambaui who was stabbed to death on 4 February.

Both sides put up a tough fight. Happy Boys won the trophy by 1-0. They also received two soccer balls worth over R100.

Happy Boys is ready for any soccer club from other regions that would like to test its power. It was decided that the club that

won the trophy would be prepared to play teams from other regions until a Secunda regional team was formed.

But that is not the end of the story.

On 15 February there was another meeting of soccer

players and workers interested in culture.

A member of the NUM cultural committee said "the long term plan was to get workers to do things for themselves and not be directed by the bosses."



Before the match started, players and spectators observed a minute silence for the late Comrade WILLIAM RAMBAULI



The team, Happy Boys, from Kinross mine receive the victory cup

Sports conference says workers must control facilities and organisations

"IF WE are to take ourselves seriously as workers involved in a struggle against the exploiters of this land we have to take sports seriously."

This was said by Comrade Mi Hlatshwayo, COSATU's national cultural co-ordinator at the Natal Council of Sport Conference (NACOS) in Durban at the end of January.

The conference, "Sport-Mobilisation and Transformation" was attended by a strong COSATU delegation.

Comrade Hlatshwayo said "the sports administrators and super leagues - be it industrial league, amateur leagues or professional leagues exploit us in a triple form - morally, materially and artistically."

"In the eyes of those who oppress us", he said, culture and sport have become just another commodity to be processed, backed and sold.

Lately we have seen capital pouring millions in the super sports leagues and their or-

ganisations". Their intention was to make money and tell the outside world things were normal in South Africa, he said.

There were attempts and talks in the field of soccer and rugby to form a single South African controlling body. Many sports organisations had talked to the ANC about it.

But as COSATU we had to ask the questions of "in what way do we stand to influence this direction?", "what sports initiatives have we made in this regard" and "what is sports capable of contributing to our federation?"

Comrade Hlatshwayo said in South Africa big business and the apartheid forces would like us to believe that sport has nothing to do with the political lives of people.

Denied facilities

COSATU general secretary Jay Naidoo said sport was a very important activity in the lives of our people.

"In fact, other than work or sleep it possibly occupies more time in the lives of people than other activities".

Apartheid sport not only ra-

cially segregated sport but denied us facilities to develop sport on a mass level, he said.

He said SACOS had to form a closer relationship with the people. It did not have a strong base in the townships.

Comrade Naidoo said we needed to launch progressive sports organisations in our townships, rural areas, schools and unions to counteract the monopoly power of capitalism and apartheid over sport.

He said progressive sports needed to be placed in the hand of the majority.

Decisions

Decisions taken at the conference were:

- It is not only the responsibility of SACOS to build non-racial sport;
- There is a need for SACOS to take sport into the townships
- The internal structures of SACOS should be democratised;
- There was a need for sports workshops to discuss building non-racial sport.

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NUM NEWS is published by the National Union of Mineworkers, 4th floor, National Acceptances House, Crn of Rissik and Anderson Sts, Johannesburg, 2000.