

UBUNTU FOOTBALL TRUST

ASCENDIS SOCIAL
AND ETHICS
COMMITTEE



DEVELOPING PATHWAYS

2016 HAS SEEN UBUNTU FOOTBALL REACH SOME INCREDIBLY EXCITING MILESTONES. OUR VERY FIRST INTAKE OF SCRUFFY LITTLE 11 AND 12 YEAR OLDS BACK IN 2011, ARE NOW YOUNG MEN TURNING 17 AND 18, SO A MAJOR THEME FOR THIS YEAR HAS BEEN DEVELOPING PATHWAYS. WE HAVE HAD SOME MAJOR BREAKTHROUGHS IN TERMS OF COLLEGE RELATIONSHIPS IN THE USA, A FEW PROFESSIONAL CLUB OPPORTUNITIES BOTH LOCALLY AND ABROAD, AND WE HAVE BEEN HONOURED WITH OUR FIRST-EVER NATIONAL CALL-UP.

AMERICAN TOUR

In June, Casey Prince accompanied six of our senior Academy players on a tour to the USA that has been an incredible success, and opened up life-changing opportunities for them to play football and study in the US. The boys attended two College ID Camps (Adidas Future 500 and University of Notre Dame), where they were able to showcase their skills in front of over 100 college coaches from across the US collegiate system. They were also given the opportunity to train with the Columbus Crew U23 side (The Crew play in the MLS – America's highest professional league).

5 of the boys have had concrete interest/offers from some incredible universities including Dartmouth, Notre Dame, Dayton, Akron, Bucknell and more. We expect Wade Coetzee and possibly Chadley Philander to start university at Dayton in 2017, while Jesse Donn, Alex Van Schalkwyk and Luto Tom all have excellent options lined up after they matriculate at the end of 2017.

Our first American tour has been more successful than we could have hoped, and we are especially excited to see how many of our boys are now pursuing University scholarships as their first priority, and the impact that has had on their motivation at school. We've also started to receive interest from universities in boys who didn't go on the tour, simply based on how well these six boys represented the Ubuntu family.



REPRESENTING ZA

Luke Fleurs became Ubuntu Football Academy's first-ever youth international in June this year, when he was called up to the "Amajimbos" squad for the Cosafa Cup in Mauritius. Over the past three months, Luke has been one of just a handful of players who have started each of South Africa's eight international matches, and we have received glowing feedback regarding his performance and conduct within the national set-up.

Two further Ubuntu Football Academy players flown up to Johannesburg by SAFA for National Trials. Brandon Williams and Taariq Ganga were also part of the trial group, and may well join Luke in the National set-up at some point.



SEASON RESULTS



At Ubuntu, we encourage each boy to take risks and try his hardest, without fear of failure, and we deliberately underplay the importance of winning on the football pitch. However, we also know that when the culture and processes are right, the results tend to move in the right direction.

This year all 5 of our Academy teams finished in the top 3 of their respective age groups, in what is arguably South Africa's most competitive youth league. We ended up with four 2nd-place finishes and one 3rd-place, with 1st place proving elusive this year! However, we also tended to play more players above their own age group than any other club, and in ten league matches against Ajax Cape Town, we won five, drew three and lost only two, which is unheard of in Cape Town football!

A FEW OTHER HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

- We currently have 70 boys in our Academy program, with educational support given to those who need it from U13 and up.
- We have 15 boys living in our Academy residence as weekly boarders. Our capacity is 16, and we are planning to add capacity for an additional 6-8 boys from 2017.
- We have 4 satellite Football Forward programs operating weekly in Ocean View, Grassy Park, Nyanga and Khayelitsha, where we offer football and life-skills development to around 100 young players between the ages of 9-11.
- In these communities and beyond, we also offer regular coaching development, supporting local clubs across the city. We have trained over 60 coaches over the past year, using our Ubuntu 3D Coaching Curriculum, which emphasizes the coach's responsibility as a mentor and role model, as well as equipping him or her practically.



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THANK YOU TO ASCENDIS HEALTH

We are deeply grateful to Ascendis Health for your incredible support, which continues to make all of this possible. Having such consistent and generous funding partners allows us to build towards a long-term vision, and to make the intensive, holistic and sustained investment, that can build leaders for tomorrow.

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