Bridging women, girls gap in football

Many a woman has done tremendous contribution in their different capacities and in various fields of their professions. Some have penetrated what others call the “men’s world” but some have given up. Others have grabbed the opportunity with both hands and determination traversing through bumpy roads, turbulent routes but eventually succeeded. It is therefore prudent to dedicate this month to one of Namibia’s most outstanding sport personalities, Jacqueline Tulipamwe Shipanga, who has and still is making a difference in the development of a girl-child and women football in Namibia. Kayele M. Kamboombo, of Namibia Today introduces the sport woman of substance, role model, teacher, coach and sport administrator to all those who care to read and enrich their knowledge in football and bravery.

Jacqueline Tulipamwe Shipanga

Jacqueline’s philosophy on sport is lucid. In her ambitious mind she anticipates to become Director of Women in Sport or Min- ister of Sport. She believes that Frank Fredericks, Namibia’s 100 and 200 meters track and field sprint sensation, left a legacy behind “it is time for us to continue”, she quips. She describes herself as a sport fanatic. She claims to have been exposed by TISAN executive director Chido Onumah to the international scene by participating at international stu-ent forums and conferences in Cape Town, Korea, Portugal where she stayed in the same ho- tels with renowned footballers such as David Beckham, Ronaldo, Raul, yes they have met all.

After receiving numerous sporting awards such as three times Sports Woman of the Year at the University of Namibia, Jacqueline decided to retire from competitive football and con- centrate on her studies and obtained good academic results. It paid off in 2005 graduation ceremony where she was awarded Best Fi- nal Year Student of the Educa- tion Faculty. Other sporting achievements were to start the Khomas Women Football League (KWFL) and establish-ed teams such as Amateurates at Windhoek Coll- ege of Education alongside her lifelong friend Jackie Gurtze who is the current Executive Mem- ber of Namibia Football Asso- ciation. The two iron ladies were the co-founders of teams such as Unam Bokkies, Siona Women, Wangkai Women, Civics Women FC and Okahandja Beauties. Today these teams amongst others, are members of the KWF.

She received her national call up at the age of 17 and since then never looked back. Some couple of years back in 1999 one of her wildest dream came true for she became Capt-ain of the national women team. Jacqueline attended coaching courses offered by the Deutsche Fussball Bund, CAF, UEFA and FIFA. It was not long and was appointed as Head Coach of all the national women teams. She was further appointed as CAF and FIFA Instructor at the 2008 U20 World Cup in Chile. She day by day has become a role model inspiring female coaches.

Now my family supports me wholeheartedly in what I con- tribute in the development of football. My mother even comes to watch some of her games whilst coaching. This is a clear indication that shows that de-termination and the power of a soccer player does change lives. The story emanated from a threatening-ly small epistle to football heroes. Indeed a good ending.

FACTS FILE

Name: Jacqueline Tulipamwe Shipanga

Nickname: Professor or “Jacqu”

Birth Date: 1976 January 03

Age: 33

Birth Place: Okahandja

Nationality: Namibian

Height: 1.8

Weight: 76 kg

Nature of work:

National Manger of SCORE Namibia, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) developing national sports and life skills programmes, change lives through sports, build stronger communities, and accommodate exchange volunteers from Europe especially from Europe, North America and Africa.

Marital Status: Single

Dependent: A boy, Paul-William Pwya Shipanga whose hobbies are Swimming, Cycling, Puzzles, Music, Fishing and ironically football is not amongst his hob- bies like her mother’s.

Siblings: Her mother’s children are two sisters Anna and Symphoria Damuses with Jacqui as the eldest. Her father’s children are 14, Jacqui was raised by her stepfather, Paul Frederick Damuses.

Clubs Information:

Previous Clubs:


1999–2003: Civics Ladies F.C. (Namibia) (established this club with owner Helmuth Schmarowski)

2005: Okahandja Beauties (Namibia) (established this club to pay tribute to her hometown)

Current Club:

Owner and coach of Okahandja Beauties F.C.

Grades:

2019: Brave Gladiators (Namibia) (estab-

ish this club since she was a student at the college)

2003: Civics Ladies F.C. (Namibia) (established this club with owner Helmuth Schmarowski)

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