

Namibia Today Sport

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 dimly failed. 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 making a difference in the development of a girl-child and women football in Namibia. Kayele M. Kambombo, of *Namibia Today Sport* 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.**

Following is the brief football career history of Shipanga from a humble beginning.

Growing up in a home full of boys (four to be precise) and being the only girl somehow contributed to Jacqui's passion for sports and outdoor activities such as her love for fast cars, video games and all sort of things that any self proclaimed 'Tomboy' would love to do, as long as it is not in the kitchen with her mom, who always insisted that Jacqui will struggle when she will get married since her cooking, ironing and probably skills of taking care of herself leaves a lot to be desired, let alone her future husband to be.

At times Jacqui felt that her mom was a bit disappointed in her as she always dressed up in boys' shorts, ugly dirty hair and with a ball in her hands. Her mom once told her that for as long as Jacqui lives under her roof and care she would not play football whatsoever. In fact Jacqui got a couple of hidings for playing football, but that did not deter her to play the sports she loves most, in return to one or two minutes of hidings with the sjambok (whip). This was worthwhile in the long run as her mom grew older and could not keep up with monitoring her daughter's activities 24/7. Her uncles, the like of Lucky, late Donbald and Aupapa Shipanga all of whom were great footballers and coaches in Namibia encouraged Jacqui to continue playing the beautiful game of football that she wholeheartedly so adored.

It was only at secondary school (boarding school) where Jacqui realized her potential and abilities in sports as she competed in tennis, softball, and football. She loves this beautiful game so much that she decided to enroll at the Windhoek College of Education (WCE) to specialize in physical education with football as one of the module or subjects.

At that stage her mom came to understand her daughter's interest since Jacqui was passing her academic subjects with flying colours. She passed all her subjects with distinction obtaining four A and five B symbols with only one C.

Jacqui is much disciplined, well cultured and is simply synonymous with success. She is first in many things. She made history since she was the first African woman to be admitted



Jacqueline Tulipamwe Shipanga

at the Centre International d'Etudes du Sport (CIES) after she was awarded a joint scholarship by CIES and the Confederation of African Football (CAF) in Germany.

The FIFA Master is a unique Masters (and not solely football) Master programme, initiated by FIFA, coordinated by CIES, and taught by three prestigious European universities: De Montfort University (Leicester, UK), SDA Bocconi-School of Management (Milan, IT) and Neuchâtel University (Neuchâtel, CH).

Imbued with the Bachelors Degree in Education from the University of Namibia, Jacqui was nominated by the President of Namibia Football Association (NFA) as the youngest Ambassador of Namibia Bidding Committee for the 2010 African Cup of Nations, the bid that eventually prevailed for Angola.

Jacqui has everything a man would like to see in a woman: beauty with brain, curvaceous, humble, discipline, good quality values and she have a

friendly disposition and high degree of stress tolerance. She has a vision and is on her way to climb the ladder to reach the top and rub shoulders with men in what others call "the men's world", doing what she can do best – manage sport and football in particular. In a nutshell, she is simply a woman of substance.

Jacqui was a national football player and was regarded as one of the best defenders the Brave Gladiators - the Namibian women national football team could ever produce. She later became a coach for the Brave Gladiators until she left for studies in Germany.

She has completed her FIFA Master and has joined the lackluster sport industry in her motherland, Namibia. She brought some changes and more professionalism in the administration of football here. It goes without saying that in order to stay up to speed in an ever evolving world; football must be able to rely on qualified professionals in all areas of the game. Jacqui is pursuing that line of thinking.

Jacqui's philosophy on sport is lucid. In her ambitious mind she anticipates to become Director of Women in Sport or Minister 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 claim to have been exposed by TISAN executive to the international scene by participating at international student forums and conferences in Cape Town, Korea, Portugal where she stayed in the same hotels with renown footballers such as David Beckham, Ronaldo, Raul, yes has met them all.

After receiving numerous sporting awards such as three times Sports Woman of the Year at the University of Namibia Jacqui decided to retire from competitive football and concentrate on her studies and obtained good academic results. It paid off in 2005 graduation ceremony when she was awarded Best Final Year Student of the Education Faculty. Other sporting achievements were to start the Khomas Women Football League (KWFL) and established teams such as Amateachers at Windhoek College of Education alongside her lifelong friend Jacky Gertze who is the current Executive Member of Namibia Football Association. The two iron ladies were the co-founders of teams such as Unam Bokkies, Karas Mountain Girls, Ramblers Women FC, Civics Women FC and Okahandja Beauties. Today these teams, amongst others, are the core of the KWFL.

She received 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 Captain of the national women team.

Jacqui 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 U/20 World Cup in Chile. Today she has become a role model to many aspiring female coaches.

Now my family supports me wholeheartedly in what she contributes in the development of football. Her mom even comes to watch some of her games whilst coaching. This is a clear indication that shows that determination and the power of soccer does change lives. The story emanated from a threatening sjambok episode to football heroin. Indeed a good ending.

FACTS FILE

Name:

Jacqueline Tulipamwe



Shipanga

Nickname:

Professor or "Jacqui"

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 Pweya Shipanga whose hobbies are Swimming, Cycling, Puzzles, Music, Fishing and ironically football is not amongst his hobbies like her mother's.

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

Club Information:

Previous Clubs:

1992-1994: Future Girls (Namibia)

1996-1997: Unam Bokkies (Namibia)

1998: WCE (Namibia) (established this club since she was a student at the college)

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

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

Current Club:

Owner and coach of Okahandja Beauties F.C

Brave Gladiators Debut:

1996 against Swaziland

International Caps:

15

Goals:

1

Position (s):

Defender

Honours:

Won League Championships since 1996-2008 with all clubs except Future Girls

2006: Head Coach of the Brave Gladiator (Namibia National Women team) since 22 June

2008: FIFA Women's Coaches Instructors Seminar Spain - Madrid

2008: Director of the NFA-Women's Desk

2007: Administrator of the year - National Sports awards, Sports Commission of Namibia

2007: Africa's only female representative at the Meridian Cup/Conference in Barcelona

2007: Member of the National Olympic Athletes Commission

2007: National Women Football Coach of the Year

2007: Appointed as SOS FIFA Ambassador of Children Villages Namibia 2007

2007: Selected as Namibia Ambassador of the Bidding Committee, to host the African Nations Cup in 2010.

2006: Awarded CAF & CIES Scholarships worth CHF 10,000

2005-2006: Completed her International Master (MAS) in Management, Law & Humanities of Sport at De Mont Fort University, Leicester in England. She also did Humanities of Sport; Media Relations, Public Affairs, Ethics & Sport at SDA Bocconi School of Management in Milan, Italy as well as Business Management; Human Resources, Marketing & Financing, at Neuchatel University in Switzerland.

2005: Bachelor of Education: University of Namibia and Best Final Year Student Award at the Graduation Ceremony

2004: World Student Representative at Conferences & Forums of the Federation International Sport Universidad (FISU) in Korea-Daegu, Portugal-Lisbon and Cape Town, South Africa

2003: University of Namibia Sports Woman of the year (2001-2003)

1999: (B.E.T.D.) Teaching Diploma at the Windhoek College of Education

1999: Windhoek College of Education Sports Woman of the year (1996-1998)

1999-2005: Captain of the Namibian Women national team, the Brave Gladiators

Current occupation:
National Manager of Sports Coaches' Outreach (SCORE) Namibia & Head Coach since 2008/11/01.

