SPORT

Hoist the colours high for young KZN yachtswoman

Teenager Khuzwayo to fly the flag for SA onboard the yacht Maiden when she sails from Cape Town to Maputo

Mark Etheridge

Growing up in tough economic circumstances, a young Zulu maiden in Mayville, Durban, was blissfully unaware the sport of sailing even existed.

Now, just four years after being introduced to the maritime world, teenager Nqobile Khuzwayo will fly the flag for SA on-board the 18m aluminium yacht Maiden on a voyage from Cape Town to Maputo in Mozambique early next year.

Dame Tracy Edwards owns Maiden, the boat she skippered with the first all-female crew in the Whitbread Around the World Race in 1989.

The yacht is on a circumnavigation, again with an all-female crew, to raise awareness and funds for girls' education.

Khuzwayo's journey has been made possible by retired Capt Phil Wade's Marine Inspirations foundation that helps young boys and girls chase their sailing dreams.

Wade, now 77, took part in the gruelling Cape to Rio trans-Atlantic race just two years ago and flits between Somerset West and Mallorca, Spain. He has probably spent more of his life on water than terra firma and has helped at least 60 young sailors find their sea-legs in the maritime (more specifically, superyachts) industry.

Born in Durban, he attended the SATS General Botha College in Gordon's Bay, Western Cape, and had barely left school before he was on a ship and sailing the world.

"I was instantly taken by Nqobile," he says. "She's got such an engaging personality, always smiling, and with such energy.

"She has such potential and is ideal for the superyacht industry. Once she's done the Maiden voyage and finished her studies, I plan to fly her to Spain and assist her in finding a job on a yacht."

Earning her sea legs: Nqobile Khuzwayo and Capt Phil Wade at the False Bay Yacht Club in Simon's Town. Wade's foundation enables young South Africans to fulfil their dreams of sailing./ **Debbie Owen/Lawhill Maritime Centre**

Khuzwayo, a SATS General Botha Old Boys Bursary Fund recipient, is now sitting for her matric exams at the prestigious Lawhill Maritime Centre, a 100% non-government funded programme at Simon's Town on the shores of False Bay.

She studies standard matric subjects, along with marine sciences, nautical sciences and maritime economics.

So, just how did Khuzwayo land up loving the ocean. "It was in 2018 when my life orientation teacher showed us pictures of pupils in a sailing boat and their faces were absolutely full of joy and smiles. He asked me if I'd like to do that and off I went to Sail Africa in Durban. And the next thing, we started sailing every Tuesday.

"I loved all the positions on the boat and even started sailing every Saturday, especially if there were races ... the more I sailed, the more I fell in love with both the ocean and sailing."

She's over the moon with the Maiden opportunity. "It's allowed me to see myself as a successful sailor and I'm so excited to sail with these experienced sailors, especially the fact that they're all women. I just know I'm going to learn so many more lessons, both of sailing and of life."

She's not yet sure of her exact role, but has a firm grasp of what she's expecting. "First and foremost, I'll listen to the skippers, follow their instructions and if I don't follow, still feel confident enough to ask and learn more."

Khuzwayo's confidence billows out when she talks of being out on the water. "I really enjoy it when it's windy ... that allows the boat to sail fast and you can do things. The hardest part is when it's completely calm and you have to think of any possible way to apply your skills to make the boat move."

She has healthy respect for the ocean, though: "My scariest memories were when I went on a camp for 'crew competence' and we sailed on a very rainy, cold day, two hours out from Saldanha Bay [West Coast] and the swells were just so big and the yachts we were sailing that day could easily capsize. That was really frightening, and on top of all that there was thick fog so we could barely see a thing."

But every cloud has a silver lining. "Every time we sail, I realise that sailing is such a team sport. It's very hard, almost impossible, to do everything by yourself and you have to learn to work as a team, and that's something I've learnt to apply in everyday life, both in and out of school."

Debbie Owen, the head of Lawhill Maritime Centre, says she immediately saw a shining light in Khuzwayo.

"Nqobile was one of 20 Durban applicants when I met her as a Grade Nine pupil. Most of the applicants were understandably quite shy, but she oozed passion from the second I saw her. She was a force of nature.

"It was only when she arrived at Lawhill the next year that I saw that she was actually quite shy and her showing at the interview revealed just how courageous, determined and gritty she was."

ONCE SHE'S DONE THE MAIDEN VOYAGE AND FINISHED HER STUDIES, I PLAN TO FLY HER TO SPAIN AND ASSIST HER IN FINDING A JOB

Phil Wade
Captain

But Khuzwayo is not one to shy away from a headwind.

"She listens, takes everything on board and is determined to change circumstances for her family back home," says Owen. "She's a bit of a 'shero' and we need more of her in our communities."

As Kevin Costner said in the 1989 film *Field of Dreams*: "Build it and they will come."

Warrior Khuzwayo is bent on building. "To be honest, in my little community back home I'm already the celebrity.

"They're so proud of me and always asking questions about sailing, which shows they're interested. My sister and my brothers even want to apply to come and study here, which makes me proud that I'm doing amazing stuff and can even be a role model."

The maiden, the model ... the mission is on course.

CRICKET

Panel to review Proteas' World Cup campaign

Mahlatse Mphahlele

Cricket SA director of cricket Enoch Nkwe says it is putting together a panel to ensure the post-mortem of the Proteas' shambolic ICC T20 World Cup performance is clinical.

SA were booted out of the tournament at the group phase by minnows the Netherlands on Sunday as they again failed to reach the knockout stages of a major tournament. Nkwe said Cricket SA will leave no stone unturned in the review process.

"It is important we do a review in terms of what has actually happened. We are in the process of putting a panel together to ensure that the review is clinical," he said during the team's arrival at the OR Tambo Airport where he addressed the media with captain Temba Bavuma.

"We have started plans post the World Cup because we know what lies ahead. It is disappointing in terms of results and from my position I can't sit still and continue to look back — I have to be strong, be there for the players, for the rest of the team management.

"I have to lay out the plan for the Australian tour next month, which is such an important series for us in terms of the ICC World Test Championship."

Nkwe emphasised the importance of moving forward after the World Cup disappointment. "It is important that we close the chapter and look at what lies ahead and how we can be better as an organisation, as a team and the whole system. There is a lot of good work being done behind the scenes.

"For us the important thing is how we move forward because we have a huge project [hosting the 50-over World Cup] in 2027 and there are going to be immense opportunities leading up to that. We need to ensure we always give ourselves the best chance as an organisation to help our teams win games, win World Cups and strive to be No 1 in all three formats."

Nkwe said part of his review is to have chats with players to find out what happened in Australia.

"In my head I have all the plans in place but it is going to be important that we sit and go through one-on-ones with the players to understand where they are and how we help them to move forward.

"Obviously when the results are poor, there will always be fingers pointed at the organisation in terms of what happened in the past. Was there enough support? But whether the team loses or wins we are always going to be supporting the team.

"We also ask ourselves questions as to what more we do to help this team to continue with form. Unfortunately, in this instance the team is on the losing end and we also take accountability.

"As director of cricket I will take accountability with regards the loss but we need to move forward. It is basically hitting the reset button and not dwelling on the past," Nkwe said.

BOXING

Budler set for one more ring record

David Isaacson

Hekkie Budler is set to make more SA ring history after being confirmed as mandatory challenger for newly unified world junior-flyweight champion Kenshiro Teraji of Japan.

Budler won the eliminator for the WBC belt with a magnificent points win over Elwin Soto in Mexico in June, but since then he has been waiting to hear when his title shot would materialise.

WBC champ Teraji recently stopped his WBA counterpart Hiroto Kyoguchi — his compatriot who had dethroned Budler in December 2018 — and now the WBC bosses have ordered the victor to face Budler.

Budler's trainer-manager Colin Nathan said on Thursday he hoped the fight would take place by April next year.

The moment Budler steps into the ring, he will become SA's most prolific world title challenger. If both the WBC and WBA belts are on the line, his career tally will move to 10, but even if just one mantle is at stake he will still set a new mark.

Budler shares the SA record of eight challenges — counting mainstream and marginal belts — with Sugar Boy Malinga and Cassius Baloyi.

Budler already holds the highest number of bona fide world titles by an SA boxer, four. Victory would bring him level with Dingaan Thobela to have owned world titles on offer by three of the four mainstream bodies. Thobela possessed belts belonging to the WBO, WBA and WBC, while Budler has held straps from the IBF and WBA.

The Ring magazine belt is given to unified champions to help eradicate the confusion of the alphabet soup of sanctioning bodies. The biggest statistical challenge facing Budler is that WBC titles have been the hardest to win for SA boxers, with only Malinga and Thobela succeeding in 20 attempts.

The most recent failure was cruiserweight Thabiso Mchunu, who was unlucky to lose a split decision to Junior Makabu in the US in January.

WORLD CUP SQUAD

Teen Moukoko a surprise pick for Germany

Karolos Grohmann
Frankfurt

Germany handed a surprise call-up to Borussia Dortmund teenager Youssoufa Moukoko in their World Cup squad on Thursday, while 2014 World Cup winner Mario Goetze marked a sensational return to the national team set-up after five years.

Germany coach Hansi Flick announced his 26-man squad for the tournament in Qatar. It includes 17-year-old Moukoko, who has scored six times in the Bundesliga this season.

"Youssoufa is a lively and quick player. We are really happy for him," Flick said.

Werder Bremen forward Niclas Fuellkrug also earned a spot after a stellar season with 10 goals so far and following the absence of the injured Timo Werner and Lukas Nmecha.

But 30-year-old midfielder Goetze's return will no doubt hog the headlines, with the 2014 final scorer back to his best with a return to the Bundesliga with Eintracht Frankfurt this season.

"Mario Goetze is there; 2017 was the last time. Mario is totally happy and so are we to have him. We all know he is an exceptional player. He has been performing at a very high level in the last matches," Flick told a news conference.

Bayern Munich provided a strong midfield core with Thomas Mueller, teenager Jamal Musiala, Leroy Sane, Serge Gnabry, Leon Goretzka and Joshua Kimmich.

Keeper Manuel Neuer will lead the team and remains first choice for the fourth consecutive World Cup.

Four-time winners Germany are looking to make amends for their shock first-round loss in 2018 and kick off their Group E matches against Japan on November 23. They next face Spain four days later and Costa Rica on December 1.

Germany are leaving for Oman on Monday where they will play their final warm-up game on November 16 before flying on to Doha.

Dortmund captain Marco Reus and defender Mats Hummels, however, missed out with the former failing to recover from yet another injury in time. Reus also missed the 2014 World Cup after suffering an injury on the eve of their departure.

"He tried everything to catch this train. It hurts us because we could have used his quality," Flick said. /**Reuters**

Squad

Goalkeepers: Manuel Neuer, Marc-Andre ter Stegen, Kevin Trapp
Defenders: Matthias Ginter, Antonio Ruediger, Niklas Suele, Nico Schlotterbeck, Thilo Kehrer, David Raum, Lukas Klostermann, Armel Bella Kotchap, Christian Guenter
Midfielders: Ilkay Gundogan, Jonas Hofmann, Leon Goretzka, Serge Gnabry, Leroy Sane, Jamal Musiala, Joshua Kimmich, Thomas Mueller, Julian Brandt, Mario Goetze
Strikers: Kai Havertz, Youssoufa Moukoko, Niklas Fuellkrug, Karim Adeyemi

FOOTBALL

Lukaku, Hazard get the nod

Nick Said

Belgium coach Roberto Martinez has included injured striker Romelu Lukaku and playmaker Eden Hazard in his 26-man squad for the World Cup in Qatar, saying he will give the former "every second" to regain his fitness for the tournament.

Lukaku has been suffering with a hamstring injury and earlier in the season a thigh problem, so he has played just twice since August for his club, Inter Milan.

But Martinez has previously stated that as long as Lukaku could feature in one of the team's Group F games against Canada, Morocco or Croatia, he would take him to the tournament.

Having named four players on a standby list — Bryan Heynen, Alexis Saelemaekers, Dodi Lukebakio and Jason Denayer — he has until 24 hours before Belgium's first game against Canada on November 23 to draft them into the squad.

Lukaku "is not completely fit medically, that is clear, but the last three days has been very positive. We will give Romelu every second to be fit," Martinez said on Thursday.

"At this stage we feel he will be able to take part in at least one of those three group games. But we will keep assessing and have up until November 22 to make a decision. His situation is similar to Axel Witsel's in the run-up to the previous European Championship ... We want him to play as big a role as he can give."

Hazard has been mostly on the sidelines at Real Madrid this season and has not played in LaLiga since September, having fallen out of favour with coach Carlo Ancelotti.

However, he is a talismanic figure for Belgium, and Martinez has set aside concerns with his match fitness and form.

"I am looking for Eden to come as captain of the squad and show what an incredible player we have. He is enjoying his football ... the only concern is the match fitness."

Martinez has largely gone with his tried and tested players, but made some wild-card picks, including Everton midfielder Amadou Onana, who he says provides an X-factor.

"It is his profile, it has been refreshing to see his qualities," the coach said. "He is completely different from what we have.

"We have our defensive midfielders, playmakers and attacking midfielders, but he brings physicality and a different profile that is more like Marouane Fellaini in 2018." /**Reuters**

Belgium squad

Goalkeepers: Thibaut Courtois, Simon Mignolet, Koen Casteels
Defenders: Jan Vertonghen, Toby Alderweireld, Leander Dendoncker, Zeno Debast, Arthur Theate, Wout Faes
Midfielders: Hans Vanaken, Axel Witsel, Youri Tielemans, Amadou Onana, Kevin De Bruyne, Yannick Carrasco, Thorgan Hazard, Timothy Castagne, Thomas Meunier
Forwards: Romelu Lukaku, Michy Batshuayi, Loïs Openda, Charles De Ketelaere, Eden Hazard, Jeremy Doku, Dries Mertens, Leandro Trossard.

HORSE RACING

None Other the danger to De Kock's filly

David Mollett
Racing Writer

No question Mike de Kock is a "Ladies Man" — the successes of Ipi Tombe, Igugu and Sparkling Water are proof of that. Another female who performed well in the care of the former champion trainer is Ilha Bela who retired to stud a seven-time winner.

One of Ilha Bela's daughters, Bonete, has been priced up favourite for the grade 3 Fillies Mile at Turffontein on Saturday, but might not find it easy beating another Wilgerbosdrift-owned and bred runner, None Other.

Bonete must have been moving well in home gallops as the grey started a hot favourite on her debut in October. She trotted up by nearly five lengths in the hands of Randall Simons.

There were probably a few raised eyebrows when this column selected None Other to win the Starling Stakes, but the daughter of Flower Alley has always looked an above-average sort and turned in a fair effort finishing fifth behind Miss Daisy.

The big plus factor — apart from the advantage of pole position — is that S'manga Khumalo retains the ride on Lucky Houdalakis' filly.

Sean Tarry is represented by two talented fillies in Bless My Stars and Rock The Fox — Calvin Habib has chosen to partner the latter.

Rock The Fox — two lengths behind None Other in the Starling Stakes — gave Habib the most forgettable moment of his career at Hollywoodbets-Greyville last July. In front of the packed stands, the young jockey raised his arms in triumph — like a footballer celebrating a goal — believing he had won the Thekwini Stakes on Rock The Fox. However, the judge ruled in favour of Canadian Summer.

This will be Rock The Fox's third run after a rest so perhaps she will confirm the form with stablemate, Bless My Stars, who finished a close-up third in the Thekwini.

Muzi Yeni's mount, Orarari Gold, comes into the picture but Corrie Lensley's runner has the worst of the draw as was the case in the Starling Stakes.

Whatever the fate of None Other, the Houdalakis stable should be on the mark with Munchkin in the second race. Owner David Shawe looks to have a decent sort on his hands and the Rafeef colt can recoup recent losses behind surprise winner Clan The Conqueror.

With Kabelo Matsunyane not riding at the meeting, Bonete's rider, Simons, has been engaged for the Crawford stable's runner, Gallic Tribe, in the final leg of the Pick 6. The admirably consistent five-year-old beat Duke Of Sussex in October and the runner-up has franked the form with a recent win. Mardi Gras only got a four-point penalty for his recent win and — with Unzen — may pose the main threat.

Another Crawford runner — also to be ridden by Simons — is Reny, who is chasing a hat-trick when she takes on nine rivals in the sixth race. The filly should have no problem stepping up to 1,600m and looks like a banker in the exotics.

Alec Laird saddles four runners in the opening event and the most interesting is Call To Glory who is a Kingman filly out of Met winner Smart Call.

At the time of writing Call To Glory is a 20-1 chance in early betting which suggests she isn't expected to make a winning debut. Nevertheless, Kingman's stud fee in 2020 was £150,000 so given her pedigree her performance will be closely monitored.

Selections

2nd Race: (11) Munchkin (4) Stroke Of Mercy (15) We've Got Tonight (3) Walker Bay
3rd Race: (12) Texas Red (8) Mini Coop (6) Jimmy Don (3) Samuel Salt
4th Race: (1) Esqueville (13) Power Ranger (8) Ramchandani Road (3) Integrate
5th Race: (12) Flying First Class (7) Ballroom Bliss (4) Diesel And Dust (3) Flashy Apache
6th Race: (1) Reny (3) Asiye Phambili (4) Barmaid (5) Namaqua Blossom
7th Race: (5) None Other (9) Bonete (3) Rock The Fox (2) Bless My Stars
8th Race: (1) Crimson Princess (3) Wokonda (5) Magical Flight (4) Bureau Des Legende
9th Race: (8) Gallic Tribe (2) Mardi Gras (5) Unzen (9) Savannah Storm
10th Race: (2) Expeditioner (5) Electric Gold (4) Arividicio (1) JP Two Thousand