

# SATIMES

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PICTURE BY NEWS24

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## SA BODYBOARDER EXCELS DOWN UNDER



PHOTO: DARRYL MENZIES

## McCarthy stuns world class line-up

MARK McCarthy from Richards Bay claimed an astonishing second place in the coveted HUMAN Cronulla Shark Island Challenge, held on July 15 at Cronulla point near Sydney in Australia.

Having qualified for the event through the Nomad Brett Young Memorial Trials, McCarthy advanced through to the finals leaving formidable opponents in his wake.

The final was a show stopper, with current International Bodyboarding Association (IBA) World Champion Jeff Hubbard (USA) and former World

**"It has always been a dream of mine to be able to compete on the IBA World Tour."**

Champions Ben Player (AUS) and "The God-Father" of bodyboarding Mike Stewart (USA) in the line up.

In a closely fought contest viewed by hundreds of

enthralled spectators, McCarthy lost to Player by a mere 0.2 points. Stewart claimed third and Hubbard finished in fourth place.

McCarthy, a relative newcomer to the IBA World Tour surprised many with this result and with it has rightfully earned his place among the rising-stars of the sport.

"It has always been a dream of mine to be able to compete on the IBA World Tour and then to surf the famous Shark Island Challenge, which is one of the hardest contests on the tour. The whole event was an amazing experience for

me – having to surf my way from the trials was a challenge on its own. A memorable moment was making my first heat and having the belief that I could go all the way," added McCarthy.

The future looks bright for this young man as he embarks on his journey to the next stop on the IBA World Tour, scheduled to take place in Chile at the end of July. He then plans to return to South Africa for a brief rest period before continuing on his travels in hope of one day becoming the IBA World Champion.

## Robbie hunting for funds

ROBERT Hunter wants more funding to help cycling make more of an impact in South Africa.

Hunter is the only South African ever to ride in the Tour and he clinched the country's first ever stage win in a sprint finish – on the 11th stage.

"People are really happy back home," Hunter said. "Lot of emails, phone calls, messages going to my internet site and that kind of stuff. At the end of the day a lot of people take notice, especially on the Tour de France."

But with the Rugby World Cup only weeks away, Hunter fears his impact may wear off unless the sport gets more backing.

"Hopefully it carries a bit of influence so the sport can actually get to a bit of a higher level on a professional basis in South



Robbie Hunter

Africa," Hunter said. "There's funding in place, but I don't think enough to (compete) with other sports like soccer or cricket." – News24.com

### FACT BOX

**Name:** Robert Hunter  
**Birthday:** April 22, 1977  
**Hometown:** Johannesburg  
**Height:** 178cm  
**Weight:** 71kg

**Tour de France record**  
**Appearances:** 6  
**Stage wins:** 1 (2007)

**2007 Season**  
**Tour of Picardy**  
**(Overall winner and 1 stage win), Tour Volta a Santarem (Overall winner and 1 stage win)**

## Hoskins: Unite behind Springboks

SPRINGBOK coach Jake White believes he has a squad that can win the rugby World Cup in France in September and October.

And SA Rugby Union president Oregan Hoskins has called on all South Africans to support the team, despite the snail's pace of transformation in the sport.

Only six black players have been included in the SA World Cup squad of 30 that was announced here on Saturday. There were no surprises and there was no political interference in the selection.

Flank Wikus van Heerden injured a knee during a Springbok practice on Sunday morning but a team spokesperson said it did not seem as if it was serious.

The selectors chose a team with much experience. As had been expected, there was no room for Stormers and Western Province captain Luke Watson.

The black players in the team are Gurthro Steenkamp, Ricky Januarie, Ashwin Willemse, JP Pietersen, Bryan Habana and Akona Ndungane.

Hoskins said rugby



administrators had to be blamed for the slow pace of transformation.

"To be dead honest, we have made very little progress with transformation since the 2003 World Cup tournament.

"That is why I said recently our planning for the 2011 tournament should start now. We must change from the bottom up so we can make the work of the national coach and selectors easier.

"We have made very little progress, but that is not the fault of the coach or the selectors. I think the administrators should take responsibility," Hoskins said, adding, "We must support the team now and in the future because it is a matter of principle."

White said black players would play important roles but added that he would select every team to win the

next match.

"Bryan Habana is one of the best wings in the world and Ashwin Willemse was outstanding in the 2003 World Cup. Ricky Januarie was our top scrumhalf on form in 2005. They (the black players) will have an active role.

"The reality is that I am going to select a team to beat the opposition. That is the first criterion. It won't be based on numbers or colour," White said. – News24.com

### WORLD CUP SQUAD

**Percy Montgomery, Francois Steyn, Bryan Habana, Akona Ndungane, JP Pietersen, Ashwin Willemse, Jaques Fourie, Jean de Villiers, Wynand Olivier, Butch James, Andre Pretorius, Fourie du Preez, Ricky Januarie, Ruan Pienaar, Pierre Spies, Juan Smith, Schalk Burger, Bob Skinstad, Wikus van Heerden, Danie Rossouw, Victor Matfield, Bakkies Botha, Johann Muller, Albert van den Berg, John Smit, Gary Botha, Os du Randt, Gurthro Steenkamp, BJ Botha, CJ van der Linde.**

## Match for Mandela

AN African XI and a World XI gathered in Cape Town on July 18 to celebrate the life and birthday of the world's favourite statesman, Nelson Mandela, with a match entitled "90 minutes for Mandela".

The African team was lead by current Barcelona star striker and Cameroon international Samuel Eto'o, while the World team had the legendary Pele at the helm.

The Brazilian superstar did not play in the match (he is 66, after all), but sent his deputy, former Dutch lynchpin Ruud Gullit, into battle for him.

After the South African anthem was sung, Pele kicked off and 22 legends of the game set about entertaining the crowd with some expressive and showy footwork.

Former Chilean star Ivan Zamorano opened the scoring for the World team, latching onto Gullit's pass,

after which three-time African Player of the Year Abedi Pele equalised for Africa a few minutes later.

Both teams showed a lot of respect for each other early on, but as the game wore on the competitive instincts kicked in and some classy play ensued.

**"Despite most players being on the wrong side of 40... glimpses of past glories showed through."**

Despite most players being on the wrong side of 40 and looking like they enjoyed the odd pie at the golf club, glimpses of past glories showed through.

The first half ended 2-2, after South Africa's Doctor Khumalo scored from close range for Africa, after which Gullit pounced on a mistake from Africa's keeper Andre Arendse and levelled the score.

The second half saw both coaches ring the changes. Play slowed down to a mid-pitch gathering, and Africa took advantage of this to score their third goal courtesy of Egyptian Hossam Hassan.

The main playing attraction of the night, Eto'o, demonstrated his astonishing skills, taking on four men in the box, but he could not get through to score. After delighting the crowd, he left the field to a thunderous standing ovation.

And then, with 18 minutes to go, Athletic Bilbao and Spain legend Julen Guerrero scored the final goal of the night to level the score at 3 all.

– SundayMedia.co.za