



Basketball a way for Tuks coach to change lives

2019 might just be the year that the TuksBasketball teams starts giving a better account of themselves during local tournaments.

Over the past few years, both the men's and women's teams had their moments of brilliance but unfortunately they were few and far between.

The women's head coach, Danny Malothane, is unapologetic.

"The focus was on getting our second stringers to play better. In doing so, we created a bigger pool of players from which I can now select the first team. It is exciting that about 90% of last year's first and second team players are still available for selection. Now we just need to recruit one or two more talented players. Then I am sure we shall start being competitive," said Malothane.

Malothane is genuinely passionate about what he does. According to him if it was not for basketball, he might have self-destructed growing up in Polokwane.

"I grew up in a crime-stricken area. There always used to be some temptation to do something unlawfully. If it was not for playing sports, who knows how my life might have turned out. Luckily, I got

the opportunity to play basketball and softball which allowed me to channel my energy positively. I can say basketball saved my life and gave me self-respect," said Malothane, who represented Limpopo in basketball and softball.

For 22 years, he has been coaching various teams also at national level.

"It is never just about winning. There is no greater award than changing one player's life for the better. I see my role as sort of a father figure. If any player has a problem, I am always available to listen, and if I can help in any way, I will go out of my way to do so," he said.

The Tuks women's team will compete in three tournaments. The first will be in April at Wits. In July Tuks will be hosting an invitational tournament as part of their preparation for the USSA Tournament.

The Tuks men's team has got a whole new coaching setup. Neo Mothiba stepped down as head coach due to work commitments. George Makena is the new coach, assisted by Thanda Kweyama who coached the second stringers last year.

Makena can be contacted at georgemak64@gmail.com or Kweyama at thanda_kweyama@hotmail.com.



The TuksBasketball coaching staff for this year is from left to right Danny Malothane (women's head coach), Ludwig Gerdes (Tuks men's second team) and Thanda Kweyama (men's first team assistant coach). George Makena (Tuks first team head coach) was absent. **Photo: Reg Caldecott**