



T20 schools match fizzes with talent



The Coca-Cola All-Star Team and the CSA Development Hub team.

Apart from getting top cricket and advice, players were capped at SuperSport Park

THE Coca-Cola Schools T20 Challenge, which concluded on March 18, saw Coca-Cola give talented cricketers the opportunity to be part of the tournament's national finals. The experience culminated in a match against the Cricket South Africa (CSA) Development Hub team, as a curtain-raiser.

The new addition is aimed at spreading the talent search net wider and saw tournament ambassador Temba Bavuma and a team of cricket experts, attend all six of the challenge franchise finals in search of outstanding players in the teams that did not qualify for the finals. The team comprised of 12 players, two from each final.

The Coca-Cola T20 All-Star team

experience kicked-off with the players, along with the franchise and focus school teams, getting capped at SuperSport Park. This was followed by a tour of the stadium, where the Proteas recently took on India in a test match.

Day 2 saw the All-Stars take part in an extensive training session with Bavuma, and Titans youth coach Onke Matsiba. Post-training, the young players enjoyed some cricket as they watched the challenge teams compete for a spot in the final at the Tuks cricket fields.

To assist players in building friendships and create memories off the field, Coca-Cola treated the All-Star team to dinner and 4D movie.

"The whole Coca-Cola T20 All-



Matt Dewar from Selborne College gets in low as he sweeps the ball away.

Star experience was unbelievable. We stayed in the most beautiful hotel and had an opportunity to train at one of the best cricket fields, that Protea players train at. That was a dream come true," said Selborne College captain Matthew Dewar.

Another highlight for the All-Stars was rubbing shoulders with Coca-Cola SA Under-19 coach, Lawrence Mahatlane, during their net training session at the world class Powerade Centre of Excellence, where he shared some insights on playing at international level.

Hoërskool Marais Viljoen wick-

etkeeper Khaya Nyamathe was selected by Bavuma and Matsiba to lead the team. He said that tapping into Bavuma's knowledge was life-changing. "I learnt so much from Temba Bavuma during our training sessions with him. He told us we should always work on developing our skills if we want to become the best in cricket. The amount of knowledge that he shared with us was truly something special, something that will definitely help me become a better sportsman."

The All-Star team concluded its experience with a hard-fought

15-run win against a strong CSA Hub team in the much-anticipated curtain-raiser ahead of the decider match of the tournament.

Proteas' batsman and tournament ambassador Bavuma commented on the players' commitment to learning. "The Coca-Cola Schools T20 Challenge weekend was an eye-opener for the boys. Not all of them had played in tournaments on a national level before this weekend, so it was a good for them to take on some of the best players in the CSA Hub system. To get a win was a big plus."

