



“A humble guy with a real passion for cricket and loyal to the bone. That makes him an outstanding player.”

Lungi Ngidi took seven wickets in his first maiden match last week against India at SuperSport Park. Photo: simondp@actionimage

Any coach would go to war with this man

Koos Venter

Becoming a champion is easy. It is remaining a champion that is the challenge.

Ever so often it happens that youngsters cannot handle success, succumbing to various temptations.

Therefore it was exciting to see Lungi Ngidi turning up announced at a typical cricket practice at Assupol Tuks Cricket just two days after his match-winning heroics in the second test against India at SuperSport Park last week.

No one expected the man of the match to come and mingle with the young players, sharing a few jokes and talking cricket.

But those who know Ngidi were not surprised. He was just true to himself.

Toby Sutcliffe, acting CEO at TuksSport, still remembers his spirited performance during the Red Bull Campus Cricket World Final in 2015.

And although he did not play in last year's SA universities tournament, he was there to support his Assupol TuksCricket teammates.

“That is who Lungi is. Loyal. It has been a privilege for everyone at Tuks to have played a small part in helping Lungi become the cricketer he is,” said Sutcliffe.

“We will always support him, and I am sure that he is going to take many more wickets for South Africa.”

TuksCricket head coach Kruger van Wyk said Ngidi was one of those players any coach would love to take to war with them, because on the field he does nothing in half-measures. He thrives on giving it his all to enable a victory.

“With such an attitude, I am not surprised that he made the most of his chance to play test cricket for South Africa,” said a proud Van Wyk.

“Despite taking seven wickets against India and receiving the man of the match reward, he is still the same Lungi who played for Assupol Tuks – a humble guy with a real passion for cricket and loyal to the bone.

That makes him indeed an outstanding player as well as a person.”

Ngidi makes no secret about the fact that he relishes the challenge to outfoxing and intimidating batsmen.

“As a bowler, you do not usually think about taking wickets. Your only focus is on making sure that you bowl a good line and length and that you hit the right areas to pressurise the batsman,” he said.

“Every time I run in to bowl, I see it as a competition of skills between myself and the batsman. A competition I obviously want to win.”

“Relationships, like cars, should undergo regular services to make sure they are still roadworthy!”

- Zygmunt Bauman

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