



# Coca-Cola Schools T20 Challenge Cup competition kicks off

## SCHOOL SPORT STAFF

THE COCA-COLA Schools T20 Challenge, South Africa's premier schools cricket tournament, has kicked off and will once again be casting a spotlight on the best up and coming, young cricket talent in South Africa.

The three-day national finals will take place at the University of Pretoria Cricket Oval from 16-18 March, and will see the six franchise winners, as well as two of the best schools out of CSA's Focus Schools programme, battle

it out to be named the 2018 Coca-Cola Schools T20 Challenge champions.

The Coca-Cola Schools T20 Challenge is fast becoming synonymous with showcasing the best, up and coming in South African cricket talent. Since its inception, the tournament has seen Proteas superstars, Quinton de Kock, Andile Phehlukwayo, Kagiso Rabada, and Lungi Ngidi, as well as recently appointed Proteas ODI captain Aiden Markram.

This year, in a move aimed at spreading the talent search net wider the tournament ambassador, Temba

Bavuma, and a team of cricket experts, will attend all 6 of the Coca-Cola Schools T20 Challenge franchise finals in search of outstanding players in the teams that do not qualify for the national finals.

The team of 12 players, two from each franchise final, will play in a curtain-raiser match against a CSA Development Hub team during the Coca-Cola Schools T20 Challenge National Finals.

The eventual six finalists will represent the six CSA franchises, having come through their own provincial and franchise T20 finals.

On Wednesday, Hilton College became the first school to qualify for the national finals. They were the KZN Inland champions and they beat the KZN Coastal representatives, Clifton College in a thrilling 62-run final.

Hilton College captain, James Ritchie said, "We did well to post a large total that made it difficult for the opposing team to chase down. This is a big win for our school as we haven't won the Dolphins final since 2015."

Temba Bavuma selected Matthew Montgomery and Simon Holmes from Clifton College to play in the Coca-Cola T20 All-Star team.



Temba Bavuma with Clifton's Simon Holmes and Matthew Montgomery.

