



Ngidi's loyalty his strength

Koos Venter

Becoming a champion is easy, it is remaining a champion that is the challenging part.

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

Therefore it was exciting to see Lungi Ngidi turning up unannounced at cricket practice at Assupol Tuks Cricket just two days after his heroics during the second cricket test against India at SuperSport Park last week.

Nobody expected the man of the match to mingle with the young players and sharing a few jokes and talking cricket.

But those who know Ngidi was not surprised. According to them, 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.

Even though he did not play during last year's South African Universities Tournament, he was there to support his Assupol TuksCricket teammates.

"That is who Lungi is. Loyal. It has been a privilege for everybody at Tuks to have played a small part in helping Lungi become the cricketer he is.

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

TuksCricket head coach Kruger van Wyk said Ngidi is a player who any coach would love to go to war with because on the field he does nothing with 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. The amazing thing is that in spite of taking seven wickets against India as well as receiving the man of the match reward he is still the same Lungi Ngidi 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," said a proud Van Wyk.

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

"As a bowler, you don't 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. 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," said Ngidi.

Ngidi who grew up in Kloof in KwaZulu-Natal said his love for cricket started when he watched Bakers Mini-Cricket on television.

"I just knew that this was the game I wanted to play. I always wanted to bowl. It did not seem fun standing with a bat in hand waiting to hit a ball," he laughed.

He also thanked Tuks' bowling coach Chris van Noordwyk.



Lungi Ngidi took seven wickets in his first test match last week against India at SuperSport Park.
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