

Running for Goals

Every stride Leepile Motlhaolwa takes on the long Comrades Marathon climb from Durban to Pietermaritzburg will help to grow the dreams of young footballers around South Africa. The person, who drives Dreamfields coaching work inspiring children and teachers alike, is running South Africa's toughest race to raise money for our Five-A-Side DreamLeague programme which is transforming football in schools.

Leepile is a fairly quiet fellow. But give him a few footballs and a group of children and he turns into a power station, a strong source of positive energy for everyone around him. "I love working with children," he says. "It's the first stage of their development as footballers and it is amazing to contribute to that."



Leepile's passion for youth sport is rooted in his own childhood growing up in Tsakane township. He played football but also made his mark as a runner. "In Tsakane I was known as a good athlete. They had never before heard of a 14-year-old running 10km races and doing well."

Now 36, he wants the Dreamfields kids to get the same benefits from sport that he did: "Sport taught me a lot growing up, most importantly sportsmanship and making friends in the process. I met people that I wouldn't have met and I got respect in the community because of my participation in sports."

Leepile believes that a vibrant sports programme always raises the academic levels at a school. "Football and other sports can help children feel that they belong," he says. "You can take that self-belief and motivation into the classroom and your academic work. And then you can achieve anything."

Dreamfields' Five-A-Side football is perfect for this. "Playing small-sided games like this gives children an opportunity to develop technically," Leepile says. "They get more touches on the ball than they would in a big game, they get chances to score goals and they have fun."

A key component of these games is mini-goals and Leepile would like to raise money for as many sets of goalposts as possible. "With these small goals it feels more like a real game," he says.

With the Dreamfields kids in mind, Leepile will hit the road from Durban for his second Comrades Marathon. "Running Comrades is about testing my character," he says. "I like challenging myself to go beyond any limits I have set myself."

We hope you will join Leepile on the Comrades road by backing his Run for Goals generously.



For more information follow this link: <http://www.dreamfieldsproject.org/dream.aspx?dreamid=409>