

Monday, March 27th, 2023

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De Duine Secondary School - De wet Mauton

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Mouton: You see when you look around, lots of the teachers here are not athletic. So that takes the rest of us to take the bulk of the load. Now up until recently, we did not have netball. The teacher responsible for it passed away recently, she was the backbone of this school and ever since then things have just gone down.

a few weeks ago, one of the girls came to me, and with the soccer ladies, I explained to you, they were like sisters. And it was at that moment when the principal Passed by. This girl is in grade 9, and I said to the principal please answer her and he told her, nobody is willing to coach them at this school. I asked her, which level did you reach? And she said national colors under thirteen with netball, so she knows what to do. So I told her, so I encouraged them to fix up the netball court. I will give you balls, I will give you cones. I don't know everything about it but I trust you and that's how they started. And the teachers saw everybody saw them get the balls, keep themselves busy, and keep themselves fit. These kids reach school around 2 o'clock once the school is out, and even past 3 they are here. Because like you said, sport is very important in the development of young people. So, since then, netball has now taken off. The principal has gotten a coach who is coaching the girls. So now it's not only the girls that go there now but they are safe. The biggest problem is resources in terms of teachers. I coach soccer, girls, and boys. 13, 17, and under 19 boys and only under 17 girls I did not want to make another team and spread myself too thin, and quality coaching would not be present. But I am also the guardian teacher for chess, and nobody was available when they came to me. Because I'm this type of guy I am worried that I am overloading myself because if another sport comes out I am definitely going to be the one to be available compared to anyone else. I am of the opinion that if you live for yourself it is a life wasted, so I live my life for others. This last week we had a midterm break. I'm sure you've heard of that. Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, I was training. Every morning from 9am to 11:30 with all of them. So we have a group of 70 learners on any given day. Luckily I have netball so I could Spread them out and do drills and show them what it is about. Wednesday was for a bunch of friendly matches. I realized that this is what they want, they want to represent their schools and play a sport that they love. That is my bottom line

Mouton: I was at the primary school for 8 years, and coached soccer there. Won everything there is to win there because of my attitude, the principal, and the school board chairperson. When you see your products come to a high school, they are so filled with quality and dedication attitude wise and then there is nobody here to take them further. So I had a big choice to make. I could

either be here and **save these guys because these are the ones who would go to the street quite easily if not directed on the right path.** So as I said earlier I have an under-17 goalie who is playing 1st division for the western spurs, he's the number two goalie in the soccer lead. I have players now who play for Walvis Bay Academy. These guys I've set these on a path and the sky isn't even the limit for these kids because they know what happens if you don't follow your passion. **If you stay on the right track you can make it out of poverty.** One of the biggest success cases was 9 years old when I started teaching him there **was a bottle store right outside the primary school and there were days when his dad would be passed out drunk on the pavement and my worry was that this kids talent would be consumed by the conditions of the poverty.** But the opposite was true. He was the first ____ president to score for namibia in an under 13 final. And he's the boy that at 16 years old he was signed by western spurs, he's a short little guy but he's super talented. So those are just a few. I have a talented striker but I told him he shouldn't play football this year because he is a high jump athlete, he is under 17, he cleared 2.1 meters at the zonal athletics meet. When you see this boy and you talk to him youll realize he's humble, his mind is just sport. I told him this is his chance, athletics is a good good opportunity to put yourself out there. And if he can go to wherever the youth championships are this year, I would rather have him go there with a high jump, then stay here and win a league. His career is what is important.

Maddy: Do you think some of these kids have goals of going to the olympics?

Mouton: yes! Yes! I have a sprinter. He has a very long hero name. I just call him Catchi. He runs super super fast. My wife at the primary school told me about 2 small girls that seemed interested in sprinting and I immediately contacted him and asked him, could you create a sprinting program or a workout for them? And he did for me in like one period and that just shows, this guys, i don't know if he has a coach, but i think he's on that level where he realizes it doesn't matter what i don't have, i know what i do have and what i need to do and why i have to do it. So, sprinters, high jumpers, and soccer girls are incredible. They bring tears to my eyes, the impact is incredible.

Maddy: Do you think these kids have adequate role models, people to look up to?

Mouton: no not always, in their families, i don't think so no. but outside the families in the communities there are some. There are some success stories of people in the community who have come from nothing that have achieved great heights. There are those that inspire them but in the homes themselves it's quite sad. I used to tell my colleagues, when a learner acts out, never assume. Be curious, always first and foremost be curious there must be a reason why because then when you know the reason why you will understand this learner better, you will understand why. **I has a case where a teacher yelled at a learner, your bag is in a debilitated state, your books are not covered he yelled at this boy for about 5 minutes and when he finally gave the boy a**

chance to talk, the boy said that the ghetto that they lived in burned down for the second time that year. So he lost everything. But then he opened the book and showed the teacher that his work was up to date. And that was when the teacher realized. Be curious first. You almost destroyed that guy's confidence in his self esteem, cause he did it in front of the class. But luckily, i know this boy, he is resilient, i saw him after class and i said, just ignore him some battles you don't have to fight. Just take it on the chin, wipe your mouth, and move on.

It's a difficult job we have in this country ____ and Mboma had the advantage of a good coach. My boy, the high jumper, the principal met someone and he sponsored him a high jump coach, he's a good guy. There are lots of people that can do that and just don't want to? I don't know maybe it's a jealousy thing or what, you don't want to see somebody else get ahead in life. Small trivial things get in the way, making it very difficult to compete on the world stage.

Valentino cleared 2.1 meters at the zonal meet but the people there did not acknowledge it because valentino is incredibly dark skin and the officials were... i don't want to get into this but you get where i'm driving at. That is the bottom line in this country. He played for sfc. They sponsored him, payed for his transport, his soccer boots, whatever he needed, but when it got time to send him to Germany for trails, he was not included. I don't know why and I'm not going to speculate, all I'm saying is that most people in this country don't have the heart.