



UNIVERSIADE 2013 KAZAN, RUSSIA USSA MEDALLISTS



17 July 2013

GOLD	08 July	Rowing, Women's LX1	Kirsten McCann	8:10.62
GOLD	08 July	Athletics, Men's 100m	Anaso Jobodwana	10.10
GOLD	08 July	Athletics, Men's 10 000m	Stephen Mokoka	28:45.96
GOLD	10 July	Athletics, Men's 200m	Anaso Jobodwana	20.00
GOLD	12 July	Athletics, Men's 21km	Gladwin Mzazi	1:03:37
GOLD	12 July	Athletics, Men's 21km (Gladwin Mzazi; Stephen Mokoka; Xolisani Zamkele)	Team South Africa	3:12:52
GOLD	15 July	Swimming, Men 50m Breast	Giulio Zorzi	27.44
SILVER	08 July	Rowing, Women's 4 (Claire-Louise Bode; Holly Norton; Catherine Stark; Kate Christowitz)	Team South Africa	7:07.44
SILVER	10 July	Athletics, Men's Javelin	Robert Oosthuizen	81.63m
SILVER	12 July	Athletics, Men's 21km	Stephen Mokoka	1:03:37
BRONZE	08 July	Athletics, Women's Discus	Maryke Oberholzer	54.09m
BRONZE	09 July	Athletics, Men's 1500m	Jerry Motsau	3:39.51
BRONZE	12 July	Athletics, Women 4 x 400m (Sonja v/d Merwe; Arista Nienaber; Justine Palframan; Anneri Ebersohn)	Team South Africa	3:36.05
BRONZE	12 July	Athletics, Men 4 x 400m (Pieter Conradie; Jacques de Swardt; PC Beneke; Wayde van Niekerk)	Team South Africa	3:06.19



UNIVERSIADE 2013 KAZAN, RUSSIA USSA TEAM NEWS



Kazan – 17 July 2013

TEAM SA BAG RECORD MEDAL HAUL

Coach Ian Campbell-McGeachy praised his side, but admitted they were gutted on Wednesday, after South Africa's rugby sevens outfit were unable to add to the country's record medal haul at the World Student Games in Kazan, Russia. The SA men trailed 12-7 at the break in the bronze medal playoff, and Great Britain pulled clear in the second half to secure a 31-14 victory. Hosts Russia beat France 29-19 in the gold medal match.

"It's very disappointing, obviously, because everyone put a lot of hard work and effort into this," said Campbell-McGeachy. "But it's a part of sport, so we'll have to deal with this. We lift our heads and we're still proud of our country and the way we played."

Team South Africa scooped a record 14 medals, surpassing their goal of 13, as well as their previous best count of nine medals at the 2009 World Student Games in Belgrade. The team pocketed seven gold, three silver and four bronze medals, with the athletics contingent contributing 11 (five gold, two silver and four bronze) of the total count.

Long-distance runner Stephen Mokoka pocketed three medals, winning the men's 10 000m final in 28:45.97 to secure a career clean sweep after previously grabbing silver and bronze over 25 laps at the biennial Games. Mokoka went on to finish second in the half-marathon road race, after being edged out in a sprint finish by countryman Gladwin Mzazi, who won gold in 1:03.37. Along with Xolisani Zamkele, who was seventh overall, the SA trio also won the team competition.

Sprinter Anaso Jobodwana continued his rapid improvement, securing the first 100m and 200m men's sprint double at the Games in 38 years. The budding speedster, who turns 21 at the end of this month, matched his personal best of 10.10 in the shortest track event, missing the national record by 0.04 seconds for the second time this season. In the 200m final, he crossed the finish line in 20.00, and while he was 0.11 seconds inside the 11-year-old South African best held by Morne Nagel, the time was recorded with a 2.4m/s tailwind and did not count for record purposes.

Robert Oosthuizen bagged silver in the men's javelin throw, Maryke Oberholzer claimed bronze in the women's discus throw and Jerry Motsau was third in the men's 1 500m final. The men's (Pieter Conradie, Jacques de Swardt, PC Beneke and Wayde van Niekerk) and women's (Sonja van der Merwe, Arista Nienaber, Justine Palframan and Anneri Ebersohn) 4x400 relay teams also secured bronze.

Elsewhere, rower Kirsten McCann held off Russian Olga Arkadova by a little more than four seconds to win gold in the A final of the women's lightweight singles sculls, finishing in 8:10.62. The women's coxless fours quartet (Claire-Louise Bode, Kate Christowitz, Holly Norton and Catherine Stark) grabbed silver.

Giulio Zorzi was the country's only medalist in the swimming pool, finished 0.09 seconds clear of Italian Andrea Toniato to snatch gold in the men's 50m breaststroke final in 27.44.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Bronwyn Roets on 082 906 0019 or Sharon Thomas +79270321940

Kazan – 16 July 2013

RUGBY SEVENS TEAM TO PLAY FOR BRONZE

South Africa will compete for the bronze medal in the rugby sevens tournament at the World Student Games after going down in a narrow 17-14 defeat to hosts Russia in the semi-finals, in Kazan, on Tuesday.

Clearance Khumalo dotted down to give the South Africans the early lead, but Russia hit back to take a 12-7 advantage into the interval. And while Khumalo scored again in the second half – both his tries were converted by Stefan de Villiers – the host nation managed to bag a surprise win.

Earlier, in the quarterfinals, the SA men, who had gone unbeaten in the group stages, charged into a 21-7 half-time lead and held off some resistance from Belgium for a 26-12 victory.

South Africa will face Great Britain, who were defeated 33-12 by France in their semi-final, in the bronze medal match on Wednesday, the final day of the Games.

Meanwhile, Alistair Davis finished fifth with a score of 25 from 10 shots in the men's double trap shooting semi-finals, narrowly missing out on a place in the bronze medal contest. Earlier on Tuesday, the 20-year-old Olympian had been fourth best of the first-round qualifiers, progressing to the penultimate round.

In the pool, the SA 4x100m medley relay quartet, Richard Ellis, Nico Meyer, Leith Shankland and Giulio Zorzi, finished seventh in the final in 3:42:22. Russia secured the gold medal in 3:34:27. In the morning session, Ayrton Sweeney had clocked 4:23.39 in the men's 400m individual medley heats, missing out on a place in the final by less than two seconds.

Caitlin Kat and Roxanne Tammadge were also eliminated in the heats of the women's 400m freestyle event.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Bronwyn Roets on 082 906 0019 or Sharon Thomas +79270321940

Kazan – 15 July 2013

ZORZI BAGS FIRST SWIMMING MEDAL

Giulio Zorzi claimed Team South Africa's 14th medal of the World Student Games, and their first in the swimming pool, in Kazan, Russia, on Monday. Zorzi won gold in the men's 50m breaststroke final in 27.44, edging out Italian Andrea Toniato, the silver medalist, by 0.09 seconds.

"I'm really chuffed with myself," Zorzi said. "I put in a good race tonight, which is always good in the final. I knew it was going to be tight, and in the 50m it's always about the touch and the little things, so I'm just happy I managed to get them right today."

Douglas Erasmus reached the men's 50m freestyle semi-finals, where he finished eighth in his race and was eliminated from the event. Earlier, Luke Pendock had clocked 23.08 to miss out on a place in the penultimate round by 0.02 seconds. In the women's 50m freestyle event, Trudi Maree touched the wall in 29.51 seconds in the semi-finals, narrowly missing out on a place in the final.

Meanwhile, a late brace by Rafaela Travalao crushed South Africa's medal hopes on Monday in the women's football tournament at the World Student Games in Kazan, Russia. The SA women, who put up another brave fight in the bronze medal playoff, took the lead in the 34th minute when Jermaine Seoposenwe found the back of

the net. And while they held the advantage well into the second half, Travalao scored twice within two minutes as the Brazilians snatched the lead with a little more than 20 minutes left in the match.

"One of the most important things in a football team is heart, and this team had heart," said SA captain Amanda Dlamini. "It was also fun. Every game we played we made sure we enjoyed it, trusted each other and motivated each other."

Dlamini believed the likes of herself, a former Banyana Banyana skipper, and veteran strike Noko Matlou had boosted the squad in their campaign, which included a shock win over women's football giant Japan in the quarterfinals.

"This University Sport South Africa team had a lot of depth, with players coming in from the Banyana Banyana setup," she said. "I think that experience came into play as we knew what was expected of us, and it helped a lot in our approach to the Games."

Elsewhere, the SA men's hockey team fought back twice to beat Korea in the playoffs, taking fifth place in the tournament. Inwoo Seo put Korea in front in the 12th minute, with Chad Cairncross equalising 10 minutes before half-time. Seungju You and Jungpil Choi, however, scored on either side of the interval to regain the advantage for the Koreans. The South Africans managed to maintain their composure and fought back from 3-1 down in the second half, with Dalan Phillips, Matt Guise-Brown and Grant Glutz scoring in the last 25 minutes of the match as they pulled off a stunning victory.

The SA rugby sevens team defeated Japan 28-14 in their final Group C match, scoring four tries to two, with Jarryd Buys dotting down his fourth five-pointer in three games. The South Africans remained unbeaten at the top of the table as they coasted into the playoffs. They will face Belgium in the quarterfinals on Tuesday.

In sprint canoeing, Calven Clack took ninth place, in 36.889 seconds, in the men's K1 200m final. Ignas Navakauskas of Lithuania won gold in 34.311.

Grace Legote, lying 24th overnight, held on to finish 25th overall in the women's individual all-round rhythmic gymnastics final. Russian Margarita Mamun secured the gold medal.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Bronwyn Roets on 082 906 0019 or Sharon Thomas +79270321940

Kazan – 14 July 2013

RUGBY SEVENS TEAM TOP THEIR GROUP

South Africa charged to the top of Group C in the rugby sevens tournament at the World Student Games in Kazan, Russia, on Sunday. The SA team romped past neighbours Namibia with a 41-12 victory in their opening match and thumped Latvia 41-7 in their second group encounter. Jarryd Buys scored three tries in the two games, while Stefan de Villiers and Bradley Moolman also put their names on the scorecard more than once, with both players adding braces. The SA men play Japan in their third and final group match on Monday.

In the swimming pool, Giulio Zorzi cruised into the final of the men's 50m breaststroke. Zorzi was the fastest of the qualifiers, and second fastest of the semi-finalists, touching the wall in 27.67 seconds to book his place in Monday's final. Richard Ellis reached the semi-finals of the men's 200m backstroke but was eliminated in the penultimate round.

Elsewhere, Stuart Maclaren and Alasdair Glass finished eighth in the men's K2 1 000m sprint canoe final in 3:39.931. The Polish duo of Pawel Szandrach and Mariusz Kujawski won gold in 3:28.473. Maclaren and Glass

were knocked out in the semi-finals of the men's K2 200m event. Calven Clack was third in his semi-final of the men's K1 200m discipline, crossing the line in 38.922 to qualify for Monday's final.

Meanwhile, Grace Legote was lying 24th in the standings after two disciplines – the hoop and ball – in the women's individual all-round rhythmic gymnastics final.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Bronwyn Roets on 082 906 0019 or Sharon Thomas +79270321940

Kazan – 13 July 2013

SA WOMEN IN BRONZE MEDAL PLAYOFF

South Africa will compete for the bronze medal in the women's football tournament at the World Student Games in Kazan, Russia, after going down 4-1 against Mexico in a tough semi-final clash on Saturday.

Sandra Mayor scored in the sixth minute to give Mexico the early lead, but Leandra Smeda hit back almost immediately to equalise for the SA women. And while they never gave up the fight, the South Africans were ultimately outclassed, with Veronica Corral netting a brace and Monica Monsivais putting the result beyond doubt.

"We started the game very well," said SA coach Jerry Laka. "We took the game to our opponents again by playing our passing game and keeping possession of the ball. We created a number of opportunities in the first 10 minutes but were unable to convert. Unfortunately we gave the game away in the first five minutes, which possibly killed us as a team, but I am proud of my girls. They never gave up."

The SA women will face either Brazil or Great Britain in the bronze medal playoff on Monday.

"We need to give our best," Laka said. "We're going all out and hopefully we will be on the podium."

Meanwhile, the SA men's hockey side will turn out against Korea in the playoff for fifth and sixth positions on Monday. Brandon Panther scored in the 28th minute in their final Group A match against Malaysia, but Muhammed Abdrahim equalised shortly before the break and Ahmad Nasruddin buried the winner with less than 20 minutes left in the match.

Elsewhere, in the swimming pool, Leith Shankland narrowly missed out on a place in the men's 100m freestyle final. Shankland touched the wall in 49.62 in the semi-finals of his event, losing out on a spot in the last eight by 0.05 seconds.

On the first day of the canoeing competition, Alasdair Glass and Stuart Maclaren finished second in their semi-final in the men's K2 1 000m event to qualify for Sunday's final. The duo were also sixth in their heat in the men's K2 200m event, booking their place in the semi-finals. Calven Clack reached the semi-finals of the men's K1 1 000m discipline but was eliminated in the penultimate round.

Clack was also sixth in his K1 200m heat, progressing to Sunday's semi-finals.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Bronwyn Roets on 082 906 0019 or Sharon Thomas +79270321940

Kazan – 12 July 2013

TEAM SA REACH MEDAL TARGET

The athletics contingent claimed another five medals at the World Student Games in Kazan, Russia, on Friday as Team South Africa achieved their 13-medal target (6 gold, 3 silver and 4 bronze) with five days of competition remaining. This is the most medals won by a South African delegation at the World University Games – the previous record was 9 medals (2 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze) won at the 2009 Belgrade Universiade.

The road running team were delighted after scooping three medals in the half-marathon in the morning session. Gladwin Mzazi won the individual gold medal, outsprinting countryman Stephen Mokoka to secure victory in the men's road race in 1:03.37. Xolisane Zamkele was seventh in 1:05.38, as the trio claimed the team gold medal. Mzazi, who won the 10 000m title at the 2009 Games in Belgrade, and was fifth in the half-marathon at the 2011 Games in Shenzhen, was pleased to have achieved his goal.

"I'm very happy to have won the race. I wanted to go home with a gold medal," Mzazi said. "We took control from the start, and obviously if there is team work it makes things much easier. We struggled a bit over the last 10km because the temperature was getting higher and higher, so the weather affected us, but we did very well."

Mokoka, who won gold in the men's 10 000m final earlier in the week, also said they had battled in the hot and humid conditions, and he was glad they had worked together as a team. *"The main goal was to get the team gold because we have never won the team competition before. Everything went according to plan,"* Mokoka said.

In the women's half-marathon, Portia Ngwenya was 20th in 1:32.24, while Thitshaamba Ravhandalala withdrew shortly before the finish.

In the evening track and field session, the country's 4x400m relay teams both secured bronze medals in the finals of their events. The men's quartet – Pieter Conradie, Jacques de Swardt, PC Beneke and Wayde van Niekerk – were third in 3:06.19. *"It was quite tough, but the support today was amazing, and the conditions were great,"* said Van Niekerk. *"We wanted to do everything we could for our country."* The women's quartet – Sonja van der Merwe, Arista Nienaber, Justine Palframan and Anneri Ebersohn – also took third place, clocking 3:36.05.

Rynardt van Rensburg finished sixth in the men's 800m final, crossing the line in 1:47.70, with Olympic silver medalist Nijel Amos of Botswana, who is based in South Africa, clinching the gold medal in 1:46.53. Jeromy Andreas was sixth in the men's 5 000m final in 13:56.94, while countryman Andries Hlaselo did not finish the race. The SA men's 4x100m relay team, anchored by double sprint champion Anaso Jobodwana, were left disappointed as they struggled with an early change over and were later hampered by the Canadian quartet, trailing home in eighth place in the final in 45.82 seconds.

Elsewhere, Richard Ellis became the first South African to progress beyond the preliminary rounds in the swimming pool. Ellis reached the semi-finals of the men's backstroke event, but he was eliminated in the penultimate round.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Bronwyn Roets on 082 906 0019 or Sharon Thomas +79270321940

Kazan – 11 July 2013

SA WOMEN REACH FOOTBALL SEMIS

South Africa fought back from two goals down to stun Japan on Thursday, booking their place in the semi-finals of the women's football tournament at the World Student Games in Kazan, Russia.

The SA women, who won 5-4 in a penalty shootout, with the scores level at 3-3 after regulation time in the quarterfinal clash, will face Mexico in the semi-finals on Saturday.

"The girls showed a lot of character, they showed fighting spirit and everyone was willing to die on the field," said SA coach Jerry Laka. *"I was worried when we were 2-0 down but the girls came back and showed they wanted it more."*

Japan, the silver medallists at the 2011 Games in Shenzhen, charged into a 2-0 lead after 32 minutes with Naoka Sakamoto and Chiho Takahashi finding the back of the net. The South Africans, however, maintained their composure, with Jermaine Seoposenwe and former Banyana Banyana captain Amanda Dlamini drawing the sides level at the half-time break. Leandra Smeda struck seven minutes after the interval, as they continued their gutsy comeback, and while Asuka Nishikawa equalised with 12 minutes left, the SA women were flawless in the spot-kick decider.

Earlier, the SA men's hockey side had produced another brave showing but went down 4-2 against hosts Russia to settle in third place in Group A. *"We threw everything at them in the second half, and created a lot of chances but we just didn't take them,"* said SA coach Sean Rapaport.

Owen Mvimbi put the South Africans in front in the 13th minute, but Pavel Plesetckii and Nikolay Yankun struck back to give Russia a 2-1 lead at the break. Igor Sinyagin stretched the host nation's advantage with less than 10 minutes left, and while Mvimbi pulled one back soon after, to secure his brace, Anton Kornilov put the result beyond doubt with seconds remaining in the match. South Africa face Malaysia on Saturday in a must-win clash as they go in search of a place in the medal playoffs.

Meanwhile, on the track, Ryndardt van Rensburg finished third in his men's 800m semi-final in 1:48.35, coasting into Friday's final. The SA men's sprint relay teams also booked their places in the finals of their events.

The 4x100m relay quartet – Akani Simbine, Henrico Bruintjies, Gideon Trotter and Jacques de Swardt – were second in their heat in 39.94 seconds, despite the absence of men's 100m and 200m gold medalist Anaso Jobodwana, who was rested after competing in eight races in four days. De Swardt was again involved in the men's 4x400m team, joining Pieter Conradie, PC Beneke and Wayne van Niekerk as they finished third in their heat in 3:09.88.

Bianca Erwee, lying 13th of 19 competitors overnight, climbed two places in the overall standings to finish 11th in the gruelling women's heptathlon with a total of 5 317 points.

In the morning session, the country's swimming contingent, competing against a world-class line-up, were again unable to progress beyond the preliminary rounds of their disciplines.

Leith Shankland (men's 200m freestyle), Robyn Ferguson (women's 100m breaststroke), Trudi Maree (women's 100m freestyle), Neil de Villiers and Ayrton Sweeney (men's 200m individual medley) were all eliminated in their first-round heats, with Sweeney setting a personal best in his event.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Bronwyn Roets on 082 906 0019 or Sharon Thomas +79270321940

Kazan – 10 July 2013

SPRINT DOUBLE FOR JOBODWANA

Anaso Jobodwana claimed a superb sprint double at the World Student Games in Kazan, Russia, on Wednesday, adding the men's 200m title to the 100m gold he won earlier in the week. Jobodwana burst across the line in 20.00, finishing 0.23 seconds clear of defending champion Rasheed Dwyer of Jamaica.

While he was 0.11 seconds inside the 11-year-old South African record held by Morne Nagel, the time was recorded with a 2.4m/s tailwind and did not count for record purposes.

"It was a bit unlucky with the wind but the conditions were perfect," Jobodwana said after his race. *"It was not too cold, not too hot."*

The 20-year-old from the Eastern Cape, who reached the 200m final at last year's London Olympic Games, had missed the SA 100m record by just 0.04 seconds on Monday, matching his 10.10 career best to win gold in the shorter event. Jobodwana became the first man to win the short sprint double at the World Student Games since Italian Pietro Mennea won 100m and 200m gold at the 1975 edition in Rome.

He will be back on the track on Thursday, leading the men's 4x100m relay quartet in the first-round heats as they begin the defence of their title.

"After four rounds (in the 200m) I think I've proved that my body is in good shape, so I was happy with my performance," said Jobodwana. *"I'll now turn my focus to the relay."*

While the lanky sprint sensation was celebrating his second victory, Robert Oosthuizen was racking up the country's eighth medal of the Games. Oosthuizen heaved a first-round attempt of 81.63m to grab the silver medal in the men's javelin throw final, with Dmitri Tarabin of Russia clinching gold with a best of 83.11m. *"I'm happy with my performance. I've been struggling this season, so to throw over 81m again felt very good,"* said Oosthuizen. While Jobodwana was aided by the strong wind, Oosthuizen and the rest of the men's javelin throw field battled in the conditions. *"There was a strong headwind,"* he said, *"but it was the same for everyone, so I can't complain."*

Earlier in Wednesday's evening session, Gideon Trotter had been eliminated in the semi-finals of the 200m sprint. Arista Nienaber and Justine Palframan were also unable to progress beyond the penultimate round of the women's 200m event. In the morning, Rynardt van Rensburg had coasted into the men's 800m semi-finals, finishing second in his heat in 1:53.94, while Jeromy Andreas and Andries Hlaselo both booked their places in the men's 5 000m final, which will be held on Friday.

Biance Erwee was lying 13th of 19 competitors after four events in the women's heptathlon.

Elsewhere, on the first day of competition in the pool, the swimming team struggled in their first-round heats, and while they did not progress in any of their early disciplines, they remained confident of shining later in the week. Ayrton Sweeney (men's 400m freestyle), Trudi Maree (women's 50m butterfly), Richard Ellis and David de Villiers (men's 100m backstroke), Giulio Zorzi (men's 50m butterfly and 100m breaststroke), Nico Meyer (men's 50m butterfly) and the SA men's 4x100m freestyle relay quartet were knocked out in the preliminary rounds in their events.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Bronwyn Roets on 082 906 0019 or Sharon Thomas +79270321940

Kazan – 9 July 2013

MOTSAU ADDS TO SA MEDALS TALLY

Jerry Motsau surprised himself by grabbing bronze in the men's 1 500m final on Tuesday, and the women's football team booked their place in the quarterfinals after a thrilling win over Chinese Taipei, as Team South Africa's campaign continued to build momentum at the World Student Games.

Motsau, 23, was edged out in a blanket finish, as he crossed the line in 3:39.51, taking third place to lift the country's tally to six medals after four days of competition in Kazan, Russia. Valentin Smirnov, representing the host nation, secured the gold medal in 3:39.39.

"I didn't expect a medal because it's my first World Student Games, so I'm very grateful," Motsau said.

Shortly after his race, Motsau boarded a plane to Brussels, where he will compete on Saturday in an attempt to qualify for next month's IAAF World Championships in Moscow.

Meanwhile, Anneri Ebersohn finished an impressive fifth in the women's 400m hurdles final in 57.58 seconds. Anna Titimets of the Ukraine won gold in 54.64. Earlier, PC Beneke comfortably won his semi-final in 49.91 seconds to qualify for Wednesday's final in the men's 400m hurdles.

Anaso Jobodwana, who won gold in the men's 100m sprint earlier in the week, and Gideon Trotter both qualified for the men's 200m semi-finals. Jobodwana won his second-round heat in 20.76 seconds, while Trotter was third in his heat in 21.07.

Arista Nienaber (24.11) and Justine Palframan (24.43) also progressed to the semi-finals of the women's 200m event, taking second place in their respective heats.

The SA women's football team put up another brave showing to reach the quarterfinals with a 3-2 win over Chinese Taipei in their last Group A match.

Noko Matlou, Leandra Smeda and Sanah Mollo all found the back of the net as South Africa progressed on points difference. They will face Japan on Thursday for a place in the semi-finals.

In judo, Seamus Mingay beat Ka Leong of Macau to reach the last 16 in the men's Under-66kg event. He lost, however, to Rishad Sobirov of Uzbekistan in the next round.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Bronwyn Roets on 082 906 0019 or Sharon Thomas +79270321940.

Kazan – 8 July 2013

DAY 3 BRINGS FIVE MEDALS FOR TEAM SA

Sprinter Anaso Jobodwana, distance runner Stephen Mokoka and rower Kirstin McCann all grabbed gold as Team South Africa's campaign roared to life with a five-medal haul at the World Student Games on Monday.

Jobodwana clocked 10.10, matching his personal best and missing the national record by just 0.04 seconds, to win the men's 100m final on the third day of the multi-sport event in Kazan, Russia.

Mokoka, meanwhile, produced an astonishing sprint over the last kilometre to win the men's 10 000m final in 28:45.97. It was Mokoka's third medal in the longest track event of the university showpiece after earning the

silver medal at the 2011 Games in Shenzhen and bronze at the 2007 Games in Bangkok. He dominated the entire race, starting fast and seemingly toying with the field as he regularly changed the tempo over 25 laps.

"I wanted to run the qualifying standard for the IAAF World Championships, but it was too hot and humid so I decided to drop back and go with the guys after five laps," Mokoka said. "But then a big bunch was formed, and I don't like the jostling in a big group, so I decided to break it up by moving forward and coming back."

In the women's discus throw, Maryke Oberholzer grabbed the bronze medal with a best heave of 54.09m. While she had hoped to climb higher up the podium, she was hampered by the wet weather conditions during the evening track and field session, and Oberholzer was pleased to add to the country's medal tally. *"It hasn't really sunk in yet, but I'm sure it will later. It feels good," she said. "I could have taken second place, because I was aiming for 58 or 59 metres, but the weather wasn't great."*

Earlier, in the morning session, McCann held off Russian Olga Arkadova by a little more than four seconds to win gold – the country's first medal of the Games – in the A final of the women's lightweight singles sculls, finishing in 8:10.62. *"This is awesome! It was such a hard race and she (Arkadova) pushed me so hard,"* said McCann, who also won gold in her specialist event at last year's World University Rowing Championships at the same venue. *"It's not often you get to see the SA flag raised, so to show the world that South Africa is on top, and can compete at this level, is awesome."*

Minutes after McCann crossed the line, the women's coxless fours team – Claire-Louise Bode, Kate Christowitz, Holly Norton and Catherine Stark – secured the country's second medal when they pocketed silver in the A final of their event in 7:07.44.

Elsewhere, the men's hockey team notched up their first win of the tournament, scoring four goals in the first half as they romped to a 4-2 victory over Poland. Grant Glutz scored an early brace to give South Africa a 2-0 lead within the first nine minutes, and while Maciej Ferenc pulled one back in the 27th minute, Keagan Robinson and Luke Sanan drew the SA men further clear before the half-time break. Michal Kasprzyk scored a consolation goal for Poland with less than 20 minutes left in the match, but South Africa held them off for the rest of the game, climbing to the top of the Group A standings. They play Russia in their next game on Thursday.

Kazan – 8 July 2013

ROWING GOLD AND SILVER DEDICATED TO MADIBA

Kirsten McCann and the women's coxless fours quartet were delighted with their performances on Monday, 8 July after the rowing team bagged South Africa's first medals of the World Student Games, which they immediately dedicated to ailing former President Nelson Mandela.

McCann held off Russian Olga Arkadova by a little more than four seconds to win gold in the A final of the women's lightweight singles sculls, crossing the line in 8:10.62, on day three of the Games in Kazan, Russia.

"This is awesome! It was such a hard race and she (Arkadova) pushed me so hard," said McCann, who also won gold in her specialist event at last year's World University Rowing Championships at the same venue. *"It's not often you get to see the SA flag raised, so to show the world that South Africa is on top, and can compete at this level, is awesome."* McCann said she had Mandela, who is in critical condition at a Pretoria hospital, on her mind throughout the race.

"My coach said to me that not many people get to wear SA colours and represent the country," she said. *"The first thing that came to my mind was Madiba and how we could make him proud. He suffered so much for us, and when I was feeling pain on the course, I knew that he felt so much more for us, to give us the freedom to race here. So he was in the back of my mind the whole race."*

McCann thanked University Sport South Africa (USSA) for assisting her in the build-up to the biennial event.

“This makes me so proud, after the support we got for these Games – the medical staff physios, doctors, and having the funds to get over here for preparation. It feels cool to be able to reward USSA for awarding us the opportunity, and give something back by putting SA on top of the world.”

Minutes after McCann crossed the finish line, the women's coxless fours team – Claire-Louise Bode, Kate Christowitz, Holly Norton and Catherine Stark – secured the country's second medal of the Games when they finished second in the A final of their event. The SA quartet grabbed silver in 7:07.44, with Russia snatching the gold medal in 6:59.92.

“It was an incredible experience and I'll definitely be back here next time if I'm still studying,” Christowitz said. *“We all had an amazing race and we did the best we possibly could have.”*

The women's fours team also stepped on the podium in honour of Madiba.

“He's the father of our nation,” said Christowitz, *“and there's nothing more special than dedicating this medal to him.”*

ENDS

For further information, please contact Bronwyn Roets on 082 906 0019 or Sharon Thomas 082 312 5428

Kazan – 7 July 2013

TEAM SA BUILD MOMENTUM ON DAY TWO

Team South Africa's athletics contingent got their campaign off to a superb start on Sunday, while the rowing squad continued their solid showing on day two of the World Student Games in Kazan, Russia. The country fell narrowly short of climbing on the medals table, but the football and hockey teams secured their first points as they started building momentum.

Jaco Engelbrecht, third best of the morning qualifiers, heaved a best attempt of 19.48m to finish fifth in the men's shot put final in the evening track and field session. Alexander Lesnoi of Russia won the gold medal with a best effort of 20.30m.

Sprint sensations Anaso Jobodwana and Akani Simbine coasted into the men's 100m semi-finals, which will be held on Monday. Jobodwana won his second-round heat in 10.28 seconds, and Simbine was second in his race in 10.38. Simbine had been fastest of the morning qualifiers, clocking 10.36 in the first round.

Also in the morning, Wayde van Niekerk (46.77) and Jacques de Swardt (47.04) finished second in their respective first-round heats in the men's 400m event, booking their places in Monday's semi-finals. Sonja van der Merwe, third in her heat in 53.67, also progressed to the penultimate round in the women's 400m sprint.

Jerry Motsau, the fastest qualifier in the men's 1 500m semifinal heats in 3:40.29, and countryman Andries Hlaselo, fourth in his heat in 3:44.28, both reached Tuesday's metric mile final.

Elsewhere on day two, Kirsten McCann continued her impressive form in the women's lightweight single sculls in the morning rowing session. McCann was the fastest of the semi-finalists in her specialist event, crossing the line in 8:04.13, more than four seconds clear of the rest of the boats, as she cruised into Monday's A final.

The men's coxless fours quartet of Cameron Hoey, William Cahill, Leo Davis and Servaas Crowther finished a credible fifth in the A final of their discipline in 6:42.74, with Germany clinching the gold medal. In the B final

of the men's lightweight coxless fours, the SA team of James Brittain, Gareth Maybery, Devon Millair and Scott Donaldson settled for second place behind the Hungarian quartet.

Meanwhile, the women's football side grabbed a late 2-2 draw after another gutsy performance, this time against Korea, in their second match of the competition.

Selgi Jang netted for Korea in the 33rd minute, and Jermaine Seoposenwe equalised nine minutes after the half-time interval. Mira Moon put the SA women on the back foot once again, with five minutes left in the game, but with the match seemingly dead and buried for the South Africans, Leandra Smeda struck in the dying seconds as they salvaged a point. They will play Chinese Taipei in their third and final Group A match on Tuesday.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Bronwyn Roets on 082 906 0019 or Sharon Thomas 082 312 5428

Kazan – 7 July 2013

HOCKEY MEN HELD BY ITALY IN KAZAN

South Africa were held to a high-scoring 4-4 draw against a tenacious Italy side in their opening match of the men's hockey tournament on day two of the World Student Games in Kazan, Russia, on Sunday.

Jaco Fourie gave South Africa the lead in the 12th minute, and while Augustin Nunez hit back for Italy midway through the first half, Grant Glutz regained the advantage a little over a minute later. Davide Grossi equalised again, however, four minutes before half-time as the sides went into the break level at 2-2.

With 20 minutes left in the match, Brandon Panther put SA back in front, before Italy yet again levelled the scores through Lorenzo Dussi. Damian Kimfley handed the South Africans the lead once more, but Nunez saved the Italian outfit, scoring his second goal of the match with less than five minutes left as the teams shared the points. South Africa will face Poland in their next Group A fixture on Monday.

Elsewhere, Kirsten McCann continued her impressive form in the women's lightweight single sculls in the morning rowing session. McCann was the fastest of the semi-finalists in her specialist event, crossing the line in 8:04.13, more than four seconds clear of the rest of the boats, as she cruised into Monday's A final.

The men's coxless fours quartet of Cameron Hoey, William Cahill, Leo Davis and Servaas Crowther finished a credible fifth in the A final of their event in 6:42.74, with Germany clinching the gold medal. In the B final of the men's lightweight coxless fours, the SA team of James Brittain, Gareth Maybery, Devon Millair and Scott Donaldson settled for second place behind the Hungarian quartet.

The women's football team will face Korea in their second Group A match on Sunday night, while Jacobus Engelbrecht competes in the men's shot put final. Engelbrecht was the third best of the qualifiers, launching a 19.20m effort in the morning track and field session.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Bronwyn Roets on 082 906 0019 or Sharon Thomas 082 312 5428

Kazan – 6 July 2013

STUDENT TEAM COMPETING IN HONOUR OF MADIBA

Flag bearer Gladwin Mzazi says the country's university sports team have ailing former statesman Nelson Mandela in their thoughts as they target their best ever performance at the World Student Games. Mzazi was chosen to lead the 120-member SA contingent at the Opening Ceremony of the biennial Games in Kazan, Russia, on Saturday.

“I think the whole of the University Sport South Africa (USSA) team is behind Madiba and we will do it for him,” Mzazi said. Competing in his fourth straight Universiade, Mzazi hopes to lead from the front as he aims for his second gold medal.

“I feel very honoured and proud. I really appreciate it,” he said. *“I’m carrying the flag of South Africa and I want to represent the country very well.”* Having won the 10 000m final at the 2009 edition of the multi-sport event in Belgrade, Mzazi attempted a distance double in Shenzhen two years ago, finishing sixth over 10 000m on the track and fifth in the half-marathon on the road. He will have another crack at a medal on Friday when he toes the line at the start of the 21km road race, with only one goal on his mind.

Either on his own, or as part of the three-man team – which also includes Stephen Mokoka, a 10 000m medallist in Belgrade and Shenzhen, and Xolisani Zamkele – he wants to step on the podium.

“I just want to win another gold medal, in the half-marathon this time.”

“We also believe we have a very good chance in the team competition, which is calculated on points.”

Team South Africa, represented by a mix of seasoned stars and up-and-coming talent, have set a record target of 13 medals at the Games, which ends on July 17.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Bronwyn Roets on 082 906 0019 or Sharon Thomas 082 312 5428

Kazan – 5 July 2013

South Africa put up a brave fight, but ultimately went down in a 1-0 defeat to Russia in their opening match of the women's football tournament at the World Student Games in Kazan on Friday.

Captain Amanda Dlamini clashed heads with a Russian player within the first five minutes of the match, and was carried off on a stretcher. She however recovered quickly and returned to the field to marshal her side.

Russia found the breakthrough in the 10th minute when Anna Sinyutina hit the back of the net for the host nation. And while the South Africans managed to stand firm in defence for the rest of the game, they were unable to find the equaliser.

While SA coach Jerry Laka congratulated Russia on their victory, he believed his side had been the better team on the day and deserved to walk away with full points from their tournament opener.

“Obviously we wanted to win our first game,” said Laka.

“We had more possession of the ball and more shots at goal but failed to convert the opportunities”

“The team played well and we now look forward to our next game.”

The South African women will face Korea in their next Group A match on Sunday, 7 July.

While programmes of some of the sporting codes started on Friday, the Games will officially begin with the Opening Ceremony on Saturday, 6 July 2013.

ENDS

For further information, please contact Bronwyn Roets on 082 906 0019 or Sharon Thomas 082 312 5428