

SHARKS SAY BRING IT ON!

## Captains nail their colours

MIKE GREENAWAY

**E**VEN by Currie Cup standards, it has been a week of extraordinary twists and turns in the 2010 vintage of the oldest rugby competition in the world. In Western Province country the talk has been about returning the Currie Cup to the top of Table Mountain.

In KZN, players have spoken about one last step to the summit of rugby's Mount Everest.

So where will the grand old dame of South African rugby reside at 7pm tomorrow night? On the Drakensberg or on Table Mountain? The educated word is that a Newlands final would have secured the Mountain Goats a win. But three months of diligent campaigning by a Sharks team stung by their underperformance in the Super 14 have earned them the invaluable cushion of a home final. And 54 000 black-and-white bedecked Sharks fans are sure to give the Sharks their due after a wonderful rejuvenation.

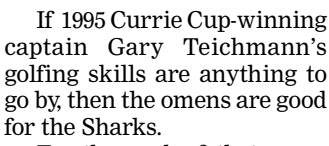
However, Sharks coach John Plumtree said: "As much as we love our fans they will not win this match for us. We will have to raise our game from how we performed against the Bulls because in the final everything will be quicker and faster and everything needs to be much sharper."



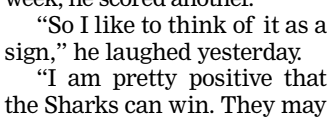
**CRAIG JAMIESON**  
They proved their mettle



**GARY TEICHMANN**  
Sharks play for each other



**WAHL BARTMAN**  
They need commitment



**JOHANN MULLER**  
I back them to win

If 1995 Currie Cup-winning captain Gary Teichmann's golfing skills are anything to go by, then the omens are good for the Sharks.

For the week of that game, and against the same opponents, Teichmann scored his first eagle on the golf course. And last week, he scored another.

"So I like to think of it as a sign," he laughed yesterday.

"I am pretty positive that the Sharks can win. They may not have the stars of Province, but they are playing as a team and for each other."

His advice to the team was to stick to the game they had been playing all season, and to "enjoy the moment".

Craig Jamieson, captain of

the 1990 team that lifted the cup for the first time, said the Sharks had proved they were the top team in the competition and had perfected their style of play, which was "solid, good rugby".

Thinking back to this time 20 years ago, "the history-making days" as he calls them, Jamieson recalled that there were "a lot of nerves". It was also the KZN rugby union's centenary year. However, with coach Ian Macintosh at the helm, a psychologist was brought in to help focus the team. Although this is common these days, back then it was unheard of.

Wahl Bartman, who captained the 1992 side that lifted the Currie Cup, said that just as his team had been the underdogs on that day, so too were the Sharks tomorrow.

"We didn't think we'd win, but we prepared well and had belief in ourselves," he said.

"We had gone in as underdogs thinking we had no chance, but the guys were all so committed and prepared."

Bartman said that the Sharks could also emerge victorious if all the players also held that commitment.

Speaking from Ireland, where he plays for Ulster, Johann Muller, who captained the Sharks in their most recent Currie Cup win in 2008, said he was often in contact with the players, and the



Andile Makhanya, 5, and Sam Carnie, 8, get an early taste of Sharks fever before the team's showdown against Western Province in tomorrow's Currie Cup final. The Sharks are winning online and cellphone battles being waged by their fans on social networking sites.

PICTURE: BONGANI MBATHA

## We're ready for a black and white fiesta

BRONWYNN GERRETSEN

preparations for tomorrow's game appeared to have been similar to his team's preparations two years ago.

"I back the Sharks to win it. A lot of players were in that team two years ago, and they know what to expect."

Muller said he would be watching the game with another player from the Sharks of 2008, Deon Carstens.

"Obviously we would love to be there watching the game, but the next best thing is watching it on TV with a mate who was there with you when you won it last time."

» P6-9,14,15,17&36

DURBAN is expected to be awash with black and white tomorrow as young and old fans don their Sharks gear in anticipation of victory.

The Sharks Cage was abuzz with excitement yesterday as supporters rushed to buy their last-minute fan apparel.

Manager Junaid Motala said the replica jerseys and kiddies clothing, in particular, were selling well.

And it's not only Sharks fans from KZN, but those from Gauteng and the Free State, who will converge on the city.

Warren Ozard, regional manager for the Federated Hospitality Association of South Africa, said hotels on the Durban beachfront and Umhlanga Rocks were up to 90 percent full.

Ozard said most of the guests from outside KZN were from the Sharks' large inland fan base, as opposed to Western Province. He added that the match would not only benefit the hotels.

"It is going to be a great weekend, and not only for the hotels, but for restaurants, pubs, butcheries, bakeries, supermarkets and petrol stations as well."

Before and after the game tomorrow,

the air at the outer fields at the Absa Stadium will be filled with the traditional smells of boerewors and other braai meat.

Although fans will be getting into a festive spirit throughout the day, as the excitement builds, metro police spokesman Eugene Msomi has warned them to act responsibly. The police will be continuing with their campaign to stop and check one million vehicles this month, so there would be roadblocks.

Mother Nature is also coming to the rugby party with partly cloudy conditions and a maximum temperature of 28C.

No rain is predicted.

## Coke can a real mouthful for Jaw of Awe

LUANDA: If you thought Julius Malema had a big mouth, think again.

An Angolan has been recognised as having the world's widest mouth by the Guinness Book of World Records.

Francisco Domingo Joaquim, 20 - aka the Angolan Jaw of Awe - can fit a 330ml can of coke into his mouth - sideways.

He can stretch his mouth more than 16.5cm wide, and recently put his skills to the test at the Big Mouth competition in Rome.

Contestants crammed their mouths with a host of items, including saucers, coffee cups and beer bottles - but no one could beat Francisco and his can of Coke.

He shot to stardom performing his jaw-dropping talent on the streets of Luanda.

Francisco, known as Chiquinho,



JOAQUIM

and his unique talent were discovered by Guinness Book of World Record researchers.

Chiquinho has now become an internet sensation, with his videos racking up thousands of hits.

After finding out that he would feature in the Guinness World Records 2011, Chiquinho said that it was "a dream come true". - orange news

## You're jealous: go to hell, Vavi told

CARIEN DU PLESSIS  
POLITICAL BUREAU

BUSINESS tycoon Kenny Kunene has told Cosatu general secretary Zwelinzima Vavi to "go hang or go to hell" after the labour federation leader criticised Kunene's R700 000 weekend birthday party.

An unapologetic Kunene replied in a two-and-a-half-page "open letter" to Vavi yesterday, saying Vavi had attacked him and his party because ANC Youth League president Julius Malema had been invited, and Vavi had not.

Kunene said Vavi would not be invited to the next party, either.

Malema "was there because he recognises excellence from black business people and, unlike you, he does not condemn wealth indiscriminately", Kunene said. "He realises that the future greatness of this country lies in the hands of those of us willing to compete to be the best."

But Kunene said Vavi was "only too happy" to attend the R50 million wedding of businessman Robert Gumede last month.

Vavi told a Cosatu and civil society conference on Wednesday that lavish parties like Kunene's were "corrupting morality" and amounted to "spitting in the face of the

poor", which made him "sick", Vavi said.

He also railed against sushi being served off the bodies of "half-naked ladies", but Kunene did not address this in his reply.

Kunene said he wanted to "correct your misapprehension that my party cost R700 000. It cost more".

He said he had made his money honestly and did not do business with the government.

Kunene added that Vavi himself had had a "lavish wedding two years ago, with horse-drawn carriages, no less".

In his letter, he said he had been in prison in the 1980s for "supporting the Struggle so

that no one would be able to tell me how to live my life".

"If you care so much for the poor, then why don't you stop wearing your high-collar designer shirts, sell your house and live in a shack, and stop meeting in top-class restaurants to hold court on the suffering of the masses?"

Kunene said he planned a "follow-up party" this weekend "for the underprivileged and poor; who are also part of my life, and always will be".

Vavi, when showed the letter while attending the final day of the Cosatu civil society and labour conference yesterday, laughed at it, as well as the length of the reply.



Joburg businessman Kenny Kunene celebrates his 40th birthday with sushi off scantily clad women at his popular club Zar, in the Radisson Blu Hotel, in Sandton.

PICTURE: LUCKY NXUMALO/CITY PRESS

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