



Promising left-arm spinner and former SA U19 cricketer Nduduzo Mfoza is on a semi-professional contract with KZN Inland while studying at UKZN in Pietermaritzburg. **PHOTO: GALLO IMAGES**

# Sunfoil bursary unlocked Mfoza's cricketing talent

**DAVID KNOWLES**

FORMER Glenwood High School pupil Nduduzo Mfoza is settling into life in Pietermaritzburg, where he is combining his studies with a promising cricket career.

A former SA U19 player, the talented left-arm spinner currently has a semi-professional contract with KZN Inland Cricket Union and he has no hesitation in saying his life has changed, thanks to a cricket bursary he received after the 2012 KZN Sunfoil Township Tournament.

"That bursary set me on the path to where I find myself today," he said. "It enabled me to study at Glenwood and work on my cricket where I was exposed to playing against strong schools. To be on a semi-professional contract with Inland while studying sports management at UKZN can only be beneficial to me but it comes back to that bursary. Without that, I would not be where I am now."

Mfoza also added that if he had not been afforded the opportunity to attend Glenwood, he would never have made the SA U19 side.

While that certainly changed his life, it was initially a challenging beginning for him as he made the step from familiar surroundings in KwaNdengezi to one of Durban's most respected schools.

"I struggled to adapt at first. Think about it, a youngster coming from a school where only Zulu was spoken to a totally different environment. It was nothing I was used to and everything was done differently," he said. "It took about a year before I settled."

However, the cricket field provided an outlet and this was an area where the Grade 9 pupil felt at ease. "Having come through a cricket development programme helped me prepare for sport at Glenwood, especially cricket, as I had experience of what was required from the programme I had been part of," he said.

Another bonus for Mfoza was being part of Glenwood's sports academy. "I was in the academy through to matric and it was a huge factor in my fitness and skills progress. It also allowed me to benefit from extra coaching which has been key to my journey so far."

Cricket was clearly Nduduzo's forte at school and every year since 2012, he gained provincial recognition. He played for the KZN U17 and U19 teams, plus the Cubs team until 2015 when he was the only KZN player in the SA U19 team that met Bangladesh in an ODI series with matches played in Durban and the City Oval.

In the fourth match of the series he made his debut, in Pietermaritzburg, where he was the only SA bowler to bowl a full quota of 10 overs. The Bangladesh batsmen were rampant on the day but the crafty spinner could hold his head high in conceding just 3,5 to the over.

Sanelisiwe Kuzwayo, KZN township and rural development cricket manager, believes Mfoza will become a Proteas player one day.