

# IT'S THE MONEY GAME!

## Nare secures her purse while Molotsane races for second

**By MATHEWS MPETE**  
**IT'S already in the bag for Tadu Nare!** But the 20-year-old Ethiopian middle-distance runner is not loosening or untying her shoe laces, just yet.

In fact, the Spar Grand Prix 10km Women's Challenge leader with 125 points is hoping to make it six-out-of-six victories when she lines up for the last leg of the series at the Nelson Mandela University Campus in Gqeberha on Saturday (7am).

The race will be run in three laps of about 3kms each, finishing at the Madibaz Stadium where they will run the final 300 metres on the track.

In a statement, the organisers said the "course is flat and expected to produce fast times".

The series debutant, running under Nick Bester's Nedbank, has been in fine form, showing her 249 elite competitors a clean pair of heels in all the races that she's taken part in Pietermaritzburg, Durban, Cape Town, Tshwane and Joburg.

She has won the races in 32.22 (Maritzburg), 32:07 (Durban), 31.28 (Cape Town), 32:56 (Tshwane) and 33:20 in Joburg at Marks Park on Sunday.

There is nothing stopping Nare, and the only way her maiden title would be in danger is failing to pitch for the Gqeberha race, since there are no bonus points awarded this year.

"I want to run a faster time (in Gqeberha), but it will all depend on the weather conditions," said Nare through translator on Sunday.

"It is at sea level (Gqeberha), and I can run faster there."

Much as she's hoping for a faster time, but she ruled herself out of a sub-30 on Saturday.

This would mean she will have to record anything faster than the 31:28, which she se-

cured in Cape Town at the coastal Eastern Cape city.

With the R190 000 winners' purse already channelled to Nare, who has already amassed R125 000 for winning five races back-to-back, the battle is for the second and third place.

The Grand Prix ambassador, Kesa Molotsane (Murray & Roberts) – 18 points lesser than Nare – will be hoping for another podium finish, as she races for the loot and honours.

Molotsane's second place helped her to leapfrog Fortunate Chidzivo (Retail Capital), who finished in eighth position on Sunday.

"At this stage the Spar Grand Prix is my only focus, as I have nothing major planned. I have been monitoring my points collection from day one, and I think I can do better. I am just hoping for a top three finish," said Molotsane, the 2017 Grand Prix champion.

Nare admitted to be having a challenge of starting slow, but regains her speed and is at best towards the seventh kilometre mark where she changes to a higher gear.

But a bitter runner who will blowing her lungs out on Saturday is Boxer's Glenrose Xaba, who has lost out on winning the Grand Prix after having missed the Cape Town edition, and racing outside the top three during the Joburg leg.

But her coach Caster Semenya said she will help her work her way back to the top.

Spar Grand Prix Money Open category

1. R190 000

2. R90 000

3. R55 000

4. R40 000

5. R35 000



Kesa Molotsane is racing against time to secure second place in the Grand Prix, while Tadu Nare just needs a podium finish to be champion. Photo by Gallo Images

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THE Nedbank Runified virtual series, launched last year and fast becoming Africa's biggest-ever virtual mass participation platform, is hosted by Nick Bester's Nedbank Running Club, Africa's largest virtual running club.

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The banking giant has partnered with The Sports Trust to help development of athletes with resources they need to tap into their potential.

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We want to hear from you. SMS your views  
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Let's be patient  
MaBuccaneer  
with  
co-coaches



IT took Mamelodi Sundowns boss Patrice Motsepe serious guts and patience when he gave Pitso Mosimane, just after being fired as Bafana Bafana coach, a chance to lead the club for three years. And he was at the helm for a while without winning anything. And today even a blind person can see that Sundowns are untouchable.

Our Orlando Pirates apprenticeship of co-coaches – Fadlu Davids and Mandla Ncikazi – need that kind of a chance and patience too. Yes they may still be young to coach a big team of Pirates' calibre and magnitude, but with time we will be singing their praises, as they will grow to become top notch mentors. Even a bus driver needs to be given a chance before he/she can be an expert. We are behind you guys. Don't spend sleepless nights thinking your job isn't safe. Your self-esteem, confidence and belief is key.

■ McDivett (Big McDee)  
Khumbulani Tshehla,  
Halfway House

Downs  
have no  
competition



OTHERS might argue that I am a dreamer like the soothsayer in the book of William Shakespeare trying to warn Julius

Caesar against the Ides of March. I see Mamelodi Sundowns retain their DStv championship at the rate in which they are going. Their performance is improving with every game. Peter Shalulile is unstoppable. I wonder which team will stop Sundowns this season because clearly they don't have any competition.

■ Aphane JM Libangeni,  
Vaalbank, KwaNdebele

MaMkhize  
has lost  
it!



I WAS so shocked to see the owner of Royal AM Shauwn Mkhize dishing out money on the field of play. It never happened in the history of our football, and she has set the trend.

I'm not against compensating players, but the manner in which MaMkhize did it was not appropriate. She's send a wrong message about our football. Please I edge and ask her to consider another mechanism to give her players performance bonuses.

■ Madimetja Vic Mashamaite,  
Renstown

Give  
MaMkhize  
a break,  
please!



IT is shocking that people complain about Shauwn Mkhize paying her players. The players deserve every little cent that they got from their bosses, including son Andile Mpisane. But I agree, they used a wrong platform to dish out the money. But I guess she wanted to pay them in front of cameras so that people can see that she indeed pays them their money. Remember, there was a case that Royal AM weren't paying their players salaries. The PSL would be childish to charge them, on what grounds? Unless if they have a vendetta against them from the status court cases.

Just give her a break, she's still learning.

■ Lelethu Mudau,  
Lenasia