

Fight for nonracial sport

THERE have been many "rebel" tours to South Africa lately. In spite of an international campaign to isolate South Africa from international sport, greedy sportspersons have toured this country for lots of money.

One of the organisations at the head of the campaign to boycott South African sport is the S.A. Nonracial Olympic Committee (SANROC).

On this page Grassroots writes about SANROC. It has a long history of involvement in our struggle for nonracial sport.

THE struggle for non-racial sport in our country is not a new one.

Even before the Nationalist Party came into power in 1948, our people have struggled for equality in sport.

In 1946 T. Rangasamy, representing the non-racial weightlifters, asked the British Weightlifters association to recognise his group

instead of the white body which discriminated against blacks.

Our sportspersons had much talent and it was clear that they would fight for their potential in sport to be developed. But because of the injustices in our society, this was not possible.

In 1948 the nationalists came into power

and they believed that people should be separated, even in sport. Interracial competitions were not allowed. Non-racial organisations applying for international status had to do so through the white bodies.

In 1956 The South African Table Tennis Board (non-racial) were granted international affiliation. The South African Cricket Board of Control (Sacboc) and the SA Weight-

lifting and Bodybuilding Federation also applied for recognition.

Because the non-racial organisations were not strongly linked, Dennis Brutus, who is now in exile, formed the Co-ordinating Committee for International Relations in 1956.

Meanwhile the state started taking harsh action against non-racial sportspersons and administrators. In 1957, the police took a letter from the offices of the



Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC). The letter accused the South African Olympic Committee of practising racial discrimination.

But police action did not stop our sportspersons from fighting

for non racial sports bodies. In October 1958, the South African Sports Association (SASA) was formed in East London.

SASA was later to be changed to SANROC (the SA Nonracial Olympic Committee). Even though SASA only existed for a short period, it grew from strength to strength and became involved in many campaigns.

In 1960 SASA opposed the New Zealand

tour of South Africa. They heard that New Zealand Maoris were not included in the team. Petitions were circulated and the African National Congress (ANC) was also involved in this campaign.

Again the police took action against sports people. In 1961 Dennis Brutus was banned. He left South Africa and is now active in SANROC. This organisation was formed in October 1962.

Junior Sport "Friendship first competition last"

RECENTLY about 137 children participated in an inter creche sports day held in Woodlands in Mitchells Plain. Four creches participated, one from Eastridge, one from Tafelsig and two from Woodlands.

The motto of the day was "friendship first, competition last."

And so a great day of fun was had by all. Children took part in egg and spoon races, sack races, wheelbarrow races and straight sprints. There was even a parent-teacher race, which caused much laughter - and many puffing parents.

At the moment there are four creches in Mitchells Plain. They were started because of the desperate need for creches in the area.

Many mothers are forced to go out and work to get the things that their families need. This meant that they were faced with the problem of finding someone to look after their children while they were out at work.

But creches were few and those few had very long waiting lists. So the people in Mitchells Plain came together and started their own creches. Together they raised the money they needed.

These four creches in Mitchells Plain are run by the community parents, and are staffed by members of the community trained by the Early Training Centre (ELC).

This was the first time that all four creches had participated in an inter creche event. The organisers of the sports day hope to extend to other areas of Mitchells Plain for their next sports day.



Over the past few weeks Athletic fever has infected our schools.

Thousands of students took part in inter-school athletic competitions. But only a few made the finals of the South African Senior School Sports Association. The final meeting was held at Bel Josafat Stadium in Paarl and attracted many people.

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