



■ Talfalah Primary School pupils in action during a handball training session.

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Just in time for the holidays

Handball is the new football at Talfalah...

MICHAEL JANSEN

One can be forgiven for thinking that pupils at Manenberg's Talfalah Primary School may have their codes twisted when watching them take shots at goal with a ball in hand. Not quite soccer, not quite netball, it's handball and they're loving it.

Although usually played indoors on a hard surface, the school's sandy, patchy playing field is where they practise what they've been taught.

The youngsters were taught the basics of the game by two volun-

teers from Stuttgart and Hamburg in Germany.

Leoni Daiber and Emma Grabbert are two recent high school graduates who are passionate about handball.

Wanting to take a gap year in their native Germany, they decided to spend their break from studying by travelling to Cape Town to introduce primary school pupils to the sport.

The duo were introduced to Sadick Da Silva from the Arise Community Project based in Manenberg, where they took up a year-long position as handball coaches for a programme called Play Handball.

At first, they found it difficult to settle into this new role. "We are both quite young and found it difficult to assume a position of authority required of coaches,"

said Emma, 20.

But they persisted and soon found the going-easier, taking three classes a day out onto a makeshift handball pitch, teaching pupils the finer points of the sport.

"Once a week, we also spent time with the teachers in order to show them how to coach handball," added Leoni, 19.

Despite being told that it will be difficult to work in Manenberg, Leoni and Emma soon found out that, while circumstances are different than in Germany, there were also many similarities. "Children are just children, no matter where they are from," said Emma.

Principal Ashraf Karriem is happy to have this project at Talfalah.

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Lee
Boss of the Road Brand
R499

Lee
Unwashed
R249

Lee
Corduroy
R299

Lee
Levi's
511
Jeans
R349

VAULT
Body Warmer
R349
Mens & Boys

KG
Baseball/
Leather
Sleeve
R299

London Dallas Spain Prov
R299 R299 R299

Check Jerseys From
R249

Tiger Jacket

Ben Jacket

Palladium

THE VAULT
BY AMERICAN CLOTHING

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enough to see Old Mutual advance to the final.

career out of playing football, so I'm hoping something comes up for me."

■ Promising... Matthew Carelse, goalkeeper of the tournament.

Teaching at Talfalah is a two-way street for German handball coaches

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"When physical education was removed from the school system, we lost a subject that is important when we talk about the holistic development of the child," he said.

"This handball initiative helped our school to bring back the notion of physical education as part of the curriculum.

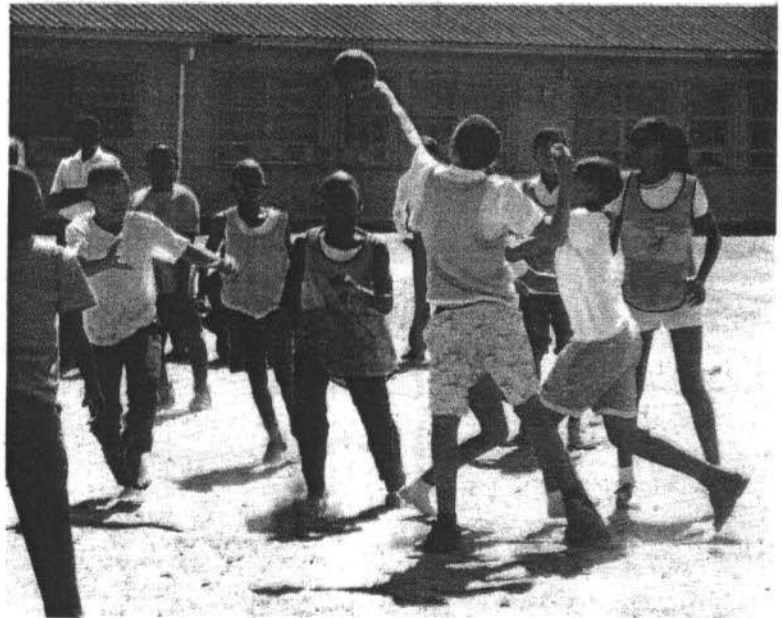
Besides, pupils were excited because they got to spend more time outside of the classroom," he said.

Karriem is also appreciative of the impact the project has had on overall discipline, because pupils realised that they may not get to participate in the handball activities if they transgressed. "As headmaster I am proud to say that we don't have any serious disciplinary problems at Talfalah."

Da Silva said: "Our first volunteer, called Andrea, who was also based at Talfalah, actually started the Play Handball project. During this time, we were impressed with the behavioural changes at the school.

"The pupils were so excited about learning this new sport that we decided to continue the project. That was when Leoni and Emma joined us here in Manenberg."

Karriem admitted to being concerned when he was informed that Leoni and Emma's tenure at Talfalah primary was coming to an end.



■ Players battle for possession during a handball match at Talfalah Primary School.

"I spoke to the co-ordinators who assured us that of their commitment to continue this initiative. At this moment, they are busy recruiting two more volunteers that will allow us to continue the good work that Andrea, Leoni and Emma have started," he said.

The German visitors, who lived in Manenberg with a host family, are thankful for the experience they were afforded.

Said Leoni: "It was not only about teaching the sport and the

ball skills here at Talfalah. We invested quite a lot of time concentrating on life skills. Aspects such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving are very much part of the project."

"We too learned a lot from being part of this project in Manenberg. In a month's time we will be leaving for home, richer for the experience," Emma added.

"We would like to think that we have left the pupils of Talfalah primary school with some skills."

Weekend weather

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Friday

Min: 10°C
Max: 17°C
Hi: 2.10am; 2.42pm
Lo: 8.26am; 8.39pm

Saturday

Min: 8°C
Max: 15°C
Hi: 2.45am; 3.15pm
Lo: 8.58am; 9.13pm

Sunday

Min: 7°C
Max: 13°C
Hi: 3.18am; 3.47pm
Lo: 9.29am; 9.46pm



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