

South African teen showcases snow skiing talent at international level

We all know that South Africans love their sports, especially rugby, cricket, and soccer but we also know that snow skiing is not typically a sport you would think to find on that love list. Defeating these odds is one South African teenager who is proving that green and gold can reign supreme even on the ski slope.

Thirteen year old, Camlyn Goosen recently made international waves when she competed in the 21st annual Whistler Cup in Canada. As the only South African athlete to compete in the international competition, she showcased her skills in the Slalom, Giant Slalom and Super Combi events. For her first showing, as entrants have to be 13 to enter, Goosen did South Africa extremely proud finishing a respectable 72nd out of 110 international entrants, and she has her sights firmly set on a higher finishing next year.

Goosen has been skiing since she was seven and has been leaving everyone in her powder ever since.

"I had my first skiing experience on a family trip to France and no one has been able to get me off the slopes since," she laughs. "Aside from spending time on the snow, I absolutely love spending time with the people I meet and train with, and nothing beats the exhilaration of passing the finish line."

But it's not all about skiing for this snow protégé, as in her spare time, Goosen loves to shop up a storm like any other girl her age and she also loves listening to her favourite band, One Direction.

"But when I am on the slopes, it's all about the snow, the skis and me. I am really enjoying competing in the international events as it gives me the opportunity to make friends from all over the world and experience different cultures. Although, I would love it if at next year's Whistler Cup there are others from South Africa competing alongside me because having a real team would be so much more fun than doing it alone!"

As for her plans for the future, she is now focusing on defending her title at the South African Championships at Afriski at the end of July. Last year saw Goosen skiing away with girls under 13 title in the Giant Slalom event.

Goosen is certainly proving that if you love a sport, and even if your country is not known for its snow, there is no reason why you shouldn't pursue your dreams.

"Like anything in life worth doing, skiing takes a huge amount of effort and hard work, especially staying fit. If skiing, or any other sport for that matter, is something you are passionate about, then just go for it. Don't give up on your dreams! I am living proof that even sun loving South Africans can compete on the ski slopes," she concludes.

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