



Search

Sport24 on your phone
m.sport24.co.za

Canoeing

- Home
- Rugby
- Cricket
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Golf
- Motorsport
- Other Sport
- Columnists
- Multimedia
- WIN
- SuperSport

Canoeing

Canoeing

SHARE THIS

U23 men's Dusi showdown set for fitting finale

2018-02-01 14:53

Pietermaritzburg - The **2018 Dusi Canoe Marathon** is set to dish up a number of mouth-watering showdowns, none more exciting than the contest for the Under-23 men's crown from February 15-17.

The prestigious age-group title is one that many have striven to hold, however the calibre and competitiveness of paddler in the Under-23 age category makes the racing that much harder with a number of crews eyeing strong overall race finishes.

As the generations change and the faces shift into the senior age category, the Under-23 age group provides a number of paddlers with their last shot at age group glory before they fight it out with the best elite paddlers in the business.

One of the pairs that will be searching for glory in the Under-23 age group race will be the impressive duo of **Stewart Little** and **Khumbulani Nzimande**.

The pair were the highest placed Under-23 crew at the recent 50 Miler Canoe Marathon, a race that provides a strong gauge as to who the Dusi contenders will be.

"It's been quite difficult for us to train together in the build up to the Dusi," Little said. "With me in Underberg and Khumbulani at Nagle Dam we have had very few chances to train together but this past weekend we put in three really good sessions.

"We thought about not racing the Campbell's Farm to Dusi Bridge race, but we raced because it was good tripping for us."

The duo understand that they are going to be up against some tough crews for the title, however Little feels that they need to rather focus on their own strengths.

"We need to race practically and we both know that we are better in the latter stages of the race so we don't want to go out too quickly.

"Our transitions between paddling and running are good and we gel really well in the boat with me steering and Khumbulani providing all the power!"

Arguably the Under-23 favourites, the cousin duo of **Mthobisi Cele** and **Mpilo Zondi** have been building well towards the Dusi, despite a glitch at the recent Campbell's to Dusi Bridge race.

"We are on track with our preparation and we have been training really hard for the Dusi," Cele commented.

"Last weekend's race didn't go as well as we would have liked and we made a few mistakes that cost us a bit. It was still a good bit of practice for us and has told us that we still have work to do!"

The pair waltzed to the 2017 Non-Stop Dusi title in trying conditions, but they will not be relying on that win as their source of confidence.

"That Non-Stop win was very different. The conditions were different and there is a lot more paddling involved in the Dusi so we are looking forward to the challenge of the Dusi."



Mpilo Zondi and Mthobisi Cele (Anthony Grote/Gameplan Media)

Related Links

- Father and son pair eye Dusi success
- 'Incredible' 30 in a row looms for Oliver at Dusi
- Houston brothers out to make Dusi impact

Most Read	Editor's Choice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CONFIRMED: Coetzee sacked as Springbok coach Rassie calms fears over lack of Bok preparation Proteas: Chastened (again!) by India chase Faf blames batsmen for 1st ODI defeat to India Stormers pick squad for Bulls friendly 	

Vote

Caster Semenya has been nominated for the 2018 Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year award. Which of the nominees deserves the award most?

- Garbiñe Mugaruza
- Serena Williams
- Allyson Felix
- Katie Ledecky
- Mikaela Shiffrin
- Caster all the way!

VOTE | [View Results](#) | [Vote Archive](#)

Latest Multimedia

Relive the Blitzboks' triumph at last year's Wellington Sevens

MEN	WOMEN	SEARCH
<p>Giggelbekkie1 I'm a 27 year old woman looking to meet men between the ages of 27 and 35. View profile</p>		

With Little/Nzimande, Martin Dreyer's Chance a Life Academy's Sivanda Gwamanda and Nqobile Makhanya, Mvelo Ngidi and Thabani Msiya as well as Nkhosikhona Mabaso and Jabulani Gwamanda all out to win the age category, Cele and Zondi don't feel like they are under any more pressure.

"We are all really good friends with the other guys so it doesn't feel like a competition, but it will be an exciting race!"

sport24

Read more on: [dusi canoe marathon](#) | [canoeing](#)

Follow Sport24 on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Mobile](#) and on [Instagram](#)

What To Read Next



No more 'grid girls' at F1 races



12 riders caught taking EPO in Costa Rica race



Specialized enter strong line-ups for Cape Epic title



Kruger's focus switches to TransCape



'Alonso and Hamilton will battle again in 2018'



Harriet1976
I'm a 42 year old woman looking to meet men between the ages of 40 and 48.
[View profile](#)

Pasmaat405
I'm a 48 year old woman looking to meet men between the ages of 43 and 60.
[View profile](#)

[View More...](#)



English Premiership flutter
Take Sport24's "expert" tips at your peril...



Facebook
Click to 'Like' Sport24 on Facebook

Featured



Absa

Premiership action heats up!

The 2017/18 Absa Premiership season is under way. Can Bidvest Wits defend their title? Will Soweto giants Kaizer Chiefs or Orlando Pirates emerge victorious? Or will the bookies' favourites, Mamelodi Sundowns, taste success for a record eighth time? Stay glued to Sport24 to find out!

Latest blogs
[View all sports blogs](#)

[Read News24's Comments Policy](#)



Live Video Streaming

BLITZ
Blitz
Mon, 24 Nov 2014 @ 00:00

S1
SuperSport 1
Mon, 24 Nov 2014 @ 01:00

S2
SuperSport 2
Mon, 24 Nov 2014 @ 02:00

S3
SuperSport 3
Mon, 24 Nov 2014 @ 03:00

[Show full schedule](#)

Video Highlights

Pep calls for player protection
Thu, 01 Feb 2018 @ 00:00

Ireland Test For France
Fri, 02 Feb 2018 @ 12:22

TNL EPL Weekend Preview
Fri, 02 Feb 2018 @ 09:32

EPL News: Mourinho Calls For Better From Players
Fri, 02 Feb 2018 @ 09:30

[Show more videos](#)

Sport Talk



My parting gesture as a good thing comes to an end
Feeling just a little nostalgic as I write this, which I'll go into detail about later.
Don't let them get too comfortable
Spitting at someone is definitely offside
Self-belief key to Bok comeback

Breaking News

Patience is a virtue says Geduld
Rugby 13:12

Aubameyang doubtful for Arsenal
Football 11:41

SA Rugby and Allister Coetzee conclude
Rugby 11:08

Twitter
Follow Sport24 on Twitter

Facebook
"Like" Sport24's Facebook page

WIN
Enter and win with Sport24!

BlackBerry
Stay in the loop on your BlackBerry

RSS Feeds
Sport news delivered really simply.