



GENEROUS: Jacques Kallis

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Staff Reporter

HE'S FAMOUS for commanding performances on the cricket field – but there's a softer side to Proteas right-handed batsman Jacques Kallis, who is quietly working to put talented youngsters through school.

The Jacques Kallis Scholarship Foundation is one of the Cape Town cricketer's ways of giving back.

Kallis scored his second Test double century this week

after celebrating his milestone 150th Test match appearance on Tuesday at Newlands in the third Sunfoil Test against Sri Lanka.

With 12 237 runs amassed in his 16-year Test career, Kallis's score is the highest by a South African against Sri Lanka after Gary Kirsten made 180 in December 2000.

Brigitte Marais, spokeswoman for the foundation, said it was Kallis's way of giving back to the community that had supported him over the years.

"Through the foundation Kallis is creating all-rounded youngsters who are ready to go out into the world and make something of themselves. He (Kallis) knows some of the challenges the boys are going through since he lost his own mother when he was only nine years old.

"Some of the boys might end up playing for the Proteas one day," Marais said.

Bhoteke Mbombi, 21, from Giyani in Limpopo, is a cricket fanatic who has benefited from the foundation.

With its support, Mbombi matriculated at Wynberg Boys' High in 2008, and is now doing his fourth year in sports science at Stellenbosch University.

"Because of the foundation, I got to attend a good school and that opportunity has opened a lot of doors for me, such as being able to travel to Pakistan on a cricket tour... my first time out of the country."

Mbombi said he never imagined himself attending a "prestigious high school that charges steep fees" because his

dad was already struggling to put him and his two siblings through school.

The foundation was established in 2005 as part of Kallis's Benefit Year with the help of his sponsors.

It aims to provide academic, sporting and mentorship support to young cricketers from disadvantaged backgrounds. Every year, two or four boys who are about to start high school are selected for a full scholarship that puts them through matric. The participating schools are Selborne

College in East London, Maritzburg College in Pietermaritzburg, Pretoria Boys' High and Wynberg Boys' High, where Kallis went to school.

Each pupil is allocated R65 000, for full tuition and boarding fees, and other living expenses. Currently the foundation supports 20 pupils.

Mbombi, who is a bowler at Maties Cricket Club, said of Kallis: "Not only is he interested in how we are doing academically, he also shows interest in our personal lives."

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Boys bowled over by Kallis's input into upping their scores



BENEFITED: Bhoteke Mbombi