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## It's Pelé versus Mandela at UCT on Tuesday ...and spectators are welcome

**Professional footballers will lead SA youngsters in face-off on UCT campus:  
13h00 on Tuesday, 6 July, 2010, on the all-weather soccer pitch off Chapel Road,  
Rosebank  
(across the road from the Mowbray Bowling Club)**

Rural and township South African youth, playing on six-a-side teams representing Brazilian hero Pelé and his longtime buddy Mandla Mandela, will fight it out on the University of Cape Town campus this afternoon.

The two sides – Team Pelé and Team Mandela – were assembled during a road-trip that started in Johannesburg on 10 June, sponsored by Pelé Sports. The company, founded by the soccer star, sees the tour as a way of “giving back” to the communities that are loudest in their support of the sport: the rural villages and townships where children can be seen playing the game, often with a homemade ball put together with string wrapped around bunched-up plastic bags.

The team members will be led by professional soccer players Adam Merzougie, formerly of Chelsea Kicks team in the UK; and Craig Dobson, who has played on various teams, including the Jamaican international team, Crystal Palace and the MK Dons. Both professionals have multiple national origins: Dobson is Jamaican and British while Merzougie has roots in Algeria, Morocco, Italy and Spain.

After the game Mandela, the grandson of South Africa's first democratically elected president, will hand out medals to the winners and certificates to the other players.

During the South African tour, Pelé Sports has been handing out top-of-the-range merchandise, helping to build pitches and improving the infrastructure vitally needed for these communities to be able to play the beautiful game.

The trip around South Africa is the first leg in a four-year international journey, during which Team Pelé will travel the world, visiting communities in need of coaches, merchandise and infrastructure. Their mission: to spread the true essence of Pelé. Eventually Team Pelé will arrive in Brazil during the build-up to the 2014 World Cup, to bring all they have learnt about the world, football and the great man himself to the home of *Futebol Bonito*. Triumph over adversity, individual creative expression, teamwork, loyalty and pride in ancestry are global universal values that make an impact beyond the football field and are represented in all communities, regardless of economic strength.

***ENDS***

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