

Humble runner from Oakdene

NINE comrades marathons and over 30 races for Thulane Sithole (40) are most of his memorable achievements in his life.

Born in Empangeni, Kwa-Dlangezwa, Thulane has two brothers and three sisters. "Growing up in Natal was difficult especially not knowing my father; and my mother passed on in 1994, I had to look after my siblings. Working as a gardener and waiter was the only job I could find then," explained Thulane.

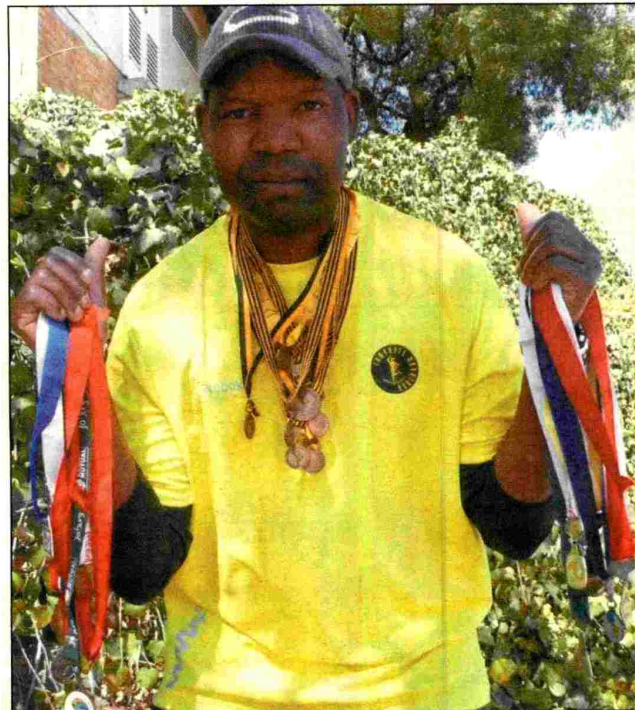
He started running competitively in 1997 mostly in Newcastle with help from Iscor (now ArcelorMittal South Africa) and his first comrades marathon was in 1998 (8hrs40mins), he then came to Johannesburg in mid 2001. "I still remember, I came in Johannesburg in May 2001, it was a Friday. I was welcomed into a family in Diepkloof Ext 2, on that Sunday I went to church and that's where I met Ronnie Masilela who lives in Glenvista

and Reverend Nkabinde from Oakdene," noted Thulane.

His life was never the same after he met those two gentlemen. "While Mr Masilela was helping me through my races, Rev Nkabinde gave me a shelter and a job. I started saving for my races because I now had a job. Though it was difficult, I always believed that nothing was impossible. Again through God's grace I have enrolled on a learnership course, Social Auxiliary and thanks to Rev Nkabinde for the support," accounted Thulane.

Though Thulane has shown true dedication in his life, he thinks he can do better if he can have stable support from sponsors or anyone in the community.

"Sometimes I train for the race and at the end find out I can't go to it because I don't have some of the necessities. It varies, sometimes it is money to go to the race, gear or no accommodation. However I've realised that my talent has



Thulane Sithole, who describes himself as a persistent, loving and a helping person can be contacted on 079 766 4522.

helped me to focus. One day I family, Ronnie Masilel, Rev would love to have my own house and live with my family Nkabinde and everyone who gave me the opportunity in life as one, I also want to thank my when no one cared," he said.