

*Text: Vata Ngobeni, Chief sport writer for the Pretoria News*



From a sport fan's perspective

Nothing beats being a sports fan in South Africa

In a matter of hours, one can be singing away on Cloud nine and a few moments later be found clutching onto the last sips of an intoxicating beverage drowning one's sorrows.

It has been an emotional rollercoaster the past few months in our sporting world as the Springboks gave us hope for the future with their "run over them series" win over England in June before being run over by Argentina in their drawn Castle Rugby Championship match in Mendoza at the end of August.

Along with so many other South Africans, we thought our prayers were being answered when Heyneke Meyer's Springboks beat the English in the first two of three Tests and we were well on our way to world domination again.

I didn't really care whether we were playing running rugby, bash 'em to the ground rugby or skop, skiet and donner, as long as we were winning.

In fact, I was liking Meyer by the try and thinking to myself that this "great

white hope" was indeed the saviour of South African rugby.

Not that we needed much saving but Meyer was quickly becoming the man to take us back to the top.

Fast forward to three Tests later, one at home against Argentina, another at a hostile Estadio Malvinas Argentinas and then a disappointing Test against the Wallabies in an equally boring village called Perth.

Meyer may have saved us from the being regarded as the joke of the rugby world with our court jester coach Peter de Villiers who had our faces covered with our hands while the rest of the world laughed away in tears but all Meyer has managed to do is convince many of his detractors that the only top we will be sitting on is that of the worst team in the world.

Yes, some of the criticism that has come Meyer's way is unjustified and yes it is still early days in his tenure as Bok coach but it is him and his team that took us to Cloud Nine and have unceremoniously pulled the carpet from under our feet to leave us trembling from fear of yet another defeat to Scotland at the end of the year.

While on the doom and gloom of what might be in Edinburgh, one did feel engulfed by more misery and a need for even a boiling beer to chase away the darkness after Bafana Bafana saw some light at the end of the tunnel after their 1-0 defeat to Brazil in Sao Paulo.

New Bafana coach Gordon Igesund believes his team are on the upward curve but I wonder if he has considered that the light might be that of an oncoming train!

Enough of the misery but more of the beer, a cold one this time to our Olympians from our swimmers Cameron van der Burgh and Chad Le Clos to our oarsome foursome rowers and Bridgitte Hartley.

How can I forget our Paralympians with their 29 medals who made us believe that the only disability we have is from within.

Those performances were as golden as the brew that was consumed and just as intoxicating but will linger long in the memory because that was better than being on Cloud Nine.

I wouldn't change nothing about being a happy and sometimes sad South African fan.