

## UKZN CRICKET CLUB NAMED CASTLE CHALLENGE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



**At the awards ceremony are (from left): Provincial Player of the Season, Senuran Muthusamy; UKZN 1 Team Captain - Castle Challenge League and Castle Challenge 20/20 Champions, Sumanth Sunkari, and UKZN 3 Team Captain - Division 2 Champions, Divesh Sookdeo.**

UKZN's Cricket Club was named Castle Challenge League 50-over Champions and the Castle Challenge League 20/20 Champions at the 2014/2015 KwaZulu-Natal Cricket Union Awards in Durban.

Chairman of the UKZN Cricket Club, Mr Sumanth Sunkari, a Business Science student currently completing his Honours in Finance, said: 'Not only did the UKZN 1<sup>st</sup> XI win both the 50-over and 20/20 competitions but remained unbeaten throughout the season in both formats.'

Sunkari is proud of the club's achievements over the past season. 'Success came about as a result of months of planning, preparation and hard work from the players, executive committee and sports administration,' said Sunkari.

'The consistency, work ethic and overall performance of all the teams exceeded my expectations and I am extremely satisfied with the progress and development that has taken place over the past 12 months.'

Several other accolades were scooped at the KZN Cricket Union Awards evening, with the UKZN 3<sup>rd</sup> XI being named Division 2 joint-champions.

Mr Fabian Lazarus, Head Coach of UKZN's 1<sup>st</sup> XI, won the Club Coach of the Season award, while Mr Richard Wissing, a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, won the Castle Challenge

League Batsman of the Season award and Mr Senuran Muthusamy, also a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, the Provincial Player of the Season award.

Players at the cricket club are currently pursuing a variety of degrees at the University ranging from Engineering and Social Sciences through to Business, Computer and Medical Sciences.

Sunkari said the cricket programme was structured so that players could accommodate both their academic and sporting commitments, with lectures during the day and cricket practices in the evening, usually two to three times a week.

'Additional one-on-one sessions are run by the head coach to ensure that players put in the necessary preparation for matches at the weekends. Thus, a professional structure has been developed for players to excel both in the classroom and out on the sports field,' said Sunkari.

Highlights of the 2014/2015 season include:

- Mr Richard Wissing scored 539 runs at an average of 44.9, with a highest score of 107. He was also the highest run-scorer in the league.
- Mr Sahil Bissoon took 31 wickets at an average of 9.42 with best figures of 5/33. He was also the second highest wicket-taker in the league.
- Mr Senuran Muthusamy averaged 72.3 runs with a highest score of 127 as well as taking 22 wickets with best figures of 5/16.
- Mr Sumanth Sunkari had an average of 69.3 runs with a highest score of 93\* as well as taking 13 wickets at an economy rate of 2.93.
- Mr Cameron Gordon, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI's leading strike bowler, took 27 wickets which included three 5-wicket hauls with best bowling figures of 7/26.

The club acknowledged the Sports Administration for its continued support throughout the season. 'The on-field success of all our teams would not have been possible without all their work behind the scenes.

'Furthermore, a special mention to all our coaches who have been instrumental in creating an environment conducive to growth, development and success across the board.'

Sunkari also thanked the parents, executive committee and players for their unwavering commitment to do whatever it takes for the club to succeed.