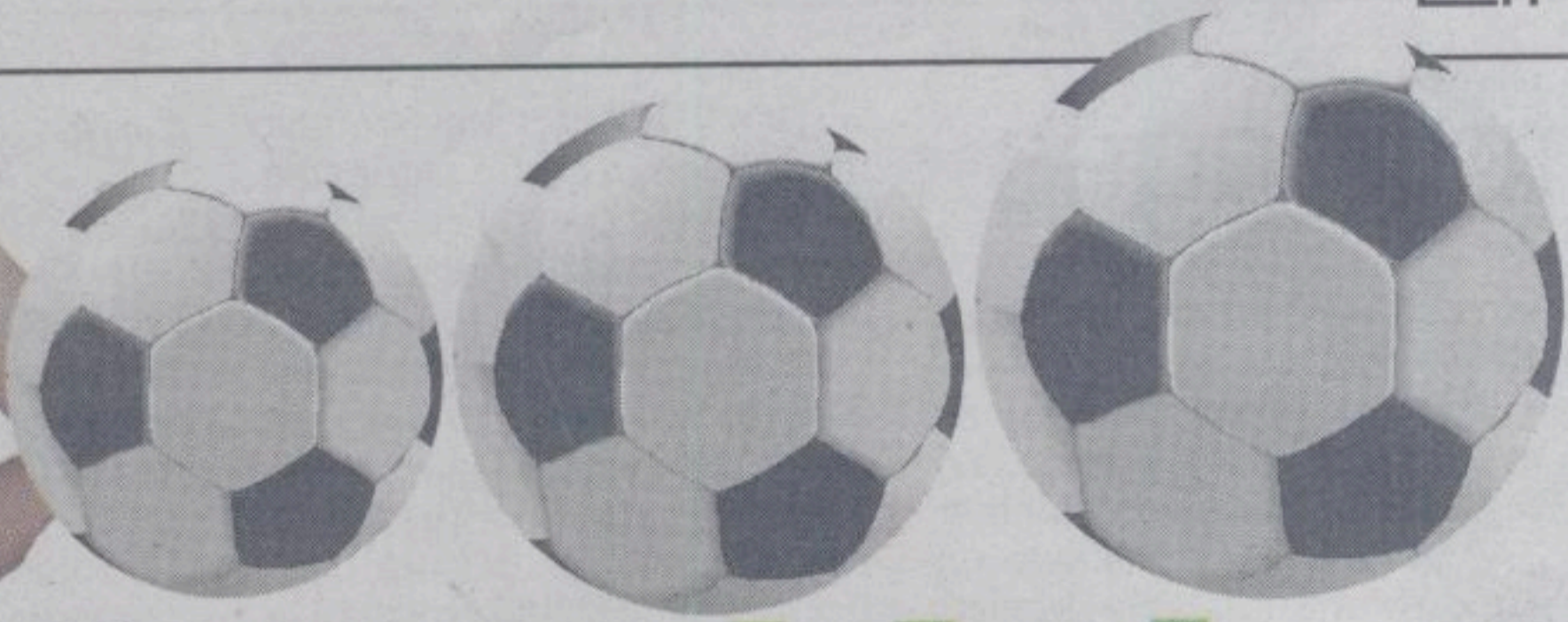


MODELS: SAMANTHA BOTHA AND TINA KHANYILE OF ICE MODELS
DESIGNERS: NOMFUNDO DLAMINI AND THANDEKA GUMEDE
PICTURES: MARILYN BERNARD



Get a **kick** out of this



THE WHOLE country is caught up in football fever and, to put a glamorous face to the beautiful game, award-winning designs by designers from the Ifa Lethu Foundation were paraded in front of the Moses Mabhida Stadium this week.

The garments were the creations of young designers Nomfundo Dlamini and Thandeka Gumede, who have been selected by the foundation to be part of their skills development programme.

The foundation was established in 2005 to facilitate the repatriation of South African art from abroad – and one of its divisions is a

fashion skills development programme, which sees young designers mentored by those who are more established.

Mentor Greg Wallis, a consultant to Ifa Lethu and who has again been nominated by Anglo American, Business Day and Barloworld for the Mentor of the Year award, said the standard of applications for mentorships had been excellent.

“Storyboards had clever interpretations of the soccer theme and the winning designers chose fabrics in team colours and incorporated denim and the South African logo,” he said.

“Ifa Lethu’s aim is to teach the young designers important elements of the

fashion industry – punctuality, quality, professionalism, business skills – and to get them export ready.”

Another key aspect of Ifa Lethu designs is that they must be wearable and saleable – and besides its ranges appearing on the ramps at several fashion weeks in South Africa and in Mozambique Fashion Week, a line of garments is on sale at OR Tambo Airport in Johannesburg.

See www.ifa lethu.org.za – Lifestyle Reporter