

Everyone a winner

Sporting superstars hit St Andrews to launch project against racism and war

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THREE World Cup winners came to Scotland yesterday to launch a project that will show how sport can fight racism.

French football legend Lilian Thuram teamed up with rugby stars Francois Pienaar and Sean Fitzpatrick to outline their vision at St Andrews University.

They hope their Youth Mentoring Programme will also heal nations divided by war and religious conflict.

Former Juventus and Barcelona star Thuram said: "Helping young leaders tackle the major issues of our times is invaluable.

"You have to explain to children that we are not born racist; we become racist because racism is a cultural thing"

The project is driven by SSH - the Sport at the Service of Humanity Foundation. It aims to get leaders in sport, education and non-profit organisations working with youth leaders to help them develop skills.

Ex-New Zealand rugby captain Fitzpatrick told how losing to South Africa in the 1995 World Cup final had turned into an inspiration.

He said: "I remember being in tears on the team bus heading away from the stadium after the final.

"I looked out of the window and I saw people from every walk of life - blacks, coloureds and whites all dancing and celebrating

as one - sport had brought them all together."

Pienaar, who led South Africa to victory in that game, spoke about his hero Nelson Mandela.

He said: "With his heroic leadership, rugby brought a deeply divided nation together."



STARS Thuram, Fitzpatrick and Pienaar with project backer Dr Haruhisa Handa and St Andrews principal Prof Sally Mapstone

