



**A** SMILE spreads across his face and his eyes glimmer with excitement. Today he's touching the sky as he strides across the lawn on a large pony. Momentarily he hesitates as the mare picks up speed, but with the help of the stable hands he regains his steady pace and is soon back in control of the gentle beast.

Thabiso Mile (16) is a Grade 9 learner at the Adelaide Tambo School for the Disabled in Rockville, Soweto. He suffers from cerebral palsy and has taken up horse riding as part of his therapy.

He is spending the day at the Soweto Equestrian Centre, taking riding lessons from Enos Mafokate (71) (father of Kwaito King, Arthur Mafokate), who has a rich history with equestrian sports: he was South Africa's first black show jumper to compete internationally in a sport that, at the time, was exclusively for white people.

**ENOS** broke racial barriers when he took first prize at the 1984 Midlands Grand National showjumping championship in England.

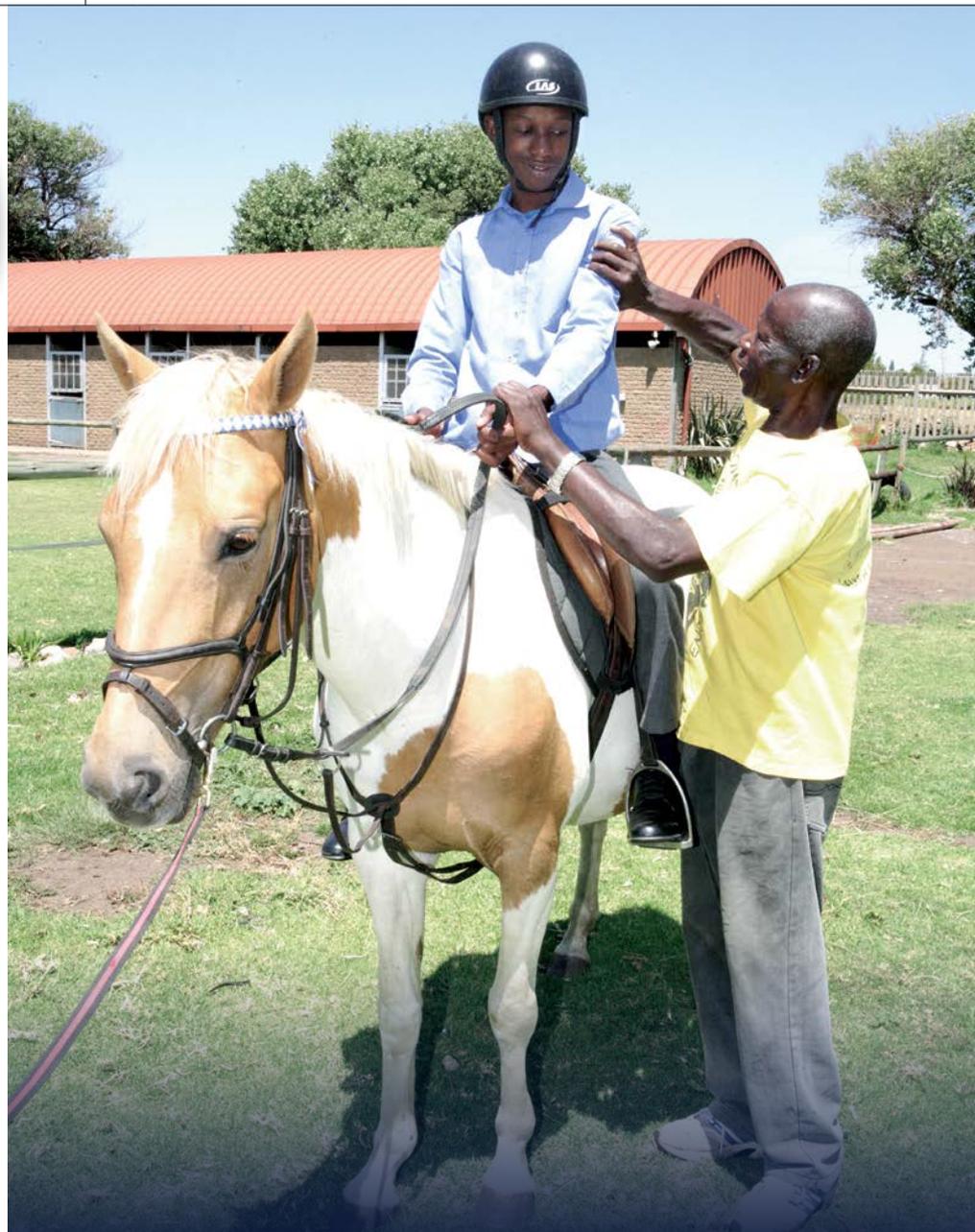
"I was shocked when I received a standing ovation from a crowd of 65 000 people – I never imagined it would happen – my dream came true," he says.

Enos is the founder of the Soweto Equestrian Centre and runs a programme assisting stroke survivors, nurses and disabled children with equine (horse) therapy. Today he is assisting Thabiso.

"At the prime of my career I received my first injury when a truck collided with me and my horse," he says. "It killed my horse and landed me in hospital," he explains.

He found healing when he returned to his horses and decided that he would like to give the same opportunity to

**MAIN PICTURE:** Enos believes that equine therapy can do wonders for disabled children like Thabiso (CIRCLE).



## NO HURDLE TOO HIGH

World champion equestrian Enos Mafokate is using his skills to help children with disabilities

BY AYANDA SITOLE PICTURES: PAPI MORAKE