

# Maths pupils head for China's World Youth Intercity Competition

THAMSANQA NGUBANE

TOP maths pupils from Durban will fly to China soon to participate in the 7th World Youth Mathematics Intercity Competition.

Damien Mahadew from Chatsworth and Sivan Singh from Westville, both 16-year-old Grade 11 pupils at Star College in Westville, will be among a group of local maths pupils who will represent Durban in the team and individual events at the international competition in Wenzhou from the July 10 to 14.

Damien has a number of mathematics accolades to his credit, including seven gold medals from the Association for Mathematics Education of SA competition.

In 2005 he achieved 100% in the second round of the Harmony Gold Maths Olympiad, and has been able to advance twice to the third round in the competition, finishing in the top 100 both times.

His father, Rajend, works as a quality systems specialist at Isegen's Isipingo plant, managing quality procedures for Isegen's factory sites at Germiston, Umgeni and Isipingo.

"Though I may have good knowledge in maths I can attribute my son's achievements to his mom as she is very good in maths," he said. "We also have to give credit to his maths teacher, Ismail Bayindir."

Damien has twice had double promotions at school, first from grade 6 to 8, and in the past year from grade 9 to 11.

When he is not solving maths problems, he enjoys cricket, soccer and computer programming.



PICTURE: JACQUES NAUDE

SIVAN Singh (left) and Damien Mahadew of Durban, with some of their trophies, are getting ready to leave for China to compete in a world maths competition

Sivan's mother, Reena, is very excited about the fact that her son is going to China to compete with other maths champs.

"I was surprised to hear that my son will be competing in this major competition, and as a parent it is interesting to see my child going overseas to represent South Africa," she said.

Sivan has represented his school in a number of maths and science competitions.

He was also the captain of the KZN provincial maths team which participated in the inter-

provincial championships at the University of KZN last year.

The pupils in China will participate in different categories, starting with the team competition and moving on to the individual challenge.

"The competition will be very difficult compared to the ones we usually have here in South Africa. The questions are very tough. We have seen the previews of what to expect once we get there, but we are well prepared to face all the challenges ahead of us," said Sivan.