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A player who is collecting titles galore

To win three titles at a badminton tournament is exceptional but then to go on and repeat the same feat a year later is amazing.

Through this dominant display of shuttlecock chasing and hitting Bongani van Bodenstein, of TuksBadminton, might have done enough to book his place in the South African team that is going to compete at the World Student Games in Taipei.

He won the singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles at the South African Universities Championships (USSA) in Pretoria. Last year, he also achieved a hat-trick of victories.

The men's singles was an all Tuks affair as Van Bodenstein played Anoop Nair in the final. The BCom accounting student won in two sets (21-10 and 21-9).

The two Tuks players then went on to win the men's doubles by beating Pieter Hattingh and Stefan Steyn (Pukke) in the final (21-13 and 21-15).

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Van Bodenstein continued his dominance by teaming up with Lee-Ann de Wet (Varsity College) to win the mixed doubles, beating Nair and Anri Schonees (Maties) in the final (21-13, 19-21, 21-7).

The Tuks player made it clear there were no guarantees he would dominate to the extent he did as he injured his knee during the Gauteng North Championships. He only got the all clear to play last week.

“It was important to me to do well at the USSA Tournament as I had to prove to myself that I am able to overcome setbacks. To win all three titles for the second time is something special,” he said.

Collecting titles seem to come naturally to Van Bodenstein.

As far as local tournaments are concerned he has a perfect record, winning the South African singles title in each age group that he has competed in.

Part of his success is that he is a true student of the game.

When he played a tournament in Bangkok he talked to other players to find out how they work towards improving their game.



Bongani van Bodenstein in action on the badminton court. Photo: Zander Erasmus

