



Gauteng Varsities battle for final honours

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WITH the Tshwane Derby between PSL clubs Mamelodi Sundowns and Supersport United slowly but surely becoming the contest to watch in South African football, it is no wonder that the Varsities that hail from Pretoria are doing the same.

This year's Varsity Football men's final will be a clash of the titans between the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and the University of Pretoria (Tuks) at TUT Stadium tomorrow (kick off 6pm).

TUT are the defending champions after beating the University of Johannesburg (UJ) 2-1 in last year's final at home, while Tuks are the most successful side in the tournament thus far, winning the

championship in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

TUT's top position – they secured 17 points in seven games during the league season – ensured that they set themselves up for a semi-final against Central University of Technology (CUT), who finished in fourth position. In a game where they were nominated the clear favourites, they were fortunate to take the game into penalties after CUT failed to convert a number of clear-cut opportunities in normal time after the game ended 1-1. Luck was on the Pretoria-based team's side, however, as they won the shootout 6-5. Tuks, who finished second in the league, meanwhile, proved to be too good for the University of the Western Cape (UWC) in their semi-final, thumping the Capetonians 3-1.

Spicing up the final further is the fact that this year's top goalscorers, Themba Ndlovu of TUT and Odwa Makha (Tuks) – they have scored 13 goals together – will be facing each other in a golden boot shoot out.

TUT ladies' final push

As if things couldn't get better for the Varsities from Gauteng in the competition, the women's final will also be played by teams from the province.

TUT also managed to book a spot in the women's final and they will face trans-Jukskei ri-

vals UJ in a festival of football at TUT stadium. Kick off is at 3.30pm.

The team from Pretoria collected nine points from three games in Group B during the group stages, setting themselves up for a semi-final spot against second-placed UWC of Group A. These teams played to a 1-1 stalemate after regulation time and were forced to decide the match on penalties, which was won by TUT by 4-3.

UJ's ticket to the final, meanwhile, started when they ended in first position in Group A after pocketing seven points from three games. This ensured that UJ met second-placed University of Cape Town of Group B in the semis.

The Joburg side booked their final spot in style, thumping Ikeys 4-0.

