



# UP-Tuks ensures home Varsity soccer semi-final

**I owed it to my coach to give a 100% as he is the one who believed in my abilities.**

UP-Tuks secured a home semi-final in the 2017 Varsity soccer tournament yesterday by beating the University of the Western Cape 2-1 at Tuks Stadium.

The result ensured that UP-Tuks finished second on the log. TUT, who have won five

of their seven games, are the current log leaders with UWC in the third spot and the Central University of Technology (CUT) fourth.

Tuks will resume their rivalry with UWC on 14 September at 16:00 in a do-or-die battle to qualify for the Varsity Football final, while TUT will face CUT at 18:15.

Tuks road to the semi-final has definite similarities to the classic story about the race between the hare and the tortoise.

After their first three games, Tuks was third from the bottom having lost one game and playing to a draw in two matches. More disconcerting was the fact that they were only able to score one goal.

However, coach Tisane Motaung never lost faith in his player's abilities, emphasising that the best was yet to come.

"Somehow we tend to be slow starters. We get better with each game we play," he said after the victory on Monday.

The players did not disappoint. After beating Wits 4-0, there was no stopping them. UP-Tuks went on to win four games on the trot scoring 11 goals and only conceding one.

UP-Tuks was brilliant on Monday during the first half of the match against UWC.

Through clinical perfection in the first half, they made sure that they scored twice.

Odwa Makha seemed to have perfected the art of keeping a "cool head" when it mattered by scoring UP-Tuks's first goal in the 31st minute with a header.

This was the second time in the Varsity Football Tournament that he scored using his header.

Ludomo Nkebe rewarded Motaung's faith in his abilities by scoring the second vital goal in only his second game for Tuks. He was unlucky not to have scored another goal.

He impressed everyone with his gutsy performance.

Towards the end of the game, it was evident to all that he was suffering and in pain, but he refused to quit.

"I owed it to my coach to give a 100% as he is the one who believed in my abilities.

"I did not want to disappoint him. Scoring the second goal was special. I certainly did not plan on doing so but 'Coach' emphasised that if I keep testing the defenders, I could score a goal," said Nkebe.

Claudio de Almeida impressed with his savvy midfielder skills.

He got the knack of making the crucial passes on defence and attack.



Claudio de Almeida again impressed with his savvy midfielder skills for Tuks on Monday night against UWC. Photo: Reg Caldecott

