



Tuks is on top again in USSA tournament

There cannot be any arguing any longer that Tukkies is the best club team in South African netball at the moment.

Tshina Mdau was not only one of Tuks's stars at the USSA tournament, she is now also one of a small elite group of players to have won all four senior national titles in South African netball. Here she is in action against Maties. Photo: Reg Caldecott.

The Tuks netball players continued their dominance of student netball by beating Kovies 48-30 in the final of the USSA tournament played in Bloemfontein last week.

There cannot be any arguing any longer that Tuks is the best club team in South Africa netball at the moment. The results of the local tournaments bear testimony to it as Tuks is currently also the Varsity tournament champions.

Moreover, the Tuks players are also making their presence felt in the provincial tournaments.

Last month the Jaguars won the Brutal Fruit title for a second consecutive time while Gauteng won last year's national championships. Both of these teams were dominated by Tuks players.

Of course, the Tuks coach Jenny van Dyk is the common denominator. It could be said

that she is the field marshal of all these teams – the one who strategised and drilled her troops to perfection, leaving nothing to chance for each of the campaigns.

Juzelri Garbers, who played for Tuks during the USSA tournament, can vouch for it. "Before the tournament even started, each of us knew what was expected. It is all to do having a brilliant coach.

Two weeks before the start of USSAs, we were training at the times we were going to play our games as part of our conditioning. And this is just one example of the thoroughness with which we go about preparing to be the best we can be when it matters," Garbers explained.

She said being so well-prepared

makes it easier to be confident about the team's abilities.

"There was never a moment that we doubted that we would win, but we made sure never to forget that any team is only as good as the last game it has played," she concluded.

Tuks' USSA success means that Chanté Louw, Tshina Mdau, Marlize de Bruin, Lungile Mthembu and Jasmine Ziegelmeier can boast being part of a small elite group of players to have won all four senior national titles in South African netball.

However, there is going to be no time for them to really celebrate as from Monday they are part of the Tshwane team that is competing in the national championships in Port Elizabeth. It is another title to defend.

