**Blaauw steers Tuks into early lead at USSA Champs**

PORT SHEPSTONE, 29 June 2015 – For a second year running, Reinhardt Blaauw gave the University of Pretoria something to cheer about in the annual University Sport South Africa (USSA) Championshis at Port Shepstone Golf Club on Monday.

Blaauw, who took the Individual honours in the 36-hole Stroke Play qualifier last year, opened with a blistering five-under-par 67 and combined with Marco Loubser (72) and Ryan Lane (73) to steer Tuks 1 to 212 and pole position in the team standings of the Stroke Play qualifier.

ABW van Zyl from Central University of Technology Free State and Stefan Wears-Taylor from North West University - Pukke 1 carded a pair of 69s to tie for second in the Individual standings.

The early lead bodes well for Tuks, who is targeting their 10th victory in the national championship and bidding for a hat-trick of titles after successfully defending their title at Koro Creek in Limpopo last year.

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University 1 finished in second after Colin Baldie, Johannes Brophy and Michael Maybery carded respective rounds of 72, 72 and 73 to post 217.

Christian Rossouw and Phillip Swanepoel returned 71s, while Riaan Schmuliaan added a 76 to help the Stellenbosch University 1 to third place on 218.

The seeding for the Inter-Institutional Match Play Championship, starting on Wednesday, follows at the end of Tuesday’s second round. The match play stage will be contested in four divisions of eight teams each, with the teams finishing in the top eight positions qualifying for the A-Division.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERBOARD

67 Reinhardt Blaauw

69 ABW van Zyl; Stefan Wears-Taylor

70 Clayton Mansfield

71 Christiaan Rossouw, Phillip Swanepoel

72 Colin Baldie, Johannes Brophy, Francois Kruger, Marco Loubser

73 Jay-Jay Botha, Ryan Lane, Michael Maybery, Chabala Mbao, Riaan Swart

74 Timothy Banks, Chadd Drake, Wihan Kleyn, DP van Zyl

75 David Nortje, Andrew Plint, Michael Ryan

TEAM STANDINGS

212 University of Pretoria 1

217 Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University 1

218 Stellenbosch University 1

220 Central University of Technology Free State

221 Varsity College 1

222 North West University Pukke 1

224 North West University Pukke 2

226 University of Pretoria 2

227 Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University 2

230 Rhodes University 1, Rhodes University 2

235 University of Cape Town 1

236 Cape Peninsula University of Technology 1

237 Varsity College 2

238 Centurion Academy 1

242 University of Johannesburg 2

243 University of Johannesburg 1

244 Stellenbosch University 2

251 University of Cape Town 2

254 North West University Vaal

255 Cape Peninsula University of Technology 2

261 University of Zululand

PHOTO: Reinard Blaauw from the University of Pretoria led the first round of the USSA Championship Teams Stroke Play Qualifier at Port Shepstone Golf Club; credit Emile Steinmann.

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