



Tuks captain Peabo Lembethe saved his team from a defeat in the Varsity Hockey semi-final with a goal in the last seconds of the match. Photo: Reg Caldecott

Tuks through to Varsity Hockey final

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Monday night's Varsity Hockey semi-final between Tuks and Wits was a true personification of guts and passion with both teams refusing to accept defeat right to the end.

After the whistle blew for full-time the scoreboard at the Tuks Astroturf showed the score was tied at 6-all.

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Steven Paulo secured a Tuks victory with the sixth penalty-goal attempt to set up the final against Maties, who beat the Northwest Pukke in the other semi-final, next Monday in Stellenbosch.

There are not enough adjectives to do justice to the heroics for the players of both teams. Giving up was never an option.

Wits were the first to score.

After about 12 minutes they were leading 3-0. Then with pure grit and determination, the Tuks players started to play themselves back in contention.

Bradley Sherwood levelled the score with 11 minutes left to play.

The real battle for Astroturf supremacy started with five minutes left on the clock. Sherwood scored during Tuks's Power Play to give his team a 5-4 lead.

Still, the drama continued. Wits countered during their Power Play to take a 6-5 lead. Many would have thought that was it, it is game over for Tuks.

There were literally just seconds left to play.

But somehow miraculously the Tuks players were able to force one last penalty corner with only 11 seconds left.

'Cometh the hour, cometh the man' says the proverb.

And the Tuks captain Peabo Lembethe did not disappoint.

When the ball was played to him he whacked it past the Wits goalkeeper to level the scores once again.

"The moment we lined up for the penalty corner I said to myself this is it. Somebody has to come up with something amazing.

When the ball was played to me, I realised that it has all boiled down to me," he said.