



Passion and belief see UCT win varsity hockey honours

THE UCT men's hockey team caused one of the biggest upsets in years by clinching the University Sports South Africa (USSA) title at the University of Free State astro on Friday evening.

They beat Maties, their Western Cape rivals, on showdowns after the teams had played to a 0-0 stalemate after regulation time. UCT then held their nerve to win 2-1 and take their first USSA title in 13 years. Their victory was based on five leadership pillars namely: "Passion, Belief, Gratitude, Humility and Intensity".

UCT coach Denzil Dolley, was delighted with his charges and praised them for their sterling effort. "The boys were amazing all week and deserve all the accolades. They listened to the game plan and then executed it to perfection. Our defensive patterns were outstanding with keeper, Anton van Loggerenberg, being named the Most Valuable Player," Dolley said.

The game plan was based on a defensive pattern making sure that they frustrated their opponents and giving them few opportunities in the circle.

This worked in the final with Maties only forcing Van Loggerenberg into one meaning-

ful save in the entire match. Bjorn Sorenson, the UCT skipper, was a tower of strength in defence and his fellow defenders, James Watters, Malachy Barbour, Ross Talmage and Jack Forrest all came to the party.

The semi-final against UJ was a tougher encounter than the final with UCT forced to defend in numbers and Van Loggerenberg making numerous saves to keep them in the game. It worked out well with UCT winning the showdown 3-2.

In total they played five matches, lost one, drew three and won one. The important fact is that they won the two showdowns.

The victory was somewhat unexpected as UCT have struggled in the local WP league. They are currently in seventh place in the eight-team league with only two victories and eight defeats recorded thus far.

They will need to transfer this form to the local competition to stave off relegation.

In the women's division, Maties ended second after suffering a 1-0 loss to Tukkies. The UCT women's team won the B section and are promoted to the A section for next year's competition. Mikeala Watson was in prolific form and bagged nine goals in four matches. — Allan Isaacs

