

Tuks student is 'shocked' to be best Varsity Hockey player

The recent Varsity Hockey series was not Tuks' finest, with the ladies from the Jacaranda City crashing out of the competition in the semi-finals.

But coach Inky Zondi will take solace that the player of the tournament was his striker Onthatile Zulu.

The BCom business management student was a vital part of her team's run to the semi-finals. She was ecstatic to receive the coveted award.

"To be honest, I am really shocked to win the player of the tournament award. I really did not expect it; me out of all people. I have been working really hard to improve the little things and I guess this is a sense of reassurance to me; that what I am doing is working and I should keep going. It keeps me motivated and I am so delighted and grateful for this award. I can only get better from now," said Zulu.

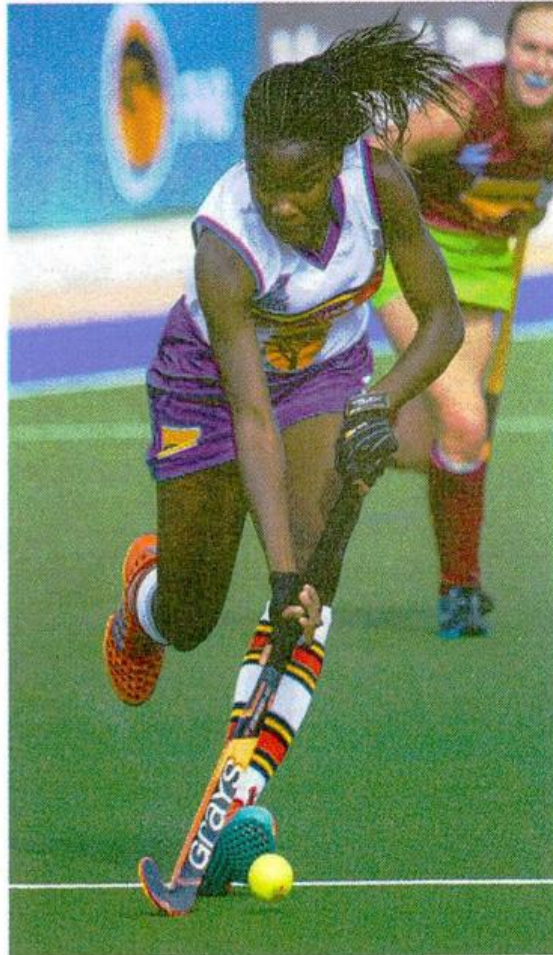
After excelling in the Varsity Hockey arena, Zulu says it would be an honour to represent South Africa, but she is also very serious about her academics.

"I am looking at pursuing a professional career in hockey, and playing for my country would be an honour. On the other hand, it is also important for me to finish my degree and find a job in order for me to be financially independent," she explained.

On her team's performance, the striker believes they performed well despite some hiccups.

"The team started off quite badly and we all had no idea why. We followed a process that we were all aware of but it just was not working out. The second weekend we did a lot better and we were able to finish the week off with four wins, which just put us in the semi-finals, and I cannot express how excited I was," Zulu said.

According to her, the team obviously would have wanted to make it through to the final,



Varsity Hockey player of the tournament, Tuks striker Onthatile Zulu, would like the accolade to propel her to the highest echelons of South African hockey.

but it was not their day against a very good Maties team.

Zulu also heaped praise on the competitiveness of Varsity Hockey.

"This is my first year at Varsity Hockey, and I can say that this tournament has been one of the most challenging and most competitive tournaments I have ever been to in my life. A lot of tournaments I participated in were not of the same calibre as Varsity Hockey," she concluded.