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TuksJudo's champion team at the USSA Championship. Photo: Ilze Wicksell

Tuks judokas win fourth consecutive USSA-title

TuksJudo's team confirmed their dominance in this sport at university level by winning their fourth consecutive title at the USSA championship.

Another year and different challenges but the Tuks judokas made sure the result that matters remained the same.

They won the USSA Tournament for the fourth consecutive year in Cape Town at the weekend.

This time around being the national university champions are indeed more special as the Tuks team was not at full strength.

Two of the top female judokas, Michaela Whitebooi and Unelle Snyman, could not compete as they represented SA at the World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Credit for the Tuks dominance certainly must go to Nikola Filipov. The former Bulgarian Olympian has been coaching at the university for the last 11 years.

As a coach, Filipov is as hardcore as they come, not believing in second chances.

He is also a firm believer in utter dedication. He has a definite opinion as to what it takes to succeed in judo.

"It is all about having a real fighting spirit. It will never be in judo just about how perfect you are able to execute a

technique, or how strong and fit you are. Everybody is strong and fit," he said.

"To become a champion, you have to be able to push yourself to the edge of your limits day in and day out."

In Friday's individual competition, the Tuks judokas dominated winning no less than eight gold medals and five silver medals.

The gold medallists are Jaydi Stemmet (under-66kg), Devan Stemmet (under-73kg and open under-73kg), Christiaan Boshoff (under-81kg), Jeandré Brand (under-52 and under-57kg), Bea Meiring (under-78kg and Open).

The silver medallists are: Christiaan Heystek (under-73kg), Christiaan Boshoff (Open under-81kg), Brendon Marais (under-90kg), Asher Binder (under-100kg), Leanco Stans (under-63kg).

Jaydi Stemmet received the award for the fastest ippon during the tournament by winning a fight in a mere four seconds.

Bea Meiring was the second-fastest winner needing only five seconds to clinch a victory.