



Young netballers raise hands for Bloem varsity tournament

A period of intensive preparation should ensure that a youthful SPAR Madibaz netball team are ready to show their potential in the University Sport South Africa tournament in Bloemfontein next week.

The SPAR Nelson Mandela University squad for the event, to be held from Monday to Friday, includes six first-year students.

‘They have all gone the extra mile to fill big boots and I am looking forward to seeing the result of their dedication’

LANA KRIGE
Coach

Coach Lana Krige said this week that three senior players were injured, while a fourth had graduated and was ineligible for the Ussa week.

Nevertheless, she was buoyant about the young talent in the team.

“The loss of those exceptional and experienced players has left a gap, but I’m excited about the first-years who have been working extremely hard.

“They have all gone the extra mile to fill big boots and I am looking forward to seeing the result of their dedication.

“We need one player to stand up and say: ‘I am the bar.’

“I cannot wait to see who it will be.”

They had done all they could to ensure they were as well prepared as possible, Krige said.

“We were lucky this year to

acquire the services of Stephen Aylsworth and Lee Pote to help with the conditioning of the players.

“Andre Goosen was tasked with ensuring that our injuries were limited and that the players returned to action in the shortest possible time.”

Krige said their main goal was to finish in the top six.

“Ussa is a great platform to test the waters for the Varsity Netball competition later in the year.”

She identified UP-Tuks, Free State and North West Pukke as the danger teams, but said anything could happen.

“Those varsities all had either full teams or strong representation in the Brutal Fruit league and did extremely well.

“But this is a new competition and if the shots fall, it can be anybody’s game.”