

## TRY TIME NEWS

### HAPPY HAUNTING

## Tuks Womens Rugby Growing Exponentially

AUTHOR: VALERIE BELLADONA

2023 has been a year of many firsts for our women's rugby program. The first time we have introduced a 15s program, which ran simultaneously to our 7s program. The first time our, now known as FNB UP-Tuks 1, women's team competed in the FNB Women's Varsity Cup. The first time our team competed in the BBRU Women's League. With all these first steps being taken expectations were not set too high, however the ladies program proved themselves.

During preparations for the first ever FNB Women's Varsity Cup, the program's biggest challenge was recruiting registered students. In addition to that the team did not have a lot of time to prepare for the tournament. Women's program coordinator, Libbie Janse van Rensburg, says "We were still figuring out the in's and out's of participating in this tournament, and making it to the semi-finals with all the challenges that we faced is something the club is really proud of." Janse van Rensburg then added, "We have learnt a lot from this tournament and will use these learnings to prepare for the 2024 tournament." Looking at the BBRU Women's League, the

way to the semi-finals, another astonishing achievement for our newly formed team. Women's head coach, Lizanne Jacobs, said one of the biggest struggles she faced as a coach was the lack of numbers, although this was something to be expected as it was the team's first year, because the season was quite long there were a few injuries which crept in and this hindered the teams performance towards the end.

Following the BBRU Women's League the players shifted their focus to preparations for the 2023 USSA tournament. The team unfortunately came short in the final against NWU but it was very evident that our ladies were amongst the best. Player welfare manager, Mandla Mdaka, mentioned how impressed he was with our women's team. He had not

previously seen the ladies play but said the skill level of our players are above and beyond the rest and he hopes that the women's program continues to receive the necessary funding if not more as he feels they really proved themselves

throughout the tournament.

With women's rugby on a steady incline in South Africa, it is exciting to know that the program at UP is keeping up with it. South Africa will be hosting the first ever WXV tier 2 competition in Cape Town in October. This tournament is the first of its kind for the women's game and its aim is to provide more game time to the national women's team and continue growing the sport. The Springbok women's team will face off against Scotland, Italy and Samoa in this tournament. TuksRugby alumni, Libbie Janse van Rensburg and Rumandi Potgieter, are amongst the ladies who will be representing the team during this tournament.



Tuks Womens Rugby 7s at the 2023 USSA 7s.

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## OTHER NEWS

# U20 UXI Cross Border Competition Explained

AUTHOR: NINA EVANNA

The u20s UXI Cross-Border Competition is an u20s club competition where the top u20 teams in South Africa battle it out to prove who is best.

In South Africa club competitions are continuously running throughout the different regions. These competitions include an under 20s competition. This competition features 21 teams from all over including the Blue Bulls, Cheetahs, Pumas, Griquas, Valke, Leopards, and

Western Province Rugby Unions. The top 3 teams from the northern and southern sections and the top two teams from the central section all qualified for the cross-border competition automatically securing a quarter final position for the competition.

This is the first time that this tournament is being played and it has been said that there was a huge need for an u20s tournament such as this to promote the growth and development of rugby in South Africa.

Tuks YoungGuns made it into the finals of this new competition where they played against Hamiltons Rugby Club on Saturday 30 September. The game was played at Loftus and the Tuks YoungGuns showed no mercy with a massive 61-14 win over the Capetonians.



**2023 U20 UXI Cross Border Champions; Tuks YoungGuns.**

### U20s UXI Cross Border Competition

**Quarter Finals  
16 September**

**Tuks YoungGuns 57-37 CUT**

**Semi Finals  
23 September**

**Tuks YoungGuns 34-32 NWU Eagles**

**Finals  
30 September**

**Tuks YoungGuns 61-14 Hamiltons RC**



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### U20 Blue Bulls call-up

TuksRugby would like to congratulate the following women's players who received a call-up to the U20 Blue Bulls Women's team who competed in the SA Rugby U20 Women's Week 24-28 September in Mthatha.

- Left:  
**Ivanche Gerritsen**
- Middle:  
**Thobeka Ncube**
- Right:  
**Owethu Cindi**







## TUKS YOUNGGUNS PLAYER

# Player in Focus: Andile Myeni

**AUTHOR: NINA EVANNA**

Andile Myeni is the talented backline player of Tuks YoungGuns. Originally from Esikhawini, Kwa-Zulu Natal, he started playing rugby when he was still in primary school at Richardia Primary School. After matriculating from Glenwood High School, Andile started studying at UP.

He is currently in his first year studying the Higher Certificate in Sport Science. Andile admits that what initially attracted him to rugby when he was still a young boy was the popularity that came in school, not to mention the rugby tours. He also used to play basketball and soccer but essentially these sports did not give the young star the popularity which he aspired for.

Currently playing wing and center for the Tuks YoungGuns, Andile

said he looks up to South African rugby hero, Makazole Mapimpi. ‘The characteristics he has shown throughout his life and proving how great you can become by having faith and being resilient’ are amongst the reasons why Andile admires Mapimpi.

Andile has represented many teams including Glenwood High Schools first team, Sharks u18, Blue Bulls u20 and even the FNB Varsity Cup.

And this year he was part of the u19 Blue Bulls team who won the u19 Currie Cup and the Tuks YoungGuns who won the u20 Carlton League.

By looking at Andile’s accolades not only this year but since he matriculated, it is safe to say that this young man is on the right path to making a success of his rugby career.

Andile hopes to continue this upward trajectory and hopefully be awarded with the Tuks player of the Year award following this year.



**Andile Myeni**

### PLAYER FACTS

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be?**

*Mind reading*

**What is your favourite post game meal?**

*My mothers Alfredo pasta*

**If you were an animal, what would you be?**

*a leopard*



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## OTHER NEWS

# USSA 7s Produce Mixed Results

**AUTHOR: NINA EVANNA**

The 2023 USSA 7s tournament kicked off at Sol Plaatjies University on 22 September in Kimberly. Our men's team were drawn into a pool with hosts Sol Plaatjies, Walter Sisulu University and CPUT. And the women were to play Rhodes, Wits, and DUT.

Day one saw the pool games kick off. A rocky start for the men's team who lost their first game against CPUT 12-7. They followed this with a draw against Walter Sisulu University and then finally found their feet in the last game of the day, taking the win over Sol Plaatjies University. Although this was not the desired results for day one, the men still managed to qualify for the quarter finals.

The ladies open the day with a win over DUT. This followed by another win against Wits and closed the day with a convincing 40-0 victory over Rhodes University. Securing them the top spot for their pool they also secured a quarter final spot.

Day 2 the men met NWU Pukke in the quarter final. Unfortunately, the men could not secure the win, taking a 27-14 loss. Having lost the quarter finals, the men were now in the running for the

plate. They squared up against CPUT in the plate semi-final and were determined to not let their previous loss against CPUT get the better of them. Tuks proved to be the better team and claimed the win, 12-7. This secured them a spot in the plate final which unfortunately went in favour of Kovies who claimed the plate with a final score of 34-19.

Day 2 produced different fortunes for the women. In the quarter finals the ladies beat NMU 26-5 securing a semi-final spot. In the semi-finals the team put on yet another show, with a 28-12 victory over UKZN. Unfortunately, the ladies slipped up in a tightly contested final where they played against NWU. Final score 10-5. Lynn-Mari Subke proved why she is one of TuksRugby's top players. Subke scored the most conversions in the women's tournament and was amongst the top point scorers for the tournament as well.

Head of program, Conrad Boshoff, says "Overall it was a good tournament. Our ladies made it all the way to the finals, and I am pleased with that." He adds, "Both teams enjoyed the tournament, and we look forward to 2024."



**Lynn-Mari Subke;**  
**Tuks Womens Rugby 7s team co-captain.**

- **Most conversions scored: 12**
- **Second-most points scored: 54**
- **Fourth-most tries scored: 6**

## OTHER RESULTS

### Women's 7s

#### Imbokodo 7s 9 September

**TuksWomen 7s 47 - 0 Wits University**

**TuksWomen 7s 38 - 5University of Limpopo**

#### FINAL

**TuksWomen 7s 22-5 University of Johannesburg**

#### WURIT 7s

#### 26-28 September

**TuksWomen 7s 5-25 NZ Universities**

**TuksWomens 7s 19-12 Seville University (Spain)**

**TuksWomen 7s 17-12 University of Mexico**

**TuksWomen 7s 12-14 Bordeaux University**

**TuksWomen 7s 43-7 Mauritius University**

#### Semi-Final

**TuksWomen 7s 5-31 NZ Universities**

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Final

**TuksWomen 7s 28-5 Seville University**





## OTHER NEWS

# Tuks Youth Rugby 2023 Season update

**AUTHOR: JENNY VENTER**

A successful season for Tuks Youth Rugby. The first target for the youth club was to become a first-choice club for top quality and developing youth rugby players. There has been a significant increase in registered players, nearly doubling the registrations of 2022.

This year TYR (Tuks Youth Rugby) produced competitive on-field performances, winning more than 70% of their games. With the improvement of teams came a more enthusiastic atmosphere off-field, with parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles coming to support their young players on Saturdays. The 2023 youth season started off with 4 skills developing clinics that were well attended. The clinics catered for players ranging from all ages and skill levels. This was a valuable sneak peek to what lied ahead for the season. With the talent that was portrayed at the clinics, coaches eagerly looked forward to the season to further develop these talented youngsters. The coaches of TYR are of the highest calibre. Passionate individuals with a love for the game and committed towards the club and especially the players. As we look back at the past season it is evident that youth rugby is not something that can be ignored as this

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is where the foundations are laid. TYR would like to thank each and every player, parent, coach, and all involved throughout the season. As the saying goes, "Rome was not built in a day", and this is true for TYR as well. Valuable lessons have been learned this season

but TYR is on the right track and eager for the 2024 season. As the saying goes... "Rome wasn't built in a day" and this is true for us as well! We have areas where we can improve, and lessons has been learned but TYR is on the right track and looking forward to the 2024 season!"

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Striving to develop quality student-athletes within a high-performance environment who will graduate with meaningful degrees.

Preparing young athletes for life after rugby, competing for championships on and off the field, for future generations to follow.