



TRY TIME NEWS

From TuksRugby Player of the Year to SA Rugby Women's Player of the year

AUTHOR: VALERIE BELLADONA

Libbie Janse van Rensburg is a remarkable athlete and a force to be reckoned with on the rugby field. Her exceptional skills and dedication to the game have recently earned her the prestigious title of 2023 Springbok Women's Player of the Year. With that she also claimed the title of 2023 Provincial Women's Player of the Year.

Libbie's love for rugby began at a young age. She exhibited a natural talent for the sport, which propelled her to eventually pursue a career in rugby. "As I neared the end of my studies I knew that somehow I would be involved with rugby, be it on or off the field", Janse van Rensburg says. Libbie's hard work and determination paid off as she quickly rose through the ranks and became a key player on the national team. Known for her speed, agility, and tactical prowess, Libbie has become a vital asset to the Springbok Women's team. Her ability to read the game and make strategic decisions on the field has led to numerous victories for her team.



Libbie's achievements extend beyond her individual accolades. She has played an instrumental role in promoting women's rugby and breaking down barriers in a traditionally male-dominated sport. She serves as a role model for young athletes, emphasizing the importance of hard work, dedication, and teamwork. Libbie's positive attitude and leadership qualities have made her a beloved figure within the rugby community.

In conclusion, Libbie Janse van Rensburg's talent and dedication to the game has left its mark in the rugby community and as she continues to make her mark in the rugby world, Libbie serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes everywhere.

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LIBBIE JANSE VAN RENSBURG IS LIVING HER DREAM AS ONE OF THE LEADING WOMEN'S PLAYERS IN THE COUNTRY. SHE MADE HISTORY LAST YEAR WHEN SHE BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN WHO TO BE CROWNED TUKS PLAYER OF THE YEAR, A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT. SHE ALSO WON SA RUGBY'S WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE AND BLUES BULLS' WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD. THIS REMARKABLE INDIVIDUAL SAT DOWN FOR A Q&A SESSION

Q: YOUR FIRST BIG STEP IN RUGBY WAS 7S, BUT THESE DAYS YOU EXCEL IN THE 15S CODE. HOW DO THE TWO FORMATS COMPARE TO EACH OTHER AND WHICH ONE DO YOU PREFER.

A: At this point, I prefer 15s over 7s. I've been playing 7s for so long that 15s brings a lot of new skills for me to master, and I like that. But the 7s will always have a special place in my heart.

Q: AT WHAT AGE AND HOW DID YOU DECIDE YOU ARE MORE THAN JUST A STAUNCH SUPPORTER; THAT YOU WANT TO PLAY RUGBY YOURSELF, BIG RUGBY?

A: I never thought of rugby as a profession because I didn't know it to be a prospect available to me. For me, rugby was a means to an end: to pay for my studies at the UP with a scholarship.

But when I was young and my mother said I could choose a toy in the store, I always took a ball.

When I was still studying, I always imagined myself playing on a World Circuit or at a World Cup Tournament, but I didn't think it would ever happen.

Q: WHAT CAN YOU REMEMBER FROM YOUR VERY FIRST RUGBY MATCH?

A: My first match was in France against the French development team. It was physically very hard, and I thought no, rugby is not for me.

Q: IN SOUTH AFRICA, WOMEN'S RUGBY WAS FROWNED UPON FOR A LONG TIME. HOW MUCH HAS THIS PERCEPTION CHANGED AND DO YOU THINK WOMEN'S RUGBY HAS TAKEN ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN SA?

A: The difference in attitude and acceptance from when I started playing as a student until now is like day and night. Initially, people did not know or want to hear about women playing rugby, but with the rapid global growth, interest, and exposure of the game amongst us ladies, a big positive mind shift has taken hold locally. I think we are on the right path but we know full that we still have a lot to achieve before women's rugby can claim a more prominent spot in SA sport.

Q: TESTS FOR THE SPRINGBOKS ARE NO LONGER UNUSUAL TO YOU. WHICH TEST/S WOULD YOU SINGLE OUT AS SPECIAL TO YOU?

A: The test in 2022 against Spain at Ellis Park, when for the first time I achieved a perfect strike by succeeding with all 8 conversions.

And when the high-pressure kick I put over in the World Cup game against Fiji. Even though we lost the match, this kick put the Boks in front and will always be special to me.

Q: AFTER YOU HAVE ALMOST WON ANY AWARD SINCE THE END OF LAST YEAR, YOU SHOULD HAVE ALREADY STARTED TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU STILL WANT TO ACHIEVE IN RUGBY. WHAT DREAMS DO YOU STILL HAVE?

A: My eye is now on representing the Springbok 7s at the Olympic Games in France at the end of July. This is a very, very big dream for me. As for any other athlete, the pinnacle for me will be to become an Olympian.

Q: WHO HAS THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOU AS A PLAYER?

A: My aunt. She taught me to keep my head down and work hard for what I want to achieve. She believed in me from the beginning. Being loved and having support at home makes it easy to stay motivated.

Q: WHAT ABOUT RUGBY MAKES THE ADRENALINE EXPLODE IN YOU?

A: The combination of speed, power, and tactical skills.

**AUTHOR:
MATTEO CASTELLO**



RESULTS

FNB Varsity Shield
Game 3
Player of the Match
Marco Venter



FNB Varsity Shield
Game 4
Player of the Match
JP Wentzel



FNB Varsity Shield
Game 5
Player of the Match
Henry Till



FNB Varsity Shield Results



FNB UP-Tuks 41

vs

FNB WSU 17

FNB UP-Tuks 75

vs

FNB Varsity College 21

FNB UP-Tuks 52

vs

FNB UKZN 0



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Merchandise





FNB UP-Tuks Player

Player in Focus: *Ethan Burger*

AUTHOR: NINA EVANNA

Ethan Burger is a talented rugby player who has made a name for himself in the sport. He began his rugby journey at a young age, starting in grade 1 while attending SACS High School. Throughout his school years, Ethan excelled in both rugby and cricket, representing his school's 1st teams. After his successful school career, Ethan continued to make a mark in rugby.

He joined TuksYoungGuns in 2019 and made his debut in his first year. In 2020, he made his senior Varsity Cup debut for the FNB UP-Tuks 1 side. One of his most memorable moments was when the team won the Varsity Cup for the second consecutive year in 2022, defeating Maties at the Danie Craven Stadium. Ethan's dedication and commitment to the sport led to him being appointed as the co-captain for the current year. This is a significant honour for him as he has been part of the Tuks rugby setup for several years. Representing such a prestigious institution and having the opportunity to lead the team is a source of great pride for Ethan. His goals for this year include lifting the FNB Varsity Shield trophy and ensuring an unbeaten competition. He aims to make this season his best in the Tuks jersey and have a dominant performance.

Additionally, Ethan has a personal goal of securing a professional contract to further his rugby career.

Outside of rugby, Ethan is focused on completing his degree this year. He also strives to continuously improve himself and be the best version of himself. Recently engaged, he and his fiancé are looking forward to planning their big day.

When it comes to role models, Ethan looks up to Andrew Porter from Ireland and Ellis Genge from England. He admires their perseverance and the journey they have taken to achieve success in their careers. Both players are versatile and excel in their positions, which inspires Ethan to strive for the same level of skill and versatility as a modern-day prop. If given the opportunity, Ethan would enjoy playing either as an 8th man or a center. As an 8th man, he believes he would have more freedom to move around the field and be involved in different areas of the game. Alternatively, as an inside center, he would enjoy the physicality of running crash balls throughout the match.



Outside of rugby, Ethan enjoys playing golf whenever he gets the chance and indulging in sports games on Xbox. These activities provide him with relaxation and entertainment outside of the intense world of rugby. Overall, Ethan Burger is a dedicated and talented rugby player who is determined to excel both on and off the field. With his passion and drive, he is set to achieve great success in his rugby career and beyond.

PLAYER FACTS

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

What is your favourite post-game meal?
Steers Burger & Chips

What is your go-to song?
Lose Yourself by Eminem

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Tuks Womens Rugby 2024 FNB VARSITY CUP WOMEN

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| AMAANI WILLIAMS | LERATO TSHABALALA |
| ANJA VAN HEERDEN | LYNN-MARI SUBKE |
| APHIWE MASUKU | MAMELLO MUSTAFA |
| ARNELL PRIMO | MBALI NDLOVU |
| BONANG MAHLOMOLA | MIHLE JADA |
| CORLI-MARÉ GRIFFIOEN | NAKISANI THUKUTHA |
| GINA MOYA | OWETHU CINDI |
| INNOCENTIA KGOSANA | PRECIOUS TLAKA |
| IVIWE DUMEZWENI | RETHABILE KGATLE |
| JESSICA MARÉ (C) | SANITHA MKHWANAZI |
| KAYLEE VAN STADEN | SESIHLE MAGUGA |
| KHESELINA RENS | SINEGUGU MNCWABE |
| KIRSTIN STEAD | THOBEKA NCUBE |
| KWANGA MAJEBE | TRISTAIN COETZER |
| KYLA MEYER | YOLANDA MALANGENI |

LIZANNE JACOBS (HEAD COACH)
JOHN-WILLIAM WESSELS (ASSISTANT COACH)

SQUAD LIST



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Merchandise

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OTHER NEWS



R100.00

AVAILABLE NOW
Purchase at the
Rugby Office

TuksRugby Golf Day a success!!



TuksRugby would like to thank all individuals & businesses involved for their support during the golf day.

- TWProfile
- Rosslyn Enclosure Manufacturers
- F8
- Hoist
- Express Employment Professionals SA Pty Ltd
- Hybrid Control
- ISIVUVU Technical Solutions
- Anton Heyman
- DIA
- TuksYouthRugby
- BestMed Medical Scheme
- TuksFM
- Haval Silver Lakes
- UP Dept of Institutional Advancements
- Eco Elementum Investments Pty Ltd
- Tumelo Sachane
- TuksSportMarketing
- TuksSport-Joshua Chitsika
- TuksSwimming
- Francois Jooste
- HPC
- Dawie Reyneke
- Chint Global & Enterprise
- Wingate Park Country Club

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UPCOMING FIXTURES



FNB Varsity Cup Women's 2024 Fixtures



Date	Time	Game	Venue
5 April	16:30	FNB UP-Tuks Women vs FNB Maties Women	Danie Craven Stadium
12 April	12:30	FNB UP-Tuks Women vs FNB UKZN Women	Tuks Stadium
19 April		FNB VARSITY CUP WOMEN SEMI-FINAL	
26 April		FNB VARSITY CUP WOMEN FINAL	



FNB Varsity Shield 2024 Fixtures



DATE	TIME	GAME	VENUE
5 APRIL	19:00	FNB UP-Tuks vs FNB TUT	Tuks Stadium
12 APRIL	15:00	FNB UP-Tuks vs FNB Madibaz	Tuks Stadium **TV Game (SuperSport)
19 APRIL		FNB VARSITY SHIELD SEMI-FINAL	
26 APRIL		FNB VARSITY SHIELD FINAL	

Mission Statement

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

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





UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 || April || 038



TuksRugby

Women in Sport Brunch TuksRugby Edition



Date: Friday, 12 April 2024

Times:

Brunch: 9:30

FNB Varsity Cup game: 12:00

FNB UP-Tuks Women vs FNB UKZN

FNB Varsity Shield game: 15:00

FNB UP-Tuks 1 vs FNB NMU

Venue: Daan Swiegers Club House,
Hillcrest Sports Campus

Cost: R200.00pp, Card payment
upon arrival.

Tickets include welcome drinks, meal
and Varsity Cup Womens- & Varsity
Shield tickets.

Guest Speakers:

Libbie J van Rensburg

Springbok Rugby Player

Jenny van Dyk

Proteas Netball Coach

Nicola Macleod

Deputy Director; TuksSport,
Coaching & Performance

RSVP:

elizabetha.jansevanrensburg@up.ac.za

by **Wednesday, 10 April 12:00**



TuksSport

TuksRugby



TuksSport