

■ RUGBY SEVENS

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SOUTH African rugby fans will have to wait a while before they see an Impi running out ahead of a Test on local soil again.

But this weekend a new Impi will look to establish himself as a rugby warrior – and he'll do so in Dubai.

Impi Visser is the only debutant in coach Neil Powell's BlitzBoks squad for the opening leg of the 2018/19 World Sevens Series, and like any newbie, the 23-year-old wants to make the most of his shot on the Sevens circuit.

"It was a dream of mine to play in the green and gold and now it will come true," said the former University of Pretoria student.

"It is an amazing feeling and I cannot wait. This is just so unbelievable, but true.

"It was such a tough year for me but that is all in the past now. I am so honoured and privileged to be able to be here and to use this opportunity presented to me."

Visser, a centre in the 15-man game, represented the SA Rugby Sevens Academy in South America, where he picked up an ankle injury early this year. He was also a member of the 2017 Varsity Cup-winning Tuks side.

 BLITZBOKS TOMORROW

POOL A
8.52am v Zimbabwe
12.36pm v Samoa
5.53pm v Argentina

Now fit and raring to go, the BlitzBok forward says he's excited to learn from the older hands in the squad.

"This is just an amazing group of

guys," he said.

"They always have a joke up their sleeves but are so committed and professional when it comes to the BlitzBoks. Their experience and skills are certainly something I can feed from. There is so much to learn from them and to add to my own arsenal as a player."

In order for a team to function like a well-oiled machine, every member certainly has to know and perform their role. It's something that Visser needs no reminding of, and it will be his main goal in Dubai

from tomorrow.

"Coach Neil always stresses on the importance of doing your job in the team, to fulfil your responsibilities in the team," said Visser.

"By doing that, everyone else can function and prosper. That will be my focus in my first tournament, just doing my job. And of course, enjoying it!"

The defending World Series and Dubai champions will face Zimbabwe, Samoa and Argentina in Pool A tomorrow.

