



Valentine's Day

# Tuks Rugby

# TRY TIME NEWS



2022 || Jan/Feb ||

SCAN ME!



Tickets for Sale

2022

## Varsity Cup

Rugby that Rocks is back!

**AUTHOR: VALERIE BELLADONA**

The 2022 Varsity Cup competition will kick off on 14 February with the reigning champions, FNB UP-Tuks taking on the FNB Maties at the Tuks Stadium. This will also mark the return of a limited number of spectators.

The FNB UP-Tuks campaign started with a bang with players getting back on the field early in January. The team has a lot of preparation still to do before they kick off the season. Strength and conditioning coach, Naat Loubser, says he is pleased with the fitness levels that players returned from the festive season with, however the team continues to strive for perfection and this means work, work, work for the players. He adds that the biggest challenge for new players who join the team is usually adapting to the ways that Naat trains the players as he knows how to separate the boys from the men. Team manager, Andries Kruger, says he is excited to see the team take to

the field although the struggles associated with Covid-19 is still of concern to him. Due to the fact that the teams will be traveling to and from other universities the possibilities of players contracting the virus increases. Kruger hopes that the team does not suffer too much as a result of this.

Head Coach, Nico Luus, says the puzzle pieces are beginning to fall into place. "The excitement is evident within the group", he says and he believes the players are eager to prove themselves after the success of last year, in what is set to be a closely contested FNB Varsity Cup. Conrad Boshoff believes that this year will give opportunities to youngsters to step up and prove themselves. "We lost a lot of players in 2021 and that will happen when teams win championships. We pride ourselves to be a program that can help players to achieve higher honors in rugby."

**SAVE THE DATE**

**14 Feb 2022**

**FNB UP-Tuks  
VS  
FNB Maties**



IN THIS ISSUE

**Message from  
Varsity Cup**

**Blitzbok Captain:  
Impi Visser**

**Player in Focus:  
Eduan Lubbe**

**Tickets ONLINE at the  
UP Shop or scan the QR  
Code**





# FNB Varsity Cup Tournament Manager: Xhanti-Lomzi Nesi



“We are very excited to be back at the campuses in what will be the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the FNB Varsity Cup,” said Xhanti-Lomzi Nesi, FNB Varsity Cup Tournament Manager. “The tournament not only goes back to being hosted on every campus but the rugby loving supporters can see South Africa’s future stars live in action. There is also lots to play for during the competition, at the end of the 2022 season, the two teams at the end of the combined 2021-2022 FNB Varsity Cup log will be relegated to the FNB Varsity Shield with 2023 edition seeing eight teams in both FNB Varsity Cup and

FNB Varsity Shield tournaments. “The backing of our sponsors and partners like FNB, Steers and of course the official broadcaster, SuperSport, makes it possible for the longevity of South Africa’s premier intervarsity competition. We have also recently signed a partnership deal with South African airline, LIFT, as the official airline carrier. Round One of the biggest intervarsity rivalry in action, defending champions and your very own FNB UP-Tuks, will host five-times title-holders FNB Maties in the 19h00 match.”



## Another Tukkies Captain in Green & Gold

AUTHOR: ALEX CASTLE



**Photo Credit: David van der Sandt**

Impi Visser is the latest Tuks Rugby Alumni who has become a Blitzbok captain.

Impi graduated from UP as a Mechanical Engineer in 2018 and was part of the Tuks team who won the 2017 Varsity Cup. Impi says that playing Varsity Cup has been one of his most favorite memories and to be able to win it back in 2017 was something truly special. He adds that wearing the Tuks jersey is a massive privilege and many successful rugby players in the professional era has come from the Tuks jersey.

Impi captained the team to yet another victory in the Seville 7s which took place in Spain end of January. He mentioned that the team wanted to keep to their structures and take the tournament one game at a time, and this paid off for the team.

Impi wants to remind the 2022 FNB UP-Tuks team that “no one is greater than the team. Always put your teammates above your own ambitions and then you will see what playing together as a team means.”

“Go make memories that will last forever, don’t forget to enjoy it along the way and remember there is always time for a nice cold beer as a team after the Monday night games.”

### IN THIS ISSUE

**Player in Focus:**  
Eduan Lubbe

**Coaches Corner:**  
Dewey Swartboo

**TuksYouthRugby**





## FNB UP-TUKS PLAYER

### Player in Focus

# EDUAN LUBBE

**AUTHOR: NINA EVANNA**

Eduan Lubbe, described as a 'player to watch' by Head Coach, Nico Luus, in this year's FNB Varsity Cup.

Lubbe matriculated from Affies Hoërskool where he had to put in a lot of work before he finally made the first team. Lubbe says he has basically played every position, and moved around as his body grew. From scrumhalf to lock and he finally settled for flank. Since then he has become a key figure in the Tuks setup, having played YoungGuns and being part of the team that won the FNB Varsity Cup tournament in both 2017 and 2021. Not to mention that he also made his Currie Cup debut last year for the Blue Bulls. Players like Corne Krige, Richie McCaw, Schalk Burger, Pieter Steph Du Toit and David Pocock are all role models for Lubbe.

Lubbe is currently in his final year of Industrial Engineering. Every rugby player has the dream of playing for the Springboks, but Lubbe also knows that it is important to have a plan after rugby and he hopes to start his own business one day.



**Eduan Lubbe when he played for Affies**

When asked about the preparations for Varsity Cup he pointed out that it was essential for the team to ensure that their foundations were in place as there are a lot of younger players coming into the system. He adds that the team culture is something that is very important and this has also been a top priority for the group. Lubbe is no stranger to hard work and he hopes his passion will show on the field and to bring the focus that he has mastered over the years, doing whatever it takes to ensure that the team is in the best position to win this season.



## PLAYER FACTS

**Do you have game day superstitions?  
And if so, what are they?**

*I don't have any superstitions, just good habits and routines to keep me focused.*

**What is your go-to song?**

*Anything by Andrea Bocelli*

**What is your favorite  
post-game meal?**

*A nice big plate  
of 'Rys, Vleis en  
Aartappels'*

IN THIS ISSUE

**Coaches Corner:**  
**Dewey Swartboo**

**TuksYouthRugby**

**Message from the  
HOP**



## OTHER NEWS

### Coaches Corner: *Dewey Swartbooi*

AUTHOR: VALERIE BELLADONA

Former Blue Bulls player Dewey Swartbooi has re-joined the TuksRugby family as the Defense coach for the upcoming 2022 FNB Varsity Cup. As part of his role as coach he works on the teams exit plays and breakdowns as well.

Dewey matriculated from Worcester Gymnasium and during this time he represented Boland in the Craven week team. His rugby career took off when he made the big move to Gauteng. The young centre played junior Bulls and quickly worked his way up the ranks into the senior team. Between 2001 and 2004 he played Super Rugby, Vodacom Cup and Currie Cup in the Blue Bulls jersey. In 2011 he made the shift from player to coach, coaching the Boland Cavaliers. Once again it was not long before he made his move back to the Blue Bulls, filling the position as a coach. 2016 was when he first became involved at TuksRugby.

He coached the Tuks YoungGuns until 2017. Dewey received the opportunity to be the Head Coach at the University of Johannesburg in 2019 and coached the FNB UJ Varsity Cup team until 2021. It did not take much convincing when UP-Tuks Head Coach, Nico Luus, approached Dewey with the prospects of including him in the Tuks coaching staff. Conrad Boshoff says he is excited to have Dewey back as his experience and know-how on and off the field will be beneficial to the growth of the programme. He adds that he is pleased that Dewey made the shift back across the Jukskei, to where real rugby is played.



**Left: Dewey Swartbooi playing for the Blue Bulls.**

**Below: Dewey in action, coaching the FNB Varsity Cup team.**



## TuksYouthRugby: Let the kids play

AUTHOR: NINA EVANNA

All our rugby codes were hit hard by the Covid pandemic, but TuksYouthRugby was one that suffered more so.

After two years of being unable to commence with the junior program due to ongoing restrictions the time has finally come for our young boys and girls to return to the fields. Age groups are from under/7 up to under/18. Girls and boys are welcome, with the girls training with the boys from under/7 up to from under/13.

Girls aged under/14 to under/18 train separately from the boys.

TuksYouthRugby coaches assist the club on a volunteer basis as the number one priority for the program is to develop young players, but unfortunately there has been some opening positions as a result of the Pandemic.

If anyone is interested in assisting the program, or as a coach or manager, kindly contact

**Thomas Reyneke:**

**081 831 7349**





# Message from Head of Programme

AUTHOR: NINA EVANNA



**Conrad Boshoff, Head of Programme of TuksRugby**

“2021 was a good year for TuksRugby. Structures that have been put in place started bearing the fruit we were expecting and the collaboration between the coaches showed that the new direction in which TuksRugby is aiming for is working.

To follow a great year like 2021 with another great year is going to be tough as everyone knows what we have to offer. We will not reinvent the wheel but simply make the wheel bigger.

Good luck to all the coaches, management, personnel in the office and players. Your strength comes from above.”

## Contact TuksRugby

Email:

[tuksrugby@up.ac.za](mailto:tuksrugby@up.ac.za)

Contact number:

012 420 6068

## Knowledge

### Rugby Trivia



1. When was TuksRugby founded?
2. How many Varsity Cup titles has Tuks won?
3. In which year did Handre Pollard play Varsity Cup for Tuks?
4. Who was the first African black player to captain a Tuks Varsity Cup team?
5. Which Tuks player broke the record for the most points scored in a Varsity Cup?
6. Which Tuks player, who played in the first ever Varsity Cup, is currently part of the Bulls coaching staff?

IN THIS ISSUE

**Competition**  
**Beat the Physio**

**2022 Sponsor**

**Trivia Answers**



2022 || Jan/Feb || 014

# COMPETITION

## Beat the Physio

### Rules:

- Post a video where you attempt to beat the time in which our TuksRugby physio completes the strapping
- Wear any TUKS item of clothing
- Tag @TuksSport
- Use the #TuksRugby
- You must strap the same body part as shown in the video
- You must use the same kind of strapping as shown in the video

WIN A  
VARSITY CUP  
T-SHIRT

Ts & cs apply,  
judges' decision is final.



TuksSport

## 2022 Sponsors



### Rugby Trivia Answers

1. 1909
2. 4
3. 2013
4. Sango Xamlashe
5. Zandre du Plessis
6. Joey Mongalo

## 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.

TuksRugby



TuksSport