



Varsity 7s, Coming in HOT!

AUTHOR: VALERIE BELLADONA



DeltaDrone TuksWomensRugby, 2019 Varsity 7s Champions

The Varsity 7s is back and it's bigger and better than ever! The last Varsity 7s tournament took place in 2019 where our men won the plate final. 2019 was the first time that the tournament included women's teams and our Tuks ladies did what they normally do, and dominated the tournament.

The return of the Varsity 7s has been much anticipated and will see a total 16 teams participating. The usual top 8 ranked men's teams from the USSA 7s tournament will compete and for the first time ever, the ladies' division will also include 8 teams. In 2019 the women's division consisted of only

the top 4 USSA 7s teams but with women's rugby growing at a steady pace in South Africa, it seemed only natural to expand this division. All the Varsity 7s action will take place on Friday and Saturday 7 & 8 October at our own world class sports campus. All the games will be played at the Tuks Stadium. Conrad Boshoff says "we are looking forward to hosting, it's a unique experience to host the 7s and it will be happening for the first time in Pretoria." Boshoff also wants to encourage everyone to join in on the excitement and show their support.

Tickets to the event will be sold online by Howler and all the action will be broadcast live on SuperSport.



IN THIS ISSUE

Wrapping up the Carlton.

USSA 7s.

Player in Focus:

Nolwazi Hlabangane



Tuks Rugby

TRY TIME NEWS





Wrapping up the Carlton

AUTHOR: VALERIE BELLADONA



TuksJongSpan at Loftus Versfeld.



winnings and Harlequins winning the third division.

Our Tuks under 20's kept our name high as they went all the way to the finals, unfortunately losing out against Centurion.

With the season slowly coming to an end, it is time for our players to rest, recover and shift their focus to the upcoming 2023 FNB Varsity Cup.

The 2022 World Sports Betting Carlton Cup was most certainly a challenging one. With teams coming out stronger than we have ever seen them. With our Tuks boys coming from back-to-back FNB Varsity Cup victories, we knew this year would be challenging as we approached the Carlton Cup with fatigue setting in and injuries beginning to pile on. It was Betway Centurion who would go on to claim the 2022 World Sports Betting Carlton Cup League trophy. ABE Midas Naka Bulls took the second division

OTHER NEWS

USSA 7s Disappointment

AUTHOR: VALERIE BELLADONA

24 September the 2022 USSA 7s tournament kicked off, with both our men and women travelling to Sol Plaatjies University in Kimberly. Both our men and womens team went in as the defending champions.

Day 1 our men faced up against UFS, UKZN and NWU while our women matched up against UL, NMU and WSU. The womens team took three for three on day one while our men let their first game against UFS slip but bounced back with back to back wins to end the day.

On the final day our men came short in the quarter final. It was a hard-fought battle against CPU who beat our men 14-12. Fortunately, our men won the plate final against NMU to secure a 5th place finish. Our ladies team managed to secure a spot in the finals for the old Tuks-Maties rivalry, which is commonly seen amongst the men. Maties women's team had the final say, claiming the 2022 USSA 7s



2022 USSA 7s Tuks Mens team

title. The ladies team was co-captained by Kemisetso Baloyi who said, "Everyone gave their best but it just didn't reflect on the scoreboard. Now we're back to the drawing board and putting our focus on the Varsity 7s."

IN THIS ISSUE

**Player in Focus:
Nolwazi Hlabangane**

World Cup Call-ups.

**Legends of Tuks
Shifting Gears**



TUKSWOMENSRUGBY PLAYER

Player in Focus Nolwazi Hlabangane



AUTHOR: NINA EVANNA

Nolwazi Hlabangane, UP alumni, TuksWomensRugby 7s great and now Springbok Women’s 7s player. Nolwazi, better known as Lolli, completed her Bachelors degree in Sport Science in 2016 and followed it by completing her Honors in Sport and Recreation Management at UP. However, prior to starting her rugby journey in 2014 she was actually a basketball player. Hlabangane played basketball for a club called Fierce Angels and only took up rugby during the off season as a way of staying fit, little did she know that once the rugby bug bites, it’s difficult to let it go. “The shift from basketball to rugby was actually easy because basketball is also a sport with a lot of contact” she said.

The contact part of rugby did not phase Lolli and with the skills of running, catching and jumping which she acquired in basketball, she caught on

quickly to rugby. Hlabangane has since travelled the world playing for the Delta Drone TuksWomensRugby 7s team. Her favorite memory in the stripe jersey was when the team beat France in the semi-finals of the Costa Blanca 7s in Benidrom, Spain. “It was a historic win for us as we had never beaten a top pro team, even if it was their development team.” It was in July of this year when she finally received a call-up to the national team. Although she was very starry-eyed at first, Hlabangane says it was a very eye-opening experience for her in terms of what it takes to be a professional athlete. “It is something I had envisioned for myself” she said. She was part of the team who competed in the 7s World Cup which took place in Cape Town and says it was an exhilarating experience to be on the inside of such an event.



Hlabangane hopes to maintain this momentum and continue playing rugby at this level and she hopes to just bring joy and smiles where ever she goes.



Nolwazi Hlabangane at a Springbok Women’s training session.

PLAYER FACTS



Who is your HERO?

My Mom, she is the reason I am the strong woman I am today

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

Time travel

What is your favorite post-game meal?

A double beef burger and fries with a Stoney

What is your go-to song?

Chance the Rapper – Favorite song

If you were an animal, what would you be?

A crocodile

IN THIS ISSUE

Rugby World Cup

Call-ups.

Legends of Tuks.

Shifting Gears

Upcoming Events

Varsity 7s Fixtures

AGM



TUKSWOMENSRUGBY

Rugby World Cup Call-ups



Libbie J.v.Rensburg



Rumandi Potgieter



Nadine Roos

OTHER NEWS

Legends of Tuks, Shifting Gears

AUTHOR: VALERIE BELLADONA

Mihlali Stamper

Shifting to: Griquas

First game for Tuks: 2019 against Wits

Favorite memory: Beating Maties this year at the Danie Craven Stadium in the Varsity Cup final and winning the title for a consecutive time.

Looking forward to: making the step up in my rugby to a professional setup and to be a regular starter during the Currie Cup.



Orateng Koikanyang

Shifting to: Pumas

First game for Tuks:

TuksJouthRugby in 2013, Senior game in 2018 Varsity Cup.

Best memory: Beating Maties at the Danie Craven Stadium in the final of this year's Varsity Cup.

Looking forward to: Training and playing against some of the best players within the country as well as being able to develop myself as a rugby player.



Stefan 'Bok' Coetzee

Shifting to: Pumas

First game for Tuks:

2018 against Brakpan.
Best memory: winning the Varsity Cup this year.

Looking forward to: looking forward to the new challenge and playing in the Currie Cup.



Stephan 'Karoo's' Smit

Shifting to: Griquas

First game for Tuks: 2017 Tuks 1 vs Fezelas

Best memory: Winning the Varsity cup twice as well as the Varsity 7s title.

Most looking forward to: measuring himself on a higher level and to further develop as a player.



IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Events
Varsity 7s Fixtures
AGM

Other News
Franchise League



2022 | October | 022



UPCOMING EVENTS FIXTURES

Varsity 7s Rugby; Tuks Stadium



Groups: Men

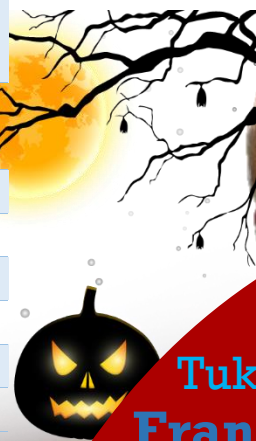
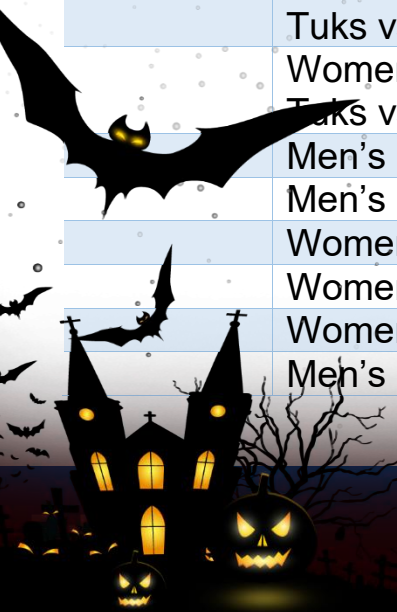
A	B
University of Pretoria	University of Johannesburg
University of Western Cape	Stellenbosch University
Nelson Mandela University	University of the Free State
North West University	University of the Witwatersrand

Groups: Women

A	B
University of Pretoria	University of Fort Hare
University of Limpopo	University of Johannesburg
Walter Sisulu University	Nelson Mandela University
Tshwane University of Technology	Stellenbosch University



Date	Fixtures	Time
7 October	Men: Tuks vs Wits	9:15
	Women: Tuks vs Maties	10:43
	Men: Tuks vs UFS	12:11
	Women: Tuks vs NMU	13:39
	Men: Tuks vs UJ	16:13
	Women: Tuks vs UFH	17:41
8 October	Men: Tuks vs Maties	9:37
	Women: Tuks vs UJ	11:05
	Men's Semi Final 1	13:12
	Men's Semi Final 2	13:34
	Women's Semi Final 1	14:40
	Women's Semi Final 2	15:02
	Women's Final	17:36
Men's Final	18:00	



IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Events
Tuks Rugby AGM
Franchise League.
October MVP
Gert-Andries vd
Merwe





2022 || Oct || 022

Happy Halloween

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022 TuksRugby AGM

You are cordially invited to the 2022 TuksRugby AGM

Date: Thursday 13 October

Time: 16:30-17:00

Venue: Moonshot (King Price Menlyn)



OTHER NEWS

TuksRugby Franchise League Champions

U20 Champions : Tuks Ekhaya

Senior Champions: OP Village



TuksRugby



TuksSport





OTHER NEWS

October MVP: Gert-Andries vd Merwe

AUTHOR: NINA EVANNA

Mr Gert-Andries van der Merwe is the Chairman of the TuksRugby Club. He assumed this role in 2019 after being part of the TuksRugby management setup since 2017.

Van der Merwe’s history at Tuks goes back to the early 2000’s when he was not just a TuksRugby player but also completed his law degree at the University of Pretoria. He was a formidable prop and his rugby career took him to Johannesburg where he played for the Lions and then eventually overseas for a couple of years as well. However, the Tuks Stripe flowed deep in his veins and he returned to TuksRugby in the late 2000’s.

When it came time to hang up his playing boots however, rugby was still a passion which could not be denied. Practicing as an attorney and lawyer in Pretoria, van der Merwe paired his legal skills with his love for rugby and went into the sports agency scene with some huge rugby names in his books. Amongst other things, van der Merwe is a talented business man as well.

Conrad Boshoff describes van der Merwe as one of his best friends. “Having someone like Gert-Andries as chairman of the club is great, he has been part of Tuks for 20 plus years and his work ethic and loyalty when it comes to his friends and clients, be it on field or off field is something to be admired.”



Mr Gert-Andries van der Merwe

2022 Sponsors



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.

