



Nicky Wenhold in action on the volleyball court. Photo: Reg Caldecott

## Tuks player's size not a handicap in SA volleyball

What to do when you are small of stature and have set your mind on being a competitive volleyball player?

The answer, according to Nicky Wenhold from Tuks Volleyball, who is currently captaining the Gauteng Thunderbolts women's team in the National Volleyball League, is simple. You learn to jump. The higher, the better.

It would seem as if the Gauteng team had a great start in the national league after they managed to beat the Kingdom Rhinos (KwaZulu-Natal) 3-1 last week.

It is exciting to Wenhold that women are for the first time getting the opportunity to play in the national league.

"For now, only four teams are playing, but it has been promised that from next year the number of teams will be increased," she explained.

Vanessa Sardinha-da Silva, Potlako Moloisane, Shani Klopper and Janke Meyer are the other Tuks players in the team.

According to Wenhold they are quite a balanced team, with the best from TUT and VUT also included.

She used to be an avid basketball player while studying at Tuks.

At first, she only played social volleyball. However, the more she got involved, the more intrigued she became about the game.

"It was the way we trained and prepared for games that got me passionate.

"People might not realise it, but there is quite a lot of strategy involved, which means as a team you got to know and trust your teammates," explained Wenhold, who is only 1.68m tall.

Compared to international standards, she is quite small for a volleyball player, but in a South African context, it is not a handicap.

Here it is all about skill and understanding the game.

"I mostly play on the right side as an attacker, which requires me to be able to jump often quite high. It is something I relish doing," Wenhold concluded.