



MATIES RUGBY

Maties Rugby News

March 2025



Varsity Cup 2025 – A Historic Chapter in a Storied Rivalry

This year's Varsity Cup campaign has delivered its share of memorable moments, but none more exciting than the intervarsity match between Maties and UCT. Played on Monday, 17 March, in front of a full Danie Craven Stadium, it marked the 128th meeting between the two sides – a fixture steeped in tradition and rivalry that dates all the way back to 1888.

Maties' long-standing rugby history has been shaped, in part, by this enduring fixture. Over the decades, these two institutions have tested one another across generations of students, alumni, and supporters. Of the 128 matches played, Maties has emerged victorious 90 times, with 15 matches ending in draws – a testament to the sustained level of excellence that Maties Rugby continues to strive for.

While the Varsity Cup format has changed the modern context of the rivalry, the spirit remains the same: deeply competitive, fiercely contested, and respectful of the legacy both teams carry onto the field. Matches like this are never just about the final score – they are about what the rivalry represents: tradition, responsibility, and belonging.

As we now turn our attention to the final stages of the competition, our focus has shifted from the celebration of one night to once again topping the log, and earning a Varsity Cup Men's Senior **home semi-final against FNB Shimlas on**

Monday, April 7 at 7pm! Our team needs you in the stands; to see your encouraging messages on social media; and to sense your cheers – even from those watching from afar on SuperSport.

Our Men's, Women's, and Young Guns teams have shown great commitment throughout the campaign. The road to the final, however, will demand even more, both physically and mentally. The Women's team has won all three of their matches and are also playing a **home semi-final against UJ this Friday, April 4 at 3pm.**

This season also marks the beginning of our Maties Rugby 150 celebrations – a year-long reflection on where we have come from, and where we are heading. The intervarsity match served as part of a fitting opening chapter, reminding us of the deep roots of the Maties Rugby community and the role this club continues to play in shaping student sport in South Africa.

With that in mind, your support – whether at the stadium or online – remains a vital part of the journey. Our teams feed off the energy from the stands and the messages that travel with them on the road. Show your support, wear your colours, and walk this path with us.

Drikus Hancke
Head of Maties Rugby



Junior Leotlela



CJ Marx



Ezekiel Ngobeni



Dylan Miller



Happy Birthday to us! From left: Drikus Hancke (Head of Maties Rugby), SU incoming Rector, Prof Deresh Ramjugernath, outgoing Rector, Prof Wim de Villiers, Prof Stan du Plessis (SU COO), Ilhaam Groenewald (Chief Director Maties: Sport), and Charl Cronje (Maties Rugby Chairperson).
Photos: Luigi Bennett/Varsity Cup

Meet our **Varsity Cup Teams**

Find out more about our feisty FNB Maties Rugby Women and FNB Young Guns

Rugby Women

[READ MORE](#)

Young Guns

[READ MORE](#)



SAVE THE DATE Varsity Cup Women Semi-finals

Friday April 4 at Danie Craven Stadium at 3pm

Varsity Cup Men Semi-finals

Monday April 7 at Danie Craven Stadium at 7pm
*live on SuperSport

Varsity Cup Finals Women's Finals - Friday, April 11.

Men's Finals -
Monday, April 14

Join the conversation

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MATIES RUGBY

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'n Erfenis wat inspireer

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