



**MATIES  
RUGBY**

# Maties Rugby News

June 2025



## A Season of **Highs, Lows,** and **Steady Commitment**

As we reach the mid-year point, it's a good moment to pause and reflect - on the moments worth celebrating and on the areas where we must do better. Maties Rugby remains committed to long-term excellence, and 2025 has offered no shortage of lessons, challenges, and progress across the board.

**Drikus Hancke**  
Head of Maties Rugby

### Varsity Cup Season: A Proud Milestone

We closed the Varsity Cup season with mixed results. Our Men's team fell short in the final against UCT - a hard result to accept, particularly given the effort invested across the campaign. That said, the commitment of the squad throughout was never in doubt, and there were moments of real character that will serve us well heading into the second half of the year.

The story of the campaign, however, belongs to our Women's team, who delivered an outstanding performance to be crowned Varsity Cup Champions. Their title win was well-earned and reflects the growth and momentum in our women's high-performance programme. It's a result we are proud of and one that speaks to the depth of talent developing within the club.

### A Successful Eventing Season

While on-field results were mixed, off the field, the Varsity Cup season was a major success. Across our six home games, we filled an average of 70% of the Danie Craven Stadium (3 full stadiums) —highlighting the enduring pull of university rugby in Stellenbosch. The newly-introduced vendor village and fan walk were well received, creating a festive and engaging match-day atmosphere that enhanced the spectator experience. And, of course, celebrating 150 years of Maties Rugby added further significance to the season, with strong community and alumni engagement.

### WP League: An Honest Assessment...

Since the end of the Varsity Cup, our results in the Western Province League have not met expectations. The senior 1st team has only managed one win from five - a performance that does not reflect the standards we set for ourselves. The U20s have shown moments of promise (three wins, one draw, one loss), but inconsistency remains a concern.

There are positives, however. Both our Victorians and Craven teams remain unbeaten, and the Markotter team, made up of committed ex-students, has returned to competition and impressed with five wins from six. These squads continue to build pressure for places and contribute to the wider health of the club.

### Focus on USSA

Attention now turns to the USSA tournament. It's an opportunity to reset, refocus, and compete with clear purpose. We know what we're capable of, and our preparations are already well underway.

To our alumni and supporters in Gauteng, we call on you to back the team at Tuks. Your presence is noticed - and valued. The USSA campaign will need every voice in our corner.

**READ MORE**

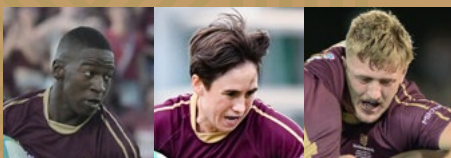
## 150 legacy year celebrations – the second half!

Check out our video celebrating Maties Rugby's rich history **Maties Rugby 150 Movie – Final Edit**. And if you haven't invested in your limited offer Maties Rugby 150 commemorative shirt yet, be sure to visit [www.oldschool.co.za](http://www.oldschool.co.za). If you need inspiration to own a bit of that maroon legacy then just watch this <https://www.facebook.com/reel-> and we dare you not to get all choked up with pride!

Coming up in the second half of 2025 is the build-up to our Homecoming Weekend and our Gala Dinner in September ... and plenty opportunities to cheer our players on the field. Check your WhatsApp group and the Maties Rugby Club Facebook page to make sure you aren't missing out – and keep a look out for our Legacy Story videos featuring some living legends you may know!



### Leading with **honour** before **pride**



Maties News sat down with 150 Legacy year Captains Liza Slabbert, Ezekiel Ngobeni and Carel van der Merwe to get their views on leading a team, lessons learned from Rugby, and what it means to play in maroon.

**READ MORE**

### Investing in **our** **champions**

Our 150 Legacy Bursary Fund drive is pushing ahead. Our target is R15-million and every contribution counts towards financing future star players through their studies at Stellenbosch University, and as high performance Maties Rugby players. For more information, contact **Hans Scriba** [hscriba@sun.ac.za](mailto:hscriba@sun.ac.za)

### SAVE THE DATES

#### USSA 15s (men & women)

30 June – 4 July – University of Pretoria (Tuks)

#### WP LEAGUE

18 June – vs Kuilsriver RFC (home)

30 July – vs UWC (home)

2 August – vs Hamilton-SP RFC (home)

6 August – vs Villager FC (home)

9 August – vs Helderberg RFC (home)

16 August – vs SK-Walmers RFC (away)

20 August – vs UCT (away)

#### CAMPUS RUGBY

25 July – Cup/Plate round-robin matches

1 August – Cup/Plate round-robin matches

8 August – Cup/Plate round-robin matches

15 August – Derby Day

22 August – Semi-finals

29 August – Finals

#### USSA 7s (men & women)

6 – 7 August at Coetzenburg

#### 150 CELEBRATIONS

11 September – Gala Dinner & Auction

12 September – Alumni Braai

13 September – Maties vs UCT exhibition match

### Join the conversation

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**MATIES  
RUGBY**

**150**  
1875 - 2025

A legacy that inspires  
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