



**MATIES
RUGBY**

Maties Rugby News

October 2025



A year of **Milestones**, **Memories** and **Momentum**

Maties Rugby is more than a club. It is a community, a family, and a legacy that inspires.

This year we celebrated 150 years of Maties Rugby. We are the second-oldest rugby club in the country, and our story is filled not only with legends who became household names, but also with the many **unsung heroes** who gave their all to build something greater than themselves. And so, we celebrate all players, coaches, volunteers, and partners.

This year, we made our 150-milestone visible: Varsity Cup home matches were built around our legacy; our events and digital campaigns reconnected alumni and students; and branding upgrades at Danie Craven and beyond reminded everyone of our proud history.

None of this would have been possible without Stellenbosch University. To our colleagues in the high-performance unit, facilities management, finance, marketing, communications, and events — thank you for your partnership and support.

To all the volunteers and alumni who helped with time, connections or supporting our teams we value you.

To our sponsors — **Mitchum, Adam Piper, Hi-Tec, Snapp, WebTickets, SAB, PenBev, Eikestad**, and others — your support is more than financial. You help us bring fans closer to the game and live out our legacy.

All the students, friends, family members and other Maties Rugby supporters your support in the stands make our teams aim higher and play harder.

And to our own **Maties Rugby staff**: a small, dedicated team that carries a heavy load, often behind the scenes, unseen but never unnoticed — gratitude!

We have so much to celebrate...

Drikus Hancke
Head of Maties Rugby

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Maties Rugby – **what we stand for...**

- **150 years of tradition** — largest club in the southern hemisphere.
- **Winning culture** — Varsity Cup and USSA titles, producing Springboks and Provincial players.
- **A talent pipeline** — from Campus Rugby to elite rugby.
- **Balance of sport and academics** — graduates who succeed on and off the field.
- **Transformation and inclusivity** — pioneering opportunities that broaden access.
- **Unmatched student rugby events** — Varsity Cup nights at Danie Craven are legendary; Campus League is a rite of passage.
- **Global reputation** — respected worldwide as a leader in university rugby.

Awards for **Maties Rugby excellence**

No hard deed goes unrewarded, and Maties Rugby made sure that our outstanding players got their dues at our **Annual Club Awards** nights this month. Players of the Year, League and Campus League winners – and special awards handed out by Club President Charl Cronje (here with MC van Heerden Smith) to those with 50 Maties caps. Huge thanks to our sponsors for making this possible.



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Gala Night **celebrations**

The Maties Rugby 150-year celebrations came to a dazzling climax this month with a Gala Dinner in aid of the Danie Craven Bursary Fund.

The Stellenbosch Town Hall was packed by over 300 Maties Rugby legends of old, Springboks and legends-in-the-making, who gathered to honour the club's illustrious past and to commit support for the evolving Maties Rugby Story – **A Legacy to Inspire**.

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Good Luck for exams!

We wish all our student-athletes well in the exams. We are as proud of your performance in the lecture halls as we are of your game play, and recognise the sacrifices you make to be both students and high-performance athletes. Our target is a 90% throughput, so make us and yourselves proud!

Legacy Stories out soon!

Stay tuned to our social media platforms! Soon to be released on Maties Sport YouTube channel are our 150 Legacy Stories – conversations with seven Maties Rugby Pioneers, Champions, Gamechangers and all-round icons.



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conversation**

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A legacy that inspires
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