



WITS BLITZ

Sports Edition

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VOLI #12

WITS SCORES IN SUCCESSFUL 1st YEAR FOR UNIVERSITY SPORTS CO.



Prof Tawana Kupe, DVC Finance, represented Wits at the USC AGM in late-June.

Ever wondered how all that exciting Varsity Sport comes to our playing fields and television screens? Top-level, televised student sports tournaments are the result of the establishment of the University Sports Company (USC). The USC was formed by member universities—currently 14 have signed up—and [Advent Sport Entertainment & Media](#) (ASEM) to develop and promote high-performance, tertiary-level sport competitions. It is inspired by the American college sports system. ASEM, founded by rugby legend Francois Pienaar, manages all the major Varsity Sports tournaments in a number of codes, including the Varsity Cup and Shield rugby competitions, and Varsity Football, Hockey, Athletics and Netball.

At its 2014 AGM attended by Wits' Prof Tawana Kupe (DVC Finance), CEO Flip van Zyl reported that in its first full year of operation the USC paid R1.4m in preparation fees and prize money to member universities, from profits of R9.4m. The USC and ASEM share profits on a 50-50 basis. The USC declared a dividend of R3m to be shared amongst its member institutions. An amount of R1.1m will go to establishing the company's reserves.

In 2015 Wits will be represented in the rugby Varsity Shield and men's as well as women's Varsity Hockey series. Several new code competitions—basketball and T20 cricket among them—are expected to come on line in the next two years. Player eligibility, a source of contention in recent years, appears to have been resolved. Varsity Sports used the USSA *bona fide* student definition in 2013, and for 2014 an age limit of u-25 and a 'no athlete/player movement rule' were introduced. Other highlights reported to the AGM include implementing a new ticketing and vending system in 2014, and securing a dedicated Varsity Sports channel—210, or SuperSport Select—on Dstv. Gauged by its latest social media status, Varsity Sports' appeal is significant: @VarsityCup and @VarsitySportSA have, between them, more than 27 000 followers.

HILTON COLLEGE VISITORS



A big shout out to the large contingent of learners and staff of Hilton College who visited Wits last Friday. We trust you enjoyed your visit and the welcome we laid on, folks, and that you found Wits to be a great place to learn and play. We hope to see many of you at sports registration next February.



TAKING BIG STEPS: A contingent of 120 Hilton College boys and teaching staff drove up the N3 in 4 buses to descend on the piazza in front of the Great Hall for this memorable pic!

2015 SPORTS BURSARY APPLICATIONS

The closing date for applications for Wits sports bursaries is 17h00 on Tuesday 30 September 2014, and not 31 January 2015 as previously advised. You'll find the form [here](#). Direct queries to bursary-academic support officer Kerry.Yates@wits.ac.za

Steinhoff Rugby: It's M & M and M & M !!!

All the "M's" will be in action in the semi-finals of the Steinhoff Wits Internal Rugby League at the Wits Rugby Stadium on Wednesday 3 September.

Steinhoff Masakhane face Steinhoff Men's Res in the first match, while Steinhoff Medics take on giant-killers Steinhoff Monash in the later game. The form book says Masakhane and Medics should prevail but in these once-off "winner takes all" games, unpredictability can be the order of the day, as was witnessed at this year's Varsity Cup final.

Fixtures & Times

A Field - 19h00 :
Steinhoff Masakhane vs
Steinhoff Men's Residence;
A Field - 20h30 :
Steinhoff Medics vs
Steinhoff Monash



Making Rugby Serious Fun

Raikes Memorial Rugby Day

The SupaRugby Facebook page reports that in the main game of Saturday's triple-fixture Raikes Memorial Rugby Day bill at the Wits Rugby Stadium, the SupaRugby Invitation XV beat Wits' 1st XV 33-26, a virtual replay of last year's fixture.

The Invitation sides points came from tries by Dumisani Matyeshana, Wikus van der Berg, Jaco Fourie, Johan de Waal, and Sheldon Williams. Shaun Davids kicked four conversions. For Wits, tries came from Brendon Groenewald, Kenneth du Plessis and Joshua Jarvis. The students were also awarded a penalty try. Greg Blom converted thrice. The 7-point margin was probably a true reflection of a game that was in the balance until Union's fullback Sheldon Williams skinned the Wits defence for the winning try.



HOLD YOUR TONGUE, YOUNG MAN: A flying Josh Jarvis about to score one of Wits' four tries against the Supa-Rugby Invitation XV.

In this see-saw battle, the Invitation side attacked from the outset and Dumisani Matyeshana was the first to dot down. Wits replied almost immediately through a Brendon Groenewald try. But it wasn't long before Brakpan's Wikus van den Berg was the recipient of the maul try (much like last year) and Shaun Davids, who only missed one kick, converted.

With regular changes to give all the reserves a run, Wits even briefly held the lead. When Johan de Waal and Josh Jarvis exchanged tries, the match was there for anyone to win. Unluckily for Wits, and to their supporters' dismay, it was their opponents who were able to turn on the magic when it mattered most. **Other Raikes results:** FNB Wits 2nd XV 10 Steinhoff UJ Barbarians 15; Wits Old Boys 6 Pirates Madalas 10 (1 point per try).
Al Leonard

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Wits Basketball's *Manyani Maseko* writes that the weekend of 8-10 Aug saw yet another amazing edition of the annual Wits Lady Bucks Basketball Tournament. Held at Hall 29, the women's tournament provided some nail-biting action that kept everyone thoroughly entertained. Thanks are due to the participating teams; to LLaLe & Co for sponsoring the trophies and medals; to Simon Modise, Papa Chris, Papa Kabi and WitsSport; and to the referees and table officials who volunteered their services.

The tournament is steadily gaining in popularity in SA and across our borders. As Wits Basketball, we look forward to continuously growing women's basketball (report and more pics can be found on the [Wits Basketball site](#)).



FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES: 2014 D1 winners, the Soweto Raptors, pose with their future basketball stars offspring.

OTENG MEMORIAL TABLE TENNIS

Terrence Mathole entered the annals of Wits table tennis history when he beat companion Chijioke Osuji to win the Oteng Memorial men's singles title at Wits' New Squash Centre on Saturday 23 August.

On the day, Mathole was just too good for Osuji, winning the final by 4 sets to 3, and consigning his opponent to a heart-breaking defeat.

Both players entered the final knowing they could become only the second man to add the title of The Oteng Memorial Open Champion to their accolades following in the footsteps of Luke Abrahams, who has



won the tournament since its inception in 2011, but was unable to compete due to prior commitments. Osuji gave himself hope when he came from 3 -1 down to level the match at 3-3, but Mathole showed his class to take the final 14-12 and seal the win. The sportsmanship showed by Chijioke at the end was a great credit to one of South Africa's favourite champions, as he will certainly have been hurting. After his victory Mathole said: "To win is always a great feeling and today is no exception. I want to continue winning...[to] take my game to the next level." (Tournament report & pics on the [WITC page](#).)
Hlumelo Rubushe

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Wits Volleyball's *Fahmida Shaikjee* reports that Wits' women's team won both their Gauteng Volleyball Union league games on Sat 23 Aug. The team played Quantum in their first game on Saturday and won 3 by sets to 1. In the second game—against log leaders Cigma—Wits recorded a 3-0 walkover as their opponents did not pitch for the game.

It is a particularly pleasing set of results because it boosts the side's chances of making the play-offs at the end of the current season.

The women's team was relegated to the first division at the beginning of the season after losing the relegation decider. A few games into the season, the team was moved back up to Premier status as other teams had not paid their fees or dropped out of the league. There are still 10 teams contesting Premier league.

Thus far the ladies have lost 2 games in the league: against VUT and SKD.

Fahmida says she believes the team is well on its way to ending the season on a high note. If their current form continues, Wits have a chance this weekend to end in the top 4 of the Premier league, something that has not been achieved previously.



The 2014 Wits women's volleyball team that's bidding for a top-four finish in the Gvu league this season.

WITS INTERNAL NETBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS AFTER ROUND 5

TEAM	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1 Medics	5	5	0	0	162	15
2 Noswal	4	4	0	0	66	12
3 Medhurst	5	4	0	1	31	12
4 Reith	5	3	1	1	41	10
5 Junction	5	2	1	2	22	7
6 Esselen	5	2	0	3	-1	6
7 Barnato	4	1	0	3	-15	3
8 Jubilee	5	2	0	3	-30	6
9 Sunnyside	5	2	0	3	-35	6
10 Braam Ctr	5	1	0	4	-86	3
11 Girton	5	1	0	4	-105	3
12 D Webster	5	0	0	5	-52	0

HERE OR ABROAD, WITS ORIENTEERS ALWAYS FIND THE WAY HOME

World Orienteering Championships - Italy

In July, **Sarah Pope** and **Michael Crone** represented SA at the World Orienteering Championships in Italy. Their first race, the sprint qualification, was on Burano island, near Venice. Unfortunately, no South Africans qualified for the final held that afternoon. A few days later Sarah and Michael were part of the SA sprint relay team—made up of 2 men and 2 women—which raced around the town of Trento. The atmosphere was incredible and the team had a decent performance. Sarah ran the last leg but got caught in a huge downpour. Michael spent the rest of the week preparing for the forest relay, while Sarah took part in the spectator races and cheered on the South Africans taking part in the middle and long distance races. Michael had a good run in the forest relay with the team finishing 32nd. Sarah was pleased with her performances at her first Senior World Champs but, as expected, noticed the huge jump in the level of competition from the Junior World Champs.

Mohale's East bushveld event - 3 Aug

Over 90 competitors took part in this Gauteng Bushveld event hosted by the club in the Mohale's East area in Krugersdorp on the West Rand.



First-time course planner **Sarah Roffe** took up the challenge and produced 5 great courses in the hilly, rocky terrain. Participants reported seeing giraffe, wildebeest, kudu and many other animals while running and walking through the area. Of the 10 Witsies who took part, Stephanie Courtneage top-performed, winning the 6km course. The Witsoc received many compliments from other clubs for putting on a well-organised, enjoyable event.

Sarah Roffe

GAUTENG UNIV BASKETBALL LEAGUE (GUBL) STANDINGS—end-Aug

Pos	TEAMS	P	W	L	F	GF	GA
1	Wits Lady Bucks	6	6	0	0	482	128
2	VUT	4	4	0	0	240	73
3	UJ Galaxy	4	3	1	0	143	101
4	Wits Buck Ladies	5	2	3	0	131	280
5	UP-Tuks	4	1	3	0	167	202
6	NWU-Vaal	4	1	3	0	89	197
7	MSA Queens	4	1	1	2	68	129
8	MGI	3	0	2	1	50	206
9	VC	3	0	1	2	16	100
00	TUT-Pretoria	0	0	0	0	00	00

Wits teams' standings in Gauteng Squash League—end-Aug

TEAMS	Pts	P	W	L	Pos /10
1st league	65	13	60	137	9th
2nd league	76	11	67	104	8th
3rd league	193	18	157	127	3rd
5th league	126	14	105	109	3rd
6th league	68	10	62	93	9th
7th league	77	14	72	136	10th
8th league	151	14	120	91	3rd
9th league	72	11	59	103	7th
WOMEN	20	12	20	132	9th

UGFL Men's Football standings—end-Aug

Pos	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts	
1	VUT Vdb/park	9	6	2	1	15	4	11	20
2	UP Tuks	8	5	2	1	16	7	9	17
3	TUT Pretoria	8	5	2	1	12	4	8	17
4	Wits	8	4	3	1	14	8	6	15
5	NWU - Vaal	8	4	2	2	8	3	5	14
6	UJ	8	3	1	4	11	8	3	10
7	TUT - 1	6	1	1	4	7	15	-8	4
8	Medunsa	6	1	1	4	2	11	-9	4
9	Midrand Grad Inst	8	1	1	6	5	17	-12	4
10	Monash SA	7	0	1	6	3	16	-13	1



The SA men's student football team at the recent CUCSA games in Zambia. Wits' **Rapetse Molete** (5th left top row) and **Mahle Ntabane** (on his haunches between the goalkeepers) both featured in the final against Namibia.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES & EVENTS

SPORT	DATE	EVENT	VENUE
SQUASH Gauteng Squash League	Tue 2 Sept	Men's 1st Parkview vs Wits Men's 2nd Wits vs Jeppe Quondam Men's 3rd Wits vs Randburg Men's 5th Bryanston vs Wits Men's 6th Wits vs Chamber Exiles	Parkview Wits Bryanston Bryanston
	Wed 3 Sept	Men's 7th Parkview vs Wits Men's 8th Wits vs Bryanston Men's 9th Wits vs Chamber Exiles	Wits Parkview Wits Wits
FOOTBALL UGFL	Tue 9 Sept	Women Wits vs UL Medunsa 18h00 Men Wits vs UL Medunsa 20h00	Wits Rugby Stadium
RUNNING Annual Lenn Smith Race	Thur 11 Sept Reg from 11h45	4km fun run/walk around campus for all Witsie staff & PG students. Walkers welcome. Prizes for top individuals, teams & department with the most entrants. Free refreshments after the race. Bring your own water. View details of previous events here . Enquiries to Mark.Dowdeswell@wits.ac.za	starting from the cricket field at the Bozz Pavilion
CRICKET	Mon 15 & Tue 16 Sept, from 18h00	Internal League	Walter Milton A
BASKETBALL GUBL	Sun 7 Sept 16h00	Wits Buck Ladies (2nd team) vs UP-Tuks—confirm fixture with simon.mouise@wits.ac.za	Hall 29 West Campus

Standings as at end-August : MEN Division One

	P	W	L	GF	GA	Pts
1 Wits Horny Bucks	8	7	1	579	371	15
2 Vaal Univ of Tech	6	6	0	408	233	12
3 UJ Orange Wave	7	5	2	460	313	12
4 Boston CC Giants	6	5	1	477	321	11
5 UP-Tuks	7	3	4	442	394	10
6 TUT-Pretoria	7	3	4	254	399	10
7 NWU-Vaal	5	3	2	253	293	08
8 Midrand Grad Inst	5	2	3	203	283	07
9 NWU-Pukke	7	0	4	219	339	04
10 TUT-Soshanguve	4	0	4	154	359	04
11 Varsity C Wild Dogz	5	1	2	114	155	03
12 Monash SA Kings	5	0	3	133	236	03

Early-season cricket

Wits featured in the Global Softech 6's tournament played a fortnight ago at SuperSport Park in Pretoria. The tournament included top Titans union club Irene CC, and the UJ, TUKS, TUT, UNW and Wits universities' sides. The tournament format is exciting, based as it is on the renowned Hong Kong 6-a-side series. It was something new for the Wits boys, as they struggled to come to terms with the format and the tactics of the game. In their 3 games, against Irene, UJ and TUT, Wits could unfortunately not pull off a win. The game against Irene went down to the wire, won by the opponents' with the last ball of the match. Wits was unfortunately beaten comprehensively by UJ and TUT in the next two matches, knocking the WCC out of contention for a play-off spot. It was nevertheless a great warm-up series for the season and although the results did not go Wits' way, valuable middle practice in the middle was obtained and the players experienced perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play at this prestigious test venue.



Neil Levenson, coach