

# Maties go Wild at Nationals

LEMUEL BLIGNAUT

The Pietermaritzburg Long Donkeys Ultimate Frisbee team and Lions River Polo club played hosts to the seventh annual National Ultimate Frisbee tournament over the weekend of 5 October.

The tournament saw a variety of men's and women's teams vie for the title. The seven women's teams played a series of round robin matches, with the two top ranked teams heading to the final, while the third and fourth ranked teams faced each other in the play-off for bronze.

During the season, Mondays are match days, and all the Ultimate players can be seen across the Stellenbosch University campus in their club kit, practicing their sport.

"Ultimate isn't very well known across campus, we would like to grow quite a bit," Maties Ultimate Frisbee secretary, Natalie Austin, says.

Maties didn't send a full women's team to the National Ultimate Frisbee tournament, but several Maties players went as members

of Wild, the Western Cape women's team.

"Wild was made for the people that wanted to go to nationals, ladies that didn't have a team and were keen to play on a national level. So we formed our own team," Austin says.

Wild remained unbeaten throughout the weekend, shrugging off the University of Cape Town (UCT) women's, team Bengals, 15-3 in the finals on Sunday, after emerging top of the log after the round robin matches.

The men played a more conventional pool-based tournament, with the top teams proceeding to the knockout stages. Marco Dewey, chairman of Maties Ultimate Frisbee, says the men's team was a sort of collaboration between Maties and UCT.

"We did send a men's team, although we ended up picking up some of the UCT players as they didn't send a team, so it was kind of a combined effort from Maties and UCT."

The men placed fourth overall.

"It is very successful for us, we had never come above ninth at Nationals before," Dewey said.



WILD WITH JOY The Western Cape women's team. Photo: Grant Evans



HIGH FIVE Chantelle Swart en Khomotso Mamburu gedurende die Varsity netbal finaal. Foto: Christiaan Kotze

## Netbal-beker bly in die noorde

ANNERINE SNYMAN

MATIES Netbal het Maandagaand, in die Varsity Netbal-finaal in Pretoria, 'n enorme poging teen die Universiteit van Pretoria (Tuks) aangewend en net-net nie die beker saam met hulle huis toe gebring nie.

Dit was behoorlik 'n noord-suid-stryd met Maties wat gepoog het om hulle oorwinningsgetal teen Tuks op te stoot. Maties het nog net een keer van tevore teen Tuks in hierdie toernooi gewen en dit was in 2015 se halfeindronde.

Hoewel die spel heen en weer was soos beide spanne links en regs balle onderskep het, het Maties gesorg dat hulle op Tuks se hakskene bly. Maties het in die uit-speelrondes 53-46 teen Tuks, wat die toernooi onoorwonne afgesluit het, verloor.

Die wedstryd was deurgaans gelykop, met Maties wat halftyd 35-34 voorgeloop het.

Die wending het egter in die laaste twee minute plaasgevind

toe Tuks dit vermag het om die balle een vir een deur die net te kry om die beker met 'n eindtelling van 48-43 te gryp.

Zanele Mdoana, Maties-afrigter, het na afloop van die wedstryd gesê hoe ongelooflik trots sy op haar spelers is.

"Hulle het hier uitgekóm, teen die skare, teen almal en hulle het opgestaan en opgedaag en 'n goeie stryd gegee en dit is waaroor ons span gaan," sê sy.

Volgens Mdoana kan die span trots oor hulle vertoning voel, want "hulle het alles gegee wat hulle gehad het".

Mdoana het melding gemaak van "kritiese beslissings" deur die skeidsregters wat die wedstryd se spanning laat bou het en die wedstryd naelskraap gemaak het.

"Ek gee dit vir Tuks. Hulle het op die baan gegaan en geveg," sê sy.

Mdoana het haar senior-spelers, waarvan onder andere Jo Prins en Sasha-Lee Petersen (wat al vir ses seisoene deel van die Mat-

ies-span is) deel is, geprys vir hulle "fenominale" spel.

"Ja, hulle sou daarvan hou om die goud om hul nekke te dra en die trofee vas te hou, maar ek is steeds trots dat hulle vandag opgedaag het en die oomblik ingeneem het. Hulle kan baie trots op hulleself wees."

Khomotso Mamburu, Maties se hulpdoelverdediger, is as die speler van die wedstryd gekroon. Sy was ook deel van verlede jaar se Kowsies-span wat die goud gewen het.

"Dit is nogal hartseer [om te verloor], maar dit is deel van netbal. Jy gaan elke wedstryd in met die moontlikheid om te wen of verloor," sê sy.

Mamburu verduidelik dat sy elke oomblik van haar laaste seisoen by Maties geniet het en dat sy baie dankbaar vir die geleentheid is.

Maties speel volgende jaar weer netbal en sal intussen met hulle voorseisoen-voorbereiding besig wees.

## A deep dive into the Maties Underwater Club

KIRSTY BUCHOLZ

MOST humans would probably prefer having their feet firmly planted on the ground. There are, however, a group of Maties who thoroughly enjoy the dark depths of the ocean.

Maties Underwater is Stellenbosch University's official Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) five-star Instructor Development Course (IDC) club.

In layman's terms, this means that Maties Underwater offers a full range of scuba diving education programs, equipment selection and experience opportunities, and the whole thing is run by students.

They scuba dive, free dive, do spearfishing, and have professionals who train students in these areas.

The club's PADI accreditation ensures that their courses are of a standard, and their courses are



TAKING A BREAK Club members exploring their second home. Photo: Maties Underwater Facebook

affordable for someone looking to get into scuba diving on a student budget.

The club has intermittent events

such as Women's Day dives and informational talks.

Their main events are the regular courses being run, training

sessions and frequent ocean dives.

Die Matie spoke with one of the club's committee members who described their favourite spots.

"Simon's Town is a great area for students to dive since there are many dive sites with shore entries. We also dive quite a few wrecks and 'caves'. We're a big fan of the Smitswinkle wrecks and A-frame dive site," said the committee member.

Meeting wise, their committee has frequently scheduled meetings while the rest of the club flows on a more ad hoc basis. Meaning that people are able to come and rent gear with other members and head to the ocean or join in on any spontaneous club dives.

The club aims to have two club dives a week but these have limited spaces to ensure that all members are safe.

Safety is important to the club and they follow prudent diving practices. The committee member also spoke of the clubs more

informal events, "[We] also host braai's seeing as the club has such a great social atmosphere too. It's a really great way to wind down and get some nature time in too."

Enya Munting joined the club in her first year with the intention of becoming a divemaster. Three years later, she is an instructor at the club and describes how being part of the club allowed her to meet new people and try new things that she never thought she would try.

"I went spearfishing this year and it was amazing, I had the most fun. It was never a sport I thought I'd try, it was always scuba diving for me. Freediving and spearfishing have become a lot more interesting to me. It's really diversified my interests, and I've seen things I wouldn't have seen. I've learnt about a whole culture."

Anyone wanting to know more about the Maties Underwater can check them out on Instagram or Facebook (@matiesunderwater).