

OP Rugby and Netball teams excel in superb fashion

By CvB

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Alan Louw, captain and 8th Man of OP's 1st rugby team prepares to kick for goal in Tuesday's final (Pic: Prof Gerry Swan)

The Faculty of Veterinary Science's rugby and netball teams this year experienced a remarkable season. Not only did the 1st rugby team play in the final of the Winter House League for the first time in the Onderstepoort campus' history, but the 1st and 2nd Netball teams ended second and third in the A- and B-division of the Intramural League, respectively.

In a nail-biter final on 8 September, OP played to a 17-17 draw against Maroela after the game went into extra time. Four minutes before the end of the second period of extra time, OP went ahead through a penalty to make the score 17-14. The score was again level after Maroela also kicked a penalty in the dying moments of the game. However, as a result of a somewhat controversial rule, Maroela was declared the winners because they scored the first try in the game. The two teams scored a try apiece. OP's rugby team was also the only unbeaten team in the Top 8 of the House League.

In the TuksNetball Intramural League, OP's 1st team played in the final against Curlitzia and lost 14-17 and thus ended second in the league while the 2nd team beat Katjiespiering with 12-6. They were placed third in the B-division league. OP also received the Spirit Trophy at the prize giving ceremony on 8 September. From April to September 39 teams from 24 different houses participated in the league of which 20 teams played in the A division and 19 in the B division. Teams played in a round robin format against all the other teams in their division. The teams then played for the final positions.

According to the Dean of the Faculty, Prof Gerry Swan, the respective teams have made the Faculty proud with their achievements. "It was a very successful season for them and we congratulate them for their dedication, hard work and discipline. Seeing that the 2008/2009 OPVSC committee was also awarded the Faculty House of the Year award by the Student Representative Council of the University, this was a very successful year for our students", he said.

Below: The 1st Netball team in action on Tuesday evening

