

TuaksRugby : UP-Tuaks 1 almost there

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UP-Tuaks 1 is within breathing space of retaining the Lucas Strachan Shield, the silver ware at stake in the Carlton Cup first round.

UP-Tuaks scored their fifth consecutive win on Friday, 27 May when they outplayed 2010 Carlton Cup runner-up Police.

UP-Tuaks 1 scored five tries to two in their 35-14 win, thus claiming its fifth bonus point win. UP-Tuaks 1 is now the only unbeaten side in the first round, topping the log with 25 points.

Only Harlequins, with 15 points after four matches, have a change to still spoil the UP-Tuaks 1 celebrations as they can also finish the first round on 25.

For this to happen Quins will have to take full points from their remaining two matches (against TUT and Police) — and also hope that UP-Tuaks 1 loses to TUT (on 25 June) without getting a bonus point. And the chance for all this going Quins' way, is very slim.

The UP-Tuaks 1 win against Police is significant in the sense that much was said before the match of how Bobbies would win the collisions. In the end it was the UP-Tuaks pack that had the upper hand and particularly impressed with very clinical play in the set scrums.

There were numerous players who caught the eye. Up front prop Jean Rossouw was a pillar in the set scrums and won his battle with the seasoned Barabas Koen hands down, Franco (Sous) Mostert showed his class in the line-outs and kick-offs, whilst Warwick Tecklenburg had another storming performance at flank.

In the backline wing Hendrik Hoogenboezem made a dream UP-Tuaks 1 debut, whilst outside centre Donovan Marais destroyed Police's midfield defences with excellent play on the attack. He scored three of UP-Tuaks 1's five tries.

UP-Tuaks 1's other tries were scored by No 8 Wesley Kotze and lock forward Nqubeko Zulu. Wesley Dunlop (fly half) and Jurgens Visser (fullback) each added five points with a conversion and penalty goal.

♦ Tuks-Fezelas and Tuks Jongspan also had a field against Police. Fezelas won 52-7 and Jongspan 59-6. Bobbies' only win against UP was in the third league where the Tuks Pumas lost 10-15 to their Police counterparts.

Tuaks o.21A team just missed out on a century in their match against Naka Bulle, winning 98-12.

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