



**BIG WAVE RIDER**

Observatory surfer, Ishmael Grant (pictured) took second place in the inaugural Reef/Science Biggest Wave Contest, following hot on the heels of the winner, James Moolenschot, 29, of Constantia. Peter Lambert, 29, from Bergvliet came in third place. The contest, which officially closed on Friday March 7 was run over nine months from June last year. To take part in the competition you had to be a South African citizen, the wave ridden had to be within the boundaries of South Africa, it was a paddle-on only contest, meaning that neither boats nor jet ski's could be used to tow riders onto the waves, and the rides had to be captured on film and submitted into the contest as proof.

# Ikeys upbeat ahead of Varsity Cup final

DAVID SKIPPERS

Although the Western Province club rugby competition starts this weekend, UCT's senior team will have another competition on their minds.

The Ikeys' campaign in WP's Super League A competition was scheduled to kick-off with an away match against Helderberg, on Saturday, but because they will be playing in the final of the Varsity Cup competition against old rivals, Stellenbosch University, on Monday April 7, that match has been postponed.

UCT coach John Dobson said there was lots of interest on the university's campus, in his team's fortunes. "Everybody is excited about the final of the Varsity Cup. There were more than 7 000 spectators in attendance when we won our semi-final against Potchefstroom University, at UCT.

It's unbelievable that so many spectators attended a Monday afternoon match. However, we appreciate all the support and will do our best to come back with the cup," he said.

On the down side for the Ikeys is the fact that they were forced to give up their home ground advantage for the final. "Because we finished on top of the log, the final was supposed to be played at our Groote Schuur venue.

However because our floodlights are inadequate and because the match will be broadcast live on television, the venue was changed to the Danie Craven stadium in Stellenbosch."

Dobson said the Western Province Rugby Football Union made Newlands rugby stadium available

to them but the organisers of Varsity Cup decided against it as they wanted the final to be played at a university venue.

"We're fine with that decision as the Maties' home ground is quite big which suits our adventurous style of play. Although we'll be playing away I'm certain there will be lots of buses filled with students making their way to Stellenbosch on Monday."

Dobson's charges have been the surprise package in this year's Varsity Cup competition. After losing their opening match of the tournament (17-23 to Potchefstroom University) they have won seven successive matches in the competition.

A feature of their play is the way they've launched comebacks to win matches, especially after trailing opponents by huge scores. In their match against the University of Johannesburg

they ran out 32-31 winners after trailing 24-3 at one stage and in Monday's semi-final against Potchefstroom they came back from a 31-10 deficit to win 32-31.

Dobson said there were numerous factors which contributed to his team's recent success.

"UCT have traditionally been a team that enjoys running rugby and the introduction of the new laws in the game has suited us. We're also lucky that we had a great crop of under-20 players in 2007. Many of them have now graduated to the senior team and are really doing well there."

He said although his side has been in fine form they realise that facing the Maties will not be easy. "In my opinion no Ikeys side ever starts as favourites against the Maties. Although we beat them during the group stages of the competition (38-32)

they will be just as determined as we are to pull off a win. In Sarel Potgieter (centre) and Thurlo Petersen (fullback) they have two dangerous gamebreakers in their backline and up front Bennie Booysen (no 8) is a seasoned campaigner. If we can neutralise those players our task will be a little easier."

Dobson said despite the Maties' dangers the Ikeys also possessed players who could swing the match in their favour.

"In Matthew Turner (leftwing) and Marcello Sampson (rightwing) we have the two top try scorers in the competition. They are always looking for scoring opportunities. Up front Martin Miller (lock) and Herbert Mayosi (tighthead prop) have also done sterling work and will give their all to secure a win for us."

Monday's final starts at 6.45pm and will be broadcast live on Supersport.

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