

# Unam, United in thrilling draw

## • HELGE SCHULTZ

UNAM and United played to a thrilling 28-28 draw in their top of the log Rugby Premier League clash on Saturday.

In a tight match, the lead changed hands throughout the match but Unam seemed to have clinched the game after building up a 28-18 lead with 10 minutes to go.

United however struck back with a converted try and a last minute penalty by Wimar Rust, to force a share of the spoils.

Unam outscored United by three tries to one, but the reliable Rust was once again the difference, adding 23 points with a great kicking display.

Rust and Unam fly half Henrique Olivier traded early penalties before Unam right wing Louis Tayala went over for a try after a fine break by centre Lesley Klim.

Indiscipline however cost Unam as they regularly conceded penalties and Rust landed four in a row to give United a 12-10 lead early in the second half.

Unam struck back with a try by substitute Sunday Hailambu when he barged over from a 10-metre penalty but Rust drew United level with another penalty.

Rust and Olivier traded penalties to take the score to 18-18, and with 13 minutes to go an Olivier penalty put Unam 21-18 ahead.

Unam flanker Kamie Mizeze

scored a great try when he ran 40 metres to touch down and with Olivier adding the conversion they were leading 28-18.

United however made a fine comeback and substitute Martin Cronje went over for a converted try in the final stages.

With a minute remaining United won another penalty and Rust put over a great kick from the touchline to tie the match.

It was a fine performance by both sides, which showed that they will be strong contenders for the title

this year. Unam's pack once again excelled in the tight phases, as they dominated the scrums, while Hantia Veit, Mahepisa Tjerko and Kamie Mizeze all put in some storming runs.

Among the backs, centre Lesley Klim was Unam's standout player, breaking the line on numerous occasions, while fullback Donovan Kandjiti showed a fine turn of speed in the second half that nearly led to a try.

For United, Stefan Neumeister and Juandre Lamprecht did well

in the line-outs and the tight exchanges, while Tuna Amuteya impressed with his speed.

The result sees the defending champions United moving to the top of the log for the first time this season. They are on 16 points from four matches, while Unam move down to second position on 15 points from five matches.

In other Premier League matches on Saturday, Wanderers beat Reho Falcon 22-15 at the Wanderers field, while Kudus beat Western Suburbs 23-17 in Walvis Bay.

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