



Brutal rugby... Last weekend's national rugby premier league match between hosts UNAM and title rivals Wanderers was a real humdinger, as both teams went for broke. Unam won 39-35.

Photo: Hesron Kapanga/Nampa

Clever Boys outclass White Stallions

■ Hesron Kapanga

WINDHOEK – Reigning Namibian rugby champions UNAM Rugby Club continued their dominance in domestic club rugby when they defeated a stubborn Wanderers 39-35 to finish atop of the premier league log table ahead of the soon to be staged semi-finals.

The undisputed Namibian champions UNAM have won the coveted league title for the last three years in succession and came from behind to send their bitter rivals packing. Wanderers were the first team this year to inflict a defeat on Johan Diergaardt's smooth sailing students – halting their three-year unbeaten streak in the process.

The university team signaled their intention to retain their trophy after a dominant display on Saturday and will now have to beat United in the semi-finals on Saturday for a place in the final to be contested in August. Despite their narrow defeat, the

Pioneers Park-based Wanderers also book a spot in the semi-finals, where they will come up against old foes Khomasdal-outfit Western Suburbs.

The Tunschell Street outfit failed to record a victory against the youthful Suburbs side in their last two clashes this season.

Seeing off Wanderers on Saturday UNAM visited the whitewash on less than five occasions to Wanderers' four.

Denver Murorua's educated boot added 14 points via four conversions and two penalties while Bradley Klazen, Obert Nortje, Rheinhardt Carelse, Helarius Kisting and Donovan Kandjii scored a try apiece.

For Wanderers, Janry du Toit touched down twice while with Botha and Adriaan Booysen adding to the tally from one try each while Rudie Pretorius goaled a pair of conversions and penalties.

In Rehoboth, hosts Rehoboth welcomed Western Suburbs but it was the visitors that came out tops. The determined Suburbs side beat the home team by 33 points to 19.

With the league's all 14 matches completed, UNAM finished top of the table with 57 points, tailed by Suburbs on 44 points, with Wanderers further adrift in 3rd spot on 43 points and United 4th with 40 points.

Narraville outfit Kudu missed out on the semi-finals play-off after finishing the season in a disappointing 5th spot with 37 points followed by Rehoboth (20) with winless Reho Falcon finishing with the wooden spoon.

A delighted UNAM coach Johan Diergaardt said he was happy with his team's performance throughout the season though he admitted that this season the league was tougher than before.

"The semi-finals are slated for next week and I'm quite positive we still have the squad that can win us those games, even if we lose some players to the national team camp.

"This season was really tough compared to the past two, where we won the league hands down without losing a game," said Diergaardt.

– Nampa