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## MAGAZINE

BISHOPS INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS RUGBY FESTIVAL 2016 SPECIAL EDITION

# 19

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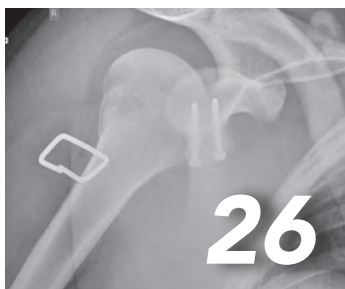


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# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



**"Rugby football has probably done more to create and foster links between schools than any other activity."**

**"...played in the right spirit, and with the right attitude, it is a joy to watch."**

BY GUY PEARSON



*Many believe that rugby was born in 1823 when William Webb Ellis 'with fine disregard for the rules of football as played in his time at Rugby School, first took the ball in his arms and ran with it, thus originating the distinctive feature of*

*the Rugby Game'. Origins of Rugby*

Despite the fact that this was unsubstantiated, there is no doubt that the way the game has been played at Bishops is to 'run the ball'.

Rugby football has probably done more to create and foster links between schools than any other activity. It has conversely led to more misunderstanding and bitterness between schools than any other activity. In its purest form it is a great game and part of our national heritage, but by its very nature it brings out the best and worst in man.

Rugby is very much part of our Bishops heritage; the earliest games at schoolboy level were played here.

Rugby is a game which has so much to commend it; for boys a wonderful opportunity to expend their energies and be involved in a team sport where great camaraderie is enjoyed and memories are made. It is also one of the few sports that cater for boys of all shapes and sizes! When it is played in the right spirit, and with the right attitude, it is a joy to watch. Unfortunately, various factors are undermining the game and the way it should be played. Among these are the over-competitiveness of schools, with the emphasis on national rankings, buying of players and a win-at-all-costs mentality.

We need to be reminded that at Bishops we see rugby, and indeed all sport, as part of the overall education of our boys. We need to also strive to continue to play the beautiful Bishops brand of rugby which is so admired by friend and foe alike. In order to do this, we need to ensure that our boys are well coached, well prepared, play with skill and intelligence and, most importantly, enjoy the game.

I would like to thank the Bishops community for their tremendous support in helping us achieve our objectives. This is a special year as we host the Independent Schools Rugby Festival in July, a wonderful opportunity for the Bishops community to get involved and to enjoy schoolboy rugby at its best.





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# COACHES DOWN THE YEARS

BY PAUL DOBSON

### 15 WISE MEN – BISHOPS COACHES DOWN THE YEARS

A coach is essentially a teacher – passing on information, skill and attitude for the improvement of others.

Renowned rugby historian Paul Dobson looks back at the wise men who have coached the Bishops 1st XV over the years.

Some coaches are trained to teach and very often do better in getting across a concept, idea, skill or way of playing and behaving to those they coach better because of their training. Which is why many of the best rugby coaches are trained to teach. The first Springbok coach, Danie Craven, was a teacher and the recently appointed Springbok coach, Allister Coetzee, is a teacher.

Down the years boys at Bishops have enjoyed great coaches, four of whom had the effect of changing and improving Bishops rugby – George Ogilvie, HH Castens, Piley Rees and Basil Bey.

George Ogilvie was not always like the traditional portrait of him – the old man with a bushy beard, looking like Moses' older brother. When he took over Bishops in 1861 he was 34, a remarkably vigorous 34, no longer the sickly young man from Winchester College and Wadham College Oxford who went to Buenos Aires because of his ill-health. In 1858, aged 31, he became the principal of St George's Grammar School next to the cathedral in Cape Town, and it became a flourishing school. At the time Bishops was a problem school amid the pine forests of Woodlands with pupils – all 17 of them – running wild. Bishop Gray moved Ogilvie from St George's to become the principal of Bishops. That year the numbers at Bishops rose to 59, 46 of them boarders. In later years Piley Rees used to compare the start of a rugby season to the lancing of a boil, such was its healing effect on the school.

Having grown up in English public school tradition, Ogilvie got his boys playing 'football'. Football was a generic name for various goal-orientated games that dated back to ancient times in Greece, the Roman Empire, China and Japan, Britain and doubtlessly other places. Each place would have its own game, mostly suited to the space it had available. The game Ogilvie brought to Bishops was his version of the Winchester

Game, nicknamed Winkies. The game that Bishops started playing was referred to as the Winchester Game or Gog's Game, from Ogilvie's nickname, taken from his signature.

Canon George Ogilvie a coach? Indeed, for he developed in the boys the knowledge, skills and sporting attitude that the game required. He himself stopped playing in 1880, when he was 54. At one stage he played for the 2nd XV. In fact he was a better cricketer – a lob bowler in the terms of the day; a spinner nowadays – and the first chairman of Western Province Cricket Club. From his game on a piece of ground at Bishops, the country developed its prowess at and passion for football, now rugby football.

The man who gave rugby football its impetus at Bishops was Herbert Hayton Castens, nicknamed Fatty. He was the son of an Eastern Cape shopkeeper and educated at Rugby School in Warwickshire. In 1891 he had a remarkable season that will never be replicated. There was a three-Test series against a touring team made up of players from England and Scotland. Castens captained South Africa in the first Test and refereed the third Test.

He was a Villager man and, being an Old Rugbysman, he did much to help the change from Gog's Game to the Rugby game. Percy Jones, who played rugby and cricket for South Africa, called Castens 'the best coach ever'. Barry Heatlie, still the youngest forward ever to play for South Africa, called Castens 'a wonderful coach', who stressed the importance of playing as a team.

Also in those early days, Bishops was coached by two great international players, Fairy Heatlie and Biddy Anderson.

The first staff member to coach the 1st XV – and also play for it – was Basil Shard in the early 20th century. Then came Barty Sutton and then Piley Rees, whose name is enshrined in the first team field.

In 1922 David Watkins Rees, aged 25, born in East London, son of the city's mayor, matriculated at Selborne at the age of 13, and as a UCT graduate, came to teach at Bishops after lecturing in physics at UCT. He had been involved in the administration of rugby at UCT and started coaching Bishops. He coached the 1st XV till



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# BISHOPS RUGBY



1962 with a break from 1955 to 1960. He was a precise, deliberate man who lay the foundation for the running game with which Bishops became synonymous. The cry often went up from Bishops supporters – ‘To your wings, Bishops, to your wings.’ – and players like Hilary Squires and Boetie Versfeld became heroes. Woe betide anybody who kicked away good ball!

Springbok fly half Dennis Fry said of Rees: ‘Those of us who passed through his hands owe Piley Rees a huge debt for the foundations he laid for the open game – words like, fun, enjoyment, sportsmanship, all spring to mind – and the encouragement he gave to all. His organisation of the whole rugby scene was outstanding; everything was perfect. A wonderful person in every way.’

Every time the first team lined up to run onto the field, Rees gave them his last instructions: ‘Play rugby, chaps.’ The 1955-60 hiatus was interesting. Rees passed on the

coaching of the 1st XV to Denis Hunt, an Old Harrovian who had come to Bishops in 1949. In 1960 Hunt went on overseas leave for a term and when he came back he found Rees back coaching the 1st XV, himself dropped without a word. Hunt, bless him, had great affection for Rees, believing that he (Hunt) lacked the ‘necessary expertise’ to coach the 1st XV.

After Rees, Doug Thomson, who had joined the Bishops staff from Wynberg and was an enthusiastic English teacher and coach of cricket and rugby, ran rugby with great dedication from 1962 to 1967. Thomson did not hesitate to use others to help with the coaching. Mike Fisher became his backline coach and he also got in Graham Stephens, Bobby Johns, Dave Stewart, Lionel Wilson and Doug Hopwood to add their knowledge to the team. It was a problem time for Bishops rugby as other schools grew in numbers and Bishops stayed at under 400. Bishops beat Rondebosch 3-0 in 1962. The next time they won was in the second match in 1973.



In 1968 Alan Douglas, whom Peter Whipp called the passionate coach, followed Thomson as head of rugby and coach of the 1st XV. He changed the way Bishops prepared – moving from match practices to unopposed and even using the sand track at Kenilworth racecourse to improve fitness. Douglas had been much involved in rugby, playing for UCT, was secretary of UCT RFC, was on the executive of Western Province Schools for 12 years and three times the manager of Western Province Craven Week sides. He had just four years as the 1st XV coach before, entirely of his own volition, giving up the position so that Basil Bey could take it over. In handing over to Bey, Douglas had an instruction and a request. He said to Bey: 'Protect Bishops rugby and give me the Under-14A to coach.' He wanted the Under-14A so that he could get the boys' passing right from the very start. Douglas's act was certainly generous.

Bey, who joined the Bishops staff in 1971, was born in Rhodesia, as it was then, to a father of Greek descent and an Afrikaans mother. He captained Prince Edward in Harare for three seasons before going to UCT for gentle academics. He became a prop in 1957 and played for the UCT 1st XV that year, and until 1963, as a most charismatic, loved UCT captain whose players – and everybody else – rallied to him joyfully. It was a strong period in UCT's rugby. From UCT Bey went to False Bay, where he captained and later coached. He was False Bay's coach in 1972 when, uniquely, they won the Grand Challenge. He coached the Western Province Craven Week side and the Under-20 side and was a senior Western Province selector for four years.

He coached the Bishops 1st XV from 1972 to 1998, a time when Bishops grew greatly in numbers and their rugby grew in success. Bishops teams toured every year. Every second year there was the trip to Grahamstown to play St Andrew's and others. There was also the start of Easter Festivals and Bishops went off to St Stithians. There were tours overseas – to England, Ireland, Scotland, Italy, the Far East (Thailand, Hong Kong and Taiwan) and Australia.

It was largely Bey's determination and effort that produced the first Heatlie Pavilion on the mountain side of the 1st XV Field which was renamed the Piley Rees Field in 1983, with Piley's widow Peggy present. The large entertainment room in the pavilion, with much memorabilia on display, is named for Basil Bey.

In all Bey produced a wholesome aura around Bishops rugby and there was no need to persuade Bishops boys to pick up the ball and run with it. That was the Bishops way and every week the 1st XV proclaimed the doctrine of running rugby.

Bey's views on rugby, his love for the game and his special way of getting his teams to play were known throughout the land. 'Bishops rugby' became a brand of special, exciting, creative, skilled rugby. His slogan, 'all kicks are bad kicks', was quoted over and over for Bey saw rugby as a romantic adventure, lifting a man up out

of drabness. He continued to believe in passing before contact and supporting.

In 1998 Bey joined the staff exodus, taking early retirement. Off he went to Welkom to coach at the Griffons, but he returned to the Cape, spending his mornings in the Bishops archives, where he is occasionally mistaken for an exhibit.

André Jacobs took over from Bey, very much a Bey disciple. He was educated at Hoërskool Hangklip in Queenstown before going off to the Paarl Training College. He played good rugby as a fullback or wing and then joined his older brother at St Andrew's in Grahamstown where he coached the 1st XV from 1990 to 1998, lifting the game at St Andrew's in the Bey way. In 1999 he was coaching the Bishops 1st XV.

In 2008 Jacobs passed the coaching baton on to Dave Mallett, the son of Anthony Mallett, who had rugby experience at UCT and in France and had all the Mallett competitiveness and determination in abundance.

When Mallett stopped, Jacobs again took over, this time with the assistance of Mike Bayly, an outstanding Bishops sportsman in his time, a provincial rugby player and an experienced coach. After Jacobs retired at the end of 2015, Angus Firth became the first OD to be the official coach of the 1st XV, still with Bayly to support him.

That is a record of only the first team coaches and does not mention men like Lobby Loubser, Frikkie Viljoen, Jan Horn, Herman van Niekerk, Beefy Brett, Rex Pennington, Chippy Robinson, Anthony Mallett, Vernon Harries, John Gardener, John Charlton, Rick Skeeles, Ed Milne, Chris Tongue, Ian Pinnington, Dave Hiscock, Tim Hamilton Smith, Philip Spray, Peter Phillips, Leonard Kaplan, Angus Paterson, Kenny Williams, Brendan Fogarty and so many others.

There must still be place for the idealism of men like these in the changing world in which professional rugby finds itself.

## 15 coaches in 155 years!

HH Castens  
Barry Heatlie  
Biddy Anderson  
Jacob Bergh  
Basil Shard  
Barty Sutton  
HL Woodhouse  
Piley Rees  
Denis Hunt  
Doug Thomson  
Alan Douglas  
Basil Bey  
André Jacobs  
David Mallett  
Angus Firth







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# EXCELSIOR

## SEC

### **RUGBY AT EXCELSIOR SEC**

Excelsior Sec was established in 1982. We have produced 72 provincial school players and two national school players (Peter Brooks, SASSSA, pre-unity and Virgille Steenkamp, SA Schools).

We also produced six WP Under-18 7s players.

Carlyle Hendricks is still playing for the Falcons, Oswald Damons played for BlitzBokke and Dennis Cox played SA Under-18 7s.

Excelsior do well in 7s, having won a number of regional Atlantic Sevens Tournaments, and also having played in the final of the national championship in 2011.

Excelsior has represented WP nine times in Die Burger Top Schools competition, and has won the small schools category twice.

### **A BRIEF HISTORY OF BELHAR**

Belhar was established in 1973, under the Group Areas Act of the apartheid government, as a coloured residential area. The first section developed is commonly referred to as Belhar 'Erica Estate' or 'Old Belhar'. In later years regional council-subsidised housing emerged in sections 3-6, commonly referred to as Chestnut Place and 'Extension 13'. Belhar has a population of around 80 000 people. The economic and social differences across the area are quite pronounced. Certain sections of Belhar are characterised by gang activity, drug houses, shebeens, assaults, poverty and overcrowding. In 'Old Belhar', social challenges are more likely to take the form of incidents of housebreaking and robbery, due to its close proximity to even more impoverished areas such as Uitsig and Malawi Camp. Despite these obstacles, Belhar boasts

well-maintained sports facilities, namely Erica Park, Symphony Park and Accordion Park. Belhar also has two libraries and one over-burdened clinic. People queue overnight at the clinic as the one doctor can only see 100 patients per day. Most of the residents send their children to schools in the area, namely Excelsior, Belhar High, Symphony High and Perseverance High. All of Excelsior's secondary learners are from the disadvantaged socioeconomic sections of Belhar, Delft, Wesbank and Valhalla Park areas. This places the school in a compromised position when it comes to paying of school fees and fundraising events. Sport is a luxury, in terms of expense, for most of the learners' households. Furthermore, schools' managements generally don't prioritise learner development in sport, as they are faced with many other challenges that they perceive as more urgent.





**"Excelsior has represented WP nine times in Die Burger Top Schools competition..."**

**"We have produced 72 provincial school players..."**







# CBC

# BOKSBURG

### **RUGBY AT CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' COLLEGE**

Christian Brothers' College is situated within walking distance of the Boksburg CBD. When the College opened in February 1935, it was on the rural outskirts of the town surrounded by farmland. The mining heritage of the East Rand influenced the sports played in local schools and rugby and cricket took preference. Hence the first rugby fixtures at the College were in 1938 against the local Voortrekker High School and a junior fixture against Laerskool Baanbreker.

The College fielded its first 1st XV in April 1940 with mixed success, the College numbers being relatively small at the time. By 1942, however, the spirit and enthusiasm of the brothers and boys led to more successes than losses and the game grew in strength over the years. In 1963 the College reached the final of the Administrators Cup played at Ellis Park, losing narrowly to Hoërskool Kempton Park.

In 2001, Conrad Jantjes became the College's first Springbok player and went on to be capped 24 times, having also played for the Lions and Western Province. The College has had close links with the Lions and Falcons and at various times has fallen under either of these two rugby unions.

Today the College boasts more than 40 rugby sides from Under-7 to Under-18 and continues to play many of the traditional fixtures, some of which date back more than 60 years.



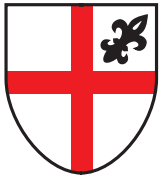


**"fielded its first 1st XV in April 1940"**

**"Conrad Jantjes became the College's first Springbok player"**







# CLIFTON

# COLLEGE

### **14 YEARS OF RUGBY AT CLIFTON COLLEGE**

Clifton College celebrates its 14th birthday this year. Although the College is relatively young in 'school years', its foundations were laid more than 90 years ago with its Preparatory School.

Located in the heart of Durban, the College is extraordinarily well resourced with a compelling array of recreational, sporting and cultural facilities. It is endowed with cutting-edge facilities – academic, sporting and cultural – and driven by teachers with the ambition and ability to lead, educate and mentor young gentlemen into achieving their full potential in every area of school life.

Integral to our value system are a commitment to a Christian ethos that acknowledges diversity; respect for and courtesy towards all; service to our wider community; the highest standards of rigour in all that we do; and an uncompromising belief in the power of family values and the Clifton family that we represent.

Clifton's home of rugby is at Riverside Sports Club – Clifton@Riverside – in Durban North. This is a massive boost for the sport with age-group-based teams playing rugby at a top-notch facility. In 2015 we enjoyed domestic fixtures against Hilton College and Durban High School (floodlit) at this venue, which was abuzz with war cries and the rugby spirit. Our rugby boys compete against major KwaZulu-Natal schools, have toured most of the provinces in South Africa, and many have represented clubs outside the school. Clifton has also taken its rugby brand to Namibia where the touring party established new ties and played some tough, competitive games. This year Clifton is proud to host the Under-15 Independent Schools' Rugby Festival.

We welcomed Grant Bell as Clifton's new Director of Rugby this year. Grant is a respected rugby figure in KwaZulu-Natal and he will be looking to maintain Clifton's inclusive approach to rugby and to ensure that the potential to play a consistent brand of rugby is fulfilled from the Under-8 boys to the Under-19 division.

We would also like to take this opportunity to once again thank our main sponsor Land Rover for their continued support of Clifton rugby.

It was a proud moment for our young college to have Andrew Evans selected last year for the KZN Academy XV. Furthermore, Clifton old boy, Dylan Nel, who represented the KZN Under-21 team, is currently plying his trade in New Zealand. These achievements further endorse the positive momentum rugby at Clifton currently enjoys, and bears testimony to the efforts of coaches and players alike. There have been many hard yards put in to get Clifton rugby to this point. We extend our gratitude to the old boys, coaches and rugby families who have assisted the school in sustaining the effort and achieving this goal.

Finally, on behalf of all Cliftonians, we extend our thanks to Bishops for hosting this prestigious festival. Long may the association enjoyed with the other participating schools continue.





**"Clifton's home of rugby is  
at Riverside Sports Club..."**

**"...a proud moment ... to have  
Andrew Evans selected last year  
for the KZN Academy XV."**







# ETON COLLEGE

### ETON COLLEGE RUGBY

Rugby is played as a major sport during the Michaelmas term at Eton College. Boys of all standards are catered for, with as many as 25 teams playing on a Saturday afternoon. Boys progress from Yearlings (Under-14s) to Junior Colts (Under-15s) to Colts (Under-16s) and then on to the senior rugby union sides (Under-18s). Eton College's 1st XV play on a high-quality schoolboy circuit and participate annually in the Rugby Football Union National Trophy competition. A number of Etonians represent the college at international level and many go on to play in The Varsity Match at Twickenham.

In the Lent term, 7s rugby is one of the many minor sports available. Both the Colts and Senior VII team have featured in the final of the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens tournament in recent years.

The senior squad embarks on a tour each summer in the build-up to the 15-a-side season with extensive expeditions arranged every few years. July 2016 sees the Eton College Rugby Club set off with a 40-man squad to tour South Africa. We are thrilled to be part of the Independent Schools Rugby Festival, and are looking forward to playing and watching some of the top rugby schools in the world. After our Cape Town leg we are going to head to Grahamstown and then to Port Elizabeth. Following the very successful 2010 tour to Argentina, the Club is eagerly awaiting take-off.





**"...with as many as 25 teams playing on a Saturday afternoon."**

**"July 2016 sees the Eton College Rugby Club set off with a 40-man squad to tour South Africa."**







# HILTON COLLEGE

## RUGBY AT HILTON COLLEGE

Schoolboy rugby in Natal, as the province was originally called, began at Hilton College under its first two headmasters, the Reverend WO Newnham (1872-1878) and HV Ellis (1878-1904), who graduated from Rugby School in Warwickshire, England. Ellis set up rules and games were played under his watchful eye, the first against Bishop's College, with more following against non-school sides, such as the Savages, 6th Dragoons and Weston Freezers. The school competed for the Murray Cup after its introduction in 1890 and won the competition in 1898. It is almost certain that the first game played against Maritzburg College was around the turn of the century and during Ellis's tenure, but no details of this event have survived. The 'Fleur-de-Lys' crest in black on a white jersey, and breeches or shorts extending just below the knee was adopted in 1878.

Under the coaching of SJ Lombard, JV Hart-Davis, A van der Watt and JHB Strydom, individual players flourished with a number of old Hiltonians being selected to play for the Springboks. The first was Ebbo Bastard, followed later by Paul Johnson, Brian Pfaff, Clive Ulyate, Gary Teichmann (who played in 41 tests and captained the team from 1996 to 1999), Hentie Martens, Wayne Fyvie and Bob Skinstad (who captained the Springboks in 2001). Brad Macleod-Henderson, AC Blume, Tony Shuttleworth, Greg Miller and Tony Richter are also among the coaches who have guided Hilton College's 1st XV over the past period.





**"...the first game played against Maritzburg College was around the turn of the century..."**

**"...with a number of old Hiltonians being selected to play for the Springboks.  
...Gary Teichmann ... and Bob Skinstad..."**





# KEARSNEY COLLEGE



## THE STORY OF RUGBY AT KEARSNEY

From 1921 to 1939, when Kearsney College was situated among the tea plantations of the North Coast, the school had too few boys to field sides against the major schools. The schoolmasters consequently used to join the boys and the team would play against men's teams from Stanger, Empangeni, Eshowe and Melmoth, competing for the Weber Cup. In 1939 Kearsney College relocated to Botha's Hill, halfway between Pietermaritzburg and Durban. This move proved to be the turning point in the school's rugby fortunes, providing as it did a larger intake of boys and the opportunity to play against more school teams.

One of the most fascinating chapters in the history of Natal Schools' rugby is the story of the 'Old Crocks' and their traditional game against Kearsney. Situated at the time near Stanger on the North Coast, the Kearsney boys had little contact with other schools and little opportunity to play or watch quality rugby. In response to this situation, in 1931 Cyril Medworth, together with former Springboks Alf Walker, Wally Clarkson, Bill Zeller and Bill Payn, colleagues of his in the Natal side, gathered together a team comprised of six former international players and nine ex-Natal rugby players to play against the school.

Thus began an annual tradition that has continued uninterrupted for a period of 80 years. During this time, some 500 players have represented the Old Crocks – quite remarkable when one considers that one of the qualifications for membership is that the player must have retired from competitive rugby.

Bill Payn served Natal Schools' Rugby, including as coach and later chairman, for 18 years. In recognition of his contribution to

rugby, the Old Crocks Trophy was renamed the Bill Payn Trophy, manufactured under Alf Walker's direction from two 2lb Illovo Syrup tins on a wooden plinth. This trophy is still displayed on Old Crocks Day at the College.

The various Old Crocks teams have included 35 ex-Springboks, five of whom were captains, 24 former Natal captains, and three English, Irish and Australian international players. After 81 unbroken years, the final whistle was blown on the historic annual Old Crocks rugby match, played between former Springbok and provincial players and the Kearsney College 1st XV. New SA Rugby Board legislation prohibits matches between players of different age groups, in an effort to reduce injuries in the game.

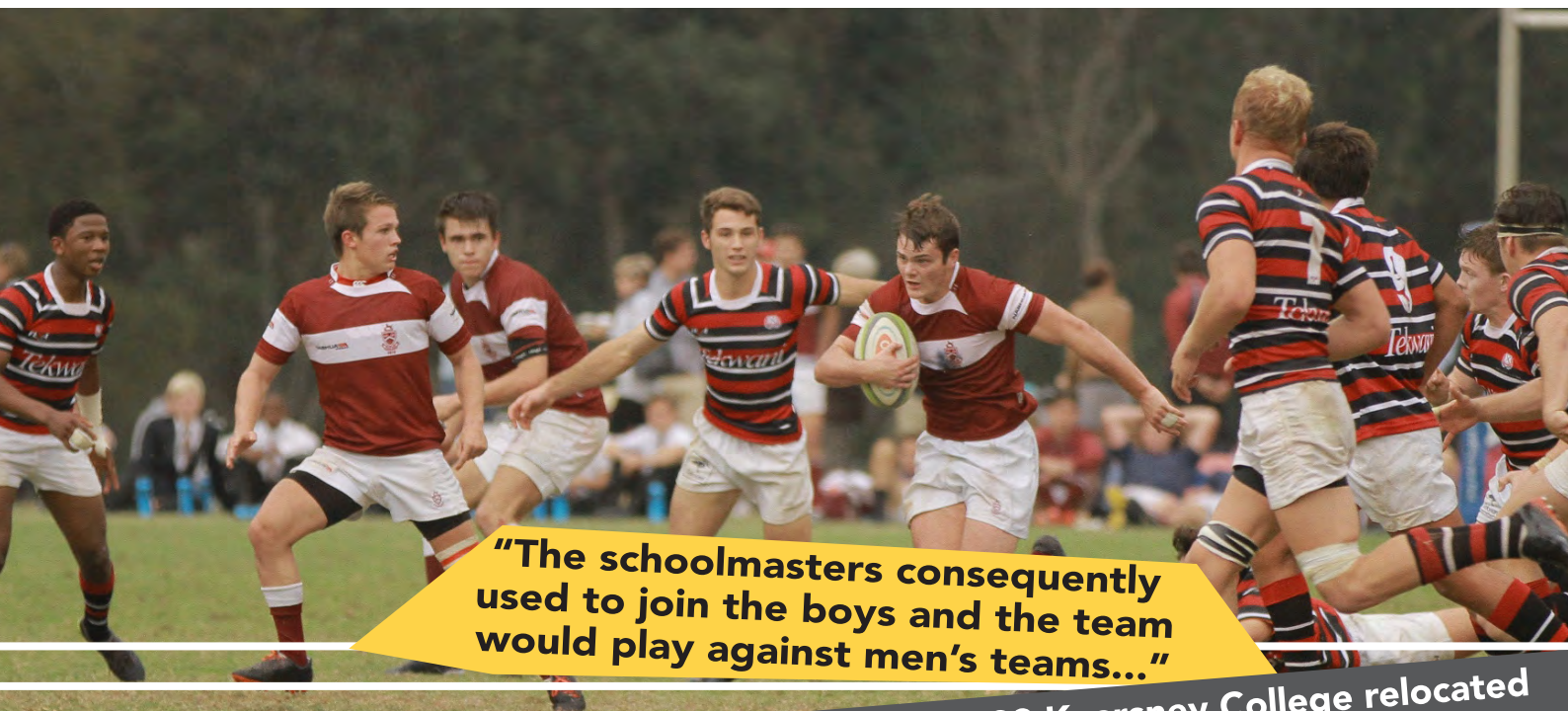
## International players

Harry Newton Walker - South Africa, Mike Halliday - USA, Etienne Fynn - South Africa, John Antoni - Italy, Trevor Halstead - South Africa, Matt Stevens - British Lions, England, British & Irish Lions, Francis Viljoen - USA, Bradley Barritt (2004) - England, British & Irish Lions

## South African Schools players

Martin (Rocky) Rich (1975), Clifford Hopkins (1979), Nico Breedts (1997), Greg Goosen (2001), Bradley Barritt (2004), Johan Strauss (2004), Kene Okafor (2007), Sandile Kubeka (2012), Daniel du Preez (2012 and 2013), Jean-Luc du Preez (2012 and 2013)





**"The schoolmasters consequently used to join the boys and the team would play against men's teams..."**

**"In 1939 Kearsney College relocated to Botha's Hill... the turning point in the school's rugby fortunes..."**



# RED CARD

## THE PARENTS



**'PARENTS SHOULD'N'T BE ALLOWED TO WATCH THEIR CHILDREN PLAY SPORT.' AND OTHER CONVERSATIONS FROM THE TOUCHLINE.**

This was said to me by another parent who is a world-renowned orthopaedic surgeon, parent and previous provincial sportsman. Not only is he

intelligent and a reasonable athlete, but one of the most competitive people I know. How can a parent with such credentials even think like this!

He didn't say this from a medical perspective, but rather that he felt that the involvement of the parent on the side of the field played more of a negative influence, not only on the game and the referee, but also on the children. Did he really believe what he had just spouted, or should I attribute this to a headache from the night before, mixed with the displeasure of getting up early to transport his kids to the game, and then sit through a match which half the parents thought was being poorly refereed? Could he really be right?

How can 70 eminent sports scientists, doctors and other professionals involved in looking after adolescents who play rugby, make statements like the following:

**'Evidence shows that there is a 28% risk of injury (British Journal of Sports Medicine) for a child rugby player over a season of 15 games. The risk of concussion for a child or adolescent rugby union player over a season is 11% — that is the equivalent of one or two players sustaining a concussion every season in every school or club rugby team of 15 players.'** They want to ban tackling at schoolboy level after studies have shown this aspect of the game produces most of the injuries.

So what!? We parents all played rugby and look at us – we are all fine! Or should we respond like this ex-international rugby player: 'Ban walking on pavements, climbing trees, riding your bike and ban being a kid #nannystate #sanitisesociety.'

Would you really send your children to a school where they informed you, as you arrived on the first day of school, that there was the risk of sustaining an injury by attending the school? Yet on a Saturday morning, we gleefully push our kids out of the car and tell them to tackle hard and play well. Are we just ignorant of these well-documented stats, or are we deliberately ignoring them?

It was much simpler before; no thought process. This was a team sport that taught you sporting skill, healthy lifestyle, character and the meaning of team. It taught you to be a man! Really?

Are they right? I am not going to give you an answer, but allow you to make up your own mind.

Let me restart by saying I am a parent of four children, all of whom play or played sport competitively. One of my kids has already undergone three operations to three different joints due to injuries. I know that he has increased his risk of arthritis of each of these joints by at least 10 times, just by having one of these injuries. Let's forget about the risk of complications from the surgery or anaesthetic, which thankfully did not occur. This is due to our excellent South African surgeons – even if he was an even slower fullback than I was!

Am I a bad parent for exposing my son to such potentially devastating long-term problems, or is this just life? He must toughen up and get on with it? Doesn't matter if he requires a knee replacement when he is 35, like one of the English flankers? They do so well now! Yes they do, but I can tell you that if something goes sour it is devastating, and even if these surgeries are successful, their lives are still significantly altered compared to those of their friends who have not had these injuries. One's ability to play golf, tennis, run or climb the mountain is diminished. Even sleep is affected. Just this morning I yelped in pain, like a puppy who'd been stood on, as my knee twinged from that old injury against Maties (a tackle





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# STEVE ROCHE

when I was in the air; six weeks in plaster – no surgery in those days – and probably was the end of my Springbok aspirations), as I rolled off my operated-on shoulder that aches if I lie on it – another injury from a Keith Andrews tackle (I was in the same team, but I had the ball he wanted!).

I think I will now leave this conversation before I have to restart my Prozac, especially when all my friends feel they are entitled to vilify me, saying that I have gone soft and am giving free rein to their wives in condemning this 'stupid game'. I will revert to my own little cocoon, in which I believe that, having played for UCT 4th's, the older I become, the closer I was to being on the verge of a Springbok cap. At least that is what I tell my children. Not really sure they believe me. The other budding Springbok who played with me in the 4th's broke his leg on a rugby tour – although a drunk driver was responsible, not the tackler.

This game has been a defining part of my life. It has given me great enjoyment and introduced me to many of my friends, although some people would question whether they are the type of friends you should have. I do believe my character has been influenced by playing so many years of rugby. Or is it my character that made me play rugby and choose those beer-swilling oafs as friends? They have now become wine connoisseurs, at least until the wine is finished!

So let's get back to the opening comment: It appears that parents are negative factors in their children's sporting development and achievement 45% of the time. Sport scientists mention several unfavourable characteristics that do not help your child's growth. This is NOT rocket science. I see them on the side of the field every weekend. With time, and more of my children's games under my belt, I have become wiser and have slowly moved into the 'better attributes camp'. I remember being on the side of the field last year, with one of the editors of this magazine, watching our youngest kids (he also has four), and seeing how calmly we both reacted to poor refereeing, dropped balls and missed tackles. We just looked at these virgin parents – both moms and dads – venting their anger and frustration at either the ref or the children. I was so glad we had mellowed, as these emotions are quite draining and definitely not good for your health, let alone the kids' and referees' self-esteem. We looked at each other, just content that our testosterone levels had peaked a few years earlier and now we had fewer coronary-artery spasms!

Studies have shown that in players who perceived more pressure from their parents, there was a positive association with amotivation and a negative one with enjoyment. They do, however, emphasise that appropriate parental participation can promote an increase in players' enjoyment of and motivation for sport.

Let me now start on referees. I used to shout at the referee at home while watching the box (or is that the Boks?). My wife would be the first to leave the room, and gradually the children would slowly disappear as I vented my frustration at the one-sided, blind and useless official. It was when my faithful staffie eventually also left the room that I finally realised I was over the top.

I remember watching a grade-3 uncontested scrum which was lost by the opposing team, because of an illegal put-in the referee missed as he looked away to police the backline offside rule. A parent beside me went ballistic, shouting at the referee and pointing out his incompetence. I now personally believe that the only person who may comment on the ref is someone who has done the job! Get on the field and do this thankless task – then you can comment! I even feel that this open criticism of the ref is cowardice. He has to bear these comments with no real protection. If you have a problem, go and chat quietly with the ref after the game so he/she can defend himself/herself. This open attack on referees is certainly not promoting the character building we espouse for our children. (Wish I was innocent.) I believe we should move to the waterpolo referee system where a red card can be given to parents who misbehave. I see children players criticising the referee openly, and continually asking questions on the field. This is not acceptable and it needs to be changed with the captain being the only one who speaks to the referee – full stop. Penalty and two minutes off the field, I say, for any kid contesting the referee's decision.

So, is it true that we are preparing our children for life? Since the game has now become professional, should we be preparing them to become career rugby players with huge earning potential? Dan Carter is worth millions of dollars. Since 1995, when rugby union became a professional sport, its popularity has increased such that the Six Nations Championship in 2014 had a higher average attendance per game than either the UEFA Euro Cup 2012 or the FIFA World Cup 2014. Rugby is the third most-popular team contact sport worldwide. Rugby is big business, with many job opportunities. We have TV rights, clothing and advertising, let alone the health sciences. We get research grants to study the game. The physiotherapists, biokineticists, masseurs, neuropsychologists, sports psychologists and backline coaches all make money. It supports ground staff, astroturf makers and sports shops. What about the administration staff and teachers. It supports university. It sells cars, drinks, lotions and underwear (as in Dan Carter).

It sells bacon rolls and nights in hotels. Restaurants – and more specifically pubs – generate huge revenue from this gentleman's game.

Rugby really is big business, and with 5 billion rand recently written off by our politicians, we can't jeopardise big business.





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# STEVE ROCHE

How many medics are on the side of a tennis match or swimming gala? Now we have three paramedics running onto the field (they really must be injured if they need three medics!). How about medical aids, hospitals and ambulance drivers? It even supports dancers (see the Stormers games!).

The radiologists, sports physicians and last but not least, orthopaedic surgeons, are supported in paying their school fees.

Since we are talking orthopaedics, let's get back to the injuries which I believe can be prevented – and I have lots of scientific support. Injury prevention programmes have been shown to reduce injury rates by 40% in a meta-analysis published in the American Journal of Sports Medicine, probably the most prestigious journal. So we need to have educated coaches and support staff! Our own sports science guys here in Cape Town have several studies supporting this. Research has resulted in law changes and a subsequent decrease in injuries at scrumtime.

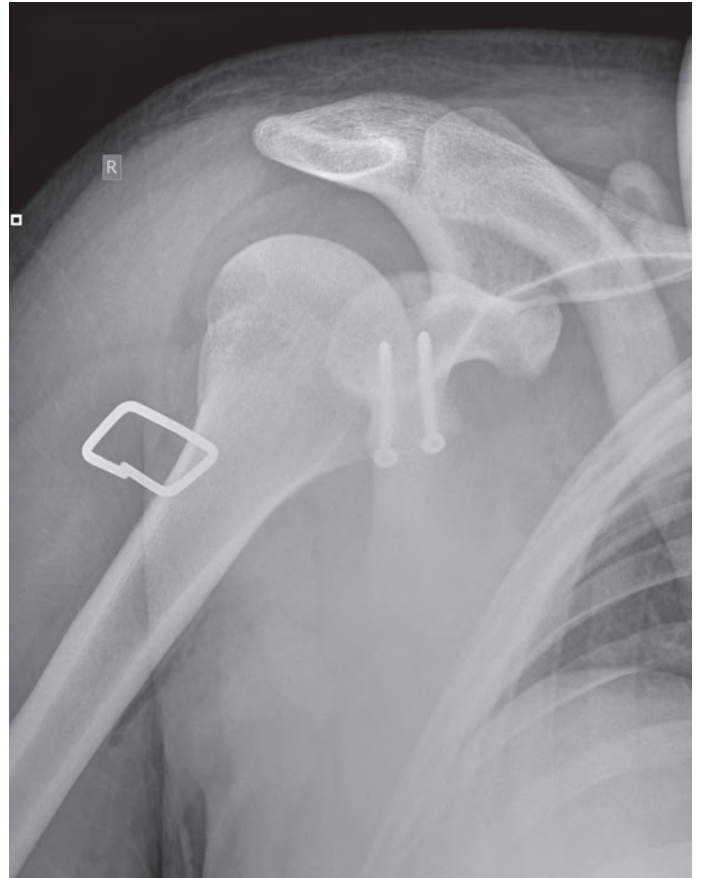
There are preventative measures employed, such as the wearing of headgear and mouthguards, but these still remain controversial with respect to reduction in concussions. Mouthguards do, however, reduce dental injuries.

Foul play is really being policed now, and so it should be! 40% of spinal-cord injuries are due to illegal play, as documented by Professor R Dunn from UCT Orthopaedics (another Villagers 4th team lock). I believe multiple concussions ended his rugby career, which doesn't say much for research findings that concussions affect one's brain (unless you think orthopaedics is not a cerebral profession!). Continuing on foul play, I believe that if the injured player ends up missing future games due to this illegal injury, the transgressor should be suspended until the injured player is fit to play, especially if it is a season-ending injury. Foul play would soon disappear! I don't think people realise it becomes a criminal offence if you transgress into foul play. There have been successful cases around the world and in South Africa documenting successful criminal prosecution for these acts of unnecessary play. In fact, they should not be called 'play'.

Unfortunately I have run out of space to comment about the coaches and team selections – very hot topics on the side of the field. The final whistle is about to blow, so I have one kick for the corner and a final paragraph left to hopefully score points for the game of rugby.

It is with great excitement that I am looking forward to this tournament. Let us make it a character-building experience for our children, and allow the referees and coaches to do their best to keep them enjoying this fantastic game while providing a safe environment.

Schoolboy rugby is still the best rugby being played in the country, and I have no doubt there will be an abundance of skills, passion and commitment at this tournament's celebration of sport. I also have no doubt that it will build lifelong friendships and be part of a learning experience for the players, just as it has for more than 100 years for many of us. Enjoy the spectacle, and beautiful Cape Town!







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# KINGSWOOD

# COLLEGE

### **KINGSWOOD COLLEGE APPROACH TO RUGBY**

**Motto of school:** Studia Hilaritate Proveniunt (Ovid, loosely translated: Give it stick)

**Date of foundation:** 1894

The Kingswood approach to rugby has always been one of a positive and free-flowing nature. Due to the fact that more often than not, Kingswood teams are 'outsized' by their opposition, we have become accustomed to playing a brand of rugby that is both exciting and exhilarating to play and watch – the ultimate aim always being to score more tries than the often bigger opposition.

Kingswood rugby teams are also renowned for their 'hard-nosed' and competitive nature. There exists in Kingswood teams, and in fact in Kingswood sport in general, very much a 'never say die' attitude – often allowing us to 'punch' well above our proverbial weight on the rugby field. While always remembering that rugby is just a game, all our players and teams are always encouraged to play to win.

In recent years we have committed ourselves wholeheartedly to developing a culture within our rugby programme, from Under-9 to Under-18 level, that constantly seeks to further develop the skill sets of our players as well as the effective coaching capacity of our coaching team. We were privileged to have had John Mitchell (former All Black coach, captain and player) assist us in an advisory capacity with this process during 2013 and 2014. Our relationship with Robbie Kempson (former Springbok prop) and the EP Kings at present again bears testimony to our commitment to this cause.

### **Famous Old Kingswoodian players in the last decade include:**

David Denton (Scotland), Brett Wilkinson (Ireland), Rosco Speckman (Blitz Bokke 7s), Grant Hattingh (Bulls), Scott van Breda (EP Kings), Lihleli Xoli (UCT Varsity Cup and Western Province)

### **Old boy Springboks**

Two of its old boys, the brothers Bennie and Stanley Osler, rank among South Africa's best rugby players of all time. One of Bennie Osler's contemporaries in the Kingswood side was Jack Slater, later a Springbok and also a headmaster of the school. Both Oslers and Slater played against the 1928 All Blacks in the first test in Durban.

### **Traditional rivals**

The whole of Grahamstown knows when Kingswood is playing St Andrew's – and a great deal of the world beyond the rounded hills as well, for the school has a strong old boys' union. That is the big game of the year. The two schools have been playing one another since 1898.





**"The whole of Grahamstown knows when Kingswood is playing St Andrew's..."**

**"The two schools have been playing one another since 1898."**





# MICHAELHOUSE SCHOOL



## **RUGBY AT MICHAELHOUSE – A GAME OF TRADITION**

At Michaelhouse the game of rugby is played to inspire enthusiastic young athletes to become confident and proficient through instilling a strong team ethic and through playing an exciting, skilled and constructive brand of rugby.

Our coaches, who are all full-time members of the academic staff, are dedicated and motivated. Our players are committed, passionate and skilled and our rugby game plan is dynamic. Rugby at Michaelhouse is about more than the game. 'It's not about rugby, it's about young men. It's not about building a championship team, it's about building championship boys; boys who will be forever strong.' – Larry Gelwix, well-known American rugby coach. We as coaching staff at Michaelhouse not only want to develop great players, but also good men.

Rugby became a feature on the school's games list at the turn of the last century when staff would team with the boys to make up a side. Since those days two of our major rivals have remained Maritzburg College and Hilton College.

Our first full Springbok was Patrick Lambie who matriculated in 2008. He made the SA Schools team in 2007 and 2008. As well as being a gifted rugby player he was also the head boy of the school and the 1st XI cricket captain. Patric Cilliers followed shortly thereafter as our next Springbok, while Mark Richards was our first 7s Springbok.

Michaelhouse's best year in terms of representation was 2015, when six boys were selected for the KwaZulu-Natal Craven Week team and two for the KZN Academy Week team. This level of provincial representation

was also a hallmark of the school's rugby ethos in 2007 and again in 2012.

Michaelhouse old boys playing national and international rugby include, among others, Ross Cronje and Ruan Combrinck who both play for the Lions, Patric Cilliers who plies his trade for Montpellier and Michael Rhodes who represents Saracens.

Young players to watch out for are Gary Porter who is part of the Western Province Under-20 team, and Bader Pretorius who represented the SA Schools B side in 2015 and who is now a member of the University of Johannesburg Young Guns team.





**"...two of our major rivals have remained Maritzburg College and Hilton College."**

**"...six boys were selected for the KwaZulu-Natal Craven Week team and two for the KZN Academy Week team."**



## PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS



# PENRYN

# COLLEGE

Penryn College is situated in the stunning bushveld of the Boschrand Hills, overlooking Nelspruit and the Crocodile River Valley, and offers many opportunities to up-and-coming rugby players.

The school is 25 years old and has five teams with approximately 110 rugby-playing boys. The numbers may be limited, but this means we are committed to developing each player individually. Our success is measured not only in results, but also in the improvement of our players' skills and their mindset towards the game. This is where true coaching takes place. Our belief is that we are developing men, not merely rugby players, which is an enormous responsibility – and privilege – for rugby coaches.

As a school we've punched above our weight class for a number of years and have achieved good results against the bigger, more traditional rugby schools. This culminated in 2015 being our most successful rugby year to date, with our 1st XV being crowned Mpumalanga Medium School Winners and again qualifying for the prestigious Beeld Trophy competition. Our 2nd XV also performed admirably by finishing as provincial runners-up. This bodes well for the state of our senior rugby and we aim to continue this form into the 2016 season.

Over the past five years, Penryn has made a special effort to develop the game of rugby. This entails ensuring our coaches are highly qualified, as well as exposing our players to high-performance training. Our coaches are involved at various levels with the Puma youth and senior teams, with professional senior Puma players assisting in coaching clinics with our players and coaches. This has been beneficial to all involved.

We have also recently introduced rugby at

our preparatory school and over time this will enhance the quality of the rugby players we get at an Under-14 level. This will allow our junior coaches more time to focus not only on the basics, but also on other areas of the game.

All of Penryn's rugby teams go on annual tours as well as play numerous other friendly and league matches.

We are excited to again be a part of the Independent Schools Rugby Festival and look forward to the opportunity of testing ourselves against larger rugby schools.

Our 1st XV rugby team is well supported and looked after by our title sponsor Pine Lake Resort situated at Longmere Dam in White River.





**"The school is 25 years old and has five teams with approximately 110 rugby-playing boys."**

**"...2015 being our most successful rugby year to date, with our 1st XV being crowned Mpumalanga Medium School Winners..."**





# REDDAM



# HOUSE

## **SPORTING VALUES AT REDDAM HOUSE**

Reddam House is a coeducational, private school situated in the Southern Suburbs of Cape Town. Although a relatively young school, Reddam House is proud of its sporting tradition, which is driven by a dedicated line-up of coaches who encourage the development of skills, sportsmanship, passion and competition to ensure success across a wide range of sports.

On the rugby front, the Reddam House teams have established themselves as formidable opponents in the league in which they play and, historically, they boast a proud track record of producing consistently impressive results across all age groups.

Rugby at Reddam House is an important team sport where boys are encouraged to actively engage in the physicality of the game, while also practising the values of self-discipline, teamwork, fair play and sportsmanship. While one should always play to win, it is these values, together with the camaraderie developed playing this wonderful game, that will always be more important than the final result.







**"Rugby at Reddam House is an important team sport..."**

**"...practising the values of self-discipline, teamwork, fair play and sportsmanship..."**







# SOMERSET COLLEGE

### **RUGBY A TRUE TEAM EFFORT AT SOMERSET COLLEGE**

Founded in 1997, Somerset College is a young, independent, coeducational school situated on a beautiful estate in the Western Cape Winelands. The College offers schooling from Grade 000 (age 4) to Matric, as well as Cambridge A levels. Boarding is available for students in the Senior School, which is affiliated to the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) and the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE).

The College strives to remain a centre of academic excellence, where professional standards are maintained and where young people learn in a safe and happy environment that allows them to flourish. At Somerset College we envisage a school that:

- offers a world-class standard of education, within the South African context.
- strives for excellence in all activities according to each individual's unique abilities.
- nurtures sound, caring relationships.
- has a Christian foundation and fosters respect and understanding of other religions.
- creates a stimulating and challenging working environment for the entire College community.
- provides an educational asset that serves the wider community.

Rugby at Somerset College has grown tremendously over the last few years. The school is fortunate to have top coaches at their disposal, as well as Stellenbosch University students who have all assisted in building a structure that promotes player development and fosters a love for the game. The addition of a gym facility on campus in 2016 will certainly go a long way

to further advancing the skills and fitness of our athletes. Our strength and conditioning coaches have worked to develop programmes that will enhance our athletes to the benefit of their sporting careers. Somerset College attends a variety of rugby festivals each year, as well as enjoying overseas tours every few seasons. We are fortunate to host many touring schools each year from a range of countries, including Canada, Australia, Chile, England, Wales, Scotland and Kenya.

Over the years Somerset College has produced some age group provincial representatives as well as many players who have gone on to play in the Western Province Super A League Club. In recent years, David Ribbans (who matriculated in 2013) played for the Western Province Vodacom Cup team, and we look forward to watching his career take shape over the next few years.





**"...have top coaches at their disposal, as well as Stellenbosch University students..."**

**"...Somerset College has produced some age group provincial representatives..."**





# ST ALBAN'S COLLEGE



## A HISTORY OF ST ALBAN'S COLLEGE RUGBY

In 1963, St Alban's College opened its doors to just thirty-seven boys in Years 8 and 9. The College's first headmaster, Anton Murray, was a Springbok cricketer. He was a visionary as well as a traditionalist, and made it compulsory for all the boys to play the three conventional sports of cricket, rugby and hockey. The College's first-ever 1st XV fixture was played against St John's College 5th XV. St Alban's lost 0-22 but they were not to be deterred.

Perseverance produces momentum, and in 1967 St Alban's began to gain some ground in the local and regional rugby fraternities. A brand-new field was laid and the 1st XV took on Pretoria Boys High School's 1st XV, losing a manfully contested affair 11-21. Later that same season, the 1st XV went on to beat St Stithians College 9-3. Both of these fixtures were destined to become fierce annual clashes, so much so that the College's Old Boys' Day is always planned around one of the two games.

The growing passion for rugby created the necessary impetus for another double victory over the College's most traditional rivals, St John's and St Stithians, in 1985. In fact, St Alban's achieved the double from 1985 to 1988. The records of the 1st XV side from 1986 to 1988 are remarkable as well as revealing – in 1986 the 1st XV played 18 matches, winning 13 of them and scoring 56 tries.

Charles Anderson took over the helm in 1989 and began to encourage the 1st XV, and indeed all the College teams, to play a 'more direct' game, as Ian McIntosh was asking the Natal team to do at the time. 'Attack the advantage line' was his mantra, and his fly half Dan van Zyl could do just that. Van Zyl went on to play first-class rugby for the Pumas, the Blue Bulls, Western Province and the Stormers. He even represented the Springboks in two end-of-year European tours in 1996 and 2000.

Tom Hamilton took over the 1st XV in 1993 and launched his tenure by accompanying the team on the College's debut overseas tour of England and Wales. That tour led to a record-breaking 1994 season in which the 1st XV scored 372 points, playing thrilling,

expansive rugby. The fixture list was constantly expanding to include schools such as Helpmekaar, Parktown Boys and Westville. Under Hamilton, the 1st XV broke the points record again in 1996, scoring a superlative 591 points and touching down 83 times. The side's outstanding success aptly culminated in a second tour overseas, this time to South America. They won eight out of 11 matches, including the International Under-19 Festival held in Catholic University at Santiago de Chile.

Closer ties with the Bulls Rugby Union resulted in the College's selection to represent the nation at the SANIX World Rugby Youth Tournament in Japan in 2003. This was a tremendous opportunity for the boys to rub shoulders with renowned rugby schools such as Rotorua Boys High (New Zealand), Tonga College (Tonga), Royal Belfast Academical Institution (Northern Ireland) and St Edmund's College (Australia), as well as eight Japanese sides. We lost narrowly to Tonga College in the semifinal and managed to beat Royal Belfast Academical Institute 34-3 for third place. The 1st XV toured Argentina in 2007 and 2010, and New Zealand in 2014.

St Alban's College has had six SA schools representatives, Tshipo Vundla (2000), Yondela Stampu (2007), Mlungisi Bali (2008), Bongi Mbonambi (2009), Abongile Nonkontwana (2012 and 2013), Michael Kumbirai (2014), as well as Jason Jenkins who played for the SA Under-20 team in the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015.

We currently have a number of old boys playing provincial and Super Rugby in South Africa: Bongi Mbonambi for the Stormers, Jason Jenkins for the Blue Bulls, Abongile Nonkontwana and Jade Stiglingh for the Blue Bulls Currie Cup team, and Mlungisi Bali for the Border Currie Cup team.

Ex-Free State Cheetahs and Bath fly half Kennedy Tsimba was recently appointed Director of Rugby at St Alban's College and he has brought a focus to open, attractive, ball-in-hand rugby, and looks forward with optimism and excitement to the years ahead. Tsimba was inducted into the International Rugby Hall of Fame, having represented Zimbabwe in six international appearances.





**"...double victory over the College's most traditional rivals, St John's and St Stithians, in 1985."**

**"Closer ties with the Bulls Rugby Union resulted in the College's selection to represent the nation at the SANIX World Rugby Youth Tournament in Japan in 2003."**







# ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL

## **RUGBY AT ST ANDREW'S**

The first rugby match was played in 1916 against Grey College. In 1918 the 1st XV defeated Grey College 8-6 (the Headmaster played in this match). Since then, St Andrew's has developed a rich rugby tradition. The school participates, with great success, in local league competitions. In 2009 the 1st XV won 13 of the 18 matches that they played, and played in the final of the local league for smaller schools. They also played in the final of the Kovsie League competition. St Andrew's teams also participate in a number of Independent Schools' Festivals.

The school plays in traditional fixtures against St John's College from Johannesburg (this fixture was launched in 1933), St Alban's College from Pretoria and St David's Marist School from Johannesburg. The school was one of the founding members of the Independent Schools Rugby Festival and as a result is always invited to participate in this Festival.





**"In 1918 the 1st XV defeated Grey College 8-6 (the Headmaster played in this match)."**

**"The school was one of the founding members of the Independent Schools Rugby Festival"**



## FLECK ON STORMERS

# IT'S FLECK TIME

BY HOWARD KAHN



Robbie Fleck is the head coach of the Stormers. Yes, the same Robbie Fleck that used to dazzle opponents on the field after initially making a name for himself at Bishops in the early 1990s. And the same Robbie Fleck that coaching legend Basil Bey used to refer to as a 'naughty bugger' from his school days.

He is also the same player that some thought was a bit too loskop to be a professional rugby player, yet he is the very same man who put his body on the line in 31 Tests for his country – and is best remembered for his stunning two-try effort against the All Blacks at Ellis Park in 2000.

Fleck just smiles when asked about his playing days. He grins even more when reminded about the hairstyles, the stepping... the socks hanging around his ankles and playing with a jersey that was hardly ever tucked in properly.

'A lot has certainly changed since then,' he chirps, 'my hair for starters... the only style I have now is grey!'

Fleck has certainly paid his dues in the Western Province Rugby set-up. Having first risen to prominence in tandem with mate John Dobson at UCT – as their coaching partnership took the Varsity Cup by storm in 2008 – Fleck moved into his first provincial role in 2009 under the tutelage of Rassie Erasmus, before becoming a long-time

assistant coach, at the Stormers and Western Province, to new Springbok boss Allister Coetzee at both Super Rugby and Currie Cup level.

Coetzee's departure initially meant a role for experienced Australian coach Eddie Jones, but the former Japanese boss's sudden departure to England threw Fleck into the job as interim head coach of the Stormers – a position he has more than embraced.

'When I took on the job I said that we were going to be pretty fearless in our approach, both in our management and playing style, and I'd like to think I've been true to that so far,' Fleck says.

'It's not about being off the wall, or reinventing the game – in fact I think we've been pretty pragmatic. But I think you need to be fearless in your approach. I'm lucky in that I was an assistant at this level for six or seven years, so I understand the intensity of Super Rugby and the levels of expectation.

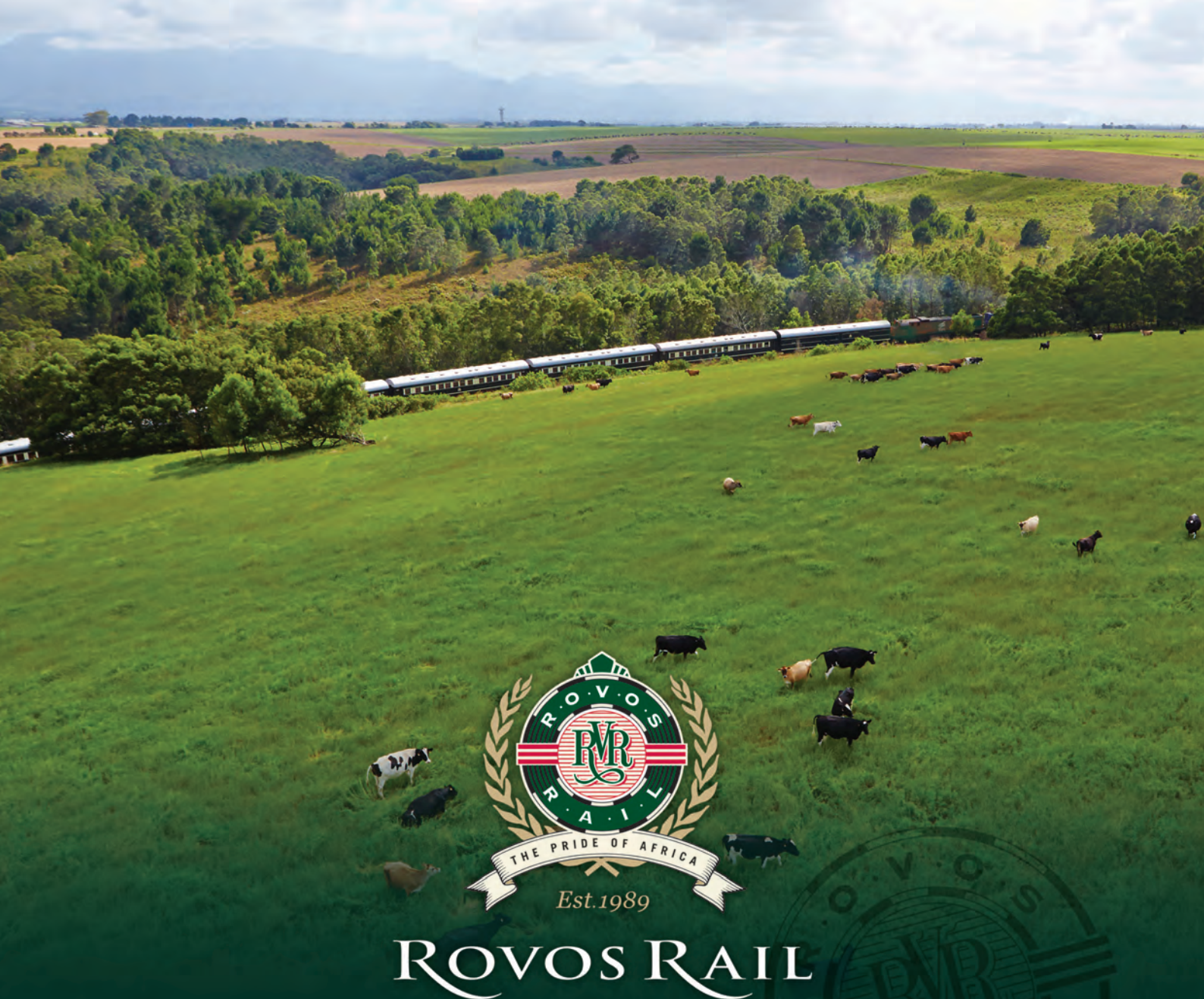
'To me, the game of rugby is actually really simple. One needs to get the basics right and do them well. You don't want to complicate things too much... in fact you need to keep it simple, especially if you're dealing with a young group of players.

'It was always our plan to make their transition into Super Rugby a smoother process by simplifying our game plan and focusing on the core fundamentals of what this game is about. For me, however, I also find conditioning to be important – it's an area we've worked hard on (too).'

While some believed Fleck's relative inexperience as a head coach could perhaps be a stumbling block for him this year, those in the know at WP Rugby had clearly witnessed his incredible work ethic as the WP Under-21 coach in 2015 as he won a trophy at his first attempt in a head coach's role.

Fleck's WP U21 team played a brilliant brand of rugby as they cruised to the title with 10 wins from 12 starts in the regular season – drawing one game and losing just once ahead of their semifinal and final wins over the Lions and Free State, respectively.





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# FLECK ON STORMERS

Crucially, however, it gave Fleck the opportunity to work with wannabe Stormers like JD Schickerling, Jacques Vermeulen, Justin Phillips, Jean-Luc du Plessis, Brandon Thomson, Daniël du Plessis, Leolin Zas and Khanyo Ngcukana – all of whom have moved into senior rugby in a short space of time since then.

Says Fleck: 'It was an enjoyable season for me with the Under-21s. I had great support from the likes of Hanyani Shimange and Norman Laker on the coaching side and my medical team was brilliant, too, in some testing times.

'The players also rose to the occasion and they allowed us to develop a strong squad culture, which put us in good stead when we had a few serious injuries. Developing a strong squad was one of my major goals last year and I think it's also helped the Stormers a bit this year, with our youthful playing group standing up and playing some good rugby.'

Super Rugby greenhorns like Schickerling, Jean-Luc du Plessis and Zas are just three of the many success stories of this year so far, with the Stormers enjoying an impressive season despite being under the leadership of a new-look coaching staff (including Russell Winter and Paul Treu) and without the likes of former regulars Steven Kitshoff, Mike Rhodes, Duane Vermeulen and Jean de Villiers (to name just a few).

'There's a lot of new faces, but I've been comfortable blooding the likes of JD, Jean-Luc and Leolin (amongst others), having worked with them during last year's successful Under-21 campaign,' explains Fleck.

'I don't think we expected to blood so many of our Under-21 guys from last year, but it's heartening just how the guys have stepped up. A guy like JD, playing out of position in the No. 4 jersey, has proved his mettle, Jean-Luc has come in, essentially as a third or fourth-choice fly half, and he's pulling the strings from a crucial position in one of the toughest competitions in world rugby, and Leolin has showed great pace and bravery. It all augurs

well for us that these young guys have grabbed their chances.'

Ultimately, of course, coaches are judged on winning and losing. Fleck certainly knows it, but he has taken on a bigger task than simply challenging for silverware in 2016 – there is also the small matter of continuing to develop the team's style of play.

'Despite what some people may think, we've been an exciting team to watch over the years and I don't think it's been a massive change for us. For me it's all about ensuring that we continue with this approach, no matter what.

'Take the Waratahs game, for instance (which we lost 30-32 at Newlands). I thought we played some good rugby, especially in the first half (it was a dominant display in many ways), but we had two soft moments in that half which let them back into the match.

'But we will continue on this path and when the players get more accurate in their execution, which will come with more time and experience, I think this team will become a bit more dangerous and able to challenge for silverware on a consistent basis.'

While Fleck continues to cut his teeth as a head coach at Super Rugby level, it is worth remembering where he learnt his rugby all those years ago.

Having played his first 'big-time' rugby as a 1st XV player on the Piley Rees and coming into contact with a great rugby mind like Basil Bey in the process, it is easy to see where Fleck's original approach to the game of rugby union comes from.

And with fellow OD John Dobson climbing the coaching ladder at Western Province at a rapid rate and with much success himself, it is a feather in the cap of Bishops Rugby to see just how far the influence of the 'Bishops Way' extends.





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JOHN MITCHELL

# DRUGS IN SCHOOL SPORT



## **DOPING IN SA STARTS AT SCHOOL**

*The burning issue of doping in schoolboy rugby is often raised by supporters and parents alike. John Mitchell's column, which was published on the Vodacom Rugby website, makes for illuminating reading, and*

*is reproduced here with the kind permission of Tank Lanning on behalf of Vodacom Rugby.*

The use of performance-enhancing drugs is more synonymous with international cycling than rugby. But the fact that World Rugby increased its anti-doping investment by 30 percent this year means that drug cheats are on the rise in rugby union.

In South Africa, doping is an issue that starts at schoolboy level. The game is taken very seriously and players are often put under pressure to perform from both parents and coaches. Fundamentally, the problem in South Africa is that so much emphasis is placed on the size of players. The perception in this country is that you have to be big in order to become a professional rugby player – it's no wonder schoolboys want to bulk up. Having worked with South African players across all age-group levels, I have found that there's more of a focus on stationary weight training and getting into a gym than conditioning and basic fundamentals such as catch and pass, which is practised in New Zealand. The question is, where do schoolboys get the money to buy drugs? In most cases, from their parents. As such, parents need to ask their sons why they are asking for extra money.

What we don't want is for players at the highest level of the game – the shop window – to get away with drug

use, because then those at the lower amateur levels – clubs and schools – will follow the bad example. I'm not so sure a schoolboy who tests positive for a banned substance should be expelled. I believe a better punishment or deterrent would be to prevent him from playing for the school's 1st XV and any age-group provincial side. Offenders also need to receive some kind of guidance and counselling.

The game's governing body and national rugby unions have to continually educate players about the pitfalls of ingesting drugs and what is on the banned substances list. While some players intentionally dope, at times it's genuinely unintentional – for instance through the use of an asthma pump or supplements.

When I was the All Blacks coach, prop Joe McDonnell almost received a two-year ban from rugby after he tested positive for salbutamol, a drug found in asthma remedies. This after a routine post-match drug test against France in 2002. It wouldn't have been a major issue if he had filled out a form, before leaving New Zealand, to state his infrequent use of the drug, but he didn't. Fortunately for him, the IRB realised it had been unintentional and he wasn't punished.

When I served as head coach of the Western Force, the players' association was very proactive in giving players information about banned substances and telling them what they could and couldn't take. I remember us doing a catch and pass drill at the start of a particular training session when the drug testers arrived in a bus, walked onto the field and tagged the players they wanted to test.

I would have been very surprised if a player from one of the major nations had failed a drug test during the World Cup, however. Those nations whose players are centrally contracted, like New Zealand and Ireland, are even less likely to take drugs, as there is total control of the players. The Springboks and Wallabies, however, select overseas-based players and don't enjoy control over them when they are with their clubs. As a case in point, Chiliboy Ralepelle tested positive for a banned substance while contracted to Toulouse. He is now serving a two-year ban.

*For more rugby news, visit [www.vodacomrugby.co.za](http://www.vodacomrugby.co.za)*



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# ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE

### ST ANDREW'S RUGBY

The year 1823 was proclaimed the year of the creation of rugby, after William Webb Ellis famously took the ball in his arms and ran with it.

It was only 50 years on that the first recorded St Andrew's matches of rugby football were played on relatively flat ground in the Grahamstown region.

It was not until 1896 that a piece of land was bought 'below the wire fencing'. This was the year in which the first game against Kingswood was played and College undertook their first tour of the Cape. It is fair to say that by this time St Andrew's rugby was well established.

At the turn of the half century, the 2nd XV also experienced the longest-ever winning streak by a College side. Setting the stage, the 1st XV experienced three unbeaten seasons, namely 1951, 1953 and 1959. Some of the greatest matches included 1951 versus Pretoria Boys High School and 1960 versus Rondebosch Boys' High School.

At the start of the 1970s the senior sides were still doing well. Nick Mallet, former Springbok player and coach, also came through the ranks of St Andrew's rugby during this time. 1980 marked the 125-year celebration of St Andrew's College. At the start of the 1990s, College rugby saw a dramatic change in the way the game was played, with the radical switch to risky 'running rugby'. 1st XV winger Nikki van der Watt recalls the 1993 team scoring tries from behind their own tryline: 'This caught the opposition off guard, and would not have been possible if we had not been coached to that style of play'.

The legendary André Jacobs took over the coaching of the 1st XV in 1990. André and his brother Leon devised strategies to overcome the difficulties St Andrew's were experiencing. College often encountered schools much larger than itself, both in numbers and physique, so André and Leon decided that if the St Andrew's team could not get through their opponents, they would have to run around them. On the back of the 1999 1st XV under Johnny Mallet's successful leadership, the 2000 1st XV won 17 games out of 22. This included a tour to New Zealand, where they encountered some of the best rugby-playing schools.

The Jubilee 150 celebrations of 2005 and the St Andrew's Rugby Festival were hugely successful events, during which St Andrew's was host to many schools from around the country. From the same season, Chase Minnaar captained the 1st XV to some impressive victories, including a 21-20 win over a powerful Grey High School (PE).

Over the past five years, St Andrew's rugby has seen some significant developments in structure and coaching. 2010 saw a particularly strong College side go through the season, with just one narrow loss to Bishops 24-25.

Rugby at St Andrew's is healthy and opposition schools will notice a revived attitude towards running rugby and exciting attacking play from the boys in blue and white.





**"2010 saw a particularly strong ... season, with just one narrow loss to Bishops 24-25."**

**"...1896 ... the year in which the first game against Kingswood was played and College undertook their first tour of the Cape."**





# ST CHARLES



# COLLEGE

## RUGBY AT ST CHARLES COLLEGE

Founded in July 1875, St Charles College is entrenched in the fabric, history and growth of the city of Pietermaritzburg. From the outset, sport has been part and parcel of life at St Charles College. Rugby plays an important role, and is an integral part of the sports curriculum. St Charles College boasts many facilities including the Home of Rugby, 'Old Orchards', which is surrounded by a further six rugby fields. St Charles College has 28 rugby teams (from Grades 3 to 12) and participates in many festivals around the country.

St Charles College has fielded many national and provincial players:

**International players:** Shaun Allbon (Botswana), Michel Antelme (Junior Springboks, Springboks and Natal), Didier Claite (Mauritius), Barry Clements (Swaziland), Laurent de Marigny (Mauritius), Xavier de Senneville (Mauritius), Etienne Fynn (Springboks and Sharks), Jean-Philippe Henry (Mauritius), Siseko Jafta (SA Under-18, Under-20 and Sharks), Gaetan Langlois (Mauritius), AJ McFarlane (Scotland Under-21 and Glasgow Warriors), Gavin Noel (Zambia), Grant Rees (Springbok 7s, Sharks and Montpellier), Fabien Sauzier (Mauritius), Rodney Smith (Rhodesia and Western Province), Michael Lloyd (Seychelles), Lindsay Roger (Zambia), Mike Lusk (Rhodesia), Garth Way (Swaziland) and Garth von Horsten (Rhodesia).

**Provincial players:** Glenn Adams (Natal), Gaston Antelme (Northern Transvaal), Malcolm Beckett (Natal), Roy Beckett (Natal), Matt Dobson (Griquas and London Welsh), Oswald Kelly (Border), Charlie Lambert (Natal), Renato Lona (Natal), Basil Moore (Transvaal), Mervyn Moore (Border), Wally Robertson (Natal), Roger Seymour (Natal and Transvaal), J Rorich (Natal) and Ferdinand Schorn (Natal).





**"...St Charles College has 28 rugby teams (from Grades 3 to 12)..."**

**"St Charles College has fielded many national and provincial players"**





# RANKING & RECRUITING



## RANKING AND RECRUITING – WHY CHANGE IS NECESSARY

There are two issues in the South African Schools rugby firmament that will always provoke prickly, passionate and, at times, acrimonious debate. The one is the claim of a no 1 ranking or at least a place in the top 10 on the various websites that engage in this mythical practice; the other is the manner in which schools go about recruiting rugby talent and the motives behind this engagement.

The first issue is frankly not worth worrying about. Suffice it to say that one of my great mentors, the legendary Dr

Danie Craven, would not have been much of a fan. It was also the reason why he was not a great fan of the rugby week that bears his name and why he would only attend on the first day when he was obliged, as President of the then South African Rugby Board, to make a speech at the opening ceremony.

Craven Week started in 1964 as a pure festival and indeed Western Province selected a team for the first week that was made up of a single individual from one of about 20 schools. Bishops declined to participate and only made players available the following year when Richard Skeeles and Anthony Osler became our first provincial representatives.

As we all know the idea of a festival soon vanished over the horizon as the sole goal of the competing provinces became the desire to play in the so-called final. And then later, in 1974, there was the added incentive to make the SA Schools team, with Bob Bolus becoming Bishops's first representative at that level.

Certain schools have taken it upon themselves to become professional rugby academies and, as part of this process, are recruiting talented boys on a scale that has not happened before. The sums of money involved are vast, particularly as there are some parents who are prepared to auction their children off to the highest bidder. This often goes beyond a 100 percent bursary and involves putting money in the parents' back pocket or offering other incentives. How parents can treat their children's education – the greatest gift one can give them – in this manner is quite mind boggling.

With the differentiation in fees charged by independent and government schools, Grant Nupen, during his time as principal, actually worked out that it would cost Bishops R40-million to compete on this scale! Not that they would ever want to. As current principal Guy Pearson has pointed out that Bishops is an academic school that plays rugby.

Regrettably, there isn't a season that goes by without one of our leading rugby schools complaining of players being lured away by rivals using all kinds of incentives, and it often results in fixtures between the two schools being cancelled. Eastern Cape schools seem to suffer the most with players not going to local rivals but to







other parts of the country (although the latest dispute was between two Gauteng schools, Parktown and King Edward VII).

Where the second issue is a good one is that there is nothing wrong with schools giving opportunities to disadvantaged members of our various communities and frankly this is where the recruiting should be taking place. It is something that the top rugby schools need to do in order to remain relevant to the communities they serve. Independent schools have a particular problem as the tuition fees they are obliged to charge put them way beyond the reach of the vast majority of our youngsters.

This is when the recruitment of players is clearly a good and positive activity. As always, when you do things for the right reasons they can be richly rewarding experiences, both for the school and the individuals concerned. Having been actively involved in this process since Grant Nupen became principal of Bishops in 2001, I can confirm that nothing has given me greater satisfaction than to witness the hunger of these youngsters, not only to do well but to impact on the lives of others who are similarly disadvantaged.

There is no better example than Nizaam Carr and that is not because he pulled off a heroic last-minute tackle over the corner flag that stopped Rondebosch from beating Bishops in 2009 or because he is our latest Springbok. It is simply because he is now taking what he learned at Bishops, particularly in the social responsibility field, and giving it back to his community with the academy he has started in Lansdowne.

For some it may not lead to a successful rugby career but may launch them into an equally lucrative career opportunity. A case in point is Clinton Hamman who was badly injured playing for the Under-16A at Boland Landbou, which had a detrimental effect on his rugby career. But Hamman is now in his final year studying for an LLB Degree at UCT and also assists with coaching rugby and cricket at Bishops.

Bishops was not really into the business of offering sports bursaries in the pre-Nupen days, although an exception was made in the case of Herschelle Gibbs when he arrived in the late 1980s. But, even in his case, I had to go out and find a sponsor for him. Herschelle always maintained that he paid his fees with centuries and tries and there was no doubt that he did a huge amount of good in marketing Bishops as a top sporting school. Spectators came from far and wide to watch him on the rugby field, with the crowd that attended the match in 1992 against Brisbane State School from Australia probably being the biggest ever for a Bishops home match. The sponsor never watched Herschelle play either cricket or rugby for Bishops even though he lived a stone's throw away from the school. He had no connection with Bishops but thought it was the right thing to do. The only condition he laid down was that his donation should remain anonymous. The principal

at that time, John Peake, obviously had to know as did the bursar who had to pay the cheque into the school's account. But the sponsor's status has always been preserved.

When Grant Nupen became principal he quickly appreciated the need for transformation within the school's means and launched his Vision 2010 initiative, which has enabled a succession of talented young rugby players to live their dreams on the lush Piley Rees, recently voted the best schoolboy rugby venue in the country.

It goes without saying that it is an extremely competitive market as there is not a single Premier A League School in the Western Province, not to mention some in the Boland and South Western Districts, that does not offer rugby bursaries. Fortunately, the facilities and coaching expertise available at Bishops is a huge attraction, and most important of all is the aura of the Basil Bey era that will live forever and has produced a brand of rugby that is a natural fit for the youngsters of the Cape Flats and other Western Cape Communities who always have lightning-like speed along with the graceful and nimble feet of a ballerina.

Nizaam Carr had approaches, for instances from all the major schools in the Stellenbosch and Paarl area before he opted for Bishops and, once he arrived there, there was an approach from the Sharks Academy in Durban, even though he was only in Grade 11!

The Bishops brand doesn't just make the school the first option for these youngsters but it has also attracted a new brand of spectator to Bishops who appreciate the high tempo style of play and the concentration on developing skills.

The slogan on the Bishops training shirt tells it all: Running rugby since 1861...

What is important is that the initiatives that a succession of principals have undertaken to create opportunities for the less privileged members of our society has added greatly to the richness of the Bishops experience.

Already this year we have seen Saud Abrahams playing for the Maties' first team in the Varsity Cup and participating in the SA Under-20 trials and Mervano da Silva representing the Tuks Under-20 team that won the Varsity Cup Young Guns competition. The fact that both he and Sam Mitchell made the Tuks starting line-up is another first for Bishops rugby!



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# ST DAVID'S MARIST INANDA



## RUGBY AT ST DAVID'S MARIST INANDA

St David's Marist Inanda is the legacy of the young French priest Marcellin Champagnat who founded a small brotherhood in 1817 to teach poor children living in rural and farming communities in France, who were suffering particular hardships after the French Revolution. Champagnat started a teaching order he called the Marist Brothers, and established schools that served to educate children as well as young adults willing to teach. The Marist Schools, as they came to be known, have since been established in countries across the globe.

Founded in 1941, St David's Marist Inanda is the heritage of Champagnat's ideals: humility, modesty and simplicity; a desire to share and to educate spiritually, academically and culturally; and to offer guidance in sport, leadership and service. It is this heritage that provides the fabric of St David's history and makes it what it is today: a school that is more than an academic institution. St David's has gone from strength to strength and this year celebrates its 75th jubilee. Although the school has grown and developed – with more than 1 300 students from Grade 00 to Matric – it remains true to its ethos and values and is proud to be known as a Marist School.







**"St David's Marist Inanda is the legacy of the young French priest Marcellin Champagnat..."**

**"...Champagnat's ideals: humility, modesty and simplicity..."**







# ST STITHIANS

# COLLEGE

At St Stithians, rugby is in our blood and forms an integral part of our curriculum, along with a steady focus on academic excellence. Everybody involved in rugby at Saints is passionate about improving players' skills and their understanding of the game, as well as creating a positive rugby culture at the college. We're proud to say that, over the last few years especially, Saints rugby has grown and we're once again competing on a higher level. 2015 was a great year for our A teams as they won more than 80% of their games. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our staff, coaches and boys, we ended the year ranked as the 15th best rugby school according to the SA School Sports website – a remarkable and satisfying achievement as we continue to build our rugby culture.

We have eight senior sides and A to D teams in our junior age groups. Saints is blessed with nine rugby fields (two are floodlit), five swimming pools and two boarding houses. We host the Easter Sports Festival annually, and more than 20 000 people attend over the three days to watch six sporting codes being played.

Our first Rugby Festival took place in 1984 as part of the College's 30th anniversary celebrations. Thanks to the organisation of the 1st XV coach Tim Clifford and festival chairman and parent body member Colin Hall, the event was a resounding success, drawing a crowd of about 7 000 on the opening Saturday. Following this, a decision was made to hold the event annually.

The 10 teams that participated in the historic inaugural festival were King Edward VII School, St John's College, St Andrew's College, Potchefstroom High School for Boys, Bishops, Capricorn High School, Kearsney College, Alexandra Boys' High, Pretoria Boys High School and the Boys'

College. It was at this inaugural event that the first match for St Stithians was kicked off by future Springbok, Lance Sherrell. To date, 33 players who attended the festival have gone on to become international players representing eight different countries.

The teams that joined us for the 2015 festival were St Andrew's College, Grey High School, Wynberg Boys High School, Graeme College, Durban High School, Bishops, St Alban's College, Michaelhouse, Pretoria Boys High School, Clifton School and Westville Boys' High School.

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**"Our first Rugby Festival took place in 1984..."**

**"It was at this inaugural event that the first match for St Stithians was kicked off by future Springbok, Lance Sherrell."**



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# VUSA ACADEMIC & RUGBY ACADEMY

# VUSA RUGBY

## **"VUSA THE ISIXHOSA WORD FOR AWAKEN OR ARISE"**

Bishops Diocesan College, with its 167-year history, is well respected for producing future leaders, through their philosophy of having an educational balance between mind, body, and soul.

A key fact about Bishops is that they are an important competitive rugby school that plays a very exciting brand of running rugby, and feeds provincial and national teams with high-quality players. Some of these brilliant players have gone on to represent South Africa as Springboks – Robbie Fleck, Selborne Boome, Francois Louw, Nizaam Carr and Dave von Hoesslin to name just a few. Currently Nizaam Carr, Oli Kebble, Dillyn Leyds and Johnny Kötze play in the Stormers Super Rugby side.

The VUSA Programme was initiated in 2002 under the auspices of Bishops Preparatory School, to identify and provide opportunity for 60 youths through the age groups Under-10 to Under-13. The provision of life skills through rugby, with the focus on academics before practise, has to date been very successful and has produced talent like Sikhumbuzo Notshe, who is a Stormers regular. The VUSA Programme is officially endorsed by Bishops and managed by Bishops Prep Head of Rugby.

Boys are bussed in three times a week from the Langa and Khayelitsha communities for English and Maths tuition followed by rugby coaching. We have been most fortunate to have had fixtures against Bishops, Fish Hoek, Atlantic RFC and a touring UK side. The highlight thus far this year has been the inclusion of the VUSA Academy in the Skeeles 7s. We currently have five boys in the final rounds of the WP Under-12 Craven Week trials.

Other highlights have been attending Super Rugby games at Newlands, an outing to the Ocean Festival at the Waterfront, meeting the Fijian 7s team, and bus trip around Cape Point and a visit to Boulders beach.

The programme is currently offering ball skills and physical movement classes at Crèche level in Langa. We are working on creating links with the Busy Bees RFC in Langa, ensuring that our boys have rugby after their Under-13 year. Our dream is to see the Busy Bees RFC attain Super League A status in the Western Cape. Calulo, who are the official VUSA founding partner, as

well as Investec Asset Management who have recently joined, form a strong relationship and support the programme with much-needed funding. We look forward to growing the VUSA brand and ensuring that real grass roots development is taking place, thus creating the pathway for talent to rise into the higher echelons of South African sport and creating good South African citizens.



**BISHOPS**  
DIOCESAN COLLEGE



## HOT OFF THE PRESS

Sakumbuso Notshe has just been selected for the Springboks! Notshe was part of VUSA in 2006 and from there he went to Wynberg Boys for his high school education. From a young age he showed immense talent. We are incredibly proud of his achievements and look forward to unearthing more talent in our communities.







# UPLANDS

# COLLEGE

### **RUGBY ON THE RISE AT UPLANDS COLLEGE**

Uplands College has established a proud rugby tradition since our inception in 1997. A strong rugby culture develops the kind of ethos that enables our players to build and maintain sound relationships both on and off the field.

Rugby is a wonderful tool with which to teach adolescent boys the value of camaraderie, how to treat your fellow players and opponents with the respect they deserve, and how to win with grace and lose with dignity.

Uplands is renowned for its tenacious approach to the sport, as well as its commitment to play a scintillating game in the true spirit of festival rugby.

We have produced a number of provincial players over the past few years, which is indicative of the passion and dedication of the players and the coaching staff.

Players represented the Pumas at Under-16, Under-18 and Under-19 levels. In addition, we produced players that represented the Pumas at Craven Week.

The College runs a side per age group, and we play in the local league for Medium Schools. Traditional fixtures and festivals supplement the number of matches we play every year. As part of our strategic intent, our high-profile teams play in various festivals as part of our preparation for the season:

- The Under-14A XV plays in the Danie Rossouw Rugby Week.
- The Under-15A and Under-16A XV participate in the annual Under-15 and Under-16 Independent Schools Rugby Festival (ISRF).

- The 2nd XV plays in the Felixton 1st Team Rugby Festival.
- The 1st XV plays in the bi-annual ISRF.
- The 1st XV forms one of the cornerstones of the Independent Co-Ed Schools Sports Festival, which takes place on an annual basis.

We instill a sense of enjoyment in our rugby, and use this wonderful sport as a mechanism to enhance the self-esteem and confidence of the players entrusted in our care.





**"Rugby is a wonderful tool with which to teach adolescent boys the value of camaraderie..."**



**"We instill a sense of enjoyment in our rugby, and ... to enhance the self-esteem and confidence of the players..."**







# BISHOPS

## DIOCESAN COLLEGE

Nestled neatly in the shadow of Table Mountain lies the Piley Rees Field. Since 1861, schoolboys have run rhombus-shaped support lines here, passed in the tackle and confronted defenders only to delicately slip a pass to another player, while making every effort to avoid contact unless absolutely necessary. Bishops boys were, and still are, generally less physically advanced than their Afrikaans counterparts and subsequently developed a style of rugby with which the school has become synonymous. Diocesan College bases its philosophy on the concept that no player is limited to the number on his back. And so, Bishops teams have never played with jersey numbers, thereby encouraging individuals to develop a skills set that promotes catch and pass, unloading in the tackle and identifying space – from the stalwart and stealthy props to the most agile backs. It's safe to say that at Bishops rugby is a team game and no individual is bigger than the team.

The history of Bishops rugby goes back to the days of Canon George Ogilvie who became headmaster of Diocesan College in Cape Town in 1861. His nickname was 'Gog' and the game played at the Cape was often referred to as 'Gog's Game' or 'Gogball'. Bishops got the Cape playing this kind of football, starting with the South African College Schools (SACS). (Bishops and SACS may well have played against each other as far back as 1892.) In those early days, Bishops had the advantage of being coached by Herbert Hayton Castens, a South African old boy of Rugby School and Oxford. It also had the benefit of the great South African rugby personality and thinker of last century Barry Heatlie, whose nicknames included 'Fairy' and 'Ox'. Heatlie helped to found the Old Diocesans' Union as well as the Old Diocesans' RFC. When forming the old boys' union he – or rather his wife – worked out team colours, the most predominant being green. When Heatlie was made captain in 1903, he gave his teams green jerseys, and South Africa won a series for the first time. South Africa still plays in green today.

**The following players are those acknowledged as Bishops internationals:**

#### **South Africa**

Mauritz van Buuren, Harry Boyes – *the first secretary of the South African Rugby Board when it was founded in 1889*, Frank Guthrie, Bill Bisset, Jack Hartley – *the youngest player to have represented South Africa*, Charlie and Willie van Renen, Percy 'Twentyman' Jones – *he became*

*president of the WP RFU and also played cricket for South Africa*, Biddy Anderson – *South African cricket captain and referee*, FR Myburgh, Paul Scott, Davey Cope – *the first player to kick a goal for South Africa in a test (he died in a train crash at Mostert's Hoek on his way to a Currie Cup tournament)*, Theo Samuels – *first try scorer for South Africa*, Barry Heatlie (*captain*), Long George Devenish – *national selector*, Joe Barry, Syd Ashley, Bertie Gibbs, Paddy Carolin – *captain who first devised the 3-4-1 scrum formation and regretted doing so*, Mary Jackson, Barley Burdett – *died in World War I*, Noel Howe-Browne, Bai Wrentmore, Geoff Grey – *national selector*, DO Williams, George D'Alton, John Apsey – *attended prep school*, Dendy Lawton, Howard Watt, Dennis Fry, Stephen Fry – *captain*, Tommy Gentles, Bobby Johns, Peter Whipp, Dugald Macdonald, Guy Keble, Christian Stewart, Robbie Fleck, Selborne Boome, David von Hoesslin (*Fleck, Boome and Von Hoesslin were in the same team at Bishops when Herschelle Gibbs attended*), Hanyani Shimange – *attended prep school*, Francois Louw – *played for WP, the Stormers, Springboks*, Nizaam Carr, Nick Koster – *played for Barbarians*

#### **For England**

Reg Hands, Tuppy Owen-Smith – *captain*, Ossie Newton Thompson, Clive van Ryneveld, Christopher Newton Thompson (*wartime*), Stuart Abbott, Francois Louw – *Bath*

#### **For Scotland**

Harold McCowat, Beak Steyn, Mike Dickson, Donald Macdonald

#### **For Wales**

Mike Davies, Haldane Luscombe

#### **For Canada**

Christian Stewart – *he also played for South Africa*

#### **For Zimbabwe**

Mark Neill, Russell Ashley-Cooper (*Many other graduates played for the then Rhodesia*)

#### **For Australia**

Daniel Vickermann

#### **For Argentina**

Barry Heatlie

**In addition Bill Bisset and Biddy Anderson refereed tests.**





**"...Bishops has never played with jersey numbers  
... base their philosophy on the concept that no  
player is limited to the number on their back."**

**"Bishops and SACS may well have  
played each other as far back as 1892"**





OLIVER KEBBLE

# MATURE KEBBLE

BY HOWARD KAHN

## ENJOYING THE RIDE

He may not have finished his schooling at Bishops, but powerful Stormers and Western Province prop Oliver Kebble is a proud old Diocesan who is quickly carving out a reputation for himself as a top-level rugby player.

The likeable Kebble left Bishops halfway through his Grade-11 year to finish his schooling at Dulwich College in London, an experience he is grateful for and one that he believes accelerated his growth as a person.

'In South Africa it's just easier to say I finished my schooling at Bishops. If I am overseas, I just tell people I finished at Dulwich,' Kebble says.

'That said, I'm a proud Bishops boy and grateful for the education I got here. Going abroad, however, helped me grow up a bit faster – it took me out of my Southern Suburbs comfort zone and made me work a lot harder.'

Oli played at A-team level in the Under-14, Under-15 and Under-16 sides at Bishops, while also making a few first-team appearances before he left for England. (That Bishops 1st XV included the likes of Nizaam Carr, Sam Lane and Dillyn Leyds.) In 2009 the young Kebble embarked on a path that later saw him play for the title-winning SA Under-20 team in 2012, before moving through the ranks at Western Province – first at Vodacom Cup level and for the Under-21s, before becoming a fully-fledged Stormers player.

'I didn't ever think I would play rugby professionally... I was quite a big kid at school but matured a bit later,' Kebble admits. 'I certainly grew up a lot during my stint at Dulwich and that helped my rugby. I always loved playing rugby, but I never played for any representative teams or anything like that... I just kept at it and, I guess, it only really took off for me after I made the SA team in 2012.'

It is quite difficult to imagine Kebble not packing down in the front row at DHL Newlands. Tipping the scales at a rather hefty 124 kilograms and standing 1.91 metres tall, he certainly boasts the right measurements, and strength to boot, while his skill levels are freakish for such a big man.

Of course, there is also the small matter of being the son

of Guy Kebble – himself a fearful sight in the no 1 jersey in his playing days, which saw him represent Western Province, Natal and the Springboks in the 1980s and 1990s.

'With my dad (having played the game) I guess it's safe to say that I grew up in a rugby-focused household,' says Oli, 'but it certainly wasn't the be-all and end-all for us.

'But my dad has been a great mentor and source of inspiration to me – throughout my playing career. He has never put any unnecessary pressure on me, but he was the first to give me a little nudge when I wasn't fulfilling my potential – be that in life or in rugby.

Another big factor in Oli's life was his late grandfather Roger who, says Oli, 'always had a word of encouragement for me'.

He adds, 'There was never any pressure on me to play the game, but there's been no shortage of support from my whole family... I've been lucky in that way.

'If I had to give advice to any young kids out there – not that I am that old just yet – it's to keep fighting the fight. Don't give up if you believe; give yourself a fighting chance to succeed in what you've set out to achieve.'

After completing his A-Levels in England, Kebble returned to the Cape in 2012, having also done his time at the London Irish Academy and at French Pro D2 side, Mont-de-Marsan.

He played one match for the Western Province Vodacom Cup in 2012, before being selected for the SA Under-20 squad that enjoyed success on home soil later that year (despite his playing in the unfamiliar role of tighthead prop). His WP Under-21 debut was to follow, before playing a starring role for the title-winning WP Under-21 team in 2013 – his Super Rugby debut coming before he had even played a game at Currie Cup level.

'(The then WP Under-21 coach) John Dobson was the one who convinced me to come back to Cape Town and give it a go. He always believed in me from the start, and



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# OLIVER KEBBLE



it's great to be coached by him and Robbie Fleck – both of them are great managers and aren't scared to give us younger guys a go.'

The likes of Dobson and Fleck push the Bishops head count up quite a bit, but it's not just in the coaches' box where Diocesan College is well represented in Boundary Road, Newlands.

Kebble is one of four Bishops boys in the Stormers playing mix at present – loose forward Nizaam Carr (a capped Springbok), utility back Dillyn Leyds (before his serious knee injury) and centre Johnny Kotze all learnt their rugby on the Pileys at some point.

'Before Dillyn's injury we had four Bishops guys starting in the same Stormers team – not a bad effort for a bunch of so-called spoiled kids from the Southern Suburbs,' jokes Oli.

'But, seriously, it's great for us to be playing at this level and representing our old school. Bishops has produced a fair share of provincial and international rugby players, and to count as one of them is a big honour. We all looked up to the Stormers and WP players when we were at school, and if the (current) Bishops guys look up to us now... well, then, it's a pretty humbling thought.

His obvious size and power aside, Kebble's biggest attributes remain his determination and the fact that he is so humble.

'I'm not going to stand here and talk about goals or where I want to be in x years' time. For me, it's about



enjoying where I am right now and doing the best that I can right now by using any opportunities that come my way.'

Away from the game of rugby, Kebble likes to spend time with his family and friends, or with his girlfriend Livi when they're in the same city. His other love, these days is golf, and he's also doing a finance degree through University College London.

'I never finished my studies at UCT – it's a big regret of mine,' he admits. 'But, hopefully, I can get this degree done through UCL and it can help me get somewhere in life when the time comes to hang up the boots.'

And life after rugby?

'Phew, that's a good question,' he says.

'Obviously I'd like to say that I want to become a golf professional, but, honestly, I cannot see that happening... well, not in this lifetime anyway!

'I keep my eye on my dad's business from a distance; I could certainly learn a few things from him on that front. For me... look, I haven't thought that far but I'd like to think that I'll end up doing something in the entrepreneurial world.'

For now Oli Kebble is content with scrumming, carrying the ball, cleaning out at rucks and mauls and supporting in the line-outs... and the Bishops rugby family could not be more excited at his progress thus far.



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JOHN DOBSON

# THE LAST WORD



Whoever it was who invented the new Super Rugby format, he is obviously the sort of fellow who splits atoms in the evenings and does molecular things in the bath – or he was tripping on something highly illegal that would have been the envy of John and Yoko.

Because trying to understand this format is challenging. That aside, that there is just too much ordinary rugby is common cause. It was Oom Boy Louw, the legendary Springbok forward (reputed to be bigger and harder than Paarl Rock), who turned the phrase, 'When South Africa plays against New Zealand consider your country at war'. Were that the case nowadays, we would have a rapidly dwindling population. One can only see, by the increasingly empty seats, that

demand is dropping – and so too is quality. I know you want to use trendy words and phrases like opening up markets, commercial underwriting, TV rights and expansion, but I don't think we can just keep adding. Sure, we can have American, European, Canadian, Korean, and even the Tristan da Cunha franchises, but at some stage our Oros will start to dilute to the extent that it tastes like water. When Bournemouth play Hull City (I have heard of both of them) the ground is packed, and atmospheric swearing, even if the content is lurid, rings around a heaving ground.

If we continue to scatter 4 000 people, a few demented ice-cream sellers and a packet of sultanias around the 50 000-seater stadium, at some stage the goateed media type who runs the television set-up is going to say that this is not an attractive product.

Because there is too much rugby. Super Rugby was at its best when 12 teams played each other once, and then there was a semifinal and a final. Over by 31 May, when we put down our machetes and trained our guns on Tests.

The Currie Cup, which for over 100 years we used to be able to call the world's best domestic competition (and now we have to resort to calling it the world's oldest domestic competition) is falling faster from 33 storeys than the rand. If some of you, for various reasons, like me, struggle to sleep, have a ten-minute squizz at the Force (sic) versus the Rebels and you will be gone in no time, insomnia a distant memory.

54 Springboks are currently playing overseas. That means local competitions must be weakened. Playing overseas used to be about one last pay check so you can afford your child's maintenance and the Seven Eleven you want to buy in Kleinmond, even if one's knee couldn't bend. But now, we see talented 22-year-olds like Steven Kitsoff or CJ Stander packing up.

We are just bailed out by our amazing school system, this production-line of talent our last envy (well, that and Eben Etzebeth) of the rugby world. If you want real rugby entertainment, get to a school game.





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# JOHN DOBSON

Professional rugby has brought a lot of things that are unattractive – risk aversion, lack of team gees, some of man's inhumanity to man (when it comes to the playing and cutting of players) – and some oversized headphones. The fact that we do not have schoolboy rugby conferences, quarterfinals wild cards is something to be grateful for. There are many ironies in the differences between schoolboy games and senior professional rugby.

The fact that there is nothing riding on it (no trophy, no cheque, no vital bonus point), means there is plenty riding on it. Players are playing for pride. Nothing else. Shakespeare, in Julius Caesar, I know for a fact was talking about our schoolboy rugby when he asked, 'it's for pride, what is nobler than pride?'.

The second irony is that you feel there may not be enough rugby. You bemoan the fact that the third term is only two games or whatever, but in a funny way, that's where the attraction lies. Less is more. The Scots have to wait for two years to boo England at Murrayfield. We

can't sell out SA vs NZ. We are at war four or five times a year. The Soweto derby used to threaten national security and you had to queue around Orlando to get a ticket. Now, there are about seven games a season – none sold out. It's not, as they say, nuclear microbiology to work out – it's overpriced overkill.

Spectators are leaving rugby in droves. It's convoluted, over-saturated, anodyne, vanilla, pseudo rugby league. We have to listen to phrases like 'execution', 'playing in the right areas of the field' and, worst of all, 'we played too much rugby'. It will, like Anglo shares and Metrorail, bottom out and something will be done. I don't think they need Accenture to work that out, but for now there is one environment that is pure, enthralling, simple and treasured. And that is a school game.

Let's leave it like that. Less is more. Old school is the future, if you get my drift. It's not broken, so don't try to fix it. Leave it as it is. Then we only have to go back to Paarl in 2018.





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