Rugby Report

‘The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.’ – Vince Lombardi

Looking back on 2006 I can, in all honesty, say that once again the coaches and boys at Pretoria Boys High School have done what this quote implies. The season has consisted of hard work, dedication and determination and everyone applied themselves to the best of their abilities. There is an abundance of talent at Boys High and that, coupled with enthusiasm and the hard work of both coaches and boys, has lifted the level of our rugby to such an extent that we can now annually claim to be amongst the top twenty rugby-playing schools in the country.

We played a total of 326 matches of which 207 were won giving us an overall winning percentage of 64%. I must thank Mr Housdon for making many calls to other schools and organising fixtures for, especially, our lower sides.

The 1st XV played a total of 22 games of included the Grey High School 150th celebrations in Port Elizabeth and the KES Easter Rugby Festival. They had 16 wins and played the second most games by any 1st team in South Africa with a winning percentage of 73%, and for the first time since 1996 managed to beat Maritzburg College. I would like to congratulate Paul Anthony and Adrian Simmons and 1st XV captain, Henri Bantjes, for the way in they coached and captained the side respectively during a very successful season.

The 6th XV was the team of the season losing only one game and drawing another out of twelve matches which ended their season with an 84% win rate.

In 2006 PBHS produced the SA Schools’ coach, Mr Paul Anthony, a SA Schools’ B teamplayer in Henri Bantjes, three Craven week players, two U18 Academy players, three U19 Blue Bulls Schools’ side players, three U19 Blue Bulls Schools’ side players, three U16 Grant Khomo Week players and two U19 Currie Cup Squad players and one of the boys is still U17!

The state of the game at Boys High is largely due to a very supportive headmaster, Mr Schroder, and an ever increasing group of experienced coaches. Without them rugby at PBHS would not be filled with such healthy traditions, passion and enthusiasm and this shows in the way the boys play the game.

As Master-in-Charge of Rugby for 2006, I would like to thank our fourteen staff members and nineteen student coaches for their dedication and hard work during the season. They are the people who dedicate their afternoons and weekends to coaching the boys and ensuring rugby remains strong and healthy. This year five of our coaches completed the Level 2 Blue Bulls coaching certificate, and this can only auger well for the game. Hopefully running the ball was part of the Blue Bulls coaching course. The success of 2006 is certainly a reflection of the quality of our coaches, all of whom can be proud of their achievements.

Thanks must go to all who refereed during the season. It is not always an easy task but without them the games would not be possible. Special thanks is also due to the Blue Bulls Rugby referees and their Chairman, Mr Roodt, for supplying us with much appreciated referees during the season.

With the much publicised rugby related deaths and injuries that have been in the press of late, I can only say that our First Aid was of the highest quality and prepared for any situation. Thank you to everyone involved especially Mr Anthony Jansen van Rensburg and Sister Christian. Thanks also to the Chris Burger/Petro Jackson Fund for supplying Spine-line lanyards with emergency numbers on them to all the coaches at PBHS.

We are indeed fortunate to have the awesome rugby facilities we have and thank Messrs Housdon and Shalang for all the work they put into the preparation and maintenance of the grounds.

Mrs Vicky Crankshaw and her team of mothers must also be thanked for running the tuckshop and supplying top quality lunches and teas to both coaches and parents. Thanks to Mrs Wallace and her team for the catering at the annual Rugby Dinner. Thank you, too, to all the parents for their support of the boys and rugby at PBHS. Their support makes it special to be part of such a rugby culture and I thank them for their valued support and input.

Coaching at PBHS is wonderful and part of that comes down to the quality of the individuals who attend this great school. My thanks go to the boys for another great season and I hope they continue to work hard at the game they love.

Finally, thank you to everyone involved in rugby at Boys High and for making the year such a success. I urge all to keep supporting this wonderful institution and the game of rugby as it is played at PBHS.

Richard Köhne, Master-in-Charge Rugby
1st XV Rugby

Question
If fifteen plus young men score 93 tries, winning 16 out of 23 games, with the top try scorer being a hooker who scored 19 tries and the average age of the players equalling 17 years what do you have?

Answer
The 1st XV of 2006 – a dynamic and entertaining team who produced sparkling, running rugby and scored an average of five tries per match.

The team was superbly led by Henri Bantjes whose leadership qualities on and off the field were a credit to the School and team. He was ably assisted by Nic Jordaan who aptly was the second highest try scorer (11 tries) behind Henri who scored 19 tries.

The performance of the team is best reflected in the two matches against our gutsy rivals, Maritzburg College. In our first encounter, away, against them we had come off a superb start to the season, beating KES, Wynberg Boys High, Selborne College and narrowly losing to Grey PE. College at the 150th Festival on the other hand, had had a poor start losing all their matches at the same festival. We arrived in Pietermaritzburg overly confident and possibly a tad arrogant – all recipes for disaster. He who underrates any College team, especially at Goldstones, is due for a surprise! We were thrashed that day and College ran out deserved winners 24–3. The ‘Candies’ had learnt a vital lesson – NEVER underestimate the opposition. The return match, as anticipated, was an absolute thriller. With one minute of playing time left we trailed 19–24 and were awarded a penalty on the College 22 metre line. Henri opted for the lineout 5 metres out and this was to be the final play of the game. The tension amongst the supporters of both teams was palpable. We had never beaten College in an annual fixture. Adrian Simmons and I were emotional wrecks as were Beans Bateman and Nicky van der Walt, the two College coaches. We drove the lineout and were stopped a metre short. We hit at the goal line with three drives, but the College defence was fearless. We moved the ball wide, and once again the College defence was miraculous. We attacked again to the left. Once, twice we drove at the line to no avail. Then from the middle of a ruck, Henri Bantjes somehow placed the ball over the goal line. The raised arm of the referee and the conversion were the signal for 1000 Boys High boys to swarm onto the field bringing back memories of the victory against AHS in 2003. All credit goes to the thirty schoolboys for two visual feasts.

Front Row L–R: M Chapman, A van Schoor, G Sanders, H Bantjes (Captain), N Jordaan, OT Marothodi, E Scurr.
Second Row L–R: Mr P Anthony (Coach), D Bester, L Prior, L Tooley, L Thompson, A Heald, B Mitchell, Mr A Simmons (Coach).
Back Row L–R: R Gien, T Chikukwa.
Player profile

Henri Bantjes – Captain and Hooker (1st XV 2003–2006)
He is an explosive and powerful carrier of the ball who has excellent handling and kicking skills. His move from prop to hooker will stand him in good stead for the future. He is an excellent scrummager and his throw-in at the lineout has improved dramatically. He is an honest, hard-working player who has led the team with aplomb. His 19 tries bear testimony to a superb season as does his selection for the Blue Bulls Craven Week Team and the SA Schools B Team. I have no doubt that Henri will follow in the footsteps of John Smit and Chiliboy Ralepelle in becoming an international hooker of class.

Nic Jordaan – Vice-Captain and Wing (1st XV 2004–2006)
Nic is a versatile, quick and physical player who gives his all on the field. He is an excellent finisher and a determined defender who enjoys the contact situation. He scored a host of excellent tries and his unbridled passion for his team and school is his strongest asset. Nic represented the Blue Bulls U19XV and produced a high standard of play. He has the ability to play at a top level if he pursues rugby as a career.

Luke Prior surprised me with his stamina and skill. He is a solid front row who stood his ground and showed remarkable commitment in the rucks and mauls. He is a talented, strong and loyal young man and a good team man to boot.

Kyle Jones shared the loosehead position with Luke Prior. A converted flanker, he proved to be a useful scrummager and a hard man at ruck time. His biggest asset is his tenacity and loyalty. A nagging calf injury put paid to his season in the later stages of the year.

Bradley Mitchell – Tighthead Prop (1st XV 2006)
Tighthead is the cornerstone of any team. At age 17 Brad stood up to the best he faced. He was literally a pillar of strength and his scrummage was superb. He is a hard worker and a dedicated rugby player. I have no doubt that if his positive attitude perseveres he will play rugby at the highest level. I look forward to watching his career unfold and he should be a key figure in the 2007 1st XV.

Lee and Luke (sounds like a bad cowboy movie!) are two young locks who, if their form in 2006 is a
SPORT

Rugby

eyardstick, should prove to be valuable players in 2007.

Their play varied in that Luke displayed incredible commitment to the ruck and ground play and his fierce ‘cleans’ and ‘steals’ were a key to the team’s success. He also proved to be a strong supporter at lineout time and a physical and robust player who possesses skill and pace.

Lee tended to play a little looser and was used as a jumper and carrier of the ball. He is a quick and athletic player who also enjoys the physical aspect of the game and whose role in 2006 was invaluable. I look forward to watching him in action next year.

Tendai Chikukwa – Eighth Man (1st XV 2005–2006)
Tendai has represented his school and the Blue Bulls Craven Week Team for two years and he has been brilliant. 2007 should be ‘massive’ for him. He is a natural 8th man who reads the game superbly. He is a fast, balanced runner who possesses excellent skills. He was an enormous asset to the team at lineout and I predict a fantastic future for this talented young man.

Flanks – A host of players, all talented and equally effective, slotted in on both flanks.

Robbie Gien (1st XV 2006)
Robbie is a big, mobile and physical player who has good hands and real pace. He will surely be a valuable player in 20-07 and although he has proved to be versatile (lock, flank, centre) he will need to settle down to one position early in the season. A good year lies ahead of him.

Coetze Marais (1st XV 2006)
Proved to be a fearless carrier of the ball and a skilful player to boot. He has also played centre, is really quick and will be a huge asset to the team in 2007. He, too, needs to settle into one position. He is a hard worker and an excellent team man.

Dylan Bester (1st XV 2006)
He was plagued by an abdominal infection for the first part of the season. Once he made the team, this short, strong young man proved to be a superb ‘ground’ player. His strength and pace enabled him to steal and carry the ball with great effect.

Morné Marais (1st XV 2006)
Together with Bester he proved to be a handful for opposition at rucks and mauls. His stature, speed and tenacity saw him steal many a ball in these situations. Unfortunately he, too, was plagued by injury throughout the season. 2007 should be an excellent year for him.

Adriaan van Schoor – Scrumhalf (1st XV 2006)
Adriaan worked hard on his pass and as the season progressed it became obvious that he was going to be a player to be reckoned with. His contribution to the team was enormous, particularly in defence. He is a devastating tackler, an aggressive carrier and a skilful player whose box kicks were spot on. His inclusion in the Blue Bulls U19 Academy team was no surprise and I believe that this young man has a great future as a rugby player.

Gary Sanders – Flyhalf (1st XV 2006)
Gary and Adriaan proved to be a superb half-back pairing and their accurate and speedy distribution of the ball led to many tries. Gary is the perfect flyhalf. He has superb hands, kicks with both feet, attacks the gain line, passes left and right, and is a strong defender. I have no doubt that as he matures into the ‘10’ position he will have the ability to play great rugby in the years ahead. He has a fine understanding of the game and this is a major strength.

Michael Chapman – (1st XV 2005 and 2006)
Michael is a multi-talented sportsman and as a rugby player is exceptionally skilful and has a superb eye for a gap. He is a physical player and a strong defender and has served the ‘candies’ loyalty for two years. His winning try in the last second against Florida Hoërskool will forever remain etched in my memory. He hit the gap beautifully and finished a 35m race to score under the post.

Omphile Marothodi – (1st XV 2005 and 2006)
Unfortunately, Tom missed out on the opening fixtures due to a strained hamstring. He is an electric young rugby player who possesses real pace and strength/he has been selected to play Craven Week for the past two years and I believe that 2007 will be a magnificent year. He made two appearances for the Blue Bulls U19 ABSA Currie Cup Team. Tom has the ability to play rugby at the highest level and I look forward to following as his career unfolds.

James Brawley – (1st XV 2006)
James came into the team, at the Grey PE Festival and made a difference. He is a powerful carrier of the ball and a determined and gutsy player.

Edwin Scurr – Centre/Fullback (1st XV 2006)
Ed was the surprise package and the most consistently excellent player of the year. His superb sidestep, hand skills and eye for a gap saw him split the opposition defence on more than one occasion. I believe that if he followed a rugby career he would do exceptionally well. He has a cool head and is an intelligent sportsman who slotted into the team superbly.

Andrew Christie – Flank/Hooker (1st XV 2006)
A tough, fearless, nuggety and totally committed rugby player who possesses skills and pace. I expect big things from him in 2007.

Ethan Gouws – Lock/Flank (1st XV 2006)
Ethan is a strong, mobile, intelligent and skilful rugby player. His lineout work is invaluable and I believe that 2007 can be a great year for him.
Tendai Chikukwa against Affies

Ruck time against Affies! Henri Bantjes, Dylan Bester, Dane Blignaut, Bradley Mitchell

‘Tis here we learn to live’
Hlogi Kgothadi – Centre (1st XV 2006)
Hlogi injected pace and vision into the backline and his inclusion to the team proved to be a winner. He is a balanced runner and skilful player with a wonderful eye for a gap. Unfortunately, a serious concussion ended his season early.

Alistair Heald – Flank (1st XV 2006)
Alistair proved to be a committed and determined flanker whose height at lineouts was an asset to the team. He has genuine pace and good skills which come to the fore in open, free running games.

Nathan Fourie – (1st XV 2006)
Like Alistair, Nathan possesses real pace and skills. He is not afraid of contact and given space he can be electrifying. I expect great things from him in 2007.

Bradley Coetzer, Thys de Beer and Dian van der Westhuizen all came into the team on occasion and made a difference.

Thy’s superb vision against Florida Hoër set up Chapman’s superb try. Bradley’s composure and ‘boot’ were superb, and Dian faces a bright future in 2007.

Nicholas Korb also had a run in the ‘Candies’ but an injury forced him to retire from the festival squad.

Adrian Simmons (Coach – 1st XV 2005 – 2006)
It has been an absolute pleasure working with Adrian. He is an enthusiastic and dedicated coach who is willing to learn and contribute. Unfortunately, I couldn’t teach him much as he was au fait with all the new points I brought in as he had ‘done them’ as a junior coach at Glenwood. This sense of humour he has will stand him in good stead as a coach in the future and his selection as assistance coach at the Blue Bulls U18 Academy team is proof of his dedication and knowledge of the game. I wish him all the best in 2007. My only complaint is sharing a room with him is murder – he snores – he really, really snores!

To the Head, his missus, parents, staff and PBHS boys - you were great in your support of the 1st XV. My sons, Cameron and Daniel have nailed Boys High badges to their backs. They dream of playing for the 1st XV. They are twelve and nine years old, respectively. Such is the power of the School and the Candies.

Paul Anthony, 1st XV Coach
Players who played more than five games included: Michael Marias (The Father), Dane Blignaut, Jimmy Maartens, Tiger Solomon, Robbie Gien, Ryan Carlson, Ethan Gouws, Coetsee Marais, Morné Marais, Alistair Heald, Quintin Phiri, Dian van der Westhuizen, Gareth Crankshaw, Lloyd Fisher, Koketso Ralepelle, Hlogi Kgothadi, Shaun Tooze, Nathan Fourie, Brad Coetser and Thys de Beer.

Captain: Dane Blignaut
Vice-Captain: Thys de Beer

The 2006 season was a very successful season for the 2nd XV with the side playing a total of 16 games, winning 10 and losing 6.

The season started on a disappointing note with a loss to Kempton Park of 6–13. This was similar to the later loss to Eldoraigne of 0–3 where we were perhaps guilty of underestimating the lesser known schools and paid dearly for it. In both games we allowed the opponents to dominate the first halves, gaining the lead. We played better rugby towards the latter phases of the games but by then the opponents had been allowed to believe in themselves.

The first fixture against Maritzburg College was also very disappointing. Coetzee Marais clearly scored a try in the first half but unfortunately the referee was not in a position to award the try. After outscoring College by four tries to three and leading 24-22 with time up, the College side was promptly awarded a penalty on their first visit into our territory for several minutes. The rest is history and the side was left to deal with a bitter defeat.

This defeat was followed by a good win against Kearnsey College and the best win of the season the following week when we managed to beat a much fancied Waterkloof side by 17–12. The forwards, in particular, got stuck into the boys from Waterkloof and laid the foundation for the victory. Dogged defence by the centres in the midfield will also be a lasting memory from this game.

The most physically tough game of the season was probably the home fixture against KES. We had managed to beat them relatively easily in the away fixture but the side that ran out onto Brooks field was different. We scored enough points in the first half to outlast a furious onslaught by KES in the second half and there was a collective sigh of relief when the final whistle blew and we had won 19–10. The derby match against Affies was yet again a very closely contested. Dian van der Westhuizen scored a try early in the second half to put us in the lead but a couple of unforced errors in the second half saw Affies score twice to beat us 13–21.

The best performance by the backline players came against St Albans where several very good tries were scored by the backs. Nathan Fourie outclassed his opponents on the wing and Lloyd Fisher showed the ability to straighten the line very effectively leading to a 43–0 victory.

A wicked twist of fate saw the game against College being reduced to two halves of twenty minutes each. It was just not enough time to come back from an early lead taken by College. During the latter part of the game we were undoubtedly the better side on the field and we believe that had we played for sixty minutes we would have beaten them. The 8–17 loss at home to College was the most disappointing outcome of the season.

The train trip to play the Cherries in Bloemfontein is never an attractive proposition. The seconds rose to the occasion and played their best rugby of the whole season at Grey College. The front row of Marias, Solomon and Maartens gave the Cherries front row a very tough time. Robbie Gien played an outstanding game of rugby that day putting several Grey players on their backs. Ethan Gouws scored a well-deserved try but we still lost to a classy side by 5–20. Had this standard of rugby been played in all the games, we would surely not have lost more than once this season.

It was a pleasure to work with the 2nd XV this season. The players were very committed to each other and did their School and themselves proud. Most of the large number of Form 4 boys in the side will surely go onto represent the 1st XV next year. A special word of thanks must go to Dane Blignaut who captained the side and led them by showing passion and commitment throughout the season. Thanks too, to Mr Paul Ewart-Phipps for his wisdom and experience.

Dr Johan Lombard, Coach
**3rd XV Rugby**

The 3rd Rugby XV enjoyed a reasonably successful season winning 64% of matches played. Under the leadership of Raymond Oosthuizen, the team developed a wonderful spirit which in turn led to many wonderful and memorable rugby moments. With the exception of Afrikaans Hoër Seunskool and Grey College, the team was never totally outclassed.

The forward pack led by the capable and level-headed Steven Booysen provided ample ball which the backs used effectively, leading to performances throughout the season that were usually consistent with fine displays of attractive rugby and a tenacious effort to win. This was well demonstrated in the return match against Maritzburg College on Brooks Field where Boys High narrowly lost 26–21, providing lasting memories for both teams.

A further strong point of the team was their consistently positive approach to the game and commitment to their fellow team members after a defeat, where at Monday practices they would gather with renewed determination to train well for the next game. This attitude made the season special and enjoyable.

Regular team members: R Oosthuizen (Captain), S Booysen (Vice-Captain), A Rundle, E Maré, Q Phiri, R Honu, M Bowden, J Holtzhauzen, R Wicks, E Godden, S Didiza, G McMahon, K Vivier, S Twiname, K Ralepelle, G Currie, J Schutte, J Koen, R Negri.

**P Ewart-Phipps and Dr J Lombard, Coaches**

**4th XV Rugby**

The Marines

The 4th XV rugby had a very good season. Their results were good but more important than that was the attitude displayed. A winning, competitive ethos existed in this group as well as a willingness to work hard to achieve their aims. There was a terrific spirit in the 4th/5th squad and this was clearly evident in the way that they played their rugby. There were a great many changes in the team over the course of the season and yet the core values remained the same. For this much credit must go to Tannah Matus, who captained the side and did an exceptional job both on the field and at practice.

The 4th XV racked up some big scores against some of our traditional Johannesburg rivals but given the depth of talent at PBHS, this is not really surprising. More pleasing to me as a coach is that we were competitive in every game. We had our losses but this group of young men were never overawed and truly believed that they were capable of beating any given side on any Saturday. This was a rare group of young men and it was an absolute pleasure to coach them.

My thanks must go to my co-coach Matthew Adendorff who did an exceptional job with the backs. I would also like to thank all parents who hosted and supported during the course of the year. Lastly, my boys, thank you for the season. You are all ‘Boys High’ boys.

**Player of the season shared: Tannah Matus and Shaun Fickling.**

**Most improved Player: Wesley Lynn**

- **Played**: 12
- **Won**: 8
- **Lost**: 3
- **Drew**: 1
- **KES** W 22–0
- **Parktown** W 46–3
- **AHS 5th** W 15–12
- **Eldoraigne 3rd** W 22–12
- **Maritzburg** L 8–17
- **Kearsney** W 49–5
- **Waterkloof** W 20–5
- **Saints** W 38–3
- **KES** W 34–0
- **AHS** L 5–22
- **Maritzburg** D 6–6
- **Grey College** L 0–24

**Craig McBride, Coach**
**5th XV Rugby**

**The Marines**

Passion and commitment are words frequently used but to see these words realised and embodied by a group of young men is something special. I never had to motivate the boys in this team as they played with all they had every week.

There were frequent changes in personnel from week to week which is an unfortunate reality of coaching and playing at this level. The players who filled in every week, however, did themselves and the team proud. My sincere thanks therefore go to Mr Tucker and his 6th team coaches who supplied fit and motivated players when required.

The 5th XV played some scintillating rugby this year that was a pleasure to watch. A number of young players put their hands up and will go on to higher sides next year. These young players meshed well with the older stalwarts and a really positive team vibe existed.

I was pleased to note the development of players both personally and in terms of their rugby skills.

I would like to thank all parents for their support and hosting and Mr Adendorff for his considerable input.

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**6th XV Rugby**

The 2006 season was indeed an enjoyable one, particularly because of the successful season we enjoyed. With a win record of 11 matches, 2 losses and one draw, any coach would be proud to achieve this result. Some of the notable wins were the victories against Maritzburg College especially the second game which produced a nail-biting 17–14 victory and a draw against Affies. The team played with great guts, determination and spirit, not only in these games but throughout the season. Every single one of the players who played for the ‘Tucker Tanks’ had a valuable Asomething different@ to contribute.

There is not a single player who could be written off as obsolete. Dino led the troops most of the season from the hooker position always also playing outstandingly well. Some other names that stand out include the centre pair of Malan and Annandale – a force to be reckoned with as much in defence as offence. Moshesh scrummed strongly alongside his skipper, with Bodenstein, Breedt and Christiaan bringing stability to the locks. Gillham and van der Merwe produced some strong regular runs from the loose positions. Van Staden, who was always there when needed, distributed useful ball to his fly-half Ponton, who would run holes through any defence line. Plenty of tries were rounded off by the pace and strength of the back trio, including Percy, van Rensburg and Wienand. Most of the team ended up in the 5th side and higher but their names are too many to mention. I thank every single player, along with Marius, whom I had the pleasure of coaching and Mr Tucker for allowing us to use his name and make this season so successful and enjoyable. I wish all the boys all the best for their futures. Go ‘Tucker Tanks’!

Ayanda Zaca, Coach

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Player of the season: Darrell Smit
Most improved player: Clinton Mitchell
Played 11
Won 7
Lost 4
Dra 0
KES W 5–3
Parktown W 63–0
Jeppe 4th W 15–2
Maritzburg L 8–25
Kearsney W 98–0
Waterkloof W 32–0
Saints W 48–0
KES W 48–0
AHS L 6–10
Maritzburg L 3–8
Grey College L 5–50

Craig McBride, Coach

Wilhelm Theron about to score against Affies

One of the Hofman twins makes a clean break.
7th XV Rugby

The season started off very well for the 7th team in 2006. After managing to scrape our players together from the trials the previous week, we ended up beating KES 54–0 at KES with our scrumhalf, Haas, having the best game ever in comparison with the size of the other boys. From that day on the 6th and 7th teams (later known as the ‘Tucker Tanks’) decided to clinch the title of team of the year. We practised hard, and there was always a smile on our faces, even though some of the gruelling fitness sessions were on Mondays. The 7th team managed to beat Menlo Park, Jeppe and Eldoraigne by an average of 48 points without conceding one point.

The highlights of the season were most definitely the two Maritzburg College matches, which we won 13–12 at College and 31–0 on Brooks. We suffered a couple of injuries in the Affies match, and unfortunately lost 15–12 in a nail-biting encounter. The never-say-die attitude of the ‘Tucker Tanks’ made them a pleasure to coach. Putting their team mates and school first when running onto every field, resulted in their losing only three matches this season. They tackled, ran, rucked and mauled better and better as the season progressed. I still believe that if we had not suffered so many injuries before the Grey College match we would have had a very good chance of winning. It was a pleasure coaching with Mr Tucker and Mr Zacca and getting to know the boys. With an 80% winning rate and being the second most successful team in the school, I can truly say it was great being involved with the team.

Marius Viljoen, Coach

8th Team Rugby

What a season! I have had the privilege of coaching at Boys High for three years now and never have I had a such a dedicated and motivated team. Coaching the 8th team this year has been a wonderful experience and it has been a season to remember. We started off with an initial squad of about 45 players from the 8th, 9th and 10th teams. This meant that there was a good pool of players to select from and we could pick a really strong, all-round team. The year started on a good note with victories in our first couple of games (including a great win against the 7th team) until we unfortunately suffered a narrow loss away against Maritzburg College. The loss did, however, not halt our ambition to win as many games as possible and we strove to play our best at all times. The highlight of the season undoubtedly came against Affies when, as usual, we were the underdogs in a game that became one of the best schoolboy games I have ever seen. The game was played with guts and passion and was clinched in the last minute with a great penalty from just in front of the half-way line by captain Thys de Wet. We won 15–12. It was a game that will be remembered by all the players and spectators for the rest of their lives.

The team showed a lot of flair and a good all-round performance with the usual great forward play. The forwards were very strong in every aspect of the game especially at line-out time and offloading in the tackles. The backs were our main source of penetration with some outrageous backline moves which would generally result in a try under the posts or an intercept try for our opponents.

The success of the team was evident throughout the year with almost the entire team playing for teams higher up as the season progressed. We finished the season on a high by thumping Maritzburg (at home) 56–0 which was an indication of how well the team had gelled together.

Special thanks go to all the boys who played for the 8th team this season and I hope they enjoy their rugby. I wish them good luck for 2007.

Francois van Huyssteen, Coach

9th XV Rugby

Injuries in higher teams meant that it was difficult to maintain consistency in the four games we played. I feel that the results were not a true reflection of the quality of rugby played by the team, especially as they played Affies twice and Maritzburg away.

The season started at Maritzburg where we suffered a narrow 10–9 defeat on Goldstone’s after being the better team on the day. We then played John Vorster and won well in a clinical performance. Unfortunately, we ran into Affies and lost 30–0 in our worst performance of the season.

We realised that we had to work hard to improve and to be competitive at the next Affies fixture. This was indeed the case when we played them away and narrowly lost 10–14 in a great game which could have gone either way.

I’d like to thank the regulars in the team for being committed and always giving their best. They are true Boys High boys. It was a pleasure to coach them.

Lourens de Jongh, Coach
**10th XV Rugby**

Boys High 10ths had a short and not so sweet season. As a result of the lack in numbers in the open division at other schools, the boys played only two games the entire season. The ultimate role of the 10th was to provide the much needed substitutes and reserves for the higher sides. Many of the boys progressed through the ranks up to as high as the 6th team.

Thank you to all those boys who attended practices, irrespective of the shortage of game time. For many matric boys it was their last opportunity to represent their school and they really rose to the challenge.

_Clint Dalglish_

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_Nii Mills evades a Waterkloof defender_  
_Tendai Chikukwa wins another lineout with Ethan Gouws and Kyle Jones supporting_

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**MONDANETTE**

_SLAGHUIS / BUTCHERY_

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_Vir die beste vleis in die stad!!  
For the best meat in town!!_
U16A Rugby

Coaching rugby at Pretoria Boys High School has always been a pleasure and 2006 has proved to be no different. The calibre of boy that we have to work with both as player but even more so as a person never fails to impress one.

The year began with fixtures against our traditional rivals from Johannesburg. After an encouraging fixture against K.E.S. we stuttered to victory against Parktown and Jeppe and drew against Menlopark. Considering the abilities of the players, the team was under performing badly and this was seen during our loss against Eldoraigne. This match proved to be the turning point in our season.

At Maritzburg we did not win but the boys’ change in attitude was amazing and they turned in a spirited and gutsy performance. The following week against Kearsney they played with the same physical presence and the confidence previously lacking and this proved to be our best all-round performance of the year and completed the transformation process. After Kearsney there was never a match where we did not believe we could win. This was never clearer than against Waterkloof where we were comprehensively beaten but made Waterkloof fight for every point they scored.

Against A.H.S. Boys High boys always raise their game and on the day anything can happen. With one minute to play we trailed 24 B 22 with an easy conversion to come. Unfortunately the kick was missed and A.H.S. went on to score one more try.

After the July holidays we were never able to play at quite the same level again. Injuries to vital players prevented us from finishing the season in the manner we should have. Solo Aphi, our tight-head prop and principal ball carrier, was lost after the Blue Bulls Under 16 Week. Christaan Van Der Westhuizen, one of our locks, a hugely physical and influential member of the side, had an operation on a broken finger and Shaun Landsburg our inspirational captain, damaged his knee against St Albans. I truly believe that had we had these players the match against Maritzburg may well have turned out differently. In our final match was against the formidable Grey College from Bloemfontein another gutsy performance was delivered from the boys. They fought bravely until the final whistle when deep emotion was felt by all and led to tears. They felt that they had let themselves, their team mates and their school down. All the emotion and the tears represented the end of a season where they had given everything – the wins and the losses, the spirit built. That scene in the change room confirmed to me just how much it meant for these boys to represent their school and the pride and passion with which they played. For more than this I could never have asked and I thank them.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr De Kock for all his assistance during the year. We had decided to incorporate the A and B teams into a squad and while Mr De Kock was ultimately in charge of the B’s and I the A’s both teams always practiced together, had the same calls and moves and largely followed the same game plan. This system had a very positive effect on the team spirit as a whole and also had the obvious positive spin offs when players had to move between the two teams. For all Mr De Kock’s assistance and in particular for the time he spent with the back-line I am most grateful.

Greg Hassenkamp, Coach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Team 1</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Team 2</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KES</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>25–14</td>
<td>Parktown</td>
<td>22–7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menlo Park</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>12–12</td>
<td>Jeppe</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eldoraigne</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>7–45</td>
<td>Maritzburg College</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kearsney College</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>17–0</td>
<td>Waterkloof</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Sthianns</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>22–18</td>
<td>KES</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHS</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>22–29</td>
<td>St Johns</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Albans</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>22–0</td>
<td>Maritzburg College</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey College</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>0–63</td>
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U16B Rugby

It has been three years since I last coached a B side and I was not at all disappointed. The boys approached the season with a humble but positive frame of mind. At times they showed incredible character and because of that passion, they had a truly impressive season.

We played five matches prior to the April holidays, three of them against our rivals on the other side of the Jukskei River – KES, Parktown and Jeppe. KES set the tone for the B team for the rest of the season. The forwards were completely out-powered but they never stopped defending and in the end came out the victors. They clinically beat Parktown and Jeppe, Menlo Park offered very little resistance and although Eldoraigne came with a hard and accomplished reputation, the team defended with great tenacity and beat them scoring a late try.

Against Maritzburg, the boys were all fired up and did not disappoint the crowds. With ten minutes to go the score was twelve all. Both sides put in try-saving tackles but the score line remained the same. After this little could stop them. Against Kearsney their fighting spirit came through and they pulled the match out of the bag narrowly clipping Kearsney 12–10. The boys lifted their game against Waterkloof and for 48 minutes of the match, Waterkloof had a narrow lead of only three points and they were able to score in the dying seconds. This was the first defeat the team suffered.

St Stithians and KES saw them bouncing back with a vengeance and it was a good build up to Affies. At half time we were ahead 13–10 and the fight of their lives was on to defend and beat Affies. We stopped wave after wave but the constant pounding at our line finally paid off for St Johns.

St Johns W 17–12

St Albans W 13–0

Maritzburg L 0–7

Grey College L 7–71

It was a truly sad end to an otherwise great season and as a coach I could not ask for more from any of the thirty players who played for the U16B team. Everyone gave of their best without exception. It was a pleasure working with Mr Hassenkamp and the never-say-die attitude of the boys in the A and B teams.

Andrew de Kock, Coach

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KES</td>
<td>W 17–0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parktown</td>
<td>W 19–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menlo Park</td>
<td>W 53–0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeppe</td>
<td>W 31–0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eldoraigne</td>
<td>W 25–12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritzburg</td>
<td>D 12–12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kearsney</td>
<td>W 12–0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterkloof</td>
<td>L 8–0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Stithians</td>
<td>W 36–7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KES</td>
<td>W 26–0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affies</td>
<td>L 13–24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Johns</td>
<td>W 17–12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Albans</td>
<td>W 13–0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritzburg</td>
<td>L 0–7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey College</td>
<td>L 7–71</td>
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U16C/D Rugby

Once again I am proud to have enjoyed yet another successful rugby season as a coach at Boys High. It has been a privilege to coach the same boys for the third consecutive season and it was obvious that all the boys in the squad have a great love for and passion to play for this great school. Practices at times were not what we as coaches were hoping for but when we needed the boys to co-operate they gave 110%. Both the C and D teams were different every week as a result of injuries but this did not affect our ability to win the games we played.

Each individual player on our squad always gave of his best on the field. Our best memories of the season must definitely be the D team’s 7–7 draw against Affies and the best game of the C team was their narrow 12–19 loss to Grey College. would like to thank everyone who played in these teams during the season. May you all enjoy your rugby

I and succeed in the future. Thanks go to Kevin Barnard, Hank Botha and Graeme van Buuren for their leadership and captaincy of the sides.

A word to all the players whom I have coached in the past: ‘If you are in any position where you don’t know what to do, just think what Brian would do and everything will turn out fine!’

Thanks for a great season!

Brian Owen and Dawie Erasmus, Coaches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Played</th>
<th>Won</th>
<th>Drew</th>
<th>Lost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Team</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Andrew de Kock, Coach
This being my first year at Boys High, I had no idea of what to expect when told that rugby was to be my winter sport. As the trials got underway, it was evident that the boys committing themselves to U16 rugby were determined to prove themselves worthy. Once the U16E and F squad were chosen, instead of finding a reluctance to play at that level, I found quite the opposite. Our coach for the season, Matthew Buirski, had just the right approach to team building and training. After many moans and groans that fitness was ‘being overdone just a bit’, the boys finally realised that it paid dividends on the field. Most practice afternoons saw the E and F squad being the last team training; they were commended by Mr McBride for their commitment in practising during a deluge of rain the week before playing Grey Bloem.

The E and F squad became the stage for many players to showcase their talent and subsequently receive a call to higher duty! Xander McKillop began the season in the squad and ended it playing some matches for the A team. Highlights of the season were first and foremost, the commitment of a strong core of players, a number of whom were injured in the line of duty and came back for more. I believe that raw talent was unearthed this season and if the following boys, amongst others, continue their rapid progress they have a bright future in the open age group.

Alex Jansen ended the season as captain of the E team. As the season progressed, so did Alex. He learned to fetch the ball and produced some fleet-footed breaks around the scrum. Charl Cilliers came to us from hockey and became a feared tackler and ball carrier; Dean Sutherland came into his own as a flyhalf; Gert Boshoff was a straight running back with lots of pace; Tyrone Hopf enjoyed the lifting in the lineouts and showed, early on, that he was able to find the try line; Tshepo Rasebotsa was a safe fullback with a flare for joining the line while on the attack; Andrew Stegmann was a centre with solid tackle and Henri Massyn and Rijnhard Hessel combined well at lock and gave the scrum momentum.

Matches that will stand out for the E team include their season opener against KES which they won 19-0, beating Sutherland 50-0, a victory over St Stithians D team 37-7 and the best match of the season, their draw against Maritzburg College 12-12 after having lost to them earlier on in the season 7-24. The F team also posted some fine victories beating Parktown E 56-7, Kearsney D 10-7 and KES D 26-14.

I am very proud of the boys who stayed and played at this level for the duration of the season. Players such as Matthew Clowes and Chris Fourie kept the smiles going while all were finishing yet another press-up and memories of Isaac Tsai and Ryan Muller propelling the scrum machine up and down the field, will remain. Matthew Buirski is to be thanked for his patient input and ability to mould yet another new-look team, for each match, due to injuries and call-ups! Well done, Es and Fs!

Mark Smith, Coach
It was definitely the longest rugby season that these boys have ever had. We started with pre-season fitness training in February and ended the season on 4 August, seven months later. Some of the biggest obstacles we had to deal with during such a long season were injury prevention, burnout and their losing their love for the game.

The season began with a trial match against Kempton Park on 11 March after three days of official practice. Needless to say, we struggled and lost.

The next three matches went well and prepared us for a very tough François Swart Rugby Festival at Afies during the April holidays. We played against three very good teams: Hugenote from Springs, Daniel Pienaar from Uitenhage and Westville from Durban. We were outplayed by teams that were physically bigger than we were and had played more rugby than our boys. Unfortunately injuries took their toll and we lost both our locks and two loose forwards during the festival which exposed our lack of depth.

A lack of team cohesion which needed immediate attention was also detected. After the festival we recovered momentum with a good win over Jeppe. The away match against Maritzburg was a bitter-sweet experience. We were 13–0 up at half time and lost the match 13–22. It was a match of two halves. We had a couple of good wins during the rest of the season, the best win being the second fixture against Maritzburg College at home. The boys had a score to settle and played with determination, tackled with tenacity and didn’t give an inch. We scored two great tries and were leading 10–0 with 10 minutes to go when the opposition scored a try in the corner and converted. The boys knew that they had to defend fiercely and they did so. We won and knew that we had pulled off a huge win against one of our strongest opponents. Unfortunately, we struggled against Waterkloof, Affies and Grey College but I must compliment the boys on the way they played against these physically bigger boys who have played seven years more rugby than our boys. They never stopped believing in themselves and didn’t stand back for any of those boys.

As previously mentioned, injuries could be a problem with such a long season and they were but ‘Every dark cloud has a silver lining’ and the injuries forced us to make some positional changes thus discovering boys who eventually kept some of last year’s regular A-team players out of the team.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opposition</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Point for</th>
<th>Points against</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 KES (away)</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Parktown</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Menlo Park</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Hugenote (Affies Festival)</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Daniel Pienaar (Affies Festival)</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Westville (Affies Festival)</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Jeppe</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Maritzburg College (away)</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Kearsney College</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Waterkloof</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 St Stithians</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 KES (home)</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Affies</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 St Johns</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 St Albans</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Maritzburg College (home)</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Grey College</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>183 210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% won: 53%
% lost: 41%
% drawn: 6%

Thys de Beer put on the pace as James Brawley looks on
make sense, Twinkle-toes tried his best to run through the cones, Vaughan moaned about everything, Kyle Stanley still believed that the Cats will make a comeback, Mickey received a head-butt during school break causing him to miss two matches and Apple was concussed again!

Gavin Groves was the assistant coach and in charge of the forwards. The boys had the highest respect for Gavin as he played for two years in the candy stripes and a few years for the Bulls U19 and U21 teams giving him credibility on any rugby related topic like stretching exercises, gyming, ‘performance enhancers’ and vitamins during the winter season. His loyalty to the team was shown when he caught a flight to Bloemfontein to support the boys for their last match of the season against Grey College. I would like to thank him for his help. His innovative and fresh ideas coming from the Bulls added variety to the season and the boys and I enjoyed having him as part of the team. I will definitely miss him next year as part of the coaching staff and as a friend. To the boys: Keep on believing in yourselves and stay humble. ‘Humility is not thinking less of yourself, just thinking of yourself less!’ Thank you for attending four practices a week without complaining and for sacrificing a week of your April holidays for the rugby festival. The good spirit that we had this season is something that will remain with me. Thank you for all the good times between those four white lines and I will follow your rugby careers with keen interest. Good luck!

Mike Smuts, Coach

U15B Rugby

Regular players during the 2006 season were: W Motha, K Handley, J Eveleigh, B Smith, D Mgaju, D van Bassen, V Evans, B Wicks, G Kurz, J-P Heyns, K Flioudiotis, J Fourie, P Rodgers, M Bosch, B Anderson.

When one looks back on the 2006 season, the results speak for themselves. We played 13, won 10 (77%) and lost 2 (23%).

A decision was made by the team at the start of the season that we would ‘attack the space’ and let the ball do the work and only kick the ball when there was absolutely nothing else to do. I see it as vitally important to concentrate on basic skills and 30–45 minutes of each practice was dedicated to basic rugby skills. Once the basics had been dealt with we worked on the way we wanted to play the game. Our lineouts and rucking were areas the forwards worked really hard at and this paid dividends as our exciting backs, with the help of a superb backline coach, Mr Gerhard Botha, scored many breathtaking tries from the quick clean ball they received from the forwards.

The season, in all honesty, should have seen only one loss, which was against Grey College (0–45) where the boys were taught a rugby lesson in the final game of the season. The boys were superb in their 12–15 loss to Affies and the emotions shown by the boys after the game were evidence enough that this game was one that had been lost by the far superior team on the day. Our 5–12 loss against Waterkloof was one where, after we had scored in the first minute of the game, everything seemed to go against us, be it the bounce of the ball or the marginal decisions – but in hindsight, that’s the way things go on the rugby field!

The side had some really talented and exciting players, many of whom I hope to see wearing the ‘candy stripes’ in a few years time. Without mentioning any other specific players, I do feel the need to mention our diminutive open side flanker, Dube. This young man (at 55 kg) was always punching above his weight in every game we played. He stood back for no one and the sight of a 100 kg Grey College forward running at him did not deter him from going forward to meet him in the tackle. We would be unbeatable if only every rugby player at Boys High played with such heart.

The side was well captained by J-P Heyns and in the latter part of the season by Kyle Handley. I would like to thank them for the way they led the team.

Thanks also go to Mr Botha for his input. The passion with which he coached definitely rubbed off on the boys.

A sincere thank you goes to the boys and parents who supported us during a superb and enjoyable season.

Richard Köhne, Coach
U15C Rugby

At Pretoria Boys High School, never does the same U15C rugby team take to the field in two consecutive weeks. Such is the life of a C team coach. Taking this into account, the U15C team had a very successful season losing three out of twelve games and having the notable distinction of defeating Maritzburg College both home and away.

This team served as the halfway station for many players in the U15 group, either going up or unfortunately going down. Notable achievements include Dylan Brewer, Molato Moloko, Niku Kruger and Dean van Bassen who ended the season playing for the A and B teams. Alex Jacobs also had an impressive rise through the ranks, going from the U15F to play the last two games for the C team and this was despite the fact that he sustained a broken arm halfway through the season. For me the most impressive members of the team were the stalwarts – the players who don’t always stand out, but are there, week in and week out, at practice and on match day, doing what is required of them. Players like Alon Bernitz, Ricardo Pucciatti, Steve Moir, Hannes Venter, Richard ‘Erich’ de Beyer, Lona Ngubegushu and Johnny Enslin.

Our season began on a high with us beating KES convincingly at KES with some of our players leaving lasting impressions – Matthew Brewer scoring two tries with some blistering pace and Moloto Moloko flattening the KES flyhalf with a ‘Zinzan Brooke-like’ tackle. In between all the changes the team had a good run against Parktown and Jeppe. The team then came up against a very well drilled U15A team from Sutherland who were severely underestimated.

U15 D/E Rugby

The two teams started fairly well but unfortunately the E team lost to KES. From then on the boys started to gel and played some attractive rugby. At the beginning of the season Pierre Leeflang led the D team and Justin Seitz led the E team. Both captains led their teams with discipline and showed commitment to their fellow players. As a result of injuries in higher teams, we lost key players before the crucial games but the players who were left stood their ground and never showed any signs of weakness. Both teams were instructed to enjoy their games and have fun and they did just that. Things went pear-shaped towards the end of the season due to injuries in both teams and this led to a lack of players. Overall, we had a magnificent season with a lot of memorable wins and nail-biting moments which were all part of the game.

K Nkwane and R Moatshe, Coaches

U15F Rugby

As is always the problem with the F team, the season started and continued with a constant struggle to find enough players to fill the team. Amid all the changes and never having a settled team, there were those F team survivors who refused to let anything get in the way of pulling on that treasured red, white and green rugby jersey! The boys always gave 100% for the way of pulling on that treasured red and green rugby jersey. The boys always gave 100% for the Pretorian against Maritzburg College was a nail-biter as well as the best game of rugby the boys played this season. They never let their heads drop when they conceded points, always came back strong and defended like titans for almost the entire second half of the match.

The team was very well led at the beginning of the season by Albert Mijburgh, a burly, hard-tackling lock/loose forward with whom we experimented at centre. Mario Maartens took over the reins of captaincy when Albert was injured and did the job for the rest of the season. His calm, responsible demeanour and constant pep talks served the team well. This is a boy who will go far in life in any leadership role he takes.

Unfortunately, we lost a few key players, who could have played in the B team, to the Bush School initiative: Gerhard Burger, Rory Maguire, Bradley Harper (in the second term) and Royce Beaton (in the third term).

Special mention must be made of Drikus Maré, who came up from the D team for the last two fixtures of the season, Stian Pieterse, Craig Nel, Wesley Motha, who was a yo-yo between the B and C teams, Pierre ‘Long-Life’ Leeflang, Shaun van Niekerk and Ivan Leimecke.

Nic Loupos and Anton van Niekerk, Coaches

Stephen van Niekerk, Coach

The Pretorian
U14A Rugby

After trials the boys, many of whom had only watched rugby on TV and had never played the game, were put into teams. To ensure that the boys learnt the basics of the game every Monday was devoted to ball skills, rucking techniques and the correct tackling positions. I must thank all the under 14 coaches for the time and effort they put into their teams; I know it is not easy coaching at this level but you coaches were outstanding.

When coaching at U14 level it takes some time to get to the right combination for the A team. We used a number of players and it was only in the last four games of the season that I could pick the same team. The number of players used was due to injury and lack of form. I realise that B team boys were often outstanding, but could not always take the step up to the A team, due to other schools concentrating only on their A teams.

The potential in the team was clear from the beginning with a draw to KES and Menlo Park and a victory over Parktown. We then lost to Jeppe, played well against Waterkloof losing 14–7 and against AHS played well but did not manage to score. Our game against St Stithians was another one of those ‘if only’ and we went down by 10 points. In the rematch against KES the boys put their bodies on the line only to lose in the last few minutes 7–3. The team seemed to find their feet and had good victories over St Johns, Kearsney and St Albans. The most impressive victory was in the return fixture against Maritzburg College. The final game of the year was against Grey College and although we lost the boys never gave up and when the final whistle went, the team were within an inch of scoring a try.

The players this year were committed and determined and each boy deserves credit for his loyalty to the team. At fullback we started with Dwayne Liebenberg, Michael Light and Freddie Boshoff who unfortunately was injured and missed most of the season. For the last four games Sean Tucker performed well at fullback and will develop into a classy player. Ezekiel Segole, Fabio Casillo and Heinrich Olmesdahl filled the wing berths and all had good speed. The team only realised towards the end of the year that with more ball these three players would have scored more tries. Centre was always going to be problematic as the boys who played there – Michael Light, Freddie Boshoff, Heinrich Olmesdahl, Dwayne Liebenberg, Tendai Matunhire and Katlego Maake were all great defenders but needed to work on their distribution skills. The fly half position was filled by Mitchell Harris, a solid performer who never let the team down. Scrumhalf was filled by three boys this year, Mitch Harris, Dwayne Liebenberg and Cobus van der Merwe all of whom were tough players but with Dwayne’s and
Mitchell’s ability to play other backline positions Cobus was the number one scrumhalf, stamping his authority on games. We did have the upper hand over most of our opponents in the front row where Tokelo Molepo, Jason Fourie, Gary Neugebauer all performed well. Special mention must be made of Jason Fourie who played hooker superbly. Other boys in the front row were Kurt Loots, Divan Ehlers and Krati Bogiages. Our locks Schalk de Waal and Neels Mboya secured good line out ball and both put in some telling tackles. With a bit more weight Schalk could turn into a good lock. He was also the lineout source and often stole the opposition thrown-in’s. Neels was often a bit lazy and one always had to light a fire under him before he would get going, but once he did, he was a fine player. Other players who played lock were Kurt Loots, Aaron Symondson and Stephen Anderson.

Our two flanks Katlego Maake and Neill Barnardt complemented one another with both players able to take the ball up and cleaning at rucks and mauls. Neill was quick and with a bit of adjustment could become a great flanker. The captain of the team, Katlego Maake, although having play centre for a few games never gave up and once he returned to the flank fulfilled his potential and became a quality player. At 8th man Warwick Zimmer made the berth his own. Warwick is a ‘go-forward player’ and during the last few games showed what he could do and one hopes he takes this end of season form and belief in himself to the U15 age group.

Thanks to Fudge Mabeta. With his help among the forwards, I am sure the boys have learnt something. There were some hard times this season and many games were lost due to inexperience. Harsh words were spoken to the boys after some of the games, but at the end of the day, the game is about enjoyment and that was more important than winning at all cost attitude. We do not offer sports bursaries like many of our opponents and many of our opponents often had boys who had five to six years of rugby experience.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their loyal support; there can be nothing more special for the boys than to hear their parents voices along the touch line. Thank you from both the boys and me.

I wish the U14A players all the best for 2007 and hope that in a few years time they will be pulling on the ‘candy stripes’.

Mike Housdon, Coach
The U14Bs of 2006 practised and played at an intensity of which many other school senior A teams would have been proud. There was an unsurpassed passion for Boys High at every practice and match and considering the fact that 80% of the team had had no prior rugby experience, their performance in their first rugby season was very good.

Boys who represented the team during the season. Stephen Anderson, Sven Appelgryn, Bradley Baker, Matthew Benson, Simphiwe Bhebhe, Krati Bogiages, Matthew Currie, Kyle Dodds, Michael Elliot-Murray, Jason Fourie, Keenan Friday, Mitchell Harris, Michael Light, Kurt Loots, Dumisani Lucas, Devon Marsh, Neels Mboya, Declan McGuire, Tendai Matunhire, John Mouton, Justin Uken, Heinrich Olmesdahl, Josh Rood, Justin Schutte, Aaron Symonds, Stavros Tzircalle, Sean Tucker, Kobus van der Merwe, Daan van Heerden, Ryan Venn, Mitchell Wood.

Thank you to all the boys who represented the team this year and best of luck in your rugby careers.

Lionel Randall, Coach

U14C Rugby

One of the main goals for the season was for the boys to enjoy their rugby and to see every game as a new challenge. Throughout the season the faces changed but the passion for the game always grew stronger. As a number of boys had come from playing soccer, this was certainly a new adventure for them. Tackling and being tackled was a fear that they had to master. Through drills, their skills and fitness developed but more importantly their self belief improved. Movement and injuries of players necessitated changes and certainly disrupted the team.

Once again our toughest opponents were Affies, Grey College, Waterkloof and Maritzburg College. These were particularly hard fought matches with a lot of pride and spirit shown by every player. It would be unfair to single out any player as everyone who stepped onto the field gave of his best. In looking back on the season it can be said that it represented a positive learning curve that the boys found extremely fulfilling.

Henk Dorlas, Coach

U14D Rugby

The U14D team for 2006 started off in a bad way losing to KES and Menlo Park, but they turned the season around and beat Maritzburg College both at home and away. The boys were all willing to learn new things and this resulted in a vast improvement in the way they played. The side was never fixed though, with numerous players moving both up and down from the Cs to the Es. The most impressive characteristic was that the boys all wanted to play for their coach and for their exceptional captains, Michael Haas and Ben Mabeta. Each and every player can look forward to a long and fruitful career in rugby, hopefully culminating in the 1st Rugby XV.

I firmly believe that all of my players are capable of achieving anything they aim for. It was an honour to coach them and I wish them the best for the years ahead.

Brett Sharman, Coach
U14E Rugby

What a great season! For a group of boys who had never played rugby before to have such a phenomenal season deserves more than just a pat on the back. At the beginning of the season I, as coach, was faced with fifteen enthusiastic boys who just wanted to ‘JOL’.

Our season started off with a very unfortunate and narrow defeat at the hands of King Edward VII School. After the game I noticed tears in a few of the boys’ eyes and it was at this point that I realised the passion was alive in this side. This was evident in our exchange tour to Maritzburg College where with ten minutes left in the game we were 0–12 down. This fighting team however showed a ‘never-say-die’ attitude and went on to win 14–12: WOW! Throughout the 2006 season this team has gone from strength to strength with several of our boys moving up to higher teams showing the level of rugby that they were producing. Despite the many changes the team went through, the team never gave up. Over and above the winning attitude, the biggest aim for the boys was to have as much fun as possible, week in and week out. The best part of every game was the large crowd this team attracted, be it family, friends, Boys High boys or any other keen rugby enthusiast. As a coach, I would like to thank all the parents who gave the boys such great support.

Devlin Eyden, Coach

U14F Rugby

From the day after the trial matches we managed to create a squad of twenty or so boys who would form part of the U14F team. Unfortunately, being the last team in the age group we were subjected to many team changes as the season wore on and as boys moved up to higher teams. This left us with a solid twelve or thirteen boys who remained constant throughout the season. While we didn’t always have a Saturday match, our best game of the season was our 42–7 victory away against Maritzburg College.

Well done, guys!

Thank you to all the boys who formed part of our team for great season. We had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Remember to stay focused and know that there is nothing to stop you from playing in the ‘candies’ one day!

M Blew and C van Staden, Coaches
Chiliboy Ralepelle and John Smit (captain), both members of the Springbok rugby team in 2006 and both old boys of PBHS

PENPOINT STATIONERS

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