

Squash Report

If one looks purely at the results of the 1st Team, the 2006 year has not been a particularly good one at Boys High. The team only managed to win 33% of their matches and were not even the top side in Pretoria, never mind defending their position as the top school in the country. This does not however reflect the fact that the squash in the school is still in a very healthy state and we are undoubtedly the top school in the province with great strength in depth and very impressive U16 and U14 players in the school.

The year started with the senior school championships and saw Sjoerd Algera, the school captain, produce a slight upset by defeating Sammy Schickerling in the final. It was a true example of someone producing his best on the big occasion. Sadly this was in many ways the high point of Sjoerd's year. The U16 championship was won by Siddhartha Ram who beat Daryl Van Der Merwe in the final. The Form I and U14 championships saw a host of exciting talent on show. The final in both championships was contested by Athan Page and Craig Stephens with Athan proving to be too strong on both occasions. The quality of squash produced in this age group was quite astounding also because there were so many talented youngsters involved. This bodes well for squash at Boys High in the future.

The annual St Andrews Festival in February was a baptism of fire for the 1st team as we had lost the entire 2005 side. The results from the weekend were disappointing when compared to previous years but encouraging for the way in which the boys played. It also allowed Athan Page to be selected and makes him one of the few form I boys to make the 1st team. The highlight here was undoubtedly the tense 3 all match we had against Queens College on the last day. The 1st team also attended the Grey High School 150th Festival in the April holidays and without a full strength side we struggled. The highlights were giving Wynberg, who won the Top Schools Tournament this year, a run for their money and another closely fought tussle against Queens. Unfortunately they came out victorious on this occasion.

The second term saw the start of the schools' league and Boys High once again put 15 sides into the league, 7 more than any other school could muster. The results were very good, with Boys High being awarded the trophy for the best overall results in the league. The following sides are to be congratulated on winning their respective leagues: 3rd Team, with the 4th Team being runners-up, 5th Team, U16A with U16B being runners-up, U16E, U14A runners-up U14B, U14C with runners up U14D. The 1st Team did struggle this year against Menlo Park and will have to show some improvement to regain their position as the top school in the city and the country.

Special mention should be made of the U14 age group this year. These boys have been keen from the moment they started playing. They following boys made up the North Gauteng U14 A side which won the U14 Inter- Provincial Championships: Athan Page, Craig Stephens, Michael Joubert, Wade Hoffman and Marcel Smit. Athan was unbeaten this year at U14 level and was ranked No.1 in SA and Craig was ranked 8th in SA. A very bright future awaits this group of boys, especially when one considers the boys like Geldenhuys, Prelorenzo and Van Der Westhuizen to name but a few.

I would like to mention the efforts of Sjoerd Algera this year as the only matric in the 1st Team. He is an excellent team man and will always give of his best. He has felt the weight of expectation that comes from captaining the squash side most acutely and I wish him all the best for the future. I know the remaining boys are set on regaining their position as the pre-eminent school in the country.

I would like to thank Richard Colburn, Darren Bruce-Brand and Derek Van der Merwe for their tireless efforts to make the squash at Boys High better. It is fantastic to see young men who have been through the system giving something back to the school. Lastly, although I am a terrible loser and like nothing more than winning all the time, it is true that one learns more from losing. It is also extremely heartening to know that Boys High caters for 100 plus squash players. We look forward with great optimism to 2007.

Mark Southwood, Master-in-Charge



Results and awards

1st Team Results

St Andrews Festival

vs St Charles won 4-2
 vs St Andrews lost 6 B 0
 vs Grey College won 6 B 0
 vs Queens drew 3 - 3

Grey High School Festival

vs Wynberg lost 5 B 1
 vs Framesby won 4 B 2
 vs Grey High lost 4 B 2
 vs Grey College won 5 B 1
 vs Queens lost 4 B 2

Schools League

vs PBHS 2^{nds} won 4 B 0
 vs Menlo Park 2^{nds} won 3 B 1
 vs St Albans won 4 B 0
 vs Waterkloof won 4 B 0
 vs Menlo Park 1^{sts} lost 4 B 0

North Gauteng Top Schools

Playoffs

vs St Albans won 6 B 0
 vs Menlo Park lost 5 B 1

Tour Matches

School Champion

Sjoerd Algera
 U16 Champion
 Siddartha Ram
 Form I and U14 Champion
 Athan Page

Doubles Champions

Provincial Colours
 North Gauteng U19A
 Tristan Bagshaw
 North Gauteng U16A
 Siddartha Ram
 North Gauteng U16B

Justin Guy
 Heinrich Van Rensburg
 North Gauteng U14A
 Athan Page
 Craig Stephens
 Michael Joubert
 Wade Hoffman
 Marcel Smit
 North Gauteng U14B
 Jacques Geldenhuys
 Tian Van Der Westhuysen
 South African Schools
 U14
 Athan Page B no 1
 Craig Stephens B no 8

1st Team Squash



*Front Row L-R: T Bagshaw, S Algera, S Ram.
 Back Row L-R: Mr M Southwood (Coach), A Page.*