



1st Team Water Polo



Front Row L-R: K Lentz, K Booysen, R da Silva (Vice Captain), J Erasmus (Captain), D Bester, M Steele.
Back Row L-R: A Rundle, G Mc Mahon, R Carlson, L Martin, W Reid, Mr L Randall.



Ryan Carlson makes a pass

Water Polo Report

Water Polo 2006 was a roller-coaster ride. Highs and lows occurred with startling speed and the season flashed by.

The year started with green pools (again) and although we now seem to have resolved this problem, it was a frustrating start. We once again fielded a large number of teams (eighteen was the most for any one weekend) with a similar number of game plans initially. We attempted to resolve this weakness by regular cross team training sessions and skills training every Monday. The early morning training sessions also improved the strength of our boys and this showed in the water.

I will leave the results to each individual coach but would like to say that while, on the whole, PBHS had a successful season there is definitely room for improvement. To this end a frank meeting was held with all coaches at the end of the season where our weaknesses and areas that needed work across the board were discussed. Particular drills and skills are to be emphasised by all coaches and some specialised equipment will be built or bought to facilitate this. Mr Randall was particularly active in this regard and one of his further innovations was the Junior Water Polo Clinic. This involved primary schools boys from our feeder schools and will hopefully provide an increased pool of talented youngsters in the future.

The senior and junior Inter-House Water Polo festival was an intense and exciting competition. Large numbers of boys turned out as spectators and to play. The junior competition was won by

Rissik while Matheson were victors in the senior competition.

PBHS water polo is a large organisation and I am hugely indebted to those who help me run it. Firstly, Mr Vermeulen (pools) and Mr Housdon (Director of Sport) must be mentioned for their often unseen efforts to enable polo to run smoothly. I would also like to thank all the coaches, both staff and students, who gave up hours of their time to work with their various teams. A special thanks must go to the water polo parents who helped raise funds through their efforts selling bacon and egg rolls and working in the tuckshop. Mrs Erasmus and Mrs Bodenstein and their teams have quietly and efficiently ensured that I had extra funds available for water polo. I used this money for two sets of caps, new netting, weighted balls and have ordered new goals, nets and stretch cords for next year. I also used this money to subsidise various festivals and as capital to secure various bookings, equipment and clothing which is later paid back to the school by individual boys.

Very positive news is that the Headmaster and Governing Body have agreed to heat the water polo pool. This project is under the direction of Mr Mike Godfrey and should be completed early next year.

A final thanks must go to the polo boys. While water polo exists as a sport at this School for the benefit of our boys, it is not something that should be taken for granted. The efforts, trials and tribulations are all made worthwhile when one works with such positive, enthusiastic young men, the vast majority of whom are Boys High boys to their fingertips.

Craig McBride, Master-in-Charge

1st Team Water Polo

The second half of the 2006 water polo season will go down as the 'rollercoaster season' as almost everything about the season was perfect apart from some of the results which would knock us down! In many games we were the better team, had more possession, passed better than our opponents and at times completely dominated and outplayed our opposition only to find that we were behind due to failing to put the ball at the back of the net and the opposition then breaking away from the goal. This happened time and time again and I think the December holidays will do us all the world of good. In the movies, the 'good guy' always struggles and goes through the toughest of times only to be victorious in the end. If that is the case, then I hope this is a mini-series with a big 'TO BE CONTINUED' behind the last season. I cannot wait to see how things turn out as the 'good guy' has struggled long enough and now deserves his chance. These boys gave their all which proved not to be enough and my biggest wish is that the goal posts could have been a millimetre or two wider in a few of our games.

The SACS tournament was a tournament that started off very well only to hit a speed wobble and fall. At the end of the first day, after wins over Michaelhouse, Maritzburg College and St Stithians, the team was under huge amounts of pressure from everyone around as the boys were in tremendous form and everyone saw them as favourites to win the tournament. Sadly there was a second day and we went down to Selborne College, SACS and Westville, which was a roller coaster game. At half time we were down 1-5 and looked set for a hiding. In the second half at one stage the score was 5-5 but we conceded the last goal and lost 5-6. On the third day we beat Gugulethu. Next we faced Rondebosch. Both teams had to win the match to stay alive in the tournament. With a minute to go the score was 1-2 to Rondebosch. Ricardo da Silva shot at goals with

20 seconds to go and it was going straight for the top right corner but the brilliant Rondebosch goalie pulled off a magnificent save. Rondebosch went on to two extra time games in their quarter and semi-finals, and went on to beat Selborne in the final. After the Rondebosch game the Boys High boys and I realised that our dream was shattered. In a room filled with emotion for almost an hour the boys sat in silence thinking WHY US? I will never forget Jacques Erasmus saying, 'Guys, we gave it our all. You are my family and everyone knows that we gave it our best and that it is now over for us. You have nothing to be ashamed of. Let's go out there and show them what they are missing out on by us not being in the final.' Boys High went out and against a strong Glenwood team posted a 9-0 win.

The highs of the season were undoubtedly the passion, commitment and fine example shown by our three matric boys, namely Jacques Erasmus, Ricardo da Silva and Kevin Booysen, three of the finest men I have ever been privileged to coach. These players have left a huge hole to fill and will be remembered not only for the way they played but more importantly the high level of sportsmanship that they displayed in all the games that they played for Boys High.

Congratulations to Clinton Mitchell, Adam Rundle, Kyle Gallagher, Wesley Reid, Jarrod Tulloch, Molato Moloko, Matthew Steele and Warren Forster on being selected to represent North Gauteng U19A and the SA Schools tournament in Durban in December. Congratulations to our U16 boys, Rory Maguire, Ross Hunter, Alex Jansen, Taylor Bowker and Brent van Duiker on making the U16A North Gauteng team.

Thank you to Mr McBride for all his hard work and support of water polo at Boys High as well as Mr Schroder for giving us a heated pool in 2007.

Lionel Randall



Warren Foster secures possession



2nd Team Water Polo

This season proved to be an overall success for the team. They were unbeaten against all other second teams they played during the term. The results are:

vs St David's W 7-2

vs KES W 8-3

vs St Stithian's W 6-2

vs St John's W 12-1

Having convincingly beaten the above 2nd Teams there were, however, two upsets during the season and both were against 1st Teams from Affies and Tuks. Despite losing, the boys held their heads up high and they must be commended on their performances.

It was through hard work that the team earned their results and it was a pleasure to have coached this group of fine young men. They are very talented and if they continue to apply themselves I have no doubt they will continue to be successful next year.

Wade Lemmer, Coach

3rd & 4th Team Water Polo

We were very proud of the 3rd and 4th teams this season. Although they did not play many matches the boys still made the effort to attend practices and their dedication made our coaching much easier. Our thanks go to all the players for their commitment and we hope that they will enjoy their water polo in 2007.

Thanks must go to Ms Christodoulou, our manager, whose help made our lives much easier.

We wish the boys all the best for next year.

JP Dumas and Matthew Buirski, Coaches



Mr Randall directs play



Shot coming!

U16A Water Polo

The U16 Water Polo season was an incredibly successful one. The boys flourished and showed the commitment that can only be expected from a true Boys High boy. We started dismally, narrowly losing to a much weaker St Albans side. A week later it was the U16 tournament where the boys did not do as well as they were expected to. They then pulled together and showed that they were a team to be reckoned with. They beat Affies and St Albans and lost a wonderful game (4-7) against a very

strong KES side. The highlight of the season was beating Saints at St Stithians when the team came back from 1-3 to win 5-3 in the last chukka. The team deserves congratulations for this victory. My thanks go to Mr Mark Smith for a wonderful season and the team for their commitment and positive attitude and last but not least, their laughs and chirps. I wish them all the best of luck in the open teams next season.

Peet Uys, Coach

U16B Water Polo

The highlight of the first term season for the U16B team was their recovery of the St David's Marist Cup, last won in 2004. Each team member contributed to a fine display of Water Polo, especially after losing the opening match against St Stithians, 2-1. Reynard van Wyk was the back bone of the defence in the goals saving many goals and getting our counter attack on the go with his accurate passing. Ross Hunter was a powerful presence at centre forward where his 'back shot' surprised a number of opposition goalies, with the ball finding the back of the net a number of times.

The team gelled into a positive unit with practices well attended and much fun and laughter. Calvin Haynes, for whom the water was also too cold, produced turns of speed and finesse that were backed up by Brandt de Klerk and Andries Pretorius. Another pleasing result for the team was their win of 7-3 over the KES U16B team. Daniel Pallikarides captained the team and led by example, often leading the attack on goal and then falling back to help the defence. Each team member contributed to a season that will be remembered for its positive vibe in and out of the pool.

The fourth term results speak for themselves as throughout the season the B side had a wonderful

run of victories even after a number of boys who had played in the first term were promoted to the A side. Players who stood out were amongst others, Kyle Middleton who displayed a versatility in being able to play in any position and who led the team in a number of matches. Justin Wicksteed, Ian Carpenter-Kling, Nick Nel, Calvin Haynes, Reynard van Wyk, Jarryd Hoskings, Brandt de Klerk, Chris McGuire, Ryan (Fish) Engelbrecht and Donald King formed the nucleus of the team. The team was a pleasure to coach as the boys were incredibly positive and all those who turned out for the seconds contributed to the magic that the team produced in the water.

Two matches will be fondly remembered not only for their result, but the manner in which the boys took the game to the opposition and never gave up. They are the 4-3 win over St Stithians and the 5-3 victory over S Johns. Both teams mentioned provided stiff opposition, but when it matter most, the BMT emerged. Well done, to all the boys who played in the B side at some stage this year. I look forward to watching your progress in the open teams next year.

Mark Smith, Coach



Adam Rundle tight marking



Boys High on the break



Clinton Mitchell looks on as PBHS try to defend

U16C Water Polo

Seasons are often remembered for one moment of brilliance or a result that goes against the odds, and it is no exception with the U16C team as they did not have the greatest of season in terms of matches won, but in their last match of the season they produced a memorable draw of 8–8 against St Stithians U16B side. The boys clicked as a team with players such as Marco Balducci and Anton Scholtz revealing their ability to play the game. The team remained positive and appreciated the coaching talents of Nikki. Although short, the season will be remembered for the commitment and positive attitude of all the boys involved.

Mark Smith, Coach

U15A Water Polo

The season started with the boys being very eager to get back into the water after a cold winter. They showed keen commitment and enthusiasm coming to every practice, even the ones held in the early mornings! The team trained hard and played polo in true Boys High fashion. They were a great bunch of lads with excellent talent and a cheerful team spirit which made coaching very enjoyable. The level of water polo in this team improved remarkably and the boys were eager to learn but most importantly, they enjoyed themselves. I wish them the best of luck in the future knowing they can be proud of their efforts.

A warm thank you is due to the parents and fellow coaches for their help and hard work on Saturdays and a very special thank you to Mr McBride for the hard work and effort he puts into this great game.

Mark Robertson, Coach

In the final term and the last season of water polo for the year, a group of 22 boys decided that they also needed to join in the fun. With three weeks of the season left to go, the balance of the season seemed daunting but the boys stepped up to the plate and worked as hard as they could. Although the season's record was not all that good to look at, the boys put everything into their training and matches.

I would like to thank and congratulate every player and look forward to seeing them next year.

Stav Yiannakis, Coach

U15B Water Polo

The team started off the year with a lot of enthusiasm and energy and were very keen to win against St Albans. They lost to Affies U15A which was very disappointing. They were, thereafter, undefeated for the rest of the season with the highlight being a 6–2 win over Saints. The key players were the captain, the keeper Moloko, William and JP Heyns. The entire team must be commended for always pulling their weight with all the players putting in many hours of practice and the effort certainly paid dividends.

I was very proud of the team and look forward to coaching them again next season.

Ray Biddulph, Coach

U15 C & D Water Polo

Manager: Ms T Fairall

At the start of the season, we were fortunate to get back some players who were injured the previous season and therefore strengthened the depth of the U15 age group. This resulted in a few previous B team players playing in the C and D squad.

This squad was alternated throughout the season giving all the players an opportunity to play at a higher level and with the input of those players who played at a higher level the previous season we were able to produce some good, constructive water polo as the season progressed.

With fixtures at C and D level scarce, the squad participated in some mini-tournaments held at Affies and St Stithians, as well as an internal tournament at Boys High against some of the lower teams in other age groups.

With wins against teams like Affies U15A and St Davids U15B at these mini-tournaments, the squad seemed to grow in confidence with the fixtures against St Stithians and Parktown resulting in wins of 7-5 and 7-2 respectively.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the season came with the last fixture against Girls High! The C and D teams and lower open sides played against Girls Gigh A and B teams and 1st and 2nd teams respectively. The boys played well and were given a good run for their money by the determined girls team, running out eventual winners with the C team winning 18-1 and the D team winning 18-0 against the PHSG U15A and B teams respectively, the afternoon was a huge success for both schools.

With the U16 season fast approaching and as the players gain more exposure to the game of water polo and grow in confidence, they will start to reap the results of their positive attitude and never-say-die approach to this great game in 2007

Ray Biddulph, Coach

U14A Water Polo

The U14 season got off to a great start with over one hundred boys turning up for trials. With the A team selected it was clear that there was a lot of raw talent in the group but it would take a lot of hard work to get the boys to achieve their full potential. The players always kept a positive attitude which made my job as coach a lot easier and very enjoyable. The captain, Declan Maguire kept them motivated and his vision and enthusiasm set an example to the team. I have no doubt that with good attitude and lots of hard work this will become a great team in the future.

Good luck for 2007!

Matthew Buirski, Coach

U14B Water Polo

The boys have come a long way since the beginning of the season. It was a time of many ups and downs and although the team was capable of completing the season undefeated, at times they lost their composure and this was the cause of their downfall. The highlight of the season was the final game against St Johns where they won 6-5. Their performance against St Johns had me bursting with pride and I could not have asked for a better season from the boys. They were so enthusiastic that they even made early morning training sessions a pleasure.

I have no doubt that if they keep up the hard work they will become a team to be reckoned with. I wish them good luck for 2007!

JP Dumas, Coach

U14C & D Water Polo

It was an absolute pleasure to coach the U14C and D teams this year. It is affirming as a coach and a teacher to spend time with such enthusiastic, passionate and loyal young men. There was a genuinely positive vibe in these teams.

The technical skills of the boys improved greatly over the season. This was largely due to the input of Mr Woodcock who spent a considerable time working with the boys and both the boys and I are grateful for this. I found it especially pleasing to note the large number of boys from these teams who went on to represent higher sides.

School sport is not only about results but also the lessons learnt by each about himself and his teammates. Ultimately, I hope that the boys in these sides learnt that commitment, hard work and teamwork will eventually lead to success.

C A McBride, Coach



Clinton Mitchell about to attempt a save



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