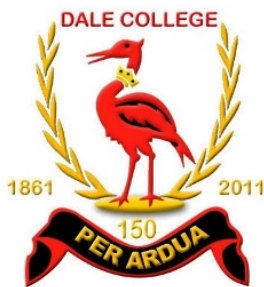


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TransDale Extra RUGBY SPECIAL



DALIANS IMPRESS AT THE CAPE SCHOOLS HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

DALE'S first rugby team ended the first three months of their 2009 season on a high note. In the Cape Schools Week at SACS, they lost the first two games – one to the hosts in the dying minutes – but won the last convincingly to round off a topsy-turvy season start.

Dale's exciting play against Wynberg Boys' High should raise Dale's hopes for their return matches against Queen's and Selborne in the third term.

Here are edited extracts from website reports, gathered by BARRY TURNER, veteran Old Dalian, keen rugby follower, statistician and web-surfer.

Sparkling, running rugby stuns Wynberg

ON THE FINAL DAY of the festival Dale produced a fine display of running rugby to beat a more-fancied Wynberg side 40-26, in a breathtaking match.

The game began at a high-tempo, both teams testing out the other's defence with hard-running and quick passing. Wynberg had the first scoring opportunity when the forwards bashed the ball up close to Dale's line, but they couldn't break down a resolute Dale defence.

The Eastern Cape outfit put themselves under unnecessary pressure by trying to run their way out of trouble rather than clearing the ball, and Wynberg threatened again. But Dale desperately defended their line to weather the early storm despite being dominated in the rucks.

The Dale attack was not well-executed to begin with, mistimed passing and running lines spoiling the little ball they had in the first half. Their backs tried to run from everywhere, but they could do little on the wrong half of the field.

Eventually, the Wynberg pack's superiority told; eighthman Grant Edmeades going over after a well-executed maul. The teams entered the change-room with Wynberg leading 5-nil. The tight, error-ridden first half gave little indication of the free-scoring exhibition that was to follow.

Dale came out firing after the break and scored quickly after a blistering counter-attack with their No.14 flyer, Yamkela Ngam, crossing the line for a superb try after some amazing offloads by the Dalians. Dale had showed glimpses of their counter-attacking ability earlier in the tournament, but had often been let down by poor finishing.

This score seemed to flick a switch



CAPTAIN Lubabalo Mtembu . . . a colossus at the back of the scrum

*** Picture: www.bigdot.co.za**

among the players, who delighted the crowd from then on with a mesmerising try-feast.

Holes in the Wynberg defence started to appear and Dale attacked with purpose; the forwards supporting the pacy backline with good, clean ball. Eighthman Lubabalo

Mtembu - a colossus at the back of the scrum - terrorised the Wynberg defenders with his pace and power. He was unstoppable from ten metres out to crash over for the first of his three tries.

The pack took the fight to the Wynberg forwards, and where before the Dale attack was rushed and sloppy; it became structured and patient. They sucked in the Wynberg defence, before unleashing the pace and skill of the backline to strike out wide.

Wynberg gained some ground back with another try to Edmeades, but it wasn't enough to halt Dale's rampage. The dangerous backline continued to make ground with their speed and elusive running and Mtembu was explosive every time he touched the ball, smashing his way through and over defenders with ease.

The forwards' and backs combined beautifully, with burly prop Luvuyo Kama showing some silky handling skills with a clever inside ball for Mtembu to score.

The interplay was sensational. Wynberg made a late comeback – with tries by Ashbey Williams and Josh Katzen - to make the scoreline respectable, but they had little answer to an inspired Dale side, who put in a spectacular performance that was a credit to schoolboy rugby in the Eastern Cape.

Ngam and Mtembu each scored three tries, of which five were converted by scrumhalf Bangi Kobese. Wynberg's points came from two tries by Edmeades and one each by Williams and Katzen. Dylan Frylinck converted three of Wynberg's tries.

Heartbreaking last-gasp try foils Dale

THE RESULT of Dale's second game – 18-12 to SACS – in the Cape Schools Week could be described as a travesty and heartbreaking for the visitors. SACS won – through a bizarre final try, but the tireless Dalians provided most of the good rugby.

Full-back Olunje Gwampi gave Dale an early lead after a kick ahead to score far out. This lead was rather short-lived as SACS flyhalf Matthew Möhle scythed through the Dale backline to send outside centre Godfrey Tundube over for his first try of the game. Möhle goaled a penalty.

Dale overturned the 5-8 half-time deficit when superb handling by hooker Lifa Ghana resulted in inside centre Andile Jho dotting down. The conversion made it a seven-pointer. A long penalty by lock Shaun Colclough brought SACS back to just one point adrift, 11-12.

Then the final twist in the tale occurred when Möhle's last-gasp penalty attempt passed just under the crossbar...with the Dale lads' eyes on it all the way...into the in-goal area. It was allowed to bounce... and Tundube dived on it for the match-winning try!

SACS' 18 points came from two tries by Tundube, one converted by Möhle. Colclough and Möhle succeeded with a penalty each. Dale's 12 points came from tries by Gwampi and Jho and one Gwampi conversion.



TRY-SCORERS . . . Olunje Gwampi, seen in this file picture celebrating with fellow Dalian Jerry Nqolo (left) and Lutho Mgedezi at the 2008 Kearsney College festival
* Pictures: www.bigdot.co.za

Dale can take heart

IN THEIR FIRST GAME of the festival, Dale took on the big guns of Boland Landbou. This game was very entertaining with both teams running hard at the line. Boland were eventual winners by 30-18.

But Dale will take heart in the way they broke the Landbou line on more than one occasion. Right wing Lutho Mgedezi, leftwing Yankela Ngam and captain and eightman Lubahalo Mtembu each scored tries for Dale.

Flyhalf Jerry Nqolo goaled one penalty.

Boland Landbou scored five tries, four by Tiaan Radyn and one by Gerhard Jordaan.

Radyn converted one and Jordaan goaled a penalty.

* *These accounts of Dale's performances in the Cape Schools Week were extracted and compiled by BARRY TURNER from reports on websites www.rugby365.com/schools/news/1775843.htm. The Dale-Wynberg match story was based on a report by TIM HUMAN.*

Dalians shine for Border: Jho chosen for SA Schools

TWO DALE rugby players, centre Andile Jho and fullback Olunje Gwampi, starred in an exciting Border Schools side that finished unbeaten in the Under 18 Craven Week held in East London.. Jho was chosen for the Under 18 SA Schools team. Gwampi, on his reported form, may be considered unlucky to have missed selection.

Selborne flanker Chris Cloete shone through the tournament and was also chosen for SA Schools.

Border Central (their official title), who were captained by hooker Grant Hartley of Queen's, won all three of their matches. They beat the Valke 15-10 in a game which sprang to life in the last ten minutes after a tight and tense opening battle. Then Border determination and flair saw them edge out Griquas 15-25 in a hard-fought, see-saw game.

In the tournament play-offs Dale trounced the Pumas 41-14. Western Province Schools beat Free State in the main play-off. The criteria used to decide the "finalists" remain a mystery.

Three other Dalians - scrumhalf Bangihlombe Kobese, prop forward Luvuyo Kama, hooker and hooker Lifa Ghana were part of the Border squad.

Jho and Gwampi were outstanding in thrilling, free-flowing back movements. Against the Valke, Dale's Gwampi scored what was described as a "spectacular try . . . in a breathtaking finish" when a draw seemed likely Gwampi scored in the corner after Border swung the ball wide from inside their half in the last movement of the game.

Selborne's Cloete, described in reports as a "tearaway" and "dynamic" flanker, secured the ball and set Jho off on blister-

ing run before passing the ball inside to Gwampi, who grabbed it at full tilt. Evading two cover tackles, he sped down to score in the corner.

Border's fortunes may have been changed by the arrival of Old Dalian South African and Warriors fast bowler Makhaya at the stadium.

Jho and Gwampi were again involved in a thrilling movement in Border's 17-15 nail-biting win over Griquas. Border led 10-8 at the break after a see-saw battle. Griquas regained the lead with less than half an hour to play. Again a burst upfield by Jho led to a Border try.

In the best movement of the day Jho fed Selborne flyhalf Dale Sabbagh, who sent Queen's wing Leon Makewane over (17-15). As the clock ticked down, a "fabulous" run by fullback Gwampi put Border on the front foot to hold out for the last eight minutes.

In the play-off against the Pumas, Border were trailing 11-10 at the break before Gwampi scored a converted try after a great run and pass by Jho for Border to lead 17-11.

Later, with Border further ahead, came what the Dispatch called "the try of the game, when Jho beat the Pumas defence in a brilliant 30-metre solo effort." Jho was named man of the match.

* *This edited account of Dalians' performances in Craven Week was extracted by BARRY TURNER from the website www.rugby365.com/schools/craven-week. These included reports by BRIAN McLEAN of the Dispatch, East London, and TIM HUMAN.*

Dale pipped at the posts. The finish TV viewers never saw

* "ROBBED" - by the last kick of the match! It happened to the touring Lions at Loftus and to Dale at Reunion. But, as that well-worn cliché, usually reserved for American presidential elections, says, "It's not over till the fat lady sings."

Cricket's limited overs games are often won and lost in the last over and even the last ball. In rugby the lesson seems to be: "Get out of your own territory in the final minutes."

Those who watched the Dale-Queen's Reunion game in the Classic Clashes series on TV may well have thought that Dale had the better of a close encounter. The broadcast reflected Dale's first-half ascendancy (leading 12-3), but not the finish. The TV cameras were knocked out in the thunderstorm which swept the field in the closing minutes.

Viewers never saw the penalty that sank Dale's hopes in the final seconds. The whistle blew as the kick sailed over. Queen's had won 17-15.

Until then Dale had led all the way through five penalties, all goaled by scrumhalf Bangi Kobese. But it must be conceded that the sole try of the match was scored by Queen's.



BEFORE REUNION GAME (from right): Olunje Gwampi, Andile Jho, Sinjin Greyvenstein, Bangi Kobese, Jason Buchholz and Sawa Time

* Pictures: RICHARD DOMERIS Photo King

* It happened again to Dale against SACS at the Cape Schools Week in the June-July holidays. (See Page 2)

Queen's win it at the death

Scrumhalf's last kick of Reunion game breaks Dalian hearts

**By BRIAN McLEAN
of the Daily Dispatch**

THE rain poured down and many at the CB Jennings Field in King William's Town shivered, not only from the wet and cold but also in anticipation, as Queen's College first team scrumhalf Athi Gxotiwe lined up his kick.

Whether Gxotiwe succeeded or failed with his angled penalty attempt from some 30 metres out - with traditional rivals Dale ahead by a single point at 15-14 - the referee's whistle signalling full time would have sounded.

Dale and Queen's supporters held their collective breath; perhaps quietly muttering a prayer as Gxotiwe steadied himself, started his run up - before sending the ball high and handsomely between the uprights for a dramatic 17-15 win over Dale who had led, until then, for all of the match.

As referee Brett Nicholls blew his whistle signalling the end of the dramatic match the Dalians had badly wanted to win on their Reunion weekend, an ecstatic Gxotiwe was mobbed and hugged by his teammates and hundreds of drenched Queenians.

Having played their hearts out, the Dalians sank to their knees - many in tears - after having given it their all only to lose it at the death.

It was a change of tactics which even-



THE DOWNPOUR . . . when time and Dale hopes ran out

tually won the match for Queen's. In the first half Dale made full use of their penalty chances through wily scrumhalf Bangihlombe Kobese, with the visitors pressurised into making too many mistakes, especially at the rucks.

This, coupled with their territorial advantage, allowed Kobese to bang over four penalties to one for Queen's and a 12-3 half-time lead. All too of-

ten the Dale backline attacks were snuffed out through handling errors or deadly defence.

After the break Queen's played it a lot tighter, but they had also done their homework in bottling up dangerous Dale eighthman and captain Lubabalo Mtembu.

Mtembu was well marked and allowed very little room to move. The first half was also punctuated by some great cover defence by both teams, solid first-time tackling and excellent lineout jumping by Jason Buchholz and Sinjin Greyvenstein of Dale, and Chay Oberholzer of Queen's.

With the Queen's backs lacking pace and their moves found wanting in the first half, the spotlight fell on their forwards in the second half. It was mainly through their efforts that the match was won.

The bullocking runs of tight-head prop Allan Dell, lock Oberholzer and eighthman Johan Meyer often placed the Dalians on the back foot.

Their task was not made any easier by the steady rain which fell from midway through the second half, neutralising the pace they would have liked the game to be played at. Placed under early pressure, it was from three fumbles in the Dale own in-goal area

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DALE RUGBY HITS HIGHS AND LOWS

High-scoring victories and some narrow defeats

DALE'S first rugby team has had an up-and-down season so far, winning nine out of 14 games and scoring a remarkable 413 points to their opponents' 168. Dale lost five matches by narrow margins.

The season up to the end of the second term was highlighted by three overwhelming victories: 61-5, 55-nil and 43-7.

The team began the season in March by beating the local Hoërskool De Vos Malan 38-3 and then Hoërskool Hangklip of Queenstown 39-nil in a Border Schools festival. This was followed by a 33-13 victory over Graeme College 33-13 in Grahamstown and in April by a 55-nil victory over Hoërskool Grens in East London.

At Kearsney College's Easter festival the KZN Midlands, Dale began with an impressive 33-22 victory over Hoërskool EG Jansen of Boksburg, ranked among the top five in the country last year. Kearsney's First XV coach remarked that this was one of the best schoolboy rugby games he had ever seen.

The Dalians did not maintain their sparkling form and lost their remaining matches to Hoërskool Upington (13-18) and Hoër Tegniskool Middelburg (21-27)

Returning to King, Dale lost to Queen's 15-17 by a penalty in the dying minutes of their Reunion game. This was followed by a 5-10 defeat by Selborne in wet and muddy conditions in East London.

Dale returned to form at home by beating Stirling High 32-21 and Kingswood College 43-7, but went down 18-22 to Grey High School in a game that could have gone either way. The second term ended with wins over Cambridge (7-6) in East London and Port Rex by 61 points to 5 at home. The Cape Schools Week followed in the holidays.

In the third term Dale will meet Stirling and Hudson Park in East London, St Andrew's in Grahamstown, Selborne in King and Queen's in Queenstown.

Congratulations to . . .

* Old Dalians Bjorn Basson (Dale First XV in 2003-20050 and prop (or hooker) Bandiso Maku, who represented the Emerging Springboks against the British and Irish Lions.)

They are now playing Currie Cup rugby for Griquas and the Bulls respectively. Basson scored a try for Griquas against the Free State Cheetahs.

* Dale Junior Under 13s selected for the Border Under 13 Craven Week side to play in Kimberley: Bonga Mhlaba, Vuyisa Ndzipho, Siyamthanda da Mguba, Sibulele Lwana and Sango Mtotywa.

A game that ended on a knife-edge

From Page 3 eight minutes after the restart that eventually led to the five-metre scrum and an unconverted pushover try to Queen's lock Loftie Tyebileyo. A penalty by Kobese four minutes later made it 12-11 to Dale and another by Kobese, 15-11.

Then, when Gxotiwe pulled one back for Queen's with 12 minutes remaining, the game remained on a knife-edge at 15-14. It was finally left to Gxotiwe to break Dalian hearts.



GO FOR IT! Old Dalian Vumisa Mayisela encourages Dale rugby players (from left) : Lutho Mgedezi, Jerry Nqolo, Yamla Ngam at the Reunion Saturday breakfast. Mayisela toured with the first team at the Cape Schools Week in 1999 at

Late tries by Selborne sink Dale in the mud

DALE lost 10 -5 to Selborne in a close game described as "tough and uncompromising" by Daily Dispatch sports writer Peter Martin and "hard and gruelling" by Dale coach Grant Griffith.

Conditions were wet and muddy in East London and neither side scored in the first half. Highlights of the game were televised in the FNB Classic Clashes series.

Dale opened the scoring two minutes into the second half when centre Andile Jho broke through to send fullback Olunje Gwampi over for an unconverted try in the corner.

Late in the game Selborne equalised when lock Callan Venter scored an unconverted try after several phases from a lineout. Selborne took the lead eight minutes from full time with an unconverted try by wing Ndima Gwavu.

Both side missed scoring opportunities. In the first half Selborne's flyhalf Dale Sabbagh missed four attempts at goal. Just before half-time Dale were awarded a penalty in front of the posts.

They chose to tap-kick but Selborne won a scrum six metres out and cleared their line. In the second half Dale scrumhalf Bangi Kobese hit the crossbar with a penalty attempt. None of the three tries scored in the game was converted.

Peter Martin said the match was scrappy at times. For most of the game Selborne had camped in Dale territory and enjoyed 75 percent of the possession, but a knock-on or an indifferent pass spoiled a number of promising movements.

He singled out Dale's "powerfully-built" eighth man Lubabalo Mtembu as being "strong in attack" and concluded:

"The final six minutes was a tense affair with the cheerleaders of both teams drumming up good-natured support for their schools."

Grant Griffith commented. "Our defensive lines were outstanding in the challenging conditions," but conceded that Selborne's two second-half tries gave them "a hard-earned victory." The return game will be in King Williams' Town.

Up-and-down form at Kearsney Easter rugby



DALIANS IN ACTION at Kearsney (from left): Scrumhalf Bangi Kobese, wing Lutho Mgedezi with centre Andile Jho in support and fullback Olunje Gwampi pursued by an EG Jansen defender. * Pictures: Prestige Foto Centre, Durban

Dale fade after brilliant start

KEARSNEY COLLEGE'S First XV coach, Barend Steyn, called it "one of the best games of schoolboy rugby I have ever seen."

Mr Steyn, who is also a Kwa-Zulu Natal schools selector and coach for Craven Week, was talking about Dale's first game at this year's Kearsney Easter festival - against Hoërskool EG Jansen of Boksburg, rated fifth among South African rugby schools last year.

Dale won an exciting match by 33 points to 22 after being down 12-nil early in the game.

In a programme for their second rugby festival Kearsney paid tribute to Dale's "exuberant, free-flowing play" last year when Dale won all three of their matches.

This year, after playing brilliantly in their first match Dale did not live up to this reputation. They lost 13-18 to Hoërskool Upington and 21-27 to Hoër Tegnieseskool, Middelburg.

But back to the clash against the boys from Boksburg, who had scored a converted try within five minutes and an unconverted try shortly afterwards. Dale replied with two converted tries to lead 14-12 at half time.

In a see-saw struggle each side scored for EG Jansen to lead 22-21. Then, late in the game, Dale ran their heavier opponents off their feet. Before the close Dale scored twice to win 33-22. The final try was scored after wing Yamkela Ngam ran half the length of the field in the closing seconds.

Dale's tries were scored by centre Andile Jho (two), Lutho Mgedezi, captain and eighth man Lubalo Mtembu and Ngam. Olunje Gwampi goaled four penalties. EG Jansen scored four tries but converted only one.

In a match comment Dale coach Grant Griffith said it was an excellent game against highly-rated opponents. Handling errors, however, were still a concern. "The ability of the referee was evaluated as very poor but the adjudicator judged that he was good," he reported



TRY TIME! Dale centre Andile Jho scores against Hoërskool Upington

Grant told TransDale Extra: "The match was as physical as I have witnessed. The lead changed hands a couple of times and the Dale forwards eventually got on top of a huge pack, and started getting good second and third phase ball to Dale's hard-running and pacy backs."

A Dale try was disallowed with five minutes remaining but Dale continued to pile on the pressure and scored a converted try under the poles. From the kick-off Dale gathered the ball, set it up and went blind with Ngam scoring in the last seconds.

On the Saturday the Dalians and their supporters were brought down to earth. The team that were beaten 18-13 were not a shadow of the Thursday team.

Dale led 13-3 at half-time with two unconverted tries by Jho and Cody Basson and one Gwampi penalty. They appeared to be on top but did not score a point in the second spell. The result: 13-18 to Upington. What went wrong? Mistakes, including poor handling, fumbling, and wild passing, spoilt promising movements. Upington scored twice, converted one and goaled one penalty. Grant Griffith shared in the frustration of Old Dalian supporters. "This was a game the team would rather forget," he reported.

**DALE
ON
TOUR
IN KZN**



Front Row: Andile Jho, Gavin Jones (assistant coach), Lubabalo Mtembu (captain), Grant Griffith (coach),

Jerry Nqolo (vice-captain), Gordan Ephraim (manager), Luvuyo Kama. Second row: R Mqalo, Andile Makinana, Lindile Ngudle, Bangihlombe (Bangi) Kobese, Olunje Gwampi, Lutho Mgedezi. Third Row: Sawa Time, Ayabonga Masiba, Sinjin Greyvenstein, Cody Basson, Jason Buchholz, Anelisiwe Mntambo. Back Row: Lifa Ghana, Athi Sibefu, Siyamthanda Gushelo, Siphumelele Msutwana, Yamkela Ngam, Lutho Gqangwana * Picture: Prestige Foto Centre, Durban.

Cheers for Dalians, stick for the ref

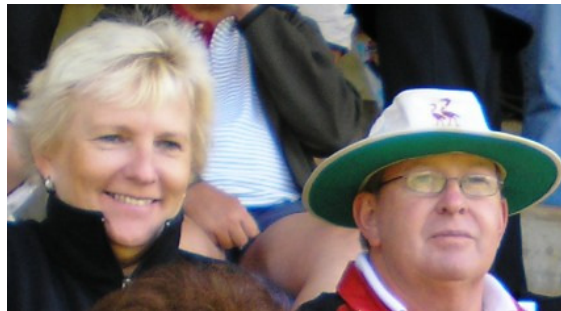
THE Kearsney games were watched by an enthusiastic and volatile group of local Old Dalians. Who gave the ref a bit of stick when they disagreed with some of his decisions.

PRO Jack Rosenberg led traditional chants of "Eye Gibbeli Eye O"

Up from King to support the Dalians were headmaster Mike and Terry Eddy and from Bloemfontein, Jack's fiancée, Ray Kilbur.

There was no after-match reception as Old Dalians dashed in various directions to watch the Sharks play.

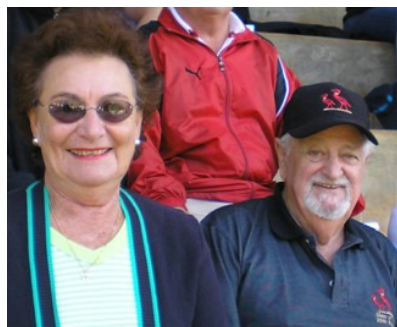
*** Organiser of the festival was Old Dalian Mick Bissell, who retires at the end of this year as a teacher and a deputy head if the school.**



Headmaster Mike Eddy and his wife Terry



Serf Serfontein and son Wynand



Ray Kilbur and Jack Rosenberg



Old Dalians Philip Levy and Tom Sheard

The game Dale that would rather forget

From Page 5 "Too many errors, wrong decision-making, not clearing the line with kicking, not converting kickable goals, were a feature of the game. The players were dead on their feet."

Dale fared better on the Monday but went down 21-27 to Hoër Tegnieseskool Middelburg after being 14-14 shortly before half time.

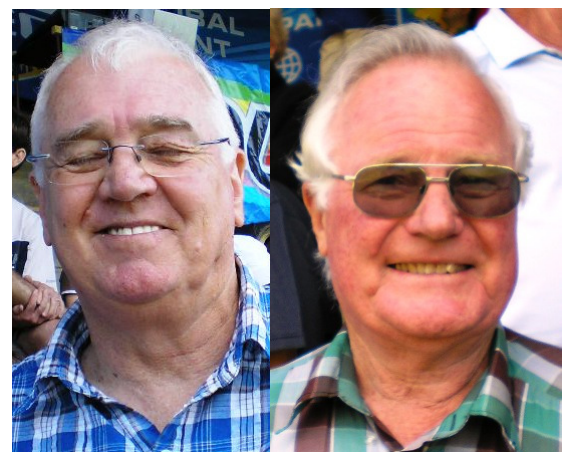
Again good runs came to naught through knock-ones and poor passing. In the second half HTS added tries, conversions and penalties to end up six points ahead.

Dale's tries came from Jho, Kobese and Mtembu, with three Gwami conversions. Grant Griffith reported: 'The re-

turn of Jerry to flyhalf made a huge difference. We made silly errors at crucial times which cost us dearly.

The referee made a few wrong decisions. The players showed they can fight back and won the second half 7-6.

Our defensive line let us down and again we could not take the points on offer due to a bad conversion rate by our kickers."



Dave (Scruffy) Mitchell and Scotty Macaulay, Kwa-Zulu Natal Old Dalian supporters