

Carlton-Van Heerden High School



School History

The school is the result of some clever bargaining by a Congregational Church minister. Saul Damon was born on 15 March 1890 in Mount Frere, a descendant of the Griquas who settled in Griqualand East, around Kokstad. He was a keen student and studied at the Scottish Mission Seminary in Blythswood and St John's Anglican College in Umtata and then at Adams College in Amanzimtoti. Damon recognised the need for schooling, but fought a lone battle as money was scarce during the Great Depression, but when General Hertzog and General Smuts came looking for Coloured votes against the Nationalist attack on the Gordonia seat, Damon struck a bargain: You give us a school and we vote for you.

Saul Damon did not want the school named after him and so it came to be called the Gordonia Secondary School. Its first principal was AJ Ferreira. He had a staff of four teachers. The school which Carlton-Van Heerden play in the FNB Classic Clash is named after Carlton-Van Heerden's first principal

Carlton van Heerden? There was nobody of that name. Carlton van Heerden was instead two people: two benefactors of the Gordonia school — Jim Carlton (an attorney in Upington) and Callie van Heerden (a building contractor). In 1945 Gordonia Secondary School achieved high-school status and was renamed the Carlton-Van Heerden High School in a suburb of Upington called Rainbow.



FOUNDED: 1943

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Rugby at Carlton

The school plays against many local schools, including AJ Ferreira, Saul Damon, SC Kearns, Duineveld and Upington. It last lost to AJ Ferreira in 2000. The rugby coach is Joey Loubser.