



Diamantveld High School



FOUNDED: 1935
 MOTTO: A POSSE AD ESSE
 (MAKING POSSIBILITY A REALITY)
 ADDRESS: 2 VOORTREKKERSTRAAT,
 BELGRAVIA, KIMBERLEY
 WWW.DIAMANTVELD.CO.ZA



School History

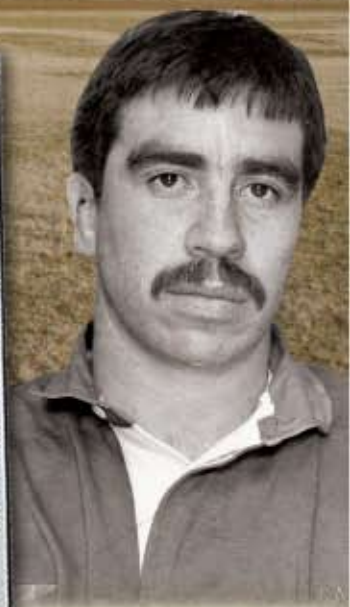
Hoërskool Diamantveld of Kimberley — the Diamond School in the Diamond City — is much younger than neighbours Kimberley Boys' High or Christian Brothers College, but it now far surpasses them in rugby influence in Griqualand West. The school was founded in 1935 in the building which had housed the Kimberley Teachers' College, uncomfortably adapting the training college's facilities to a school. Five years later the school acquired its present buildings and raised its flag. The school is an Afrikaans-medium, co-educational high school.



Rugby at Diamantveld

The school has had much professional coaching in recent times, including that of Abri Minnie (who did so much to build rugby at PW Botha), Swys de Bruin (who coached Griquas), Dirkie Strydom, Tom Drewitt, Christoff Lotter, Andre Markgraaff and Springbok prop and current assistant coach of Griquas, Dawie Theron.

It is no wonder that the school has been an achiever in Griqualand West. In 1999 it won the Kimberley League and was runner-up the next year. Springboks Flippie van der Merwe and scrumhalf Mannetjies Gericke are Old Boys. Hooker Wessel Lightfoot went on the 1985 internal tour with the Springboks. Provincial players include Luther Bakkes, a strong loose forward who captained Griquas, Henk Diedericks and Louis Carney. The Old Boy who has had and continues to have the greatest influence in South African rugby is André Markgraaff, whose son also played for the school's First Team. Markgraaff played for Western Transvaal, Western Province, South West Africa and Griquas. The Springboks beat the New Zealand Cavaliers 33-18. Naas Botha was the captain of that team. Markgraaff went on to become the president of Griqualand West, the coach of the Springboks and the convenor of the selection committee. The school has produced some excellent prospects for South African rugby in recent years. Byron Booysen and 2004 captain Izak van Westhuizen are set to have big futures. Kimberley Boys' High are no longer the force they once were and now the biggest rivals in Kimberley are Noord-Kaap. Outside of Kimberley there are the two strong Upington schools, Hoërskool Upington and Duineveld, and then across the dry land, Hoërskool Kalahari of Kuruman, who call themselves the Lions.



Internationals

South Africa:

Flippie van der Merwe
Mannetjies Gericke

"Many of the strong rugby schools, like Marlow and Maritzburg College, have large hostels. So most things are done together as a school, and that can only help in the dynamics of a team sport like rugby. Similarly, Diamantveld has a strong hostel set-up, with good facilities. It's a great advantage and cultivates a strong spirit in the school. Many of the school's best rugby players ultimately come from the hostel, and many of the day boys who stay in town actually prefer to move into the hostel."

— Basie Greeff (coach, 1974–82)

"Diamantveld has an excellent rugby tradition. From 1968 to 1970, there were 13 Diamantveld players in the Craven Week side every year. In 1969, Griquas were the only schools team to beat the touring Wallabies schools side. In '69 and '70, they were the top side at Craven Week, a side that was obviously largely comprised of Diamantveld players. So a case could be made that, at that stage, the school was one of the best rugby schools in South Africa."

Noord-Kaap is quite a new school and although they are the big derby now, it used to be the game against Kimberley Boys' High and the technical schools. There used to also be a tradition whereby Diamantveld played the winners of the Administrators Cup (now the Beeld) on their ground. We played Ermelo, the winners in '73, and beat them 17-12."

— Andre Markgraaff (1973–74)