



Drostdy Technical High School



FOUNDED: 1903
MOTTO: LABORA DEO CONFIDENS
WORK RELYING ON GOD
ADDRESS: 40 SOMERSET STREET,
WORCESTER
WWW.HTSDROSTDY.CO.ZA



School History

Drostdy was a generic term for the magistrate's residence and court in Dutch times at the Cape. There are some fine ones — as at Graaff-Reinet, Tulbagh, Swellendam, George and Worcester. It was usually the best building in the town apart from the church.

Drostdy is one of the largest boarding schools in the country with the majority of pupils in the four boarding houses. The Drostdy boarding house is a national monument and is located at the end of the main street.

"I came from Breerivier to Drostdy. I was actually on my way to Waterkloof in Pretoria, but I was fortunate to have been offered a scholarship to Drostdy, and this also meant I could stay in the Boland and hopefully be selected for their provincial side. This was a turning point for my rugby career; it opened huge doors. Legendary Drostdy coach Oppies Opperman did so much for my future and also coached me at Craven Week. It was possibly the big difference between the schools I had been used to and Drostdy - the mature and experienced coaches. Many coloured parents have called me to ask me how their sons can achieve in rugby or play professional rugby one day. I simply tell them that I had a great schooling foundation in Drostdy.

My final year at the school in 1996 was incredible. We beat our rivals Worcester Gimnasium, but also beat Paul Roos and Bishops. I tended to get a few tries in most games!"

— Jeffrey Stevens

(1995-96, SA Schools 1995-96, SA 7's, WP, Boland, Griquas)



Rugby at Drostdy

Drostdy has a proud rugby history and fields up to 20 teams in four age groups (Under-19, Under-16, Under-15, Under-14). The school has supplied the Boland Schools Craven Week team with a host of players over a long period. Over the years more than 140 players have earned Boland colours at Craven Week.

Perhaps one of the greatest years for Drostdy rugby was in 1984. Playing in the Boland Leagues, they scooped up all ten trophies at the various age groups that were on offer. In '85, they won the Boland Under-19 Schools Cup Final, beating the powerful Boland Landbou, whom they had already played twice that year without losing. Though Drostdy, with a surplus of farmers' sons, tend to produce powerful packs, that year their 9/10 combination of Kobus la Grange and Marius Bartel was particularly talented.

By the late '80s, playing for Cups in the Boland fell away. This was also a time when the school had to play two other local schools on a Saturday to give all their sides a match. Thus, by the early '90s Drostdy had begun to play the big Western Province schools more regularly. In 2007, five Drostdy players represented the Boland Under-18 side at Craven Week. After

impressive displays at the Under-16 Grant Khomo Week held at Kearsney, Christoff Fernhout, Granville Jansen, Werner Badenhorst and Rouvaun Appel were selected for the festival's SA Under-16 side. Drostdy's rugby future looks secure. Drostdy is renowned for its excellent coaches. There is Oppie Opperman, who played hooker for Boland, and coached Drostdy and Boland Schools for many years. He remains involved with the school. Dawie de Lange, who coached the school's First XV for 18 years, and Tiaan Augustyn are others who have done much for the school's rugby.

Although situated in the heart of the Boland, Drostdy competes against many of the traditional rugby schools in the Western Province, such as Paarl Boys' High, Paarl Gymnasium, Paul Roos Gymnasium, Wynberg Boys' High and Boland Landbou. There is also the local Worcester derby against Worcester Gymnasium.

Each year Drostdy hosts a rugby festival at the school at the end of the cricket season, although due to renovations in 2006/07, the festival was put on hold. A primary schools rugby festival, usually held at the same time, has nevertheless continued.