



Muir College



FOUNDED: 1822
MOTTO: NEC PLURIBUS IMPAR
(SECOND TO NONE)
ADDRESS: SIR THOMAS MUIR
DRIVE, VANES ESTATE, UITENHAGE
WWW.MUIRCOLLEGE.CO.ZA



First XV 1906



First XV 2007



School History

In 1822 Scotsman James Rose-Innes arrived in the town to establish an English Free School as part of Lord Charles Somerset's anglicisation policy. The school initially had an enrollment of 60, which had increased to 167 by 1829. In 1840 this school became known as the Government School. In 1873 the Government School amalgamated with the Proprietary School (established in 1864) to become the Public Undenominational School. In November of 1892 the school underwent its final significant name change, becoming the Muir Academy in honour of the then Secretary General of Education Sir Thomas Muir. It became known as Muir College in 1906.



Rugby at Muir College

Photographic evidence of rugby at Muir College exists from as early as 1893, while Grey High School record their first ever game played against the Muir Academy in 1894. Headmaster John Mitchell recorded in his diary on the 13th of April 1893 that "a meeting of pupils to decide on the football club was held". Unfortunately this teething period of rugby came to an abrupt end in 1897 when new headmaster, John Sutherland, introduced soccer as the winter sport. Rugby was reintroduced only in 1923, and performances climaxed in 1931 with the First XV of that year recording nine wins and two draws out of 14 matches to show that Muir College rugby had finally arrived. The school would see its first Springbok a few years later when Fred Smollan was selected in 1933. Frank Kingwel captained sides in 1941 and 1942 that included renowned sports writer Norman Canale, junior Bok Malcolm Gillmer and famed rugby scribe Mel Channer (who was selected for Scotland shortly after the Second World War). In 1944 Muir won the first schools' league and its remaining friendly fixtures to finish the season unbeaten, and then defended their league title the following year. Although 1950 and 1972 were memorable seasons, Muir has largely struggled against its traditional opponents — Grey High, Graeme College, St Andrew's College, Union High and Gill. It does not have the same depth in rugby players or coaches that many of its opponents boast. It has, however, always been competitive, whether playing in Uitenhage, on tour, or at Cape Schools Week. Muir is proud of Garth Wright, its most recent Springbok and one of South Africa's finest scrumhalves, who played in the '80s and who now commentates on rugby.

Internationals

South Africa:
Fred Smollan
Garth Wright

Scotland:
Mel Channer



"Muir is a traditional, rugby-playing school, with a hostel where all the boarders wear bashers. It has other traditions like mascots and war-cries at the rugby, and these are all passed down from one generation to another, and its something that keeps a traditional school special and assists its rugby. And schools tend to get judged on their rugby results more than anything else. It's like that today and it was the same when I was at school — we had a great waterpolo side, but the sport and results that we were judged by, were Saturday's First XV results. Muir did, however, prepare me fantastically for the Springboks."

— Garth Wright (1979–81, captain 1980–81)