

Nelspruit

In the lovely fertile Crocodile Valley the farmers Nel had a farm. And on that farm there was a stream, a "spruit" in South Africa. And when the town grew they called it Nelspruit. So the brothers Andries, Gert and Louis Nel are famous.

During the Second South African War Nelspruit was for a while the capital of the South African Republic, the old Transvaal with its Vierkleur. When President Paul Kruger went into exile, the state mint's gold went with him to stop the advancing British from seizing it. The "Kruger Millions" were offloaded in Nelspruit and carried into the bushes never to be seen again. They have remained a mystery and an attraction for treasure hunters. It was Kruger's last stopping place before he dropped down into Mozambique and off to exile.

Nelspruit is now a capital again, of Mpumalanga, one of the provinces of South Africa. It is the largest town in the Lowveld, close to the Kruger Park. Not far from Nelspruit are the lovely mountains Kaapsehoop, the Sudwala Caves, Blyde River Canyon, Bourke's Luck Potholes and other scenic splendours. Tropical fruits thrive in the area.



Hoërskool Nelspruit



FOUNDED: 1952
MOTTO: PALMAM QUI MERIT FERAT.
(LET THE REWARD GO TO
THE ONE WHO DESERVES IT)
ADDRESS: CAMERON STRAAT,
VERLENGING, NELSPRUIT
WWW.HOERSKOOLNELSPRUIT.CO.ZA



School History

Hoërskool Nelspruit is the biggest school in the area and has given birth to other schools — Hoërskool Bergvlam and Lowveld High School. Nelspruit has nearly 1 200 pupils, of which about half are boys, and roughly 200 are boarders.



Rugby at Nelspruit

The school is one of the four big schools of Mpumalanga and plays in the Super 16 competition for big schools. Several times, its teams (First, Under-16 and Under-15) have played in the finals. The First XV is a regular in the Mpumalanga final of the Beeld Trophy.

However, before the Beeld Trophy, came the Administrator's Cup and Director's Trophy, from which Nelspruit had consistently snapped up silverware to add to their trophy cabinets. In 1972 and 1975, they were "deelwenners", sharing the cup with Affies and Helpmekaar respectively. (There is no extra time in the finals of this competition to determine an outright winner.) In 1976 and 1989 the Nellies were "naaswenners", or losing finalists, to Potch Volkies and and Hoërskool Kempton Park. In 1981, the last year the competition was known as the Administrator's Cup, Nelspruit narrowly lost the semi-finals in extra time to a strong Affies side. But they had played such an expansive brand of rugby that Datsun sponsored a bus for the Nellies for their incredible 6.8 try average per game.

The school is popular and regularly invited to top festivals. In 2002 Nelspruit was voted Mpumalanga Rugby School of the Year. The school has produced 28 senior provincial players and a massive 142 players for Craven Week sides.

In 2003 six Nelspruit players were in the Mpumalanga Craven Week team. The 2007 team was another excellent side, with seven players making the Craven Week side on that occasion. The highlight of that season was undoubtedly the fine 26-25



victory over the Mighty Waterkloof, in Pretoria. The Klofies side had previously had the better of their Nellies counterparts through the junior levels, but the game was also a Classic Clash as well as a Super 16 game that would see the winner progress to the Top 8 of the competition. Marnitz Boshoff was selected for SA Schools that year at flyhalf, and is currently contracted to the Bulls with his older brother Ruan, who has played for the SA Schools Academy.

A number of other players have played for SA Schools — Leon Nel (1982), Michael de Bruin (2001), Wiam Arlow (2002) who was in the 2003 SA Under-19 team which won the World Championship in France, and Mashela Ntokozo (2006). Two Springboks are Old Boys of Nelspruit — lock Nico Wegner and loose forward Schutte Bekker. Louis Holtzhausen played for SA Country, Le Roux de Beer for SA Universities, and Derrick Badenhorst for SA Under-21.

The Nellies have strong rivals in Mpumalanga — the Rooibulle HTS Middelburg, the Erries of Ermelo and Rob Ferreira. But competition spreads further afield, especially to Affies and Klofies of Pretoria.

Internationals

South Africa:
Nico Wegner
Schutte Bekker

