



Northern Cape High School

School History

Kimberley has an old and unique history. Minerals and large holes may be synonymous with the town, but so too are good education and good schools, among them Northern Cape High School. From 1943 to 1975, Northern Cape High School was known as the Noord-Kaapland Technical College. It had existed with the Noord-Kaapland Commercial High School as a combined careers school. In 1976 it changed its name to the Commercial High School, and in 1987 settled on Northern Cape High School. Today Northern Cape High School has grown into a prominent school in the Northern Cape and beyond. The Technical School also remains in Kimberley, though is separate from Northern Cape High School. In its commercial days, MK Brits was the school's first headmaster. From 1986 to 1995 DJ Pretorius was headmaster and was followed by AJ Snyman, who remained until 2003. A du Plessis was the next incumbent until 2005, when HJ Brand, the current headmaster, took over. Pupil numbers at the school have steadily grown, from 402 pupils in 1987 to 1 020. Currently Northern Cape High School is one of the prominent schools in the province, regularly achieving in academics, sport and culture.



FOUNDED: 1943

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(REACH OUT FOR THE HIGHEST)

ADDRESS: HAYSTON WAY, HADISON
PARK, KIMBERLEY



Rugby at Noord-Kaap

Northern Cape High School has had seven rugby teams since 1992 — a big improvement from the mid-80s when mustering a single team was hard enough. Their colours are olive green, white and grey. The school has had its share of national representatives, though no Springboks yet. In 2001 flyhalf Corrie Avenant was selected for South Africa at Under-21 level. In 2002 Barnie du Plessis played for the South African Under-19 side at eighthman, and Deon Koen was selected for the Under-18 SA Academy at hooker. PJ Vermeulen played for the South African Under-19 in 2004 and captained it in 2005 when they won the World Cup in Durban. That side included the likes of Francois Steyn, Hilton Lobberts, Richardt Strauss and Chilliboy Ralepelle. Vermeulen has since trekked south.



and is now contracted to Western Province. Jacques de Kock also played at outside centre for the Under-18 SA Academy in 2005, the year that yet another no. 13 — Ronnie Cooke — was selected for the South Africa Under-21 side. Cooke is the school's most renowned Old Boy, having been contracted to the Cheetahs since 2006 and is currently playing in France.

Northern Cape High School has fielded some excellent First XV's in recent years. The 1998, 2000 and 2002 sides, captained by Cooke, all had memorable seasons. But then behind good sides are good coaches, and Northern Cape High School has had many. Hannes Esterhuizen successfully coached the First XV from 1992 to 2002. Frankel Engelbrecht has been involved in the 2005/06 and '08 seasons, with Dale Adam now assisting. Since 1996 an expanded Griqualand West schools league has been played. Northern Cape High School's First XV has featured in five finals since then, producing 57 Craven Week players and six provincial captains in the process. Northern Cape High School's big derby is the local fixture against Diamantveld. Other regular games include Upington High School and Duineveld, both from Upington, and Jacobsdal Landbouskool. But derbies stretch to Grey College and Sentraal of Bloemfontein, and as far as Durban High School and Monument of Johannesburg, Paarl Gimnasium, Marlow of Cradock and Oakdale of Riversdale. It is a school rapidly improving on an already impressive record.

"I have worked with many primary schools in Kimberley for a while now, and they continue to produce some great rugby players and sides. Most of the talent ends up in schools like Diamantveld and Northern Cape High School, and many boys from the smaller schools in surrounding towns join these high schools to play in bigger leagues. It is one of the reasons why schools like Northern Cape High School remain competitive."

Interesting Fact

Northern Cape High School has had a number of recent players representing the First Team on 50 or more occasions:

Deon Koen: 58 (1999–2002)
 Marnus van der Merwe: 53 (1999–2001)
 Frans Barnard: 53 (1992–95)
 Johan Groenewald: 51 (1992–1995)
 Konrad Myburgh: 50 (1999–2002)
 Barnie du Plessis: 50 (1999–2001)
 Chris Uys: 50 (1992–1995)
 Donovan Cumberlidge: 55 (2002–04)
 Divan Esterhuizen: 51 (2004-06)

"Northern Cape High School wanted to gain experience and play rugby on a bigger stage than only the Northern Cape leagues and schools. So to raise the school's profile, the school began playing the likes of Marlow, Oakdale, Paarl Gymnasium, Monument and others. It was a bit like what Grey College have been doing — expanding your playing experiences beyond your local league. Then, indirectly you become more competitive locally, which is important when trying to attract the best pupils to your school."

— **Hannes Esterhuizen (Coach 1992–2002)**

— **Dale Adam (Coach 2008)**