



Potchefstroom Technical High School



FOUNDED: 1903
MOTTO: ONS BOU (WE BUILD)
ADDRESS: MC ROODE AVENUE,
5 HOEK PLOTTE,
POTCHEFSTROOM



School History

War has nasty sides for more than just the soldiers, and as the forces of the British Empire gained momentum, the Boers took casualties. It started to provide for war orphans. In 1903 an orphanage was opened in the small NG Kerk at Vyfhoek near Potchefstroom. From the church the growing orphanage moved to tents and at the same time an orphanage was opened in Potgieter Street, Potchefstroom. The two orphanages were amalgamated in 1903, and in 1905 JP Bredell became head and Dominee ML Fick proposed the addition of an industrial school to the orphanage. The school became the School of Industries in 1905, with subjects such as shoe-making, tanning, wagon making, cabinet making, gardening and clothes making. What the pupils made was often sold at a time when the state's allowance for an orphan was £21 per annum and for a day pupil £11. The pupils maintained the buildings.

In 1910 the girls were moved to a separate facility and in 1922 the school became known as the Potchefstroom Industrial Schools. In 1930 the two schools were separated. In 1943 the school became the Hoër Tegniese Skool Potchefstroom. After World War II the subjects on offer increased, as well as the school's products. After that the school grew in numbers and faculties. By 1976 there were 900 pupils at the HTS Potchefstroom which was then tops in South Africa at athletics. In 1985 there were 1 500 boys at the school.

Rugby at HTS Potch

In the Nineties rugby flourished and became a force in the old Western Transvaal, now the Leopards. Perhaps the school's best rugby years were 1991 and 1992. For consecutive years they went all the way to the semi-finals of the Director's Cup, but unfortunately lost against Water-kloof and Menlo Park. In the past 25 years, HTS Potchefstroom has had 76 of its players selected for Craven Week.

The school has produced some familiar rugby names. Leon Boshoff played Super12 rugby and now assists Loffie Eloff at the Lions. Lourens Campher, whose brother Connie played SA Schools in '85, played at loose-head for Nothern Transvaal. He matriculated in 1987. Jannie Brooks, the red-haired flanker who later converted to hooker, played a number of seasons for the Bulls in the 90s and early part of this century, and remains involved with the Union. Perhaps the most famous Old Boy is Robert du Preez, who matriculated in the early '80s. He was the scrumhalf to some of



South Africa's legendary fyhals — Naas Botha at Northern Transvaal and Joel Stransky at the Natal Sharks. He played seven Tests in 1992/93 and was involved in the establishment of the Red Group (of Mr Price). Marius Hurter is the school's other Springbok, having played 13 Tests for the Boks from 1995–97. Kleinjan Tromp, a '92 matriculant and brother of Springbok Henry Tromp, was a prominent player for the Lions and Cats from 2001–06. Naas Olivier, a 2000 matriculant, spent a number of years at Western Province, before moving to Auch and the French leagues at the beginning of 2008. All three Old Boys were headboys in their matric year. Much of the school's rugby success comes down to its experienced coaches. There are many that could be mentioned, but perhaps the long-serving Chris Jacobs, who took the powerful '91 and '92 sides to the Directors Cup semi's, and Lappies Labuschagne, deserve mention.

HTS Potchefstroom have great derbies with other Technical schools from Klerksdorp and Rustenburg, as well as against Sasolburg High School and Schoonspruit. The school's big derby is against Potchefstroom Boys' High, a fixture that regularly brings out crowds in excess of 5 000. In recent years it has been an FNB Classic Clash which has all the ingredients of an anticipated and passionate day of rugby — including "bulletjie rugby", where pre-primary rugby entertains the crowd before the First XV kick-off.

Internationals

South Africa:
Marius Hurter
Robert du Preez

"If I had to point out one aspect of HTS Potch's rugby, I would say that we play a very forward-orientated game. We have always had big and strong forwards in our First Team."

— Chris Jacobs (First XV Coach for over 20 years, Craven Week coach for eight years)

"In the last four years HTS Potch has changed to a dual-medium school. This has had an effect on the rugby, but it has also meant that the school has prioritised on developing its own players and getting more non-white players to play the sport. We're also not playing as much trophy rugby these days, but rather 'friendlies', which has expanded our fixture list by giving us new derbies and more variety. We still play against many of the technical schools, and there has been a recent interest to initiate a Technical Schools Rugby League, which I think may well happen soon."

**— Lappies Labuschagne
(HTS First XV 2001–04, 2006–07)**