



Strand High School



FOUNDED: 1963
 MOTTO: VOLHARD EN OORWIN
 (GIVE YOUR BEST AND OVERCOME)
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 STREET, STRAND
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School History

Somerset West and Strand began growing rapidly in the early 1950s leading to a growing need for schools in the area. With an enrolment of 671, Hottentots-Holland High School already had more students than they could hold. A committee approached the Stellenbosch school council, requesting the Education Department to found a second high school for the area. The request was granted and in May 1958 the school committee began to look for an adequate premises. After a thorough search it was recommended that the new school should be founded in the Strand municipal area, and a plot on the corner of Sarel Cilliers street and Aerodrome Way was bought for R10 000. The new school was set to be named HS False Bay, and was designated by the committee to be an Afrikaans-medium school. In 1961 the position for headmaster was advertised and 57 applications were received. A Mr MJ Odendaal, then Deputy Headmaster of



Hottentots-Holland, was appointed to head the new school. A large property with seven apartments, 96 Mills Street, was also rented at this time for R1 000 per year. It was to be the school's temporary classrooms and accommodation for students. Saturday 20 January 1962 was a very busy day at 96 Mills street. Because of lack of help at the house, the headmaster and his four assistants were busying making sure everything was ready for the approaching Monday when the school was due to open. By night time, the house was transformed into a school with an office, staff room, four classrooms with blackboards, and even a kitchen for Domestic Science classes. The school was officially opened on 23 July 1963 by the Administrator of the Western Cape, Dr JN Malan. Today the school is flourishing. It offers an excellent education and a variety of sports from athletics to tennis, and from netball to rugby.

"Thinking back to rugby at Strand High School, the first thing that came to mind was the passion and pride and the disciplined approach to the game. Strand were very serious playing the game of rugby and we earned respect by beating some of the 'big schools'. We had a pack of forwards who were trained by Piet Faassen and everybody knew that playing against our pack was no walkover. Piet made sure that every member in that team was properly coached and fit for the game. He also made sure that each player knew exactly what was expected from him and that it was special to be part of such a team. Because of the layout in those days the vehicles could park next to our rugby field on the one side and the Strand supporters created an atmosphere that I will never forget. The school, the teachers and Piet showed me that hard work pays off and they also created a culture of self-confidence which is so important in any sport or career."

— Colin Beck (Springbok in '81)



Rugby at Strand

As an Afrikaans-medium school, it was inevitable that rugby would be played, and played well. Legendary coach, Piet Faassen, arrived in 1966, and would remain First Team coach until 2003. He has since remained involved with the school's rugby. National success followed as early as 1981. That year Colin Beck became the school's first Springbok on their tour of New Zealand. The tour became infamous when the tests were disrupted by flour bombs and the Boks ended up taking accommodation (and refuge) in squash courts. The school has produced numerous other excellent rugby players. Kobus Kirsten was a Western Province prop. Jaco Kirsten, a hooker, captained Eastern Province. Kobus van der Merwe represented SA Under-20 and SA Universities, and played at centre for WP and Griquas. A successful coaching stint at the Border Bulldogs led to his appointment as the Sharks assistant coach to Rudolph Streuli. He would later take up the head coaching position at the Stormers until 2007.

Others who have played provincial rugby are Dirk Hanekom, Charl Hollwill, Hendrik Truter, Kobus Niemand and Leon Roos. Perhaps the most well known is Earl Rose. The lanky

fullback, who is also a competent flyhalf, first played for Western Province in 2004/05 season, before heading North to the Lions. His younger brother, Jody, was a star Paul Roos Gymnasium flyhalf who, like his brother, also played for SA Schools and is set to make his mark in South African provincial rugby. Earl Rose is the schools only representative at SA Schools level. He played for the schools First XV at only 16 years of age, and, as in Kobus van der Merwe's year, contributed to his school's victory over Cape Town rugby giants, Bishops. Other recent junior national representatives are Jacques Rossouw (SA Under-21) and Clayton Stewart (SA Under-18). There have been many highlights in a relatively short history for Strand. The Rhodesian tour of 1973 was a memorable experience, and all five games were won. In 1984 only two games were lost against the best of Cape Town and the Winelands, and the season included a victory over the mighty Paarl Gimnasium. It set the stage for the school's first unbeaten side the following year. Perhaps the game of the 1985 season was beating Bishops 8-4 in the final game of the season. Bishops were unbeaten at that stage as well.