



Hoërskool Transvalia



FOUNDED: 1958
 MOTTO: BEHOU EN BOU
 (CONSOLIDATE AND BUILD)
 ADDRESS: CORNER OF SCHUMAN AND
 BACH STREETS, VAN DER BIJL PARK



School History

Hoërskool Transvalia is situated in Venderbijlpark on the Vaal River not far from Vereeniging. The town was founded during World War II, chiefly to produce steel, and was named after Dr Hendrik Johannes van der Bijl, an engineer, inventor and industrialist. It is a well-balanced secondary school and produces excellent, sport and cultural achievements.

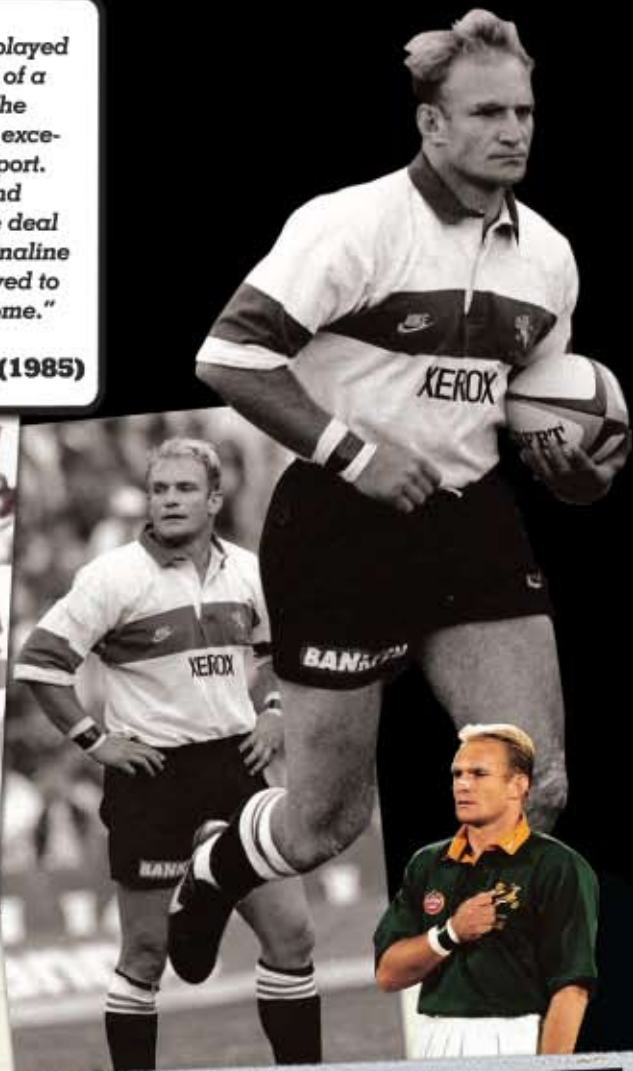
The school was founded in 1958 and has some 1 140 pupils, 540 of whom are boys.





"I was an OK rugby player at school; I played cricket and did athletics too. I was a bit of a Jack of all trades but master of none". The athletics coach, 'Oubaas Coetzee', was excellent; he helped foster my appetite for sport. Three thousand people used to come and watch our derbies, and that was a huge deal for us as kids. It was all about that adrenaline rush. My dad changed jobs and we moved to Witbank; those Derby Days were awesome."

— Francois Pienaar (1985)



Rugby at Transvalia

The school has ten rugby teams, doing best in 1992 and 1993 when it reached the semi-final of what was then the Administrator's Cup. It was then in the rugby province called Vaal Triangle, which is no longer. In 2005 it reached the semi-finals of the Beeld Trophy (for big schools), losing to Waterkloof. Their greatest rivals are the Tekkies (HTS Vereeniging). The matches are always close, but of the last six matches Transvalia has won five times. But that has only been since the arrival of Dries van Heerden at HTS Vereeniging in 1993. Robbie Heydenrych's 2004 side broke the drought with a memorable 18-16 victory.

Before HTS Vereeniging, Driehoek and Van der Bijl Park were the big rivals of Transvalia. A rugby tradition at the school is the exclusive Transvalia change rooms. If there is total commitment for the game from each player, then the jersey is pulled on, and the Valia First XV take to the field. In recent years, Neels Venter and Pieter van Wyk have been excellent coaches at the school. Venter has been involved for many years with Craven Week as a coach, manager and selector. So too has Van Wyk, the former deputy head, been very involved in Craven Week in recent years. Another former member of staff, Frans Erasmus, was an honorary president of Vaal Triangle RFU.

There is one Old Boy of whom the school is particularly proud, as any school would be — Francois Pienaar, the Springbok captain who stood tall at Ellis Park at the end of the final of the 1995 Rugby World Cup. Today he is very much involved with schools rugby and its development. Piet Myburgh, who played SA Under-19, Under-21 and Under-23, is also an Old Boy. The tall lock played provincial rugby for the Sharks and Bulls, amongst others.

Internationals

South Africa:
Francois Pienaar

