



HILTON COLLEGE

# View from the Dugout

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This past weekend we played our longstanding rivals Maritzburg College; one of the oldest inter-school matches in the country. Our 'down town' rivals have always been greatly revered for their sporting ethos and the sheer magnitude of their school, more than double our size, has, in many respects, made them the Goliath of KZN schools sport. 'College' as they are affectionately known by the community, do not only bring numbers to the sporting arena but their deep sense of pride for their school has always made them a formidable opponent. In fact, in thinking about this article, I decided to look back at our summer sport record against them from about a decade ago (and longer). There are a few tales of courageous victories for the black and white but, on the whole, the stats show a rather bleak record of Maritzburg College domination.

In scrutinizing these results it is noticeable that quite a few things have changed since those times. Pre-2005 Hilton College put out 6 basketball teams, 17 cricket teams and 6 water polo teams, figures which now read - basketball: 14 teams; cricket: 15 teams and water polo: 14 teams. Another noticeable change is that many of our lower teams did not play Maritzburg College head-to-head in those days as they were too weak. This year we staggered down for Maritzburg College (our lower teams played their higher teams) in water polo and all other teams played head-to-head. Finally, from a results perspective, in 2003 we lost every basketball, water polo, golf, tennis and squash match and only won a few cricket matches (we mostly won these on the stagger) a trend that continued through right up to a few years ago. This 'gap' has definitely narrowed throughout and in the case of water polo has completely reversed. In this 1st term fixture we did not lose a 1st team match (in any of the sports) a rare and laudable achievement against a school of this stature.

All-in-all what we learn from this is that our boys are braver, faster, stronger and better skilled than they have been in the past. But, despite our improvement, it is wonderful that we have a strong and worthy antagonist down the road that still wins most of the fixtures (well in cricket and basketball anyway) and against whom we can raise a yardstick for our further improvement. There is no greater mechanism to improve, after all, than being on the losing team from time-to-time.

I'm not sure where history will take this rivalry in the future but what I am absolutely certain about is where we have set our sights. So here's to many more years of battles against our 'college' friends.

## GOLF

Our Golfers continued their good run on Friday with a double victory (1st and 2nd team) over St. Charles. Both teams romped to 6 - 2 wins.

## BASKETBALL



On Saturday our basketball teams faced a tough encounter against our strong rivals, Maritzburg College. The day got off to a great start with our U14B side beating Maritzburg College by 10 points in an intense and thrilling 30-20 point game. The game was full of mixed emotions with momentum swinging either side, but our U14B's proved to want it more and ended on the winning side. Congratulations to OJ Motsoe and his boys for such an exciting game!

This was just the beginning of some great encounters to follow. In another thrilling match, which had everyone holding their breath, our U15B's fell short by a single point; the final score being 29-30 to Maritzburg College. This was followed by a humdinger in the nail-biting overtime loss for the U16B's who succumbed 21-23 to a highly motivated U16B College team.

The day certainly seemed primed for a great spectacle leading up to the 1st team game. This match started at a frenetic tempo with our boys getting on the scoreboard first and showing their intention to cause an upset. We were sublime throughout the 1st quarter racing to a 19 - 4 lead. This proved to be an unassailable advantage as the 1st team were able to answer to anything Maritzburg College tried to throw at them. In the end we maintained our early lead and walked away with a comfortable win of 58-43 points.

(Thanks to Celo Mbanjwa for his contribution to this report)



## SWIMMING

The swimming team returned to the Westville Boys High School Gala on Friday evening after two years absence. This event is touted as being South Africa's premier boys schools gala, attracting top schools from all over the country. A high but realistic aim was to finish in the top 6 positions out of the 12 teams in attendance. The boys put up a great fight with the junior age groups achieving many top 5 finishes and putting us in real contention for 6th place overall. Unfortunately, 2 untimely (and unfortunate disqualifications) put paid to our chances as we lost over 10 points in both of these races (21 points in total). In the end we had to settle for 8th overall, a mere 17 points behind Affies who finished in 6th place. One positive that we took out of the gala was that we were placed 3rd overall against the other KZN schools in attendance. The final results were:

1. Westville A - 309
2. Grey College (Bloem) - 275
3. St Davids (JHB) - 223
4. St Benedicts (JHB) - 218
5. Clifton - 184
6. Affies (PTA) - 158
7. Westville B - 147
8. Hilton - 141
9. Glenwood - 122
10. Maritzburg College - 93
11. Kearsney - 92
12. DHS - 62

On Sunday the A team swimmers and the A team water polo players swam the Midmar Mile. For most of these boys this was a wonderful team building exercise and much fun was had by all. Some top times and positions were also achieved. The times of the top 5 were as follows:

- Chad Uys - 24.26
- Thomas Joubert - 24.39
- Joshua Roberts - 24.54
- Hylton Royden-Turner - 25.29
- Christo Van Loggerenberg - 27.26
- Murray Schnell - 27.39



## ROWING

Hilton College rowing club continued their success at SA's premier rowing regattas. This past weekend they competed at the Selbourne 500m sprints on Friday and in the Buffalo Regatta on Saturday and Sunday.

At the Selbourne Sprints, Hilton College represented by Rory Plunket and Patrick Plunket took the Gold in the Junior Men's First team Double and then, soon thereafter, the twins with the addition of Mike Carter, Matthew Karlson and Luyanda Cingo won the Silver in the Junior Men's 1st team Quad. With barely enough recovery time thereafter, Rory Plunket went on to win the Gold and the trophy in the Junior Men's 1st team Scull with Matthew Karlson finishing this race in a credible 5th position.

Two hard days of competing then ensued at the Buffalo 2000m Regatta in East London - a 131 year old event. Conditions were tricky with strong coastal winds but the boys rowed with great determination.

In the Junior Men's 1st Scull Patrick Plunket won the Bronze and his brother, Rory Plunket came 4th. In the Junior Men's 1st Double, in a painfully close race, the Plunket brothers were beaten into the Silver Place by 0.15 of a second. Finally, in the Junior Men's 1st Quad our boys took the Silver.

Not feeling the Club had taken enough treasure, in the senior classes, Ernie Steenkamp and James Quibell won Gold in the Masters Double and Jess Janse Van Rensburg, Gold in the Women's scull race. (Thanks to Tyrone Plunket for his contribution to this report)

## CRICKET

What could be said about the weekends cricket that was not encapsulated in the stunning end to the first team cricket match, where Michael Booth supported by John Turner and Michael Frost, dug in for a spectacular draw. Set a formidable total by the Maritzburg College first side, we were soon in trouble at 68 for 7. A change of tactic was needed and some grit shown. With 27 overs left in the contest and only three wickets needed by College, there could only be one winner. Up stepped the injured Michael Booth, cleared to bat, but not yet bowl. His two hour, twenty-six minute, marathon innings saw the first team end 129/9 and get out of the game with a momentum continuing draw. With the current seamer crisis at the School in the senior age group, we could not defend the 207 made by the second team despite noteworthy performances by Jonty Weideman (59) and Andrew Winskill (33) and went down by 4 wickets. The third team were in the contest for much of the day, although missed opportunities would come back to haunt them as College passed the competitive 167 set by 6 wickets. Murray Pinnell was the stand out performer with a strong 52. The fourth team ended on the right side of the results as Freddie Steinfeldt-Kristensen was destroyer in chief with 3/10, as Hilton bundled their College opposition out for 48 after posting 147/7 in their 20 overs.

The U16A team showed what commitment to the cause looks like as they continually counter-attacked throughout the day. Ross Minter-Brown led the batting fightback with 75 and Andrew Stern held his ground to end 23 not out as the tail wagged to give them a fighting chance. When College finally reached the target with three overs left in the day and six wickets down, the records will not show the fight in the field by the Hilton College side, typified by the 21 unbroken overs bowled by Nick Campbell.

The U15A team continued the momentum built up over the previous three weekends as they comfortably chased the 121 set by Maritzburg College to end 122 for 3, with Nick Hatton unbeaten on 49 not out. Although the rest of the U15 teams did not achieve the results they were looking for there were still many positives that could have been taken from the weekend's games.

The U14A team were in control of the College fixture from the outset, although College had worked their way to 140/5 in the 37th over. Tight bowling by Jake Carstens and Casey Nicholson saw them succumb to the pressure created, being bowled out in the 56th over for 149. A positive start by the Hilton College batsmen, led by Luc Benkenstein (46), allowed the team to consistently be ahead of the game. With Matthew Bergset 41 not out, the team achieved the target 2 wickets down in the 34th over. The U14B team pulled off a spirited win as Daniel den Bakker top scored in their innings of 142 all out. Although a modest total, it was competitive. It was the spin of Christopher Harty 3/11 and Matt Rout 3/7 which saw the team victorious by 26 runs bowling Maritzburg College out for 116. Although the matches at U14C and D level did not go our way I am buoyed by our cricketers being able in a large part to compete without a stagger. Well done to all of you for your tenacity. (Thanks to Warren Kirsten for his contribution to this report)

## WATER POLO

Our Hilton College teams put on yet another fine display on Saturday by winning 7 and drawing 1 out of the 10 matches against Maritzburg College.

Notable performances of the day were the U14A and U14B teams who were rampant with 18-3 and 15-3 victories respectively. Despite the stifling heat, the supporters came out in droves to cheer on the black and white, and were treated to a clinical display from the 1st Team who dominated in the 14-3 victory.

In matches against St Charles, the Hilton U14C team put in an exceptional performance to beat their U14A opponents.

The Hilton U16B team also competed in a round-robin tournament where they performed incredibly well, and gained some valuable experience. They posted victories against St Charles U16B and Amanzimtoti U16A. In their final match against the St Charles U16A team the scene was set for a humdinger. The Hilton lads who had dominated for most of the game, were unable to hold on to the lead, narrowly losing out in the dying moments (5-6), in what has been dubbed the encounter of the weekend. (Thanks to Jason Sileno for his contribution to this report)



### REPRESENTATIVE SELECTIONS

Congratulations to the following boys on their selection to water polo and tennis teams:

#### Waterpolo

Thomas Joubert - SA U16 Development Team  
Tim Mundell - SA U17B Team  
Luke Tillim - SA U16 A/B Squad

#### Tennis

Sam Black - Midlands U19  
Jean-Marc Rey - Midlands U19  
Jonathan Harel - Midlands U19 Reserve  
Joe Hill - Midlands U15  
Zavier Rey - Midlands U15

Tony Shuttleworth  
Executive Director - Sport