

**KEARSNEY EASTER RUGBY FESTIVAL 2017
DAY ONE SCORES & MATCH REPORTS****MATCH 6****HTS MIDDELBURG 21 – 19 HOERSKOOL NOORD-KAAP**

The final match on the first day of KERF was keenly contested by HTS Middelburg and Hoerskool Noord-Kaap. Middelburg had the better of the early exchanges but as the game progressed Noord-Kaap grew in confidence. At halftime it was HTS who had scored two tries, to the one of Noord-Kaap.

The scoring was opened by Middelburg when flyhalf Morne Sonnekus kicked a long penalty. Noord-Kaap backs showed a lot of pace and it came as no surprise when fullback Cameron Hufke picked up a loose ball and beat the defence for a 5-3 lead.

Andries Koen made a good break to put HTS in front again and before the break the heavier HTS forwards set up a maul from a penalty close to the try line. They rolled forward with lock Dolf Rossouw barging over and putting his side into a 13-5 halftime advantage. Noord-Kaap scored first in the second half after Yaseer Daniels used pace to go over near the touchline.

Hufke, with a brilliant conversion in the conditions, narrowed the gap to a single point. Sonnekus kicked a three pointer and shortly thereafter HTS hooker and captain Duart Willemse did well to squirm over to increase their lead to 21-12.

Both teams were enterprising in the last quarter with the ball moving through numerous hands and defences holding.

Noord-Kaap prop Conrad Aswegen had made some telling runs and, with minutes to play, he had another; breaking through the defensive line and passing to centre Wium Becker who dived over this time, giving Hufke an easy conversion to narrow the gap to two points with two minutes remaining.

In the dying seconds Noord-Kaap had possession and very nearly took victory away from HTS. But it was the Middelburg team who narrowly won 21-19.

Point scorers:

HTS Middelburg: Tries: Koen, Rossouw, Willemse; Penalties: Sonnekus (2)

Noord-Kaap: Tries: Hufke, Daniels, Becker; Conversions: Hufke (2)

MATCH 5**GLENWOOD 21 – 10 HOERSKOOL FRAMESBY**

The wind brought rain which affected ball handling, making it sufficiently greasy for passes to be dropped. Towards the end of the game the rain became heavier, so much of the play was amongst the forwards. Framesby did not give up and spent most of the last 10 minutes in the Glenwood half.

There were some big tackles by both sides as play moved from end to end. Glenwood arguably held the ascendancy, but Framesby won enough loose ball to make their own forays towards the Glenwood line.

The Durban side went into the lead after 10 minutes when left wing Morne van Rensburg managed to burst through for a five pointer. He converted his own try.

Framesby flyhalf Riaan van Rensburg replied with a penalty but neither side could get away. With the halftime whistle imminent, centre Grayson Ditlow went over after an attack down the left hand touchline. It was converted by Van Rensburg for the Port Elizabeth boys to lead 10-7 at the break.

In the second half Glenwood grew in confidence and their flyhalf Dylan Pretorius snaked through again, with a conversion by Van Rensburg, for a 14-10 lead.

Framesby came close to scoring but the Glenwood defensive patterns were sound and, when Glenwood got back into the Framesby half, a bullocking run by JJ van der Mescht created some space and two passes later, Van Rensburg saw the tryline, to score his second try. His conversion put Glenwood 21-10 in front.

Glenwood held on and with numerous changes occurring, some due to injury, the local team managed a 21-10 win.

Point scorers:

Glenwood: Tries: M van Rensburg (2), Pretorius; Conversions: Van Rensburg (3)

Framesby: Tries: Ditlow; Conversion: R van Rensburg; Penalty: Van Rensburg

MATCH 4

MONUMENT 33 – 16 DALE COLLEGE

Monument, with a very large pack of forwards, dominated the early stages of the fourth game. Dale had to feed on scraps but, as the first half grew longer, so they started getting more ball. Missed opportunities by Monnas frustrated the players and helped Dale to keep in touch.

Dale opened the scoring with a well struck penalty by fullback and captain Aphelele Fassi. Monument struck back immediately, as their forwards moved up field and, from a ruck close to the tryline, flank Tristan Dullisear dived over. The try was converted by Jonathan Viljoen for a 7-3 lead.

Monument continued to have the lion's share of possession, winning lineouts with comparative ease and dominating the tight phases. From a scrum, a well-rehearsed move saw the ball spinning wide and No 8 PJ Jacobs took an inside pass to go over. Viljoen added the extra points and a 14-3 lead midway through the half. A mistake ensued by Dale when an attack was picked up by centre Luke Rossouw and he went over under the posts. With the conversion by Viljoen, things looked ominous for Dale, now 3-21 behind.

A second Fassi penalty from a long way out lifted the Dale spirits. They began to get more possession and, with a move where the ball was kept in hand, flank Buhle Qaba went over on half time. The conversion into the wind went wide but Dale had narrowed the gap to 11-21 at the break.

In the second half, with 21 minutes remaining, a Dale player was red carded for a punch, but Dale did not give up. This was followed by a Monument player being sent off with a yellow card, meaning both sides had 14 players. Dale came back with a try by hooker Mikhaya Sonqishe.

From a lineout Monnas flank PJ Jacobs taking the ball at the back, went over for an unconverted try for a 26-16 lead.

Dale with one man less held on while Monument made crucial mistakes. In referees' time Monument's Larko Lindes drove over, giving Monument a 33-16 win.

Point scorers:

Monument: Tries: Rossouw, Jacobs (2), Dulliseam, Lindes; Conversions: Viljoen (4)

Dale: Tries: Qaba, Sonqishe; Penalties: Fassi (2)

MATCH 3

QUEEN'S COLLEGE 15 – 22 PRETORIA BOYS HIGH

The third match of the festival, a tightly contested game between Queen's College and Pretoria Boys High, was without the plethora of tries seen in the first two matches. Queen's, back at the festival for the first time since 2009, held on despite giving away penalties that kept newcomers PBHS in the game; until the final minute where the boys from Pretoria got over for a win.

Queen's had the majority of possession in the first half, although most of the play took place between the two 22m areas.

Queen's opened the scoring with a penalty by flyhalf Keith Kroutz. Both teams were quick to recycle ball, but the defences on both sides held. On one of the rare occasions that either side got close to the try-line, it was the Queen's forwards who drove over and they were awarded a touch-down. This gave them an 8-0 lead.

Pretoria's flyhalf Tayne Rivas converted a 40m penalty and then, on the stroke of halftime, a second easier penalty, to take them into halftime 6-8 behind.

Early in the second half a pass that didn't go to hand enabled Queen's centre Ilano Smith to kick ahead. A kind bounce and a sprint for the line enabled Queen's to score their second try, with a good conversion in blustery conditions by Kroutz.

Rivas was also successful with his third penalty to narrow the gap to 9-15. PBHS then had a five-minute period of attack in the 22m area. They were awarded a number of penalties but Queen's did not back down. Eventually Pretoria added another three points when Geordie Collaros was successful.

PBHS had the opportunity of a long penalty to win the game with a minute to go, but the ball struck the upright. Their captain and eighth man Chris du Toit then broke through and used his long strides to get close to the poles, giving his team a dramatic 22-15 win after Collaros' conversion

Point scorers:

Queen's: Tries: Forwards, Smith; Conversion: Kroutz; Penalty: Kroutz

PBHS: Try: Du Toit; Conversion: Collaros; Penalties: Rivas (3), Collaros (2)

MATCH 2

SELBORNE COLLEGE 46 – 19 DR EG JANSEN

Selborne showed that they will be one of the top sides at the festival this year when they played enterprising rugby, and were fast to capitalise on mistakes. EG Jansen will be disappointed by their errors which gifted some points to Selborne. It was a good game with Selborne flair giving them a 46-19 win.

The game was just five minutes old when Selborne lock Stephan Nieuwenhuizen burst through the defence to score an unconverted try for an early 5-0 lead. Selborne were much more cohesive in their pattern of attack. EG Jansen were very disjointed on the other hand and, when their forwards did win the ball, the backline could not get over the advantage line.

This enabled the East London side to dominate and score a further three tries before half time. Scrumhalf Mitchell Connellan sniped over; and flyhalf David Coetzer went over after a handling mistake by EG Jansen. Both were converted by captain Coetzer.

Coetzer was again involved as he made an inside pass from a half gap to No 8. Adam Mountfort for the fourth try under the posts. This was converted, to give Selborne a 24-0 half-time lead.

Within the first minute of the second half Selborne, playing with 14 players after a yellow card late in the first half, had recycled the ball from a ruck to left wing. Afrika Ndinisa scored in the corner to increase the lead to 29-0.

With a number of changes, EG Jansen began looking more cohesive and used their forwards to pick and drive, ending in a try for lock Dominique McArthur, converted by Dylan Schwartz.

Scrumhalf Connellan scored his second, Coetzer converted a penalty and Sibahle Khulani went over under the crossbar. Coetzer added the two points for a 39-7 lead. Regular flyhalf Ruben Beytell came on in the second half and showed that he had been missed when he had a determined run to dot down after a 25m run.

EG Jansen's third try went to fullback Franco van Eeden after some good interplay between the backs.

Selborne struck back immediately and the impressive flyhalf showed his skills by again scoring in the corner and converting from the touchline for their impressive 46-19 win.

Point Scorers:

Selborne College: Tries: Kuhlane, Ndinisa, Coetzer (2), Connellan, Mountfort, Nieuwenhuizen;
Conversions: Coetzee (3); Penalty: Coetzee (1)

Dr EG Jansen: Tries: Van Eeden, McArthur, Bytell; Conversions: Schwartz

MATCH 1

KEARSNEY COLLEGE 17 – 45 HTS DROSTDY

HTS Drostdy, playing for the first time at the Standard Bank Kearsney Easter Rugby Festival, certainly produced some good festival rugby with hard running backs and strong forwards to win the first game 45-17. Early mistakes by both sides were eliminated and a good game yielded ten tries, seven by Drostdy.

Playing in warm breezy conditions, it took a little time for Drostdy to settle down and a timely try by Kearsney fullback James Sutherland gave the hosts an early 5-0 lead.

Much of the play was in the centre of the field with early-season mistakes by both sides preventing either team from dominating. Defence patterns were sound and although Kearsney were making some good turnover, mistakes at vital times prevented possible points.

An attempted kick through while on attack was prevented and instead Drostdy centre Christie Grobbelaar toed the ball a number of times and beat the defence to dot down for a five pointer, converted by fullback Cohen Jasper, putting the visitors 7-5 in the lead.

The game came alive in the last three minutes of the first half when Drostdy scored three times to take a commanding lead in what had been an even match at that stage.

The first of this trio went to second time scorer Grobbelaar when a relieving kick was charged down. The second, when fullback Jasper joined the line, forced a break and some passes found centre Keanu Mong, who dotted down under the posts.

From the kick-off the Drostdy forwards won the ball and scrumhalf captain Romeo Eksteen broke through a tackle to score. It was converted by Jasper to leave Drostdy 26-5 ahead.

The second half saw some brilliant rugby, initially by Kearsney who narrowed the gap to 17-26 by scoring two tries. The first was by Robbie Koenig with a determined run to score in the corner and the second by eighth man Dylan Richardson, who found his way over next to the upright. This was converted by Sutherland.

As in the first half, Drostdy got stronger towards the end and scored three tries in the last six minutes. Mong scored his second by rounding the defence. A brilliant conversion from the touchline by Jasper put them 33-17 in front.

Scrumhalf Eksteen and flank CJ van Rensburg scored the final two tries to leave the visitors convincing winners in an exciting opening festival game.

Point Scorers:

Kearsney: Tries: Sutherland, Koenig, Richardson; Conversions: Sutherland

HTS Drostdy: Tries: Grobbelaar (2), Mong (2), Eksteen, Van Rensburg, Jasper; Conversions: Jasper (5)

All matches are being live-streamed. For links please go to www.kearsney.com

All Photos by TRACEY VAN DEN AARDWEG

FESTIVAL FIXTURES:

Day 1 – Thursday 13 April

09h30 Kearsney College vs HTS Drostdy; 10h45 Selborne College vs Dr EG Jansen; 12h00 Queen's College vs Pretoria Boys High; 13h15 Hoërskool Monument vs Dale College; 14h30 Glenwood vs Hoërskool Framesby; 15h45 HTS Middelburg vs Hoërskool Noord-Kaap

Day 2 – Saturday 15 April

09h30 Hoërskool Noord-Kaap vs Queen's College; 10h45 Selborne College vs Pretoria Boys High; 12h00 Kearsney College vs Hoërskool Framesby; 13h15 Dr EG Jansen vs Glenwood; 14h30 Dale College vs HTS Drostdy; 15h45 Hoërskool Monument vs HTS Middelburg

Day 3 - Monday 17 April

09h30 HTS Drostdy vs Pretoria Boys High; 10h45 Hoërskool Framesby vs Dr EG Jansen; 12h00 HTS Middelburg vs Dale College; 13h15 Glenwood vs Hoërskool Noord-Kaap; 14h30 Selborne College vs Hoërskool Monument; 15h45 Kearsney College vs Queen's College

All Photos by TRACEY VAN DEN AARDWEG

Issued on behalf of the KEARSNEY EASTER RUGBY FESTIVAL

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