



# Kroonstad High School



FOUNDED: 1908  
 MOTTO: MANU ET MENTE (WITH  
 STRENGTH IN MIND AND HAND)  
 ADDRESS: NOORDWEG,  
 KROONSTAD  
[WWW.BLOUSKOOL.CO.ZA](http://WWW.BLOUSKOOL.CO.ZA)



## Rugby at Blouskool

Kroonstad High School, or "Blouskool", as it is known, is widely acknowledged for its excellent rugby and contribution to rugby. In fact, the three founding schools, now all merged into the oldest among them (Kroonstad High School) have been involved with the Springbok rugby team on a continuous basis, without interruption, since 1981 — in either a coaching or player capacity. These Old Boys are Burger Geldenhuys, Gert Smal, Ian Hattingh, André Venter, Faan Rautenbach and Michael Claassens. In a highly competitive Northern Free State league, Blouskool have a remarkable record. They are a competitive school at all levels. Though Rooiskool may have had a good run at First XV level in recent years, Blouskool were the first to win the League in three consecutive years (1999–2001). Ninety-seven provincial players (and 41 at Senior level), and four SA Schools players later, the school continues to play a role locally and abroad. Gert Smal's work with the Bok forwards laid the foundation for their World Cup victory, while Michael Claassens has now plied his trade overseas, partnering Butch James at Bath.

## School History

Kroonstad High School has its roots as far back as 1908. In 1994 an amalgamation took place and both the Kroonstad Agricultural School and the De Wet Nel Technical High School became part of Kroonstad High School. The diversity of the three founding schools led to the school probably having the widest range of subjects available anywhere in South Africa. The school prides itself on its diversity, striving for excellent academic, sporting and cultural standards.

Anticipated derbies include the likes of Welkom-Gimnasium, Voortrekker from Bethlehem, Hentie Celliers and Virginia Sports Academy. The big derby is of course the game against neighbours Die Afrikaanse Hoërskool, or the "Rooiskool". Often this game is played at Loubsers Park, the municipal grounds, to accommodate the 15 000 or more spectators that attend Kroonstad's biggest rugby event, and one of South Africa's largest schools rugby derbies. It is usually the culmination of a week of reunions — a time when Old Boys return to their alma mater to show their support and loyalty.

## Internationals

### South Africa:

Burger Geldenhuys  
Gert Smal  
Ian Hattingh  
André Venter  
Faan Rautenbach  
Michael Claassens



*"Like all local derbies, you don't tend to get on too well with your opposition — they're your enemy on the rugby field, after all. But today at varsity, many of my best mates are from our school rivals, the Rooiskool. There are many good memories from school days and our derbies that we obviously have in common."*

— Albert Parsons (2004)

*"In Kroonstad, high-school rugby is a passion rather than an obsession. Statistically, Blousskool is the Northern Free State's foremost rugby school overall, being competitive from Under-14 to Under-18 level. I've been privileged to have won nine leagues in 13 years as an Under-14/15 coach at the school. It strives to provide their players with excellent rugby coaching, as well as valuable lessons in life and a good education. This is clearly reflected in the numerous excellent achievements by its pupils."*

— Gerhard Spamer (Junior Coach 1994–2008)

