



4 August 2011, 13th Edition

From Behind the Posts:

Some people call it the “bounce of the ball”, others call it the “rub of the green”, some even call it “unlucky”; me, I call it the “rugby gods”, and oh my word, is it just me or are they conspiring against us? Whatever your view, I think we can all agree that we have been up against it in the last two weeks. We have obviously also aided in our own downfall to a huge degree by our inability to hold onto our ball and our terminal lack of patience at critical moments on attack, all of which don't help us in our plight to build momentum, create pressure and ultimately score some points.

It was another beautiful day on the fields of Bosch, and I really hope that both spectators and players took some time out from the matches to gaze around and take in the beautiful surroundings as the battles ensued.

Our boys were desperate to get things back on track and play the rugby we all know they are capable of. Our preparation went well and the focus was there all through the week. We started like a house on fire and looked rampant as the ball went wide from Keet and then back into the middle to a galloping Palframan, unfortunately Keet couldn't find Giovanni on the 3rd phase which would have lead to the perfect start. The goose bumps were on me as I saw the boys in full flight. We were on the attack again and looking good when the first ball of the match (the first of many) got turned over, then from out of nowhere and out of nothing one of the Boland forwards ghosted through from halfway, easy as pie.

Our restart wasn't good, that lead to their scrum on the halfway and the first scrum penalty to them. The ball bounced off the ground onto the cross bar (when does that ever happen) and then back into play, instead of just clearing our line we opted to put ourselves under huge unnecessary pressure and with that came the charge down try which left me gazing to the heavens.

It was a frustrating game on so many levels. My biggest frustration was the fact that the game never got going, and what was supposed to be a classic match turned into a wrestling match with scrum after scrum and scrum penalty after scrum penalty. The scrum had to be reset 15 times, the time spent just on scrumming was close on 11 minutes and I am not even talking about little stoppages for injuries and guys taking a “break”.

My other, and just as big a frustration, was that we were once again not good enough when we did have ball in hand. We conceded 16 turnovers which doesn't help when confronted by a black wall that kept infringing on our boundary line. We had some really good opportunities that went “a begging”, maybe because of trying too hard. The Boland defence also deserves a lot of praise for keeping us out and with that the hope of a deserved come back. We finally managed to cross the line with just about no playing time left (we could have done with some of that extra injury or scrum reset time). I would never bet against this team and knew that we could still do it. Then from deep in our half the Tasmanian went on a run, I again saw the desperation that was evident in those final seconds against Grey PE as they swept through the middle.

Continued ...



The dream was alive as Matt Norris went charging for the corner. The rest is history and life goes on. Boland did however box more cleverly than us on this occasion and deserve their good win because of their attitude on defence. With all the possession and territory advantage that we had, we only have ourselves to blame for not smoking the pipe on this occasion. The boys never gave up and threw themselves at the defence with too much desperation and not enough control. We as a team will take a lot from this game as we work on fixing a couple of little things as we strive to put our game right. Our penalty count showed a vast improvement from our previous game where we conceded 16 penalties, this week we only conceded 5, plus the 3 scrum penalties of course, it makes you wonder about this thing they call interpretation?

The law makers of our beautiful game must really sit down and simplify the game for the people, it is virtually impossible for referees to get it right at this level, and as a coach you are fighting a losing battle, when you concentrate on getting one area right then you get blown in another area. Our penalty count last week was 16, this week it was 8, from which 3 was for scrum infringements, the players become confused and so do the coaches and spectators. The more you coach your boys to play within the laws of the game the more you become frustrated with what the other guys are getting away with. Please take me back to the days when if the ball came out on your side it was yours, no interpretation. We went to watch the Province vs. Bulls game on Saturday afternoon and we witnessed a really good game where the teams were able to play, the mayor reason for the flowing game was the fact that the breakdown (tackle area) was clean and well policed by the referee, also the scrum was allowed to be a fair contest, meaning you can't push before the ball is put in.

I 'ref' my case.

Overall we had a good day hosting the "Boere" from Boland, and as always it was a pleasure to compete with them. Out of the 15 games they won 8 and we managed 7 which swung the scales firmly in their favour. The highlight for Bosch was our under 15 win. The boys played well and produced their best game of the season; it was great to see some reward after so much hard work by both players and coach. I am convinced that there is still a lot more to come from this incredibly spirited team. Our under 16's were up against a monster of a team, not sure what they have for Sunday lunch in that part of the world, but it is working. Our boys showed a lot of heart and really met their physicality by playing with a lot of passion. We will become a lot better and I am sure they can't get any bigger as we look to the future and seasons to come. Once again it was penalties at scrum time from someone who has never been in a scrum that spoiled things on the top field. The under 14's continued their very good season by another good win. They have become a confident bunch of guys who are busy creating that all important winning culture, they must just remember to keep up with the eating, especially some extra meat and potato's for the Sunday lunch.

With the triple bogey marked on our score card it is now time to tee up for the final hole. It is a tough par 3 with each shot needing your full attention, getting ahead of yourself and not playing each shot on merit could easily blunder an already pretty decent score card.

Unfortunately there will be no Mulligan's as was the case in King Williams Town.

Clinton van Rensburg.





Bosch Top Scorers:

The debate on points in one season and tries in one season is still on. Anyone who can add to the list, or dispute the list, please let me know (gustaf@rondebosch.com)

Points in one season		
Year	Name	Points
1995	Chris Verster	233
1972	Dave Dodd	179
1977	Francois Bonthuys	177
2007	Dean Grant	167
1960	André Tulleken	150
2008	Darryn Berry	139

Tries in one season		
Year	Name	Points
1977	Brent Farrell	28
2010	Räyn Smid	19
2008	Christiaan Bester	10
2009	Justin Fielies	6
2009	Michael Aristidou	6

Triple Crown & Grand Slam:

Heading into our final three fixtures of the season for the three Southern Suburbs Derbies, the hunt for **Triple Crown Champions** is on again. On top of that, there is also an opportunity for last term's Triple Crown Champions to make it a complete **Grand Slam!**

Term 2 Triple Crown			
Team	Wynberg	SACS	Bishops
U19A	18 - 15	19 - 15	34 - 18
U19F	12 - 5	17 - 14	12 - 10
U19G	24 - 22	22 - 10	19 - 3
U16B	24 - 14	33 - 3	46 - 0
U16C	33 - 5	17 - 12	52 - 0
U14A	43 - 0	32 - 7	45 - 14
U14B	33 - 19	34 - 7	20 - 14

Grand Slam?			
Team	Wynberg	SACS	Bishops
U19A			
U19F			
U19G			
U16B			
U16C			
U14A			
U14B			



photos courtesy of Andrew Louwrens



Match Reports:

U19A vs Boland Landbou (lost 15 - 22)

After last weekend, we were heading for a clash of two teams looking to set the records straight - Boland got a hiding from Drostdy, and Rondebosch let it slip against De Kuilen. Since 2008, Rondebosch has competed well with Boland, and most were looking forward to a good contest.

The match started in familiar fashion - Rondebosch started really well, only to give away an easy turnover, followed by a couple of missed tackles, and suddenly a lock runs from the halfway line to score a try in the 4th minute! Four minutes later, the disaster was made even worse in the 8th minute, when the Boland scrumhalf charged down a clearance kick in our 22 and scored untouched. Suddenly we found ourselves 12 points down with more than 1 hour of the match still to play. We started to control the ball better, which led to better field position and in the 12th minute Hilio de Abreu converted a penalty. For the next 15 minutes we continued to have territorial advantage, but faced a very determined defence from Boland. Eventually, in the 27th minute, a move from a penalty paid off when Captain Nic Roebeck dotted the ball down with Hilio adding the conversion. With the score at 10 -12, it seemed like it would be a reasonable score for half time, with a second half still left to continue the momentum for a good win. Unfortunately, another lapse in concentration in the 38th minute of the first half led to a soft try when a Boland penalty rebound from the post, we failed to clear the ball, they won a turnover, and scored their third try to go into the halftime break leading 19 -10.

Two characteristics of this team's play that has stood out in this season's great performances, has been their ability to build up a rhythm in the match, and their patience. However, since our return from Cape Schools, we have been struggling to get a good rhythm going in our phase play, and a sudden lack of patience has seen several uncharacteristic things creep into our play. Suddenly there are skip passes when an overlap has been created, 50/50 offloads in tackle situations, and even the odd "Sonny Bill" pass. These have cost us dearly in three close matches that were lost.

The second half saw Boland score first with a penalty in the (unbelievably) 4th minute. From there on Rondebosch dominated possession and territory. It seemed as if it would only be a matter of time before the inevitable points must come. However, the Boland defence was something I have not witnessed this year. At a stage, we had a continuous period of 14 minutes on their goal line, but they kept every single attack out. Eventually, in the 33rd minute of the match, William Keet scored and the match was on again. In a rushed attempt because of time running out, Hilio, uncharacteristically, missed an easy conversion. With one more restart left in the match, Damian Verney got the crowd to their feet with a bursting run through the Boland defenders, the ball finally made it to Matthew Norris, and everyone thought Hilio will have a tough conversion from the side line to draw the match when Matthew dived over the line. Unfortunately, the touch judge called a foot into touch, and Hilio never got his chance. The referee blew the final whistle and a match where defence beat attack came to an end.

The boys' disappointment and frustration was huge, but will only serve to make them more determined for the run in to the end of the season against the three traditional opponents – SACS, Wynberg, and Bishops



photos courtesy of Andrew Louwrens



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U19B vs Boland Landbou (lost 8 - 24)

After a week of hard work and a few good and intense practice sessions, our boys pitched on Saturday full of confidence to play good quality rugby. The first half was a battle between the two packs of forwards with few opportunities for the backs to display their skills. Possession was the key and both teams managed to hold onto the ball through many phases. The set pieces were more or less even with them having the upper hand in the scrums but with Bosch to dominate the line-outs. Ebrahim Titus, the late replacement for Conor Ray at scrumhalf, brought into the game plan early and the exchange of two penalties locked the score at 3 - 3 at half time.

You will only get a few opportunities against strong opposition like Boland Landbou to convert possession into points. If you then miss out on those, you will always be in trouble. Our boys showed a lot of patience in executing the game plan. We managed ourselves into good scoring opportunities just for the last pass or running line to let us down. Boland Landbou played a typical pick-up-and-run game plan with good effect. They held onto the ball, set up many phases and then scored three tries with their forwards late in the second half.

We never gave up and Akilan Naidoo scored a well-deserved try in the corner just before the final whistle.

U19C vs Boland Landbou (won 25 - 0)

The dogs outscored their opponents by 3 tries to nil with the final score being 25-0.

It was a gutsy performance from the whole team who got the men of the match award for their tackling and overall defence. The first try came from the dogs keeping possession for a number of phases to march into the opposition 22m then swinging it wide for winger Hobbs, who had to beat three defenders, for a dive in the corner for a great finish.

The 2nd half was much of the same as the boys from Landbou tried to muscle their way up the field with their big pack but the dogs got turnovers at vital times. Leading these turnovers was the ever present captain Tom. The most important turnover was on the Dogs 5m line where they gave the ball air with quick hands and Hobbs went off on a 90 meter run beating the cross cover defence and stepping the Landbou fullback like he had concrete boots on.

The third and final try came from a clearance kick off the big boot of Leroy and with the ever chasing Justin taking a quick throw that sent lock Nabeel under the posts for the nail in the coffin.

It was a pleasure to be a part of a team that was inspiring to each other from the moment they all arrived! Well done Dogs!

Force vs Boland Landbou U19D (lost 0 - 26)

The Flyers turned out under cover as the Force: The last 2 weeks have been a nightmare with regards to selection due to illness and injury, for the first time this year we had to play with uncontested scrums, not only that, we lost another 4 players to injury, and suffered a defeat of 26-0 to Boland.

That being said the boys produced an excellent display of running rugby in the 2nd half, the ball being tossed around from pillar to post just not being able to cross the Boland try line. Matt Harris was our man of the match; he displayed outstanding leadership from his out of position, position at scrumhalf, tackled tirelessly and kept the Force on the front foot. Matt also played the 2nd half for the Dogs due to the injury of Conner Ray in the 2nd Team.

We may have lost but the boys can be proud of the way in which they handled themselves under pressure.



Flyers vs Boland Landbou U19E (lost 0 - 29)

A string of injuries from the previous weeks and players missing due to other commitments meant the Flyers weren't fielding a full-strength side for this tough encounter against the Boland U/19 Eagles. After our great win over them last year we knew they'd be coming at us with everything. Unfortunately we let in a couple of tries in the first half after a promising start with some solid defensive efforts on the line lead by fearless leader, Captain Matthew Budden, as well as some blistering runs from speed merchant Samuel Carstens. After being under pressure in our own 22 for most of the second half the dam walls eventually burst as a better Boland side ran in another few tries with incisive runs and good back line interplay to end the game at 29-0. The score line is flattering of our efforts as without men of the match, twins Robin and Simon Dwyer, making several try-saving tackles, and Boland knocking the ball on several times, we would have surely gone down by more. A focus on defence will be made by the coaching staff in the next few weeks as we prepare for our Triple Crown campaign.

Stunners vs Boland Landbou U19F (lost 12 - 46)

Still fielding most of the 7th side the "Stungulls" as they have been affectionately named once again came up against a powerful Boland 6th team. Although the score line was not in our favour this was definitely a very attractive game to watch. Starting out slowly with quick tries against us followed by some aimless kicking in the opposition half the coaching staff had a few harsh words to say behind the posts. The boys turned it around and came out firing with incredible flair, chucking no-lookers and gathering chips like nobody's business. We managed get over the line once through quick forward play on their line, which the legacy Matt "Armi" Armstrong, but we were unable to stem the tide of Boland tries coming in against us. The second half saw our massive winger Gareth Jones doing an unorthodox dive for the line, coming up short, and then diving again to score an emphatic team try to the sound of Coach Winter screaming "Jonesy for the win!" The boys have their work cut out for them in these next 2 weeks as we prepare for another successful Triple Crown effort.



photos courtesy of Andrew Louwrens

U16A vs Boland Landbou (lost 12 - 22)

Another disappointing result for a gifted team. RBHS lost 12 - 22 to a team that was more motivated - it seemed like they clearly "wanted" to win more than the "Bosch" boys.

Hours of practice, with the ball being moved wide, seemed wasted, and only in the last 15 minutes was the ball swiftly passed in the direction of speedster, Nic Le Roux. Incorrect attacking decisions were made on numerous occasions - this does not mean the team was not "trying" to win, it does not mean the team did not play with plenty of fire, this was all there, but how BADLY did they WANT to win - the need to play for 60 minutes, and not just the last 15. Why, for example, when given a penalty 30m from the line, did the 'Bosch team kick for the corner flag - one would think to use their powerful forwards to drive the lineout over the line, like they did against Bishops, but instead, the ball went from the lineout jumper to the backline? Tries were scored by Nic Le Roux and Graham Geldenhuys, and one conversion by Tyren Lee.



U16B vs Boland Landbou (won 11 - 10)

The U16B's won a close game 11-10, the 'Bosch boys had a bad game, and didn't take the scoring opportunities that came their way.

U16C vs Boland Landbou (won 29 - 0)

U16C won 29-0 in an excellent committed 15 man game. Try-scorers were: Shuab Manuel, Douglas Bryant, Umar Kagee, and Chris Mparitsa. Alezio Joemat kicked a penalty and converted all but one Try. Lanbou had a heavier side but were completely outplayed.

U15A vs Boland Landbou (won 20 - 7)

The difference between winning and losing at "A" team level is often very small. The odd injury, refereeing decision, knock on at a vital time, is all the needed to lose a match. This week the one criterion that has been missing all season stepped up: SELF BELIEF. What a difference it made! Instead of starting slowly and going 7 points adrift early in the game before waking up, it was very clear to everyone watching that there was a real sense of urgency in everything we did on the field. The three tries we scored virtually doubled the number that we have scored all season. The numerous handling errors that we made last week were something of the past; in fact the try scored by Clyde Martsch showed fantastic handling after a full backline movement. The try scorers were Josh Kaplan, Stephen Werge and Clyde Martsch. It was truly a great team performance and set up the prospect of finishing the season on a high as we approach our three traditional rivals.

U15B vs Boland Landbou (won 10 - 7)

After showing a lot of promise in the last few games the boys did well on Saturday with a great attacking and defensive performance to beat Boland 10-7. On attack we hurt Boland out wide and on defence the boys showed a lot of attitude in defending our line for long periods of time.

U14A vs Boland Landbou (won 25 - 17)

At the beginning of the season we set ourselves the goal of beating at least one of the big Afrikaans rugby schools. With narrow losses to Paarl Boys' High and Paul Roos and a good showing against Paarl Gim, despite losing by a big score, only the boys from the farm stood in our way.

This year their U14A had a good record and we knew the match would be one of the toughest of the season. Right from the kick-off Bosch climbed in to prove that there are good packs in the southern suburbs too. The farm boys soon realised that it would take more than just driving and shoving to win this match. Somewhat against the run of play Boland intercepted a midfield pass and after five minutes they were up 7-0. Bosch bounced back 4 minutes later with a penalty by scrumhalf Nick Potgieter but ten minutes later the visitors stretched their lead to 10-3 with a penalty.

Handling mistakes and poor passes by Bosch did not help to restore confidence after the shock, but when no 8 Pieter Slabbert went over for Potgieter to convert 7 minutes before the break (10-all) the structures reappeared and the boys started playing the game that worked for us the whole season - driving upfield and then running hard.

A stern half-time talk saw an inspired team take on the second half. After two minutes hard-running centre Kyle Ballakistan dotted down with Potgieter's trusty boot doing the rest (17-10). Boland now threw all they had at us and their big forwards drove at our backs from scrums and rucks, but the defence held. Potgieter added a valuable three points with another penalty in the 11th minute (20-10).

Continued ...



Boland were now desperate to regain the lead and when they scored a converted try five minutes later the Bosch lead shrunk to a mere three points. Again they employed their driving and charging game plan to try and save the day. The lighter Bosch pack held their own and even took two tight heads, again proving that tough mighty mouse props Russell Eaby and Jordan Diekmann can out scrum anyone. The Bosch defence held but everyone knew that whoever scored next would win the game.

Bosch needed a try that would require Boland to score twice in very little time if they wanted to save the game. It came three minutes from the end - right wing, Rory Thomson was sent away on the 22 by a great pass from the midfield. He ran as if his life depended on it and with two defenders on him fell short of the try line but managed to roll over and stretch to dot down. Potgieter's conversion missed but the game was won at 25-17.

Boland tried everything in the last few remaining minutes to save honour but were literally carried back from the line by brave defenders. This was the game that turned a good team into a great team. Coming back from 3-10 down against a side like Boland is no mean feat. Bosch can be justly proud of this talented side.

Now all that remains after that is the goal of a second triple crown.

U14B vs Boland Landbou (lost 7 - 10)

This was another hard-fought battle and with a little bit of luck Bosch could have taken this one too.

The visitors were up 5-0 at the turn and when left wing, Ferhad Ahmed ran half the field to cross over shortly after the restart and fly-half, Nicholas Stander converted to put Bosch up 10-7 it looked as if we were in control. Unfortunately Boland managed another try halfway through the second half. Bosch tried hard but the ball never got to the speedster again.

U14C vs Boland Landbou (won 15 - 10)

The boys put up a brave performance on Saturday and won 15 -10 against Boland Landbou. It was a nail-biting game throughout and both sides were very evenly matched.

The boys played with good structure and intensity and we kept Boland under pressure by playing most of the game with our forwards. By the end of the first half the scores were 5 all. In the second half both schools scored a try resulting in the scores being 10 all, but in the dying seconds of the game Kieron Bax went on to score the winning try resulting from sustained pressure, and clinched the victory for Rondebosch making it our second win in a row this term. We as coaches are proud of the boys. Tries: Chris Stephenson, Jonathan Weideman and Kieron Bax



photos courtesy of Andrew Louwrens



Bosch Rugby Supporters:

Annual Rugby Dinner, 1 September

A highlight of the Rondebosch rugby season is the annual Supporters' Club dinner. More details will very shortly be sent to all members regarding the guest speaker and the price. Please diarize the evening of Thursday 1 September at Kelvin Grove. Corporate tables will also be available for companies to entertain clients shortly before the 2011 Rugby World Cup tournament.

Claiming your annual BRSC payment as a tax deduction

Thank you to all our members who have made their annual Supporters' Club payments - your support of Rondebosch rugby is appreciated. Tax deduction certificates for the donation component of your payment will be posted shortly. You do not need to submit the certificate to SARS, but will require it should SARS query your deduction. All you need do is claim your payment of R500 (couples) or R300 (single and country members) less R50 in your tax return (ie R450 or R250) (usually code 4011 on the form). A payment made to 28 February 2011 may be claimed in your 2011 tax return, and if paid after 28 February it may be claimed in your 2012 income tax return.

Fixtures this week:

- ❖ Due to the long weekend there are no RBPS or RBHS matches on Saturday.
- ❖ The U14A and U14Bs were to play at Bellville High School - these matches were cancelled by the opposition.

