



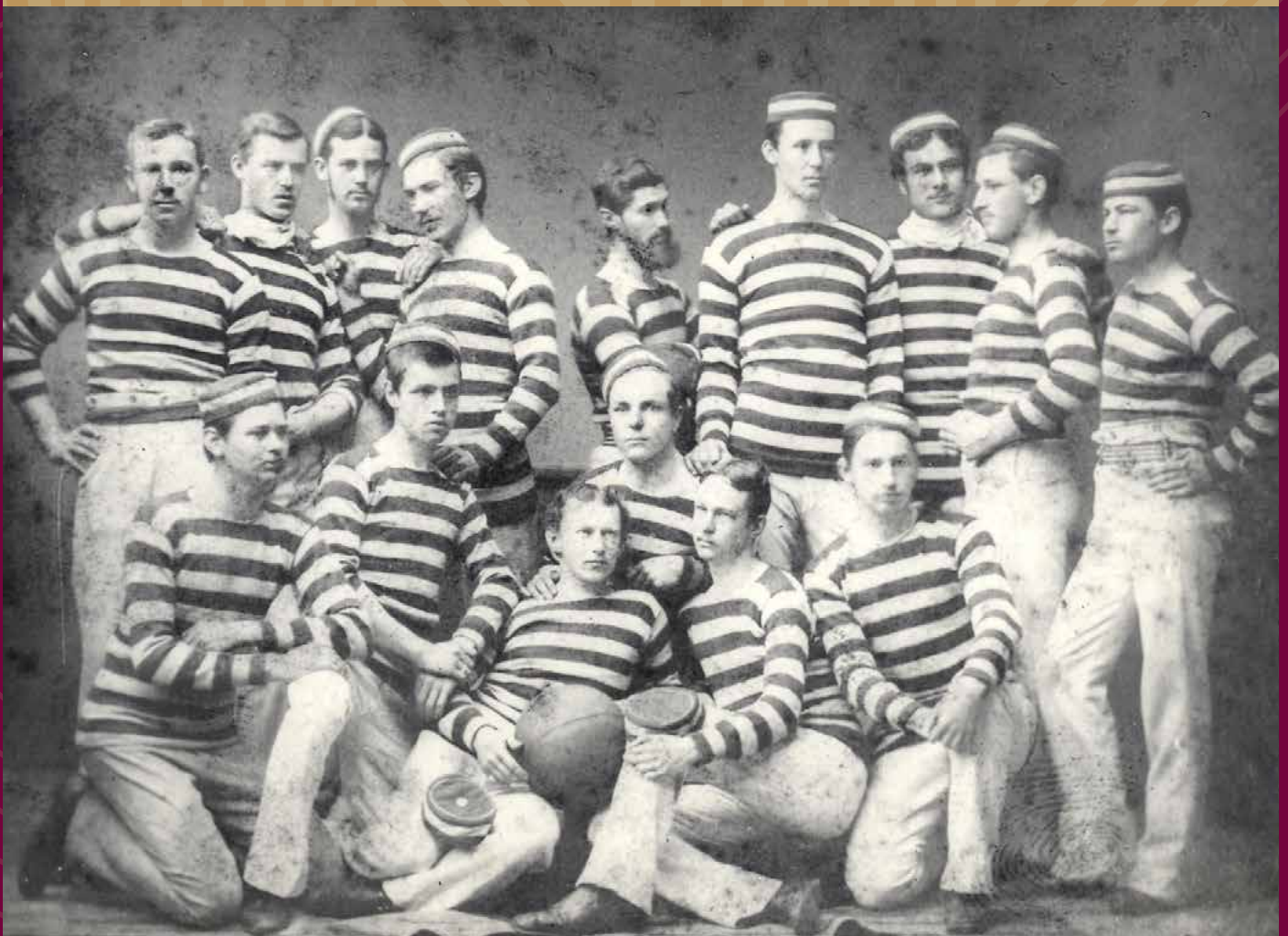
MATIES RUGBY

150
1875 · 2025

A legacy that inspires
Ilifa elikhuthazayo
'n Erfenis wat inspireer

Maties Rugby News

February 2025



Maties Rugby 150 – A Legacy Worth Celebrating

Maties Rugby enters its **150th year** in 2025, marking a significant milestone in South African rugby history. Founded in 1875 with a match played on *Die Braak* - and with a round ball - our club has grown into one of the most formidable institutions in the game.

Today, Maties Rugby is the **second-oldest club in South Africa** and the **largest competitive rugby club** in the southern hemisphere.

With over **900 registered players across 36 teams**, Maties Rugby remains central to student rugby in South Africa, with players competing year-round in leagues that continue to draw a strong and loyal following. Our **Campus Rugby** programme remains a cornerstone of our success, with **740 players participating in 2024**, supported by committed fans who show up in all conditions.

Maties Rugby has long been a proving ground for elite talent, producing **182 Springboks**, along with national players, coaches, and administrators who have left a lasting impact on the sport. More than just a rugby club, Maties Rugby has built a **legacy of excellence, leadership, and commitment** - on and off the field.



150-Year Celebrations

To mark this milestone, and to include as many of our Maties Rugby family as possible, a series of events will take place throughout the year, including:

- Commemorative matches
- Golf days
- Symposia
- A fundraising initiative to strengthen the Maties Rugby Bursary Fund, to ensure that we can continue to attract and

develop the country's best young talent (see details about this special 150 Campaign below).

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Varsity Cup 2025 – Opening Game

The official kick off to the 150-year celebrations is set for February 17, 2025, with the Varsity Cup season opener at Danie Craven Stadium. The match will be televised, but nothing replaces the experience of watching it live. Supporter Packages are available through Webtickets (see below).

Preparing for the Season

The new year started with intensive pre-season training camps for our Men's Seniors, Young Guns, and Women's teams as they prepare for a demanding season. The teams will be led by:

- Ezekiel Ngobeni (Men's Seniors)
- Tjaart Joubert (Young Guns)
- Liza Slabbert (Women's Team)

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Acknowledging Our Supporters and Partners

Maties Rugby's continued success is made possible by the loyalty and support of our donors, sponsors, and funders. Their contributions enable us to remain competitive in the modern rugby landscape while upholding the standards of a high-performance programme.

A special thank you to our major partners:

- Mitchum – Club sponsor
- Adam Piper – Campus Rugby sponsor
- Snapp – Kit bags partner
- Hi-Tec – Off-field apparel partner
- SAB & PenBev – Pouring rights partners
- FNB – Varsity Cup sponsor

Their continued support helps sustain and grow Maties Rugby, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of student rugby.

A Legacy to Inspire

Our 150-year celebrations are not just about the past - they reaffirm our commitment to the future. Maties Rugby's ambition remains clear: to set the standard for student rugby, develop outstanding players and leaders, and uphold the traditions that have made this club what it is today.

We look forward to seeing you at Coetzenburg.

DRIKUS HANCKE
Head of Maties Rugby

Meet the Team: FNB Maties are Ready

Meet our Men's FNB Varsity Cup squad - new heroes stepping out to mark our 150-year celebrations. While most of us have eased into the new year, our players have been in intensive training to fine-tune their game. We trust that you will back the #MaroonMachine this season in what we hope will be a memorable competition.



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VARISTY CUP 2025 – IT'S GAME TIME!

Varsity Cup 2025 kicks off in the Danie Craven Stadium on Monday, February 17 at 7pm in the Danie Craven Stadium when FNB Maties take on FNB Shimlas. It will be on TV - but you know you want to be there live! Full fixtures and bookings here. <https://www.varsitycup.co.za/varsity-cup-fixtures-logs>

#Go!
MATIES

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150 Legacy Legends: Chris & Riley Norton

Chris Norton gave his all as a Maties Rugby Hooker for 12 years from 1991 to 2003, and now he is giving back as a driving force in the Maties Rugby Supporters' Club. But his biggest legacy gift for the Club could well be through his son, Riley, who joins the Varsity Cup Squad in this 150th celebration year.



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150 Year Legacy Bursary Campaign

Be a legend and support Maties Rugby's growing legacy through our special 150-year bursary campaign ... and leave your legacy mark in a plaque at the Danie Craven Stadium!

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