

Sports Report – 2009

This has been an extremely busy and successful year in our sporting life at the College. The boys and girls together have achieved great success in many disciplines, mainly due to their commitment and enthusiasm at practices and competitions. In so doing, they have made us all extremely proud and the paragraphs that follow provide a glimpse of their accomplishments in 2009.

Naturally, this would not have been possible without the huge input and direction of extremely talented and dedicated staff and I would like to thank each and every team member for the success recorded to date.

The Sports Department is delighted to announce that Stanford Lake College dominated the Independent Schools and Inter-High Athletics competitions. We made a complete sweep of all the competitions in which we were involved.

In Swimming, Lyla Adam and Francois Maritz represented the Limpopo Province in their age groups. The swimming team made a clean sweep at the Independent Schools' Gala in October. Thirty four swimmers from SLC (the highest number ever) went on to participate at the Inter-High and Top Schools Galas.

Stanford Lake College finished a close 2nd position behind Florida High in the MTB series. Tarryn Brent has been confirmed as the No. 1 u15 Girl in MTB racing.

Riaan van Niekerk excelled at the SA Junior Archery Championships, where he finished 4th in his division.

Our Golf teams excelled. The A team finished 2nd in their Division; the B team was crowned the Limpopo Champions.

Mikayla McDonald and Marelize Vermeulen have continued to shine in the Equestrian Championships, as has Lori Hyde in Junior Girls Golf. Lori was recently selected to represent Limpopo Province.

Lack of adequate drainage on the Lower Field meant Hockey teams could not start their skills practice until later in March – hence no fixtures were arranged for 1st term. The same applied to rugby. I would also like to look at the possibility of developing an indoor court at the dad Centre for Netball, to allow them to start practices early in the next seasons and also to use it as a venue for matches during the wet periods in 1st term.

Funds permitting, we would also like to erect scoreboards at our various sports fields.

Our Hockey teams went on tours during the March/April holiday.

Our Hockey teams have done extremely well this season. The boys' u14, u16 and girls' u14 and u16 age groups were unbeaten; our u14 Netball team went on to win the Limpopo Schools B League. The talented u15 side and 1st XV rugby teams also had a good run. The 1st XV Rugby side won the Limpopo Small Schools Championship.

Miss Heidi Kalidas, Mr Jon Hyde and the Girls soccer team were successful. After a clean sweep in their zone, they embarked on a tour to North West, where they finished a remarkable 2nd position in a gruelling tournament at ISSA in Mafikeng.

Jon Hyde and 15 Golfers went on a golfing escapade to the Lowveld in October. The Tour was a huge success, with all team members achieving above target results. This augurs well for our 2010 League teams.

Our Tennis teams also went on tour to North West, playing games at Sun City against some of the top teams in the country. Lizanne Steenkamp was outstanding; she won all 5 games played!

New facilities have just been opened. The pavilion is a huge extra! It will be used for teas, lunches and after sports functions. The venue can also be used for Sports Meetings. Netball and Tennis will benefit from the extra court, as it means more Netball and Tennis can now be played at the same time.

We continue to expand and upgrade the equipment in the weights room and more pupils and staff are using the facility.

Team Sports was big in the 2nd Term. We were encouraged by the numbers of our learners who were regularly involved in Winter Sports. Boys Hockey regularly fielded 4 teams and the Girls Division had five teams involved in Leagues. It is probably time for rugby to expand to include the levels of u14, u15, u16, 2nd and 1st teams. However, we are also aware of the challenges which come along with it, viz. getting enough coaches.

Tours have been planned for 2010; Girls Tennis will play at Sun City in February, the u15 Netball team is pencilled in for participation at the SA Schools' Championship at Sun City in March. The 1st XV Rugby group will travel to Natal in April, and the 1st Team Netball will head off to Sun City for the prestigious SA u19 Tournament. The Boys and Girls Hockey groups will again be at Potchefstroom in the April school holidays.

I thank the Bradfield family for keeping Fishing and Sailing alive at the College. More than 8 learners are involved regularly in each code.

Inter-House competitions were fiercely contested; Fenwick House had the best Overall results. Well don, Mrs Britton and the Blues!

Communication amongst staff, pupils and parents has been greatly improved by the Daily Notice, which means all stakeholders are fully informed of the activities happening at the school. It is hoped we will start seeing more parents supporting their children's sports. Fourteen players in Hockey and Rugby have been selected to represent Limpopo in various age groups, with the majority coming from u16 Boys Hockey (8).

In conclusion, Stanford Lake College Sports is developing steadily and I am indebted to the Board, Executive, staff and pupils for their continued and wonderful support.

Director of Sports' Desk