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TransDale Extra



MAKHAYA THIRTINI!



MAKHAYA NTINI . . . Man of the Match and a record-breaking performance

** Picture: AP with assistance from The Star*

THIS dramatic headline in The Star triumphantly reflected the history-making achievement of South African cricketer Makhaya

A grand send-off for a grand old man

IT was a serious service, but not solemn - a joyous occasion. There were light-hearted moments as the Dale Family bade farewell to one of its most revered sons, the legendary LLF Wood. A fitting celebration of a great life.

Lawrence Lyle Fitzroy Wood died in a retirement care centre near East London on April 8, a week before his 91st birthday.

Old Dalians, headmasters, staff and boys of Dale College and Dale Junior and friends of Dale attended his memorial service at St Saviour's Church, East London. Among them were former Headmaster Billy Rowles and his wife Agnes.

Barry Turner, past ODU national president, who watched over LLF for many years and during his final days, summed up the occasion: "It was a happy service that brought LLF to life and showed him as a man of honour, a gentleman and historian, a human being, a traditionalist and above all a Dalian respected for what he was in his life."

Dale College Headmaster Mike Eddy said in his eulogy: "This is an end of an era in the history of Dale. This man's memory, friendliness and dedication to Dale will remain with us for many decades to come."

The Headmaster said LLF had left an indelible impression on Old Dalians and many messages had been received. He quoted from tributes by Barry Turner and former headmasters James Haupt and Malcom Andrew and from a 1977 matriculant, Nic de Blocq. Acting Headmaster of Dale Junior Grant Williams read extracts from tributes from Old Dalians in South Africa and abroad. (See next page).

His ashes will be scattered in the Hallowed Courtyard

Archdeacon Reg Morgan, who led the service, said LLF was irreplaceable. He had specific talents and we should honour his memory in that way - not try to be like him. That was impossible. He touched on LLF's likeable quirks and his life as a parishioner at St Saviour's.

The pall bearers, as LLF had requested, were Old Dalians - his son Sipo, his grandson Lawrence, Barry Turner, who did the first Bible reading, Tom Sheard, Cedric Bosman and Chow Bissell. The Dale Junior Choir, led by Carol Farrer and Sandy Vice, gave a fitting performance.

Dale College headboy Guy Ranger and Dale Junior headboy Curtly Diesel, with their prefects, were there to pay their respects to the man who for years took an abiding interest in the progress of their schools.

(As LLF, the historian, would have reminded us, Guy is the first Dalian to hold the combined roles of headboy, and captain of cricket and rugby in the same year since Gavin Busse in 1959).

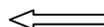
In a vote of thanks, Sipo Wood thanked Old Dalians, particularly those from East London, for their kindness to his dad.

* LLF Wood's ashes will be interred in the Hallowed Courtyard at Dale College, next to his friend and confidant, former Headmaster Russell Searle after the Reunion Memorial Service.

Tributes to LLF from at home and abroad



TRIBUTES to LLF Wood and messages of condolence to his son Sipo Wood and his family have poured in to the Old Dalian office from many parts of South Africa and abroad. Here are edited extracts from some of them.



LLF WOOD and friends . . . Flashback to a meeting at Dale with Cabinet Minister and Dale parent Steve Tshwete and Old Dalian PRO Jack Rosenberg

The best-known Old Dalian ever .

DALE rugby hero and Springbok HO DE VILLIERS paid tribute to "Mr LLF" in a moving message to his son "my old schoolmate Sipo.". HO recalled how in the early '60s at Dale he had chatted a great deal to "Mr LLF . . . who was never stuck for words! It was amazing to hear him talk passionately of Dale heroes and their heroic performances for Dale"...

In 1963 HO had the honour of being invested by "Mr LLF" as headboy of Dale. He realised in that year just how passionate he was about Dale College, its pupils and its staff.

"I will never forget the thoughtful and kind tribute that Mr LLF paid me during my final week at Dale. Mr Wood arrived at Frank Joubert House with a magnificent book recording all the rugby players who had represented South Africa on the rugby field. He then quietly presented his book to me with a simple but sincere comment: 'Hoping to see your name in this book in the next edition. I still have that book and have never forgotten, not only the message, but his generosity and thoughtfulness behind the gift!'"

Recalling that Mr Wood had been associated with the school for about 83 years, HO said: "I believe that because of his continued involvement and passion for Dale College, at least 90 per cent of those who have passed through the Hallowed Courtyard during these 83 year years must have known him, met him, or have known about him.

. "Mr LLF" must surely now have earned the title of the most famous and well-known Old Dalian ever. By now he would have rounded up other deceased Old Dalian angels to form the 'Heaven Branch' of the ODU. Can you imagine the chatter and the War Cry echoing from the skies above."

An honourable gentleman with a photographic memory

BARRY TURNER, past president of the Old Dalian Union, described LFF Wood as "a truly great Old Dalian and an extraordinary gifted person. He was a God-fearing family man who honourable respected life and nature. He had a great love for music, sport, history and above all, Dale College.

"We will miss this honourable and compassionate gentleman with a photographic memory - a man who could recall details of history, sports events . . . at international, national, provincial and schoolboy level. As an historian, his knowledge and expertise in such matters will be very difficult to emulate."

Transkei-born, LLF came to Dale as a boarder at age eight and spent ten years at Dale, where he recalled receiving 50 strokes from the headmaster. Most were for smoking.

As the college historian and statistician, he wrote a history of Dale College in 1976. His notes and the stats had been computerised, but LLF could recall all this from memory.

Mr Wood was national president of the ODU in 1943 and remained an active member till 2000. In 1982 he received the Per Ardua Award, Dale's highest, for loyal and devoted service. In 1989 he established the LLF Wood Trust to fund bursaries at Dale College.

"Mr Wood was the confidant and adviser to Dale College headmasters. Steve Tswete received a history lesson from LLF about the royal structures in the Transkei!

"His love for the boys of Dale was beyond reproach and he took great joy in chatting to everyone in English or Xhosa.

"LLF loved to say that having lived three score years and ten one was on referee's optional time. The referee has finally blown the whistle to end that optional time."

An unforgettable and extraordinary individual

FORMER headmaster Malcom Andrew described LLF Wood as "an unforgettable and extraordinary individual whose heart beat with the successes and achievements of his beloved Dale College.

"He was a walking encyclopaedia of Dale. While in the hot seat at Dale any query of a Dalian, Old Dalian or of a King William's Town family, the first call had to be to LLF. Usually there was no need for additional information from other sources.

Wise, brave and direct - even against closest friends

FORMER Headmaster James Haupt wrote: "Many will remember Mr Wood for his phenomenal memory. I shall remember him for his wisdom. He was extremely wise and brave and direct if need be. He could be counted on to go against anyone, even his closest friend if he disagreed with them and Dale was at stake.

"He had strong an unwavering principles and would not hesitate to reprimand anyone who did not meet his high standards. He was, however fair and reasonable and above all thankful for the smallest things."

Anecdotes about LLF recalled by Mr Haupt included:

- **How every Thursday he phoned the office wishing the Dale sides well for the weekend. Secretaries had to repeat his message for accuracy and be told them off if there were inconsistencies.**
- **At after-match functions LLF would "have only one whisky and then tuck into the eats with gusto. - we always catered separately for Mr Wood.**
- **He never complained about his personal circumstances . . . such was the calibre of the man.**
- **Before matches he would do his Mexican Wave blessing as the teams ran on to the field - and give advice to the coach and the team.**
- **At formal functions Mr Wood would correct a speaker who had misquoted Dale history.**
- **At monthly ODU executive meetings LLF was "a force to be reckoned with." He would list his items under "general" and insist that they be dealt with.**

He remembered my family's names - and a 1990s scrumhalf

NIC DE BLOCQ (matric 1977) of Cape Town told of meeting "this remarkable gentleman" at his 25th Reunion anniversary in 2002. "He recalled my inclusion in the Eastern Province shooting team in 1976. He mentioned my parents by name, as well as my brother and sister.

"A younger Old Dalian walked by. LLF called him by name, reminded us that he had played scrumhalf for the first team in the 1990s, recalled this chap's girlfriend's name and was told she was now the ex-scrummy's wife. The fellow looked astounded."

Messages from the Dale Family abroad

WHAT a grand old man he was! I We all thought he would go on forever. He was at Dale College with my late father in law, Stanley Hawkes, and it was lovely to see him at the Reunions and rugby matches. He was a fountain of knowledge about Dale College and its proud history.... he will be sadly missed. - **Lesley Hawkes,- Bristol, England (mg007r7064@blueyonder.co.uk)**

IT is almost unimaginable to think of a rugby match without Mr Wood and his fountain of information - **Mariana (a former Dale College office secretary, Tony, Jonathan and Caroline Lee (genuineladyluck@hotmail.com))**

THINGS happen in three's . . . Pope John Paul II, Prince Rainier of Monaco, LLF Wood of Dale College.

- **Martin Frauenstein (matric 1974) of New Zealand (martin@tsdint.com , <http://www.mapics.co.nz>, office: +64 (4) 920 6377, mobile: +64 (21) 366 377. Fax: +64 (4) 920 6378.)**

Each of us has fond memories of a great son of Dale

DALE COLLEGE has lost a great son who served the school impeccably. Each of us have fond memories of LLF Wood. Rest in peace, LLF. - **Laurence Beadon (1969 - 1973) headmaster of Grantleigh School, KwaZulu-Natal, headmaster@grantleigh.co.za**

HE is fresh, and will remain alive, in my memory as if it were yesterday.

Those lifts in his old vehicle were a welcome relief! - **Douglas Troxler (douglas@troxler.co.za)**

I was always staggered when he told me things about my own sporting life that I had forgotten. How I wish that he could have left his fantastic memory to me! - **The Rev Tommy Bartley, 1953 (bartley@absamail.co.za)**

HE made such a lasting impression on everyone he met that 41 years on I can still remember him clearly. - John Kirkwood (Kirky), 1964, of Johannesburg (a.kirkwood@absamail.co.za)

A true legend - Ryan A Odendaal (matric 2003) .204010845@nmm.ac.za

MESSAGES of condolence came from David Switala, 19 and the Switala family of Boksburg (davids@birchwoodhotel.co.za) and Hugh Rowles, who was SipoWood's newpot at Lyle Wood House in 1966. (rowles@xsinet.co.za; phone: 083-3086232 or (021) 7158320.

Cricketers fifth in SA schools



CRICKET STARS: Back row: Florian Genade, Guy Ranger, Singata Gcilitshana . Front: Anda Tyall and Singata Seyibokwe

** Picture TYRONE BARTLETT*

DALE are back in the Top 20 of South African cricket schools. Unbeaten at the end of 2004, the Dale first cricket team has ended the season ranked fifth Dale's captain. Guy Ranger, was placed third among the Top 20 bowlers. With two stunning spells of seven wickets per innings, Guy finished the second leg of the 2004-05 season with the remarkable figures of 31 wickets in 103.1 overs for 176 runs - an average of 5.6 runs per wicket. He was also third in the batting averages.

In the first term of this year the team won eight matches out of ten, lost two -an encouraging start for Old Dalian Donovan Lentz, who has taken over as coach this year. He succeeded Carl Spilhaus, who coached both the Dale first rugby and cricket teams for two years before deciding to concentrate on rugby.

Dale began the first term of 2005 with a win by 130 runs over Western Region, a development side based at Alice. Guy Ranger top-scored with 59 runs and Singata Gcilitshana hit 48. Anda Tyali took four wickets. But then came an away defeat against Queen's, despite Florian Genade taking four wickets for 40 runs and Ranger three for 20. Then Dale went down by 17 runs to Grey High School in Port Elizabeth Mande Tile took four wickets for 34 runs and Somila Seyibokwe scored 56 runs.

Dale went on to beat Hudson Park by 78 runs, with Ranger taking seven wickets for 22 runs in 13 overs and Gcilitshana scoring 48 runs. A win over Muir College, by eight wickets came just in time as rain came down as the winning run was scored.

At one stage Dale, ranked No 4 in December, after winning ten out of 12 games and drawing two in the first leg of the season, vanished from the Sunday Times Top 20 early this year. But after four straight victories at the St Andrew's Centenary Festival and a win over Kingswood Dale were right back in the Top 20 - ranked fifth. At St Andrew's Dale beat Michaelhouse by six wickets, St Alban's by 62 runs, Helpmekaar by 110 runs and Woodridge by 75 runs.

In the last match of the season Dale won by four wickets, with Ranger taking another seven wickets for 29 runs in 16 overs.

At one stage Dale had Kingwood reeling with eight wickets down for 18 runs. But the home side rallied to score 105 runs.

The top batsmen in the 2005 leg of the season were Seyibokwe, who scored 237 runs in nine innings with an average of 29.6, Gcilitshana with 284 runs in ten innings for an average of 28.4 and Ranger with 155 runs in five innings - an average of 17.2.

In the bowling Florian Genade was second to Ranger, taking 15 wickets in 92.8 overs for 217 runs - an average of 14.4 runs per wicket. Tyali took 15 wickets in 87.2 overs for 225 runs - an average of 15 runs per wicket.

With 12 catches, two run-outs and two stumpings wicket-keeper Nic Van de Vyver, was at one stage among the Top 20 fielders in SA schools. Gcilitshana was credited with seven catches and one run-out, and Seyibokwe five catches and one run-out.

Colours were awarded to Ranger, Seyibokwe and Tyali, who all played for Border Under 18s. Half-colours went to Tile and Genade, who played for Border under 17s, Gcilitshana, Van de Vyver, Ryan Dewey, Abongile Nkontso and Abongile Mkwambi.

Joburg Old Dalian golf tournament: Friday, May 27

The annual Johannesburg ODU golf tournament will be held at Leeuwkop Golf Club on Friday, May 27. The competition will be a better ball stableford with fourballs teeing off from 11.30 am until about 1 pm. A light supper will be served at the prize-giving.

Interested golfers are asked to phone Joe Sutton at (011) 622-9818 or e-mail him at sutton27@worldonline.co.za. Old boys from other schools, lady golfers and juniors are welcome.

* The date of the annual old boys' golf tournament between Dale, Selborne and Queen's will be announced later by the organisers, the Old Selbornian Association. Old Dalians will be defending the title they have held for nine successive years.

Dale cricket star returns as coach

**"The sky's the limit for this team, if . . ."
says Donovan**



DONOVAN LENTZ . . .
A Dalian from
Grade 1 to Matric

A HARD act to follow? YES it was, says 22-year-old Donovan Lentz, who took over this year as Dale's first team cricket coach from the experienced Carl Spilhaus." Carl's record speaks for itself."

BUT, on the other hand, adds Donovan, "It was really easy because Carl had instilled discipline and also moulded a good team. If you create the right environment and keep challenging the boys they will produce the results."

Old Dalian Donovan has made a promising start. After losing two games against Queen's and Grey and dropping out of the Top 20 of South African cricket schools, the Dale team have bounced back to fifth place.

Donovan came to the job with impressive playing credentials and considerable coaching experience. He had spent the last two winters in Ireland as player/coach for the Leinster Cricket Club.

Port Elizabeth-born, he came to King as a two-year-old and has been there ever since. He spent his entire schooling at Dale - from Grade One to his matric year when he was a prefect.

He played for the Dale First XI from the end of his Grade 8 year and captained the side from 1998 to 2000.

The 1999-2000 team were described by coach and sports administrator Marco van Zyl as "probably one of the most talented all-round sides to represent the college for a long time." Donovan recalls that they were unbeaten in that season and in the first leg of the next.

After playing for Border Schools in 1999 Donovan captained the side in 2000 at the CocaCola Week and was vice-captain of the SA Colts team..

In East London he plays for the Police Cricket Club which won the league last year and will go to Pretoria in September for the national club championships.

He has played for Border B (the amateur side) since 2001 and aims to push for a place in the senior Warriors side next season.

He has been coaching since he left school in 2000, starting with the Dale Under 14a side in 2001. "A few of that side are now in the first team," he says.

From 2003 to 2004 he coached the Port Rex (technical) High School side in East London, where his father had been headboy. While overseas for two

seasons he coached boys and girls from Under 11 to Under 19 and also seven men's and three women's teams. . . This winter Donovan is concentrating on completing his BCom (management) degree through UNISA. He is now in his second year.

Of his first spell of coaching the Dale First XI, Donovan says: "It went pretty well but it should have been a bit better. We slipped up against Queen's and Grey but were in a strong position and really should have won both games.

"The sky is the limit for the team if they just apply themselves and don't stop learning. Those two defeats really brought the team down to earth and made them realise that it's easy to get to the top but it's even harder to stay there. Since the defeats they have been in a class of their own.

"We train three times a week and split it between nets and some interesting fielding drills, which have led to some brilliant catches.

"The boys need little motivation because they have such a hunger to win. I have a very good relationship with them which I think has shown in our results."

Looking ahead to the next season, Donovan says "The team need to come back from the Cape Schools Week in September with some good results - just like what they achieved at the St Andrew's festival where they were unbeaten."

Perhaps they can repeat the outstanding performances of Donovan's team in the glory years of 1999 and 2000.

Now seven matric eras and two rugby sides for Reunion

OLD DALIANS from the matric classes of 1945, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1975, 1980, 1985 and 1995 and members of the unbeaten 1990 and 1993 rugby teams will be at Reunion this week. .

Roger Budler, former Headmaster of Dale Junior now deputy head of the Preparatory School at Guildford Grammar School in Perth, Western Australia, will be the guest speaker at dinner on Friday night.

The breakfast at the Grosvenor Lodge on Saturday morning will be addressed by Stofile, vice-president of the SA Rugby Board.

The return of the **Class of 1955** - 50 years after they left school - is being led by Dudley Schroeder, a former vice-principal of Dale College who became head of Queen's. He will conduct the Sunday Memorial Service in the Hallowed Courtyard. KC Miles, headboy in **1960** will be renewing old ties with some of his classmates.

The Class of 1965 - 40 years on - will be led by former deputy headboy, Dave Sephton-Poultney, chairman of the Johannesburg Old Dalian Union. Headboy and former cricket hero Hylton Ackerman is unfortunately unable to attend.

The **1990 rugby team** will be led by Andrew Bennet and the **1993 team** by their captain, Grant Griffiths, sports officer of Dale Junior, and Andrew Bennet. Courtney Woodin and Tyrone Schwartz have organised the return of the unbeaten **1993 team**.

* **The Dale First XV will play their 170th game against Selborne on Saturday afternoon. To date Dale have won 94 games, Selborne 52 and 23 have been drawn. Dale have scored 1 644 points against Selborne's 1211.**