



BlackRock

THE BANDITS

FIRST 15		BACK-UP	
1	K. Manga	16	P. Namai
2	G. Sambu	17	F. Gatheru
3	J. Okwara	18	S. Gatumbu
4	P. Wamburu	19	E. Momanyi
5	P. Odera	20	K. Njoroge
6	R. Njenga	21	E. Kiio
7	K. Ouma	22	H. Anyangu
8	J. Kimeu		
9	M. Mukundi		
10	J. Chirchir		
11	N. Mukiri		
12	I. Kagiri		
13	B. Orlale		
14	V. Anyango		
15	C. GITAU *		



SECOND 15		BACK-UP	
1.	I. Karimi	16.	D. Gaitho
2.	M. Mugwe	17.	P. Gitonga
3.	I. Mbote	18.	B. Orina
4.	B. MUNYAKHO *	19.	C. Ndegwa
5.	A. Mwangi	20.	M. Nyerere
6.	A. Muriuki	21.	G. Sonoiya
7.	E. Nyasya	22.	P. Ochola
8.	I. Kirenge		
9.	B. Waweru		
10.	P. Kibati		
11.	C. Kibwage		
12.	J. Ndege		
13.	E. Muli		
14.	J. Sankara		
15.	S. Cauri		



Strathmore Times is publication of
Strath Media 2008
© Strathmore School MMVIII

A long journey begins with a single step. It seemed as if every single one of those named to this team had internalized this ancient saying from the word "go". If the truth be told, it had proved exceptionally difficult to select the final squad of 22 players out of a wicked-looking pool of 25 players. The reasoning that eventually prevailed in naming the final list was that a few of those who were still in Form 3 would have a chance of playing in next year's competition. As tough as that was for those fully-primed players, the list was sportingly accepted.

That no player was in a joking mood is an understatement. It was unanimously agreed upon that no prisoners were to be taken in any of the expected confrontations. This being the case, a gallant Ofafa High School and Alliance II were the first to face the full brunt of the fiery onslaught unleashed by the astute Bandits. Try scorers in the game against Ofafa were new boy **Peter Wamburu** (F3), **Mwariga Mukundi** (F4) and the fearsome **Ian Kagiri** (F4). Against Bush, **Wamburu** and **Kagiri** once again got their names on the scoresheet together with **Gideon "the Hulk" Sambu** (F4) and Vice-Captain **Edmond Kiio** (F4). The super-fast finisher **Nick Mukiri** (F4) registered 3 clinical tries against his name.

In the Second Round knockout stage, the unrelenting hand of destiny presented a young Saints III contingent the unfortunate face-off against the Bandits. Initial fears were that this Saints side was actually the school's main team under disguise. With that attitude leading the Bandits on, the opposition found it extremely difficult to leave its 22-metre area as the **Hulk**, **Nick Mukiri**, **Ian Kagiri** and strong-man **Biko Orlale** (F3) scored.

Patch II did not know or understand what hit them in the ensuing quarterfinal. The cocky lads were force-fed try after almost-uncontested try with the final try by **Peter Odera** (F4) (2 tries) polishing off a sweeping ball-handling move by virtually the whole team, straight from kick-off. Other try scorers were the deceptively small flanker **Ken Ouma** (F4) and his bosom buddy **Edmond Kiio**. Incidentally, that last try arose immediately after a misguided Patch player referred to the Bandits as 'watoto' in a loud, derogatory fashion. "C'est la vie" as Patch were simply not allowed to breathe either on offense or defense.

Any altercation with the good ol' Saints is always memorable. To meet that team in the competition semifinals always sets the adrenaline pumping furiously through the system.

That this was not going to be a walk down easy street was evident from the start. It is a well-known fact that the Saints are a technically sound, mature side that is capable of meting out concentrated doses of punishment if allowed to do so. On the other hand, the Bandits comprised players who were intent on settling what was cryptically referred to as "unfinished business." The question was, which side would cave in first? Typically, Saints tried to rush the Bandits by exerting early, Pack-based pressure. Their fringe-based attacks were spine-chilling but the Bandits' fired-up defense absorbed what

was thrown at it. The two teams matched each other play by play with intense activity swinging from one end of the pitch to the other in alternate fashion. At one instant, one of the Saints wingers made a surprise break from the prison the Bandits had rapidly constructed around their opponents within the opposition's 22-metre area. The admittedly fast player beat his opposite number and speeded towards the half-way mark while running close to the increasingly apprehensive **StrathSupport©**. In the twinkling of an eye, **Joseph Kimeu** suddenly appeared at full pace only to scythe the hapless ball-carrier with a tackle that literally up-ended the unfortunate victim. This full-blooded tackle epitomized the attitude running riot amongst the Bandits.

So technical was the approach to this game that not even extra time could decide the winner. When the ultimate whistle blew, everyone waited for the goal aggregates of the semifinalists. This would decide who would proceed to the finals. It is enough to state that you should have seen the facial expressions of the Bandits as it was announced they would play in the Final.

RVA! These are the boys who had beaten the Bandits only a mere 72 hours before this second meeting. As a psychological gimmick, the boys from Kijabe had been shaven clean. Additionally, they had just resurfaced from a very good run up to the Final. If they were meant to win any BlackRock competition, this would be it.

The Bandits were having absolutely none of this. That 5 - 0 Prescott Cup defeat rankled deep inside as the players knew that they had handed RVA the victory via missed chances and avoidable mistakes. The team harried RVA. Players tackled with **Peter Odera** chalking an almost-obsene tackle count even at Lock. They ran beautifully into the open spaces. The boys played their hearts out. It came as no surprise when **Ken Ouma** scored the opening try with a yawning overlap on the open side after a spirited, well-executed quick ruck-ball out session. **Joseph Kimeu** converted. Ken scored yet another try stemming from relentless pressure on RVA. **Kimeu** missed the conversion. The Bandits were fully on the driving seat with **Kimeu** ruling the lineouts to the chagrin of the opponents.

To his credit, RVA's outer Centre scored a consolation try that arguably went against the run of play. The clock had been ticking, though. Within a few moments, scrumhalf **Mwariga Mukundi** (who, by the way, had been playing

they R VAndalised by Bandits

all day under painkillers) intelligently kicked the ball out of the field of play to send **StrathSupport©** into orbit. Its faithful hordes realized the full import of what had just happened. The Bandits had won the cup for the very first time in the School's history! As a fitting epitaph to this fairy-tale run, **Joseph Kimeu** was unanimously (and deservedly!) selected as the MVP for 2008.

"All hail the powers of Strathmore School..." the anthem was sung and a whole new chapter in our history had been written. But the journey still goes on, Prescott, here we come!

Article written by: Samba Sport Correspondent

Second 15(Blackrock),

Dispatches from the 'B' Team's Diary.

Introduction Saturday 17th May started early for us in the rugby teams. We met in the School at 8.30 am, where boys changed into their rugby kits. The under 15 players had kindly agreed to lend their new shirts to the B Team. We arrived in St Mary's at 9.05 am thinking we were much on time, judging by what happened last year. But to our surprise, there were many teams already there. Mr. Dimba and I rushed to the control table and were told that the first game would start in 5 minutes time!

"...SET AS OUR TARGET TO PLAY AGAINST THE A TEAM IN THE FINAL!"

A couple of players from the A Team were unexpectedly passed on to the B Team on the day. This was received with mixed feelings, since some players who were originally in the list of 22 had to be dropped.

The A Team started very well with a comfortable victory over Ofafa Jericho High School. The B Team also had a very promising start beating RVA B 10 - 0, in the main pitch. **Biko Orina** (F3) scored the first try and **Maurice Nyerere** (F3) the second one, from a pass by Biko.

Nairobi School The B Team finally met Nairobi School A and to our surprise, the game ended up on a draw, 5 pts for each team. **Biko Orina** scored a very good try to equalize the score. We had a chance to win the game by converting a penalty from quite far, but **Paul Kibati's** (F3) drop kick was a bit short most probably due to his injury in his right foot.

After the game was finished, the organizers had to check the goal aggregate to decide which team had to be relegated to the Plate Cup. And it was to be our Strathmore team. This was a slight disappointment since, maybe over ambitiously we had set as our target to play against the A team in the final!

Moi Forces After a quiet, peaceful but brief lunch, the B team was called to play against Moi Forces, for which our players only had a few minutes to prepare. By this time we had several injured players and substitutions were necessary. **Peter Gitonga** (F3) came in as scrum half instead of **Brian Waweru** (F3), and **Christopher Ndegwa** (F2) replaced **Ian Karimi** (F3). **James Ndege** (F3) was injured but he agreed to play from the beginning of the match. **Paul Kibati** the flyhalf, was replaced by **Gilbert Sonoiya**.

When Moi Forces scored their only try, we realized that Brian and Ian had to come in. The Team started to work a bit better, and we had two good chances of scoring but due to lack of communication in the first place and lack of good passing in the second, the match ended before we could equalize. What a disappointment for all. We were out!

After that game, **Benedict Munyakho** (F3) (Captain) confessed to me that we did not have the 'psyche' necessary to win that game, probably due to little warming up time. I also realized that it is not enough to give players the necessary technical tips. A coach also has to be able to motivate them properly to go and 'put everything they have' on the pitch, as the A team did in the final against RVA A.

Experience Overall, the experience was very good. With these Blackrock games, plus the recent ones in the Damu Pevu league, I have come to realize that we need to stress the training of basic skills and do more game playing in our training sessions, so that we don't make unnecessary mistakes in the actual matches. These mistakes cost us tries and prevent us from scoring tries ourselves.

Something that would have surely helped us reach farther is the presence of **Francis Ndonga**, who has been the main coach of the team since training started in April. He had traveled to Mombasa to play for his team, Nondies against Mombasa Sports Club.

During the brief lunch break, I had a word with the only female referee in the tournament and was glad to hear her praises for Strathmore players in the pitch, especially those who are old boys and are playing in clubs and in the National team, like **Leon Adongo** and **Kopondo**.

Bandits Fixtures & Scores

BANDITS 1st 15
Main Cup League stage
Bandits A, 21 Ofafa Jericho High School, 0
Bandits A, 56 Alliance II, 0

BANDITS 2nd 15
Main Cup League Stage
RVA - 0 Bandits B - 14

Main Cup 2nd Round Knockout stage
Bandits A, 28 Saints III, 0

Main Cup 2nd Round Knockout Stage
PatchA - 7 Bandits B - 7

Main Cup QuarterFinal
Bandits A, 28, Patch II, 0

Plate Semi final Stage
MFA-A - 7 Bandits B - 0

Main Cup SemiFinal
Bandits A, 0, Saints I, 0
(Bandits win on better goal aggregate)

Main Cup Final
Bandits A, 12, RVA I, 7

Pictorial: THE Blackrock Story,

THE Cameraman



1. THE Prayer



2. THE Anthem



3. THE Kick off



5. THE Pass



4. THE Scrum



6. THE Run



7. THE Shove



8. THE Maul



9. THE Tackle



11. THE Fans



10. THE Casualties



From Left to Right **BOLD : AGILE : NOBLE : DEXTROUS : INDOMITABLE : TEAM**
Standing: P. Odera, I. Kagiri, P. Wamburu, B. Orlale, K. Njoroge, C. Gitau*, J. Chirchir, J. Kimeu, K. Mangoa, E. Momanyi, E. Kiio, H. Anyangu, G. Sambu, D. Dimba (Coach).
Front: V. Anyango, P. Namai, M. Mukundi, F. Gatheru, K. Ouma, R. Njenga, N. Mukiri, S. Gatumbu, H. Njoroge (Team manager), J. Okwara, M. Njeru.



12. THE run (again)



13. THE Try(s)



14. THE End



15. THE Prize & Joy



16. THE Photos



This edition has been dedicated to the life of
MR. KEVIN O'BYRNE
(2nd December 1934 - 29th May 2008)
Founding Coach of the Bandits - 1961
Former Kenya Harlequin & E. Africa Scrumhalf
Strathmore School Trustee & Former Teacher



From Left to Right:
Standing: I. Minjire, M. Nyaribo, C. Kibwage, P. Ochola, I. Mbote, A. Mwangi, I. Karimi, B. Munyakho*, D. Gaithe, M. Kirenge, C. Ndegwa, P. Kibati, A. Masitsa (A.Coach), A. Muriuki, B. Orina, M. Nyerere, M. Pike (Coach)
Front: M. Kiragu, P. Gitonga, B. Waweru, E. Nyasya, E. Muli, J. Sankara, S. Cauri, J. Ndege