

The Challenge Cup Chronicle



Monday August 10 2026

St Benedict's are the 2026 champs



St Benedict's College are the 2026 St David's Marist Inanda Challenge Cup champions.

They beat St John's 2-0 in the final on Sunday to claim their second title in the competition - they last won it in 2017.

They were good value for their win. They went through the preliminary pool stage unbeaten, to top their group and then beat St Alban's 1-0 in the quarter-final and St Peter's 5-0 in the semis.

St John's were also in good form throughout. They beat Hilton 3-1 in their quarter-final and then eliminated the hosts in penalty shoot-out that went

to four rounds of sudden death in the semifinal. The emotion and pressure of that experience quite possibly affected them in the final.

Bennies stunned St John's in the final with a goal in the first minute of the game, and added another shortly afterwards.

St John's were always chasing the game after that and, although they mounted several attacks in the second half, they could not penetrate a well-organised St Benedict's defence.

Bennies came close to adding to their tally on the counter-attack on a number

of occasions.

It was heart-breaking for St John's. They have made the final for the last two years in a row and fell short both times.

St David's got some consolation, winning the bronze medal. They came back from being 1-2 down at half time against St Peter's to win 3-2.

Final positions - 1 St Benedict's, 2 St John's, 3 St David's Marist Inanda, 4 St Peter's, 5 Grey College, 6 Michaelhouse, 7 Hilton, 8 St Alban's, 9 KES, 10 Norkem Park, 11 Jeppe, 12 St Stithians, 13 St Andrew's College, 14 St Andrew's School, 15 Springs Boys' High, 16 Marist Linmeyer.



ST DAVID'S
MARIST INANDA



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Thank you to our partners for making this possible

The Orlando Pirates clinic for the prep boys was a highlight of the weekend

The activities on the last day of the St David's Marist Inanda Challenge Cupt included a fantastic and well-organised clinic run for the St David's Prep School boys by Orlando Pirates— a real highlight for these junior boys starting out their sporting journeys.

This interaction between junior players and those playing at elite level was wonderful to watch and it emphasised St Davd's position that tournaments like thiis one are vital to sports' development in our country and for creating a talent pipeline

feeding into the club, provincial and, ultimately, national teams.



Pirates also proudly displayed their silverware – the four trophies the club has won this year - for fans to take a photo with, and clearly there

were many fans of this winning club present on the day.

The activations and prizes by our event partner, Adidas, certainly added to the ultimate experience for the boys and to the event as a whole – the boys loving being able to test-drive boots from Adidas in their games!

Hydration partners, aQuellé, added fun activations on the final day in addition to keeping the boys well hydrated during the Tournament – which was greatly appreciated by the boys giving it their all on the fields.



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