



The ISRF Independent



Tuesday July 30 2026

Four teams unbeaten after two days

ISRF Prep Schools Festival ends on a high note



Four under-18 teams - St Andrew's School, Michaelhouse, St John's College and St Stithians College will go into Wednesday's final day of the 2026 Independent Schools Rugby Festival, brought to you by Absa, with two wins out of two.

Michaelhouse have racked up two big wins - 45-10 over the English visitors, Eton College, on day one; and 57-10 vs the hosts, St David's on Monday - and they have looked very impressive. They take on one of the other unbeaten sides, St Stithians, on Wednesday.

Saints produced what was possibly the upset of the festival when they edged Bishops 16-14 on Monday

after beating Somerset College 35-5 on day one.

St Andrew's of Bloemfontein have also been impressive. They beat the powerful St Charles side 28-24 on Saturday, and then beat Kingswood 28-19 on Monday. They are the only school that has won all its games - u14, U15 and U19 - so far.

St John's beat Kingswood 35-7 on Saturday and beat CBC Boksburg 73-14 on Monday. They meet Somerset College on Wednesday, while St Andrew's play St Benedict's.

The festival for the U13 prep schools ended on Monday. Woodridge notched up three 40-plus scorelines and have looked in a class

of their own at the festival. Bishops Prep school also had three wins out of three, showing the edge that prep schools with a full rugby programme have at an event like this.

In the U14 and U15 age groups St Andrew's, as already mentioned, have been impressive with four good wins out of four, while the St Charles junior sides have run up big scores in all their outings. They have some big forwards and pacy backs and look like a school to watch in Kwazulu-Natal circles in the years to come.

The action starts at 8am on Wednesday, with an early finish, so the visiting teams can hit the long road home.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Andiccio24
pizza - your way - always

aQuellé.

sebaméd

Bidvest McCarthy
Melrose
JETOUR BAIC FOTON

GILBERT

SPUR

Medi Response+
When your life depends on it



A meeting of two worlds on the rugby field

Day two of the festival ended on a special note with the game between the Under18 teams of England's Eton College a side selected from the Golden Lions Rugby Union's township rugby development programmes.

It was, quite literally, a clash between teams from different ends of the world. Eton, located in the shadow on Windsor Castle in England, playing against a team made up of boys from significantly different areas.

Both sets of players gave their all,

for their schools, their team mates and for the love of the game.

The spectators joined in the occasion and cheered them on with gusto.

It was a meeting of two cultures, symbolised by the Eton team being piped onto the field by a lone bagpiper and the Lions being welcomed on by Gwijo singers. Both genres of music accompanied the play throughout the game.

It made what has been a memorable festival all the more special.



PICTURES: St David's Marist Inanda Photography Club



Day results

Under 13

WP Prep 22 St Stithians 17
 Bishops 24 Waterkloof House 19
 Woodridge 40 St Peter's 10
 Highbury 43 The Ridge 0
 St David's 26 St John's 17

Under 14

St David's Blue 49 Kingswood 12
 St Andrew's 45 St Stithians 0

St John's 45 CBC Boksburg 10
 St Benedict's 22 Cornwall Hill 19
 St Charles 35 St Alban's 0

Under 15

St Charles 31 St John's 0
 St David's 36 Somerset College 0
 Alex Wolves 98 Lions XV 10
 Michaelhouse 54 Kingswood 17
 St Andrew's 29 St Benedict's 24

Under 18

St Charles 73 Cornwall Hill 14
 St Andrew's 28 Kingswood 19
 St Benedict's 17 Cornwall Hill 12
 St Alban's 21 Lions XV 19
 St John's 35 Kingswood 7
 St Stithians 16 Bishops 14
 Michaelhouse 57 St David's 20
 Lions XV 21 Eton 19
 St John's 78 CBC Boksburg 0
 St David's II St Andrew's Barbarians 19
 St Benedict's 49 Eton II 7
 Somerset College 19 St Alban's 14



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Andiccio24
pizza - your way - always

aQuellé.

sebamed

Bidvest McCarthy
Melrose
JETOUR SAIC PAFON

GILBERT

SPUR

Medi Response+
When your life depends on it



It takes more than 30 players and a ball

There are a horde of people, volunteers mainly, on and off the field, who make it possible for the boys to play. Thank you referees, assistant referees, ball boys, scorers.



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Andiccio24
pizza - your way - always

aQuellé.

sebaméd

Bidvest McCarthy
Melrose
JETOUR BAIC Poyon

GILBERT

SPUR

Medi Response
When your life depends on it

