



Chintaka Rathnayake.



**TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF
ISIPATANA RUGBY
1963 - 1988**

Rugby is a Game Played by Gentlemen
with Odd Shaped Balls!

Be Kind to Animals, Kiss a Rugby Player!

PRESENTED BY
ISIPATANA RUGBY
Management and Development Committee

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Message from the Isipatana Rugger Committee

It is a great privilege and honour for us to have been given the opportunity to send this message on the occasion celebrating Twenty Five Years of Rugby Football at Isipatana.

The great game of Rugby which in recent years has almost eclipsed cricket in its popularity in our country, is a game not only of strength, but of skill as well. It is one's ability to harness these two attributes with courage, that turns a good player into a great one.

Rugby being, by its very nature, a physical game requires immense discipline, and this was the foremost thing that was instilled on us at Isipatana from the beginning. We were taught to play the game as we have done throughout the last Twenty Five Years—Hard and Fast—But clean ! Perhaps these lessons well learnt at school is the secret of the success of so many Isipatana ruggerites at club and national level.

It is we feel appropriate on this occasion to point out that every Isipatana who donned the green jersey has not only maintained discipline but has also always maintained the highest standards and traditions of this wonderful game.

We have no doubt that in future too, Isipatana will set alight the Rugby arena with its magnificent displays of rugby football.

We wish our school the very best.

A special word of praise should be given to the great mentor of Isipatana's rugger O. W. R Perera who coached Isipatana from 1979 onwards and has produced many national players and cup winning teams. We are sorry to note that he has relinquished his duties as Isipatana coach but has been appointed as the Manager of the side.

Words alone cannot describe what O. W. R. has done for his school. We as Isipatanians are proud to have an old boy of his calibre. Our Rugby Committee would like to say a big "Thank You" to O. W. R. Perera and we hope that as Manager he will be an asset to all up and coming ruggerites of Isipatana.

DILROY FERNANDO,
Secretary,
Rugby Committee.

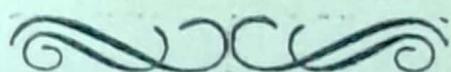
Message from the Principal

Isipatana Vidyalaya has over the years acquired an eminent position in School Rugger and it is our desire to do everything within our means to help retain it. I am indeed very pleased that old boys of the college have recognized the need of helping the college in that task and banded themselves to form a sub-committee of the Old Boys' Association to look after the needs of our Ruggerites. The publication of this souvenir is an effort on the part of that sub-committee to collect much needed funds for this purpose.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to organizations and individuals who have advertised in this souvenir for their valuable patronage. At the same time, I wish to appeal to all old boys of the college to contribute their mite to help swell the special Rugger Fund of the O.B.A.

Finally, I wish to add a special word of thanks to Mr. O. W. R Perera, who until recently was our Coach and now Team Manager, and other old boys who have in various ways helped Isipatana maintain its position at the top in the school rugger scene.

A. H. W. YAHAMPATH,
PRINCIPAL.



Message from the SLRFU President

I congratulate the Isipatana Vidyalaya Old Boys' Rugby Committee for their enterprising effort in trying to assist the School, by raising much needed funds, for their Rugby Section.

All of us are aware, that the Union has made concerted efforts to popularise this game, and has spared no effort, ensure, that whoever participated were able to fund themselves. Therefore I wish the Old Boys' Association all the success in their endeavour.

**Y. C. Chang,
President,
SRI LANKA RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION.**

Some Memories of the Years Gone by

By FAUZUL KHALID

Isipatana Maha Vidyalaya which is only 36 years old has an impressive record of notable achievements in rugby. The name Isipatana causes much concern and excitement in schools rugby.

My mind goes back to the day when a few of us were picked out from our respective classes to turn up for the first instruction Session in rugger. Many others who would have liked to turn up for practice made silent protests which went unheard. Those were the days when no influence of any sort could prevail in being selected even for practices. Our first day of practice was full of excitement. Never did we realise that we would be the pioneers who would build the now reputed name in Schools rugby. Our beginnings were very humble and modest. We were indeed fortunate that the Havelocks Grounds was always available to us to practice the game. We also had the advantage to watch the Havelock team practice. I am sure that this influence has indeed contributed immensely towards our steady progress. We played the game amidst many shortcomings but the enthusiasm of the boys was so great that we were able to overcome the many obstacles we faced.

At this stage it is appropriate to remember one of all teachers the late Mr. H. T. De Silva. He would always encourage us when we faced problems. It is also our duty to remember the contribution of Mr. Jayantha Fernando who voluntarily coached us. It is time that we recognised him even now. Having moved into some extent of recognition, as a government school we faced many problems. We did not have an organised group of parents nor an Old Boys Association to help us. Nevertheless with the help of our then principal Mr. S J A Rodrigo we were able to obtain our first set of green and white striped jerseys which we were proud to wear. I also recall the contribution made by Mr. Michael Loos, Mr. Edward Bartholomew, Mr. Maurice De Silva, Mr. Y. C. Chang, during our initial formative days. By the mid sixties we had a handful of Young Old Boys consisting mainly of my classmates who amidst many constraints banded together to form an Old Boys Association. Most of us had just started life whilst others moved into their family businesses what little we had we pooled together and offered to help our Alma Mater.

I vividly recall the many times we were called upon to help in providing nourishment for our Young Ruggerites the the request for assistance to take injured players to an Ayurvedic Physician or even the transport charges needed to move the team from school. These expenses look paltry sums now but those of us who rallied during those formative years know with what difficulty we were making these contributions.

Whilst the O. B. A. was struggling through our teething problems our first test of solidarity was initiated when we took the challenge to accept the invitation offered to our school to participate at the Fourth Asian Schools Rugby Championship in Bangkok in 1978. We worked our way to find all the expenses needed for this trip we must record our appreciation of the untiring efforts our stalwarts like Dayalu, Perera, Asruf Aziz Jazeed Ariff, Lal Soysa, Sarath Senanayake and a few others who helped me in this task. This trip was our appreciation of the team achievements and really helped to motivate and inspire the boys in achieving greater heights. We must also remember with gratitude the contribution of our staff at that time like Mr. Jamaldeen, Mrs. Senanayake, Mr. Zainudeen and the late Mr. Rauf Misbah who co-operated with our efforts making many sacrifices over and above their normal duties. The outstanding contributions of our old boys like Maxi and O. W. R Perera should not go unnoticed. All have had a part to play. One of our greatest achievements today is the fact that Rugger is synonymous with Isipatana. To me the crowds that overflow when the Green Jerseyed Boys are on the field brings back memories of the days gone by. It is also satisfying to see that the College O. B. A. is a strong dedicated force ever ready to meet the growing needs of their Alma Mater.



Message from the Havelocks

S.C. President

I am honoured to have been asked to give a message for this Souvenir which is being brought out by the Isipatana Vidyalaya Old Boys' Association, as a part of their fund raising campaign.

As a Rugby lover, I must thank Isipatana for having provided us with vintage rugby over a number of years and as a member of Havelocks Sport Club, for having provided us with the nucleus of many a championship side.

It certainly speaks well of the school, that inspite of a lot of adversity, such as not having a ground of their own, and not having students from very affluent homes, year in year out, the cream of the rugby players of Sri Lanka, are produced from Isipatana. Of course, notwithstanding the fact that they have a coach "par excellance" and a Principal who is a wonderful source of encouragement, Havelocks has been a major contributory factor in this achievement.

I have been asked to offer some hints and assistance to the up-and-coming young players of the school. All I would like to say is, please emulate the spirit and dedication of your predecessors and play with the flair and sheer love of the sport that is synonymous with Isipatana and continue to feel proud to wear the Jersey of your Alma Mater, and nothing will take away the glory of Isipatana rugger for years to come.

Gamini Fernando,
President,
Havelocks Sports Club.



Message from the Isipatana Rugger Captain 1965

I thank the Isipatana Vidyalaya Old Boys' Rugby Committee for requesting me to provide certain ideas to assist the younger players in the school.

I am made to understand that at present around 70 to 80 players turn up for practices regularly. Of these players the percentage of beginners attending practices exceed the percentage of experienced players. This clearly indicates the love for the game among the youth.

We must assist the younger players by teaching them what rugby football is all about, how the game should be played, and to abide by the rules and regulations of the game. Regrettably, most senior players just out of school, who are presently representing some of the leading clubs, are still unaware of the rules of rugby, and perhaps ignorance of rules could create a lot of unpleasantness to some players when it comes to national selection. We must protect and assist our youth by showing them the correct path, and I personally feel that to build them up the following methods should be adopted :

1. 'Lectures' on rugby are a must for all beginners.
2. Athletics should be encouraged among all players, as stamina and speed is very important.
3. Weight training should be introduced at least six months before the beginning of the rugby season.

I also take this opportunity to thank the present coach Mr. O. W. R. Perera for his untiring efforts and dedication which has brought honour and glory to the school during the last decade, and also to all those who helped in coaching from the inception of rugby at Isipatana. Last but not least, I would like to thank the Havelock Sports Club for all the encouragement they have given us to achieve this goal.

ANANDA SARANAPALA,
Chairman, Selection Committee — Havelock Sports Club,
(Former Isipatana Rugby Captain).

Message from the Honorary Secretary of the Sri Lanka Rugby Football Union (SCHOOLS' SECTION)

It gives me great pleasure to forward this message to the Souvenir published on the occasion of the completion of 25 years of school rugby at Isipatana Maha Vidyalaya.

To-day the name of Isipatana causes much excitement in school rugby. Within the space of 25 years Isipatana Maha Vidyalaya has been able to overshadow the achievements of well known rugby playing schools which have played rugby for many years. This is indeed a great feat in its short but eventful rugger history. This school has produced a number of outstanding rugby players who easily found a place in the National team. Players coming through this school have been the backbone for the National team in the recent past. Isipatana Maha Vidyalaya has the rare distinction of producing a player while in school to represent his country in a foreign competition and he is none other than Hisham Abdeen. He went on to represent his country on many occasions and finally captained the National team that made the first ever tour of Wales in 1987. In recognition of their outstanding performances at Inter - School competitions the Sri Lanka Rugby Football Union extended invitations on many occasions to participate in foreign competitions where they fared very well.

Rugby Football is gaining momentum and other schools have started playing as well and they too have shown remarkable achievements. Isipatana Maha Vidyalaya has shown to all the schools that rugby football is no longer the domain of a selected few. In recognition of their splendid performances in rugger in 1978, the S. L. R. F. U. offered a friendly rugger fixture with the touring Dulwich College from United Kingdom.

I must congratulate the past Principals, past Masters in charge of Rugger, past coaches and all the ruggerites of Isipatana Maha Vidyalaya for their untiring efforts, enthusiasm, courage and dedication to keep their school in the forefront of school rugby every year and to reach this enviable position.

I wish Isipatana Maha Vidyalaya all success and pray for their continued efforts in the future to improve the standards of school rugby football in Sri Lanka.

MOHAMED S. ZAINUDEEN

Message from the **NATIONAL SKIPPER 1988**

I deem it a great honour and privilege to send a message to my "Alma Matar" on the occasion of celebrating Twenty Five years of Rugby Football at Isipatana.

Rugby Football is a great game and it was at Isipatana that we learned the true qualities of sportsmanship, team spirit and discipline. Rugby is a man's game and at Isipatana we seemed to play the game with no quarter asked or no quarter given and these lessons helped countless Isipatanians to gain many accolades.

Every Isipatani who donned the green jersey has played the game in the highest traditions which is evidenced by the many Isipatanians who have played representative Rugby with success. I am sure that in the years to come Isipatanians will be in the forefront of the local Rugby scene as they have been in the past. I wish my "Alma Matar" the very best,

HISHAM ABDEEN



Isipatana—undisputed kings of rugby

By Rohan Amarasekera

When the Isipatana ruggrites put finishing touches to a glorious season this year by grabbing the Premadasa Trophy under the glowing floodlights of the Sugathadasa Stadium by beating Ananda in the final 8-3. they became the first ever triple crown holders in the history of Sri Lanka school rugby. The occasion also heralded the realisation of a cherished dream of a school which had taken the school rugby world by storm within the relatively short span of 22 years.

That the third feather in the Isipatana 'Triple crown' — The Premadasa Trophy was added amidst the bright lights of the imposing Sugathadasa Stadium was a fitting tribute to the Isipatana ruggerites, whose play was as bright as the stadium lights this year. The other golden feather in the Isipatana 'triple crown' this year were the 'Unofficial school champions' title and the Philip Buultjens Trophy awarded to the rugby 'seven' champions. While the 'Isipatana' name was stamped on the trophies they earned the school stamped their class as the foremost rugby giant among other established giants with a very much longer history in the game. The ascent of Isipatana as a 'giant among giants' in the school rugby world was as fast as the exciting brand of rugby served by the green jerseyed lads, who always go out for a hell bent 'try' in the game.

For this 'not so privileged' school which entered the green field of rugger in 1963, this year has been one of the most memorable. 'Rugger' it seemed was the correct 'crop' to plant in the Isipatana sports field, and her players kept on planting 'tries' over the years bringing fruits of success in abundance.

But it was by no means easy work for them as they had had to surmount many obstacles in their path to glory.

Isipatana had an almost unblemished record in the league season, winning twelve of the thirteen matches played, the only loss being to Trinity at Kandy by 0-17. However, Isipatana reversed the result at the Premadasa Trophy semi-final to knock out Trinity by 6-3 in a game of penalties.

Then they went on to regain the Philip Buultjens Trophy which they lost last year after a hold on it for four consecutive years from 1980 to 1983. On their way to the title they beat St. Peter's in the semi-final extricating themselves from the jaws of defeat in the last seconds through a 'do or die' try by Winger Dahan Sampath. In the dying seconds, Centre Nilantha Lakshmeewewa collected a kick ahead and passed to full back Thushara Bandara who drew the defence and gave over to Winger Dahan Sampath to score. Then in the final they beat St. Joseph's 16-6. Skipper Chandana Deepthi and Vice Captain Keerthi Weerasinghe were absentees at the tournament and number 8 Selvin Sally led the team at this tournament.

At the Premadasa Trophy tournament Isipatana overcame Dharmaraja (14-6), Trinity (6-3) and Ananda (8-3) in that order to crown themselves champions. In the semi-final and final they stormed back after being led 0-3 at half time to knock out their adversaries.

Isipatana sported only six Colours-men this year. Skipper Chandana



Isipatana—undisputed....

Deepthi (Winger), Vice Captain Indika Viraj (Prop). Vice Captain Keerthi Weerasinghe (Winger), Selvin Sallay (Number 8). Nilantha Lakshmeewawa (Centre) and R. Pradeepan (Scrum half). Among the freshers who excelled were Aruna de Silva (Flanker) and Thushara Bandara (Full Back). As in previous years most of the players were small made — the exceptions being Chandana Deepthi. Aruna de Silva and Harshadeva Karunaratne. The three quarters were the 'strike force' of the team, but the forwards also excelled hounding the loose ball with gusto. Winger Keerthi Weerasinghe was reputedly the best winger among the schools this year. Keerthi is also a member of the Junior National Hokey pool. The other winger Chandana Deepthi is a sprinter at the circuit meet level. Notwithstanding the presence of individual brilliance, the real secret of the sting in the team was the synchronised nature of their play, in other words — Team Work. Additionally they were a set of very hard tacklers who gave no quarter to attackers.

As much as six Isipatana ruggerites represented Colombo Schools against Outstation Schools for the Noel Gratiaen Cup this year. Chandana Deepthi, Nilantha Lakshmeewawa, Selvin Sallay, Aruna de Silva, Indika Viraj and Thushara Bandara.

Isipatana have been invited for the Asian Inter-Collegiate Rugby Championships in Taiwan in February 1986—a well deserved dessert for the triple crown cake. Funds for this tour are now being sought by the team. It is hoped that the financial green light for this tour will be forthcoming to the green jerseyed performers of rugby wizardry.

Ever since Dayalu Perera scored the first ever try for Isipatana in 1963 against St. Anthony's Katugastota, Isipatana's 'try' at this exciting game

has borne fruitful results. The very first coach was Jayantha Fernando, who set the trail for a succession of dedicated coaches who guided the school to rugby heights. The present coach Mr. O. W. R. Perera took charge of the team in 1979, and Mr. Maxwell Dias (Assistant Coach) joined him in the following year. O. W. R. Perera represented Isipatana at rugger for three years from 1973 as Prop and Maxwell Dias, played as hooker in 1974. The duo have played behind the scene role in maintaining Isipatana at the top of school rugby ever since they took over the reins.

The recent resurgence of Isipatana rugger came in 1978, when M. P. F. Sallay (the Havelocks Skipper of 1984) led the team to a great season, the height being the downing of Trinity by 21 to 6 in the semi-final of the Centenary Trophy final. That year they lost only one match (to Royal) in the league and also went down to St. Thomas' by 6-13 in the Centenary Trophy final. K. D. Nanayakkara led the 1979 team to another impressive season—the only defeat being at the hands of Royal.

In 1980 they enjoyed yet another glorious season, under Anurudhdha Bowela clinching the double by grabbing the Philip Buultjens Trophy for the first time since its award in 1975. That year they toured Thailand for the Asian Schools Tourney and fared creditably to finish third overall.

Leslie de Silva's 1981 team, though losing five matches in the league was able to bag the Philip Buultjens Trophy.

In 1982, Dilroy Fernando led the team to an unbeaten season wresting the 'double' again with the Philip Buultjens Trophy. The team toured Thailand again and won two of the three matches played there. A Uda-

Isipatana—undisputed ...

walagedara, S. Siddik and Noordeen were members of the 1982 team. The The 1983 team under Roger Rodrigo wound up a fair season by retaining the Philip Buultjens Trophy for the fourth successive year.

In 1984 under Shabeen Siddik they emerged joint unofficial champs, with Royal, the clash between the two 'goliaths' ending in a nil-all draw. But they lost their hold on the Philip Buultjens Trophy losing to Royal in the semi-final. Royal went on to win the trophy that year.

Then came the first ever triple glory for them this year—a glory they earned with their exciting brand of 'never-say-die' rugger. The most memorable match for them was the league match against the (up-to-then) unbeaten St. Peter's team which they won by 15-6.

Isipatana with a relatively short but illustrious rugger history, has produced a glut of outstanding players who have represented Sri Lanka at rugger. Randy Pietersz was the first to don the Sri Lanka jersey and among the others to follow, suit were Nalin de Silva, Hafi Abdeen, H.

K. Sisira, Sriyantha Rajakaruna, Sandy Hamid, Aruna Udawalagedara, Dilroy Fernando, Thajone Savanghan, Anurudhdha Bowela and Senarath Kulatilleka. The most serious obstacle to Isipatana ruggerites is the lack of a suitable ground of its own unlike the privileged schools. The 'mini' ground barely 75 meters long is hardly adequate for practices. Moreover the ground is full of holes and uneven and full three-quarter movements cannot be practiced with the players having to bunch together due to the small size of the ground.

Keeness, enthusiasm and dedication are the materials that have fashioned the 'ground' of success of Isipatana ruggerites who do not have a suitable ground of their own.

Apart from the two coaches, Maxwell Dias and O. W. R. Perera, the Master-in-Charge Mr. Vernon Mendis prop the team with their tireless work.

The undisputed kings of Sri Lanka school rugby is certain to go all out to reign supreme next year too. The other giants will be hard put to stop them doing so.



● Isipatana champs again

Magnificent seven

by Allaam Ousman

Isipatana basked in glory when they annexed the Philip Buultjens Trophy for the fifth time in its short history with a superlative performance (though playing minus skipper Chandana Deepthi and Keerthi Weerasinghe who could not take part during the latter stages of the tournament). It was fitting that they won this tournament giving a superb exhibition of how seven-a-side rugby should be played. They regained the trophy after a lapse of one year, having won from 1980 to 1983 consecutively, thus proving themselves as masters of this tournament.

St. Joseph's who entered the finals for the first time though providing some anxious moments, were no match for this rugged outfit. Led by Selvin Sallay, Harshadeva Kurunaratne, Aruna de Silva, Ramanathan Pradeepan, Nilantha Lashmiwewa, Thushara Bandara, Daham Sampath, and during the final two games Pradeep Lakshantha they played with superb understanding to win the finals by 12 points (tries) to 6 (a goal) at Longdon Place last evening in fading light.

Isipatana scored two tries in the first few minutes of the game. The first one was by Selvin Sallay who collected the ball in his own 25 and made a beautiful run to touch down mid left for an unconverted try. Soon afterwards Ramanathan Pradeepan dummied his way and scored in the same place after completing a 40 yard run, which also went unconverted.

The Josephians, however, retaliated just before half-time when Lalith Perera followed a kick ahead by Dirk Guinan to touch under the posts. This

was his sixth try of the tournament which he himself converted to reduce Isipatana's lead 8-6. Though the Joes had possession they could not make much headway in the second half with Thushara Bandara relieving pressure on several occasions with kicks to touch.

However, a few minutes before the final whistle, Selvin Sallay put the issue beyond doubt when he completed another beautiful run after receiving a pass in his own territory. Thushara Bandara failed with the kick once again but the better team ultimately won. Lalith Perera, Dirk Guinan, Shamin Perera and Rohan Perera, shone for the courageous losers.

It was the confrontation between St. Peter's and Isipatana which saw stunning change of fortunes in a thrilling game. The match was nearing its end with Peterite Roger Hsu in possession of the oval piece of ball in his own 25. Instead of kicking to touch he opted to kick straight ahead, which was collected by Isipatana's Nilantha Lashmiwewa around midfield. In desperation he gave a pass to Thuhara Bandara who in turn drew a few defenders before sending out the ball to Daham Sampath. The move eclipsed after a beautiful 25 yard run with Isipatana's match winning try being scored by Daham Sampath far left.

This was only the first semi-final of the Schools' Rugby Seven-a-side Tournament conducted by the SLRFU. But the jubilant supporters who invaded the field as if all hell had got loose had reason for the ecstasy. The Peterites were leading 6-4 before this dream try was scored.



Magnificent...

Isipatana took the lead in the first half when Ramanathan Pradeepan broke through the Peterite defence and when brought down near the goal line flung the ball back. Pradeep Lakshantha who only a few minutes ago had replaced Aruna de Silva, who could not take further part in the tournament after receiving a cut above the right eye, collected the loose ball and dived over near the posts. However, Thushara Bandara's kick at goal struck the upright which leading 4 at half time.

Midway in the second half St. Peter's took the lead when Graham Raux booted a loose ball in the Isipatana 25 and was just ahead of the defender to touch under the posts. Crofton Joseph added the extra points. This lead they held on grimly until the final minute of the game which saw Isipatana record a sensational win which dashed the Peterites hopes of entering the finals.

In the other semi-final Wesley lost to the Josephians after over-

coming Prince of Wales 6-4, Zahira 6-nil and St. Peter's 'B' 16-0 in their earlier games. St. Joseph's scored 2 goals and 1 try as against none by Wesley. Shamin Perera scored two tries while Lalith Perera went over once. He converted his own try and another one. Skipper Jerome de Fran and Sajeev Dharmapala shone for the Wesleyites who did well to come to the semis.

Results:

Quarter Finals

Isipatana 'A' beat Dharmaraja 'A' 10-4
St. Peter's 'A' beat Lumbini 'B' 22-nil
Wesley 'A' beat St. Peter's 'B' 16-0.
St. Joseph's 'A' beat Isipatana 'B' 14 nil

Semi Finals

Isipatana beat St. Peter's 8-6.
St. Joseph's beat Wesley 16 nil

Finals

Isipatana beat St. Joseph's 12-6.



ACHIEVEMENTS

1968	First Isipataniian to represent Sri Lanka: Randy Pieterz ★ Unbeaten Side	1983 Schools Sevens Champions
1963	Unofficial Champion	1984 First Isipataniain to captain Sri Lanka at the Cathay Pacific Sevens in Hongkong
1971	Schools Sevens Champion	For the first time Sri Lanka became Bowls Champions led by Hishan Abdeen. Unofficial Schools Champion Runner up School Sevens
1976	Highest score in a School Match: Beat Zahira 116—0	1985 Triple Champions (first school) in the history of rugger) Premadasa Trophy Champion Sevens Champs Schools Tourney Champion
1977	First school boy to score 25 Tries in a School Season : H. K. Sisira	1986 Triple Champion Sevens Champion Schools Tourney Champs Under 13 (Mini Rugby) Champion Premadasa Trophy Champion
1978	Runner-up Molegoda Trophy — (Centenary Year) Runner-up School Sevens	1987 Under 15 Champion Under 13 Champion Schools Sevens Champion Runner-up Premadasa Trophy
1979	Highest under-17 score beat Nalanda 125—0 Runner-up Schools Sevens	10 Isipatanians represented Sri Lanka on the Wales Tour led by an Isipataniian Hishan Abdeen (First European tour by a National Rugger Team)
	Represented Sri Lanka in the Asian Schools Rugger Tourney in Bangkok	
1980	Unofficial champions Schools Sevens Champion Toured Bangkok for the Asian Schools Tournament Named the most outstanding team in Asia First school boy to represent Sri Lanka — Hishan Abdeen at (18 years)	
	Hishan Abdeen scored 25 Tries in the school season	
1981	Schools Sevens Champion	
1982	Schools Sevens Champion Unofficial Champion Toured Bangkok for the Asian Schools Tournament Named the Most Exciting Rugger Team in Asia Most Popular School Rugger Team (Milo Trophy)	Year Achievement
		1971 Champion
		1978 Runner-up
		1979 Runner-up
		1980 Champion
		1981 Champion
		1982 Champion
		1983 Champion
		1985 Champion
		1986 Champion
		1987 Champion

ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCHOOLS

RUGBY SEVENS

Year	Achievement
1971	Champion
1978	Runner-up
1979	Runner-up
1980	Champion
1981	Champion
1982	Champion
1983	Champion
1985	Champion
1986	Champion
1987	Champion

Isipatana named most exciting team

N. E. Thangarajah from Bangkok

Though Isipatana Maha Vidyalaya received only a memento for finishing fourth in the 7th Asian Schools Rugby Championships, it has left an indelible mark in the competition, while earning for Sri Lanka a good name for the sport.

Their performances proved beyond doubt that the Lankans, though with little foreign exposure, could still produce teams as good as the best in Asia.

With better stamina, the scientific knowledge on how to re-vitalise their players during half-time, they could have perhaps entered the final and even won the title.

In the vital match against last year's champions, Tam Kang High School from Taiwan, the young Isipatana team lead 6-0 at half-time. That too despite missing two glorious scoring opportunities. In the 15th minute centre Mr. Irshad was brought down two yards from the toucheing. In the 21st min, centre S Norman who slipped two tackles feigned a pass and sold another dummy was pushed out by the left corner-flag.

Isipatana, however, renewed the pressure and were rewarded in the 25th minute, when off a three quarter move easily the best seen in the match right wing three quarter Kamal Mahendra hared down the flank to score under the posts for A. Uduwelagedera to convert.

But in the second half, a vitaminised Tam Kang XV, strengthened by energy-building drinks during half-time, over-powered the Lankans to win by 21 points scored a vital goal three tries and a penalty to 10, a goal and a try.

Mahendra added the second try too passo with a flashing run which left the Taiwanese defence far behind.

The defeat placed the Colombo boys in the third-place play off with Vajiravudh, Thailand's top team and three times winners of the Asian title and what a match it turned out to be! Exciting moves flowed from all

parts of the field and though Vajiravudh won by 19 points (2 goals, a try and a penalty) to Isipatana's 16 (2 goals and a try) it was Isipatana which received the biggest applause.

All three tries were superb efforts and well deserved too. Centre Norman, perhaps the smallest in both teams showed a clean pair of heels, leaving the Vajiravudh defence standing with the best try of the tournament.

He was like a ballet dancer, moving to his right, jiving on his left, taking the defence in varied directions before touching down.

Skipper Dilroy Fernando iced the great effort by converting it.

Isipatana were down 6-9 after this goal and nine minutes later were behind 6-15.

Undaunted however, before the short whis, the Lankans kept fighting and a minute later were rewarded with a try. Right wing three-quarter sprinted down his flank, cut across and touched down.

On changing ends, Vajiravudh took the score along to 19-10 with another try and then V. P. Sepala spurted down the right, to come home under the posts for Uduwelagedera to convert.

In the dying minutes, Isipatana were all over the Vajiravudh territory and it was the stubborn defence of the Thais which stopped the Lankans from scoring.

Isipatana also won their first match, against Thailand's King's College by 10 points (a goal and a try) to nil.

V. P. Sepala scored the unconverted try and Sarath Norman touched down for Dilroy Fernando to convert.

At the end of the tournament, the organisers who picked the best player named Sarath Norman, a close second to Tam Kang's stand-off Jow Jin Shyong. Shyong was awarded a special trophy for his performance throughout the competition.

Isipatana was also named as the team which played the most exciting rugger in the competition.

HISTORY OF ISIPATANA RUGGER 1963-1988

Rugby was introduced to Isipatana by Mr. Maurice de Abrew, Vice President of Havelocks, Wesley College was the first school which gave all the encouragement by giving us friendly games fortnightly with their representative side. From 1960 to 1963, Isipatana played friendly games with under 17 opposition of all rugby playing schools. Within this period there were a host of tutors like Eric de Silva, Michael Loos, Franklin Jacob, and Edward Bartholomew who rallied round to uplift rugger at Isipatana.

In 1963/1964 the present SLRFU President Y. C. Chang took over the coaching. Isipatana played their historic first match with St. Anthony's College Katugastota in Kandy and beat them 8-3 under the captaincy of Brian Ingram and Isipatana's first try was scored by Dayalu Perera. In 1965, Isipatana was affiliated to the Sri Lanka Rugby Union school's section. From then onwards Isipatana has been in the forefront of rugby in Sri Lanka. In 1965 under the first official captain Ananda Saranapala and coached by Maurice Silva, Isipatana fared well in the Inter Schools Rugger Tourney played 10 won 8 and lost 2. In 1966 Isipatana's first fixture with Trinity was played in Kandy, we lost 22/3 under the captaincy of Wickramasooriya. In 1967 the Isipatana-Thurstan match for the Abdul Jabbar Trophy was inaugurated. Isipatana has the distinction of retaining the trophy consecutively for 21 years.

In 1968, an Isipatanian the dynamic Randy Pierterz, one of the finest scrum half's produced in Sri Lanka's rugger history was selected to represent Sri Lanka. From 1968 to 1971 Isipatana rugger rose to great heights being unbeaten for four years under the guidance of the All Ceylon Hooker Frankie David. In 1972 Isipatana rugger was suspended for one year, by the SLRFU due to a disparity in the age rule. Due to this setback Isipatana were not given fixtures with leading schools except Royal

In 1973 Isipatana came back with 14 freshers under Nalin de Silva fared well under the able guidance of its coach Frankie David. From 1974 to 1976 Isipatana maintained its high standard without an official coach. Thanks to the efforts of the old boys like Hafi Abdeen, Nalin de Silva and Kamal Jayawardane. Later in 1977, Kamal Jayawardane took over the coaching.

In 1976 under the captaincy of G. Nigalagoda we beat Zahira 116-0, the highest score in an Inter School 1st XV match. In 1977 another milestone was reached by H. K. Sisira scoring 25 tries in the school rugger season. He was the first school boy to achieve this feat. In 1978 Isipatana beat Trinity in the semi-finals of the Molegoda Trophy 21-6 in Colombo. 1978/1979 we became Runners-up in the Schools Sevens Tournament. From 1979 Isipatana's rugger talent was nurtured at junior level by the able guidance of Messrs M. P. F. Sallay, late Denzil Perera, M. D. Ifthikar, H. A. Sarath, Sanath Martis Sanath Asanjaya, Nawaz Jamaldeen and Gamini Indrasena. The young talent trained by them subsequently formed the nucleus for the 1st XV rugger pool.



History of Isipatana...

In 1979/1980 Isipatana was selected to represent Sri Lanka for the Asians Schools Rugby Turnery in Bangkok. Isipatana went as underdogs for the tournament, but were named as the most outstanding team after a scintillating performance with defending champs Vajiravudh. In 1980 Isipatana created history at rugby in Sri Lanka by producin the first school boy to represent Sri Lanka Hishan Abdeen. After representing Sri Lanka, he played for the school in 1980 and scored 25 Tries in the schools season. In 1980 Isipatana became the Sevens champions. Since that time, Isipatana won the Sevens Trophy four years in a row 1980/81/82/83 and lost to Royal 84. It won the trophy back again in 1985/86/87. In 1981 the Isipatana-Trinity fixture was restored after a break of 12 years.

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Rugger at Isipatana reached its peak in the eighties under the great mentor O. W. R. Perera who took over the coaching from 1979. Again in 1982 Isipatana were unbeaten in the Schools Turnery and was selected for the Asian Schools Turnery in Bangkok (Third Tour) and were named as the most exciting team in the tournament, for the bustling brand of rugby. It was also voted the most popular schools rugger team in Sri Lanka and were awarded the Milo Trophy. In 1985/1986 Isipatana became the triple champions by winning the Sevens/Schools Turnery and the inaugural Knockout Tournament for the Premadasa Trophy 1985 and were tagged the Kings of Schools Rugby. (first schools rugger team to become triple champs for two consecutive years in Sri Lanka).

In 1987 Isipatana created a landmark in Sri Lanka's rugby history when 10 Isipatanians including two school boys Nilantha Lakshmiwewa and Pradeep Lakshantha, were selected for the Sri Lanka squad that toured Wales. Another goal was reached on this tour when Hishan Abdeen an Isipataniian was selected to captain the side. Isipataniian coach O. W. R. Perera was also chosen for this tour to follow an advanced course in rugby coaching. We Isipatanians are proud that even though we did not have a ground of our own, we achieved rugger glory. In this we should not forget to render our thanks to Havelocks S.C. for giving us all the encouragement to uplift rugby at Isipatana.

Isipatanians form the nucleus in leading rugger clubs like Havelocks, Police and Airforce, which speaks volumes for the standard Isipatana has maintained throughout its rugger history. We hope Isipatana will produce many more national players and maintain the brawn and bustle game in which they neither give nor ask for any quarter as they play the most robust rugger among the schools.

BY HASSAN NAUZEER SINHAWANSA

(EDITOR)



Now that the YAKKOS are teaching the masters how the game should be played, will it be the end of snob values?

IT was a bad week for St. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia. First they lost one of their most illustrious past pupils in the person of Dr. Lucian de Zilwa, one of the greatest sons of Ceylon of this era.

Tributes have been paid to the memory of this savant. One of us would like to add a personal tribute to this great doctor's ability of seeing a young boy through a critical childhood illness, with sympathy and love, over thirty years ago.

The second tragedy to hit the Mt. Lavinia school was of a completely different nature. It almost marked the end of an era. A Vidyalaya finally showed the Thomians how to play a game which they had for years considered almost their very own. Isipatana beat them at rugger.

Will this mean the waning of the snob value attached to this somewhat unintelligent game?

Will the lasses in their miniskirts and their stretch-pants stop making carnival, now that the Vidyalaya boys have taken over from those who ten-

ded to keep the rugger field exclusive and use it as an easy path to a plantation post or a junior executive's job on the strength more of brawn than of brain.

There were sad faces in city offices and gashing of teeth in executive's suites when Isipatana after mauling St. Peter's went on to teach the Thomians how to play rugger. There were snide remarks that the game was going to the "Yakkos".

For the snobs the writing is on the wall. In athletics our village boys and girls have taken over. Now in rugger vidyalaya is running rings round the so-far-acknowledged masters of the game.

We feel the Sahibs must rally round and do something about this sad state of affairs. Just imagine if the Vidyalaya boys, too, decide to form a club of their own and succeed in climbing the bureaucratic club ladder from a "C" rating to an A..... O Gosh. What will the CEE AITOH and the CEE ARR bravos do?

In this same context is there any significance in Royal and Trinity not employing Isipatana?

ISIPATANA COME OFF WITH 'COLOURS'

(N. E. Thangarajah from Bangkok)

They were the under-dogs, the lambs ready for slaughter, but they left for home like lions—this is how I would sum up the performance of the 'green-shirts' from Sri Lanka who carved a niche for themselves in this year's Asian Schools Rugby Championships.

Yes, Isipatana MV., were ranked the weakest side in the tourney after their pathetic showing last year and that's why they were pitted against some of the strongest squads in the opening games. But when the Lankans showed their mettle, kicking off with magnificent victories over Thailand's Pre-Armed Forces and Taiwan champions Tan Chiang School, opinions quickly changed.

Several experts admitted they had under-rated the Lankans and their capabilities, so much so the President of the Thailand Rugby Union Chaloke Komarakul na Nagara, confessed:

"We never know that Sri Lanka could produce such a strong team as Isipatana. They have surprised us and should they come here next year we will certainly rank them. They were not the weakest to compete; on the contrary, they could be classed with the best which took part in the tournament. With some luck they could have emerged champions, if not runners up".

Isipatana produced a brand of rugby which no school team from Sri Lanka has been capable of in previous competitions.

Always ready to move the ball around in gay abandon and producing some of the best tries seen in the tournament, Isipatana suffered only two losses, one against the champions—

Thailand's Vajiravudh College, perennial winners of the Thai schools' title, to whom they lost 15–11 after being behind 12–0, 27 minutes into the game. Had Mohamed Sally been accurate with his place-kicking, they could have drawn this match.

Yet, at the end of the contest, everyone here, including the Vajiravudh players, cheered the Isipatana team, especially skipper A. S. P. Bowela for the magnificent try he scored in the first half after covering over 60 yards.

Bowela picked up a loose ball well with his territory and sped past the Vajiravudh defence to touch down by the right corner flag. He followed up by scoring the second Lankan try in the next period of play. But luck was not with Isipatana and both went unconverted.

After this setback they took on Taiwan's top team, Tan Chiang, and won name and fame by scoring a comeback victory after being down 12–6 at the half.

It was Isipatana which set the scoreboard in motion with a first-minute try by stand-off H. Gunaratne. Sally converted but the Taiwanese equalised with a penalty and a drop goal. Before half time they gave away another try which was successfully converted.

In the new half Hishan Abdeen was in full cry. A solo effort saw the lanky wing-forward end up by the corner-flag for a spectacular try, and in the 32nd minute Abdeen charged down a kick and followed upto score his second try—a superb effort. Sally added the extras and at the long whistle Isipatana had chalked up success number two in the meet.

Isipatana come....

Then came the best performance and many in Bangkok were indeed sorry that the Lankans should have lost that game after having played so well. A silly mistake by scrum half D. P. Udayasiri, who pulled the ball from the Lankan goal-line, saw last year's champions Chang Chung High School from Taiwan boot over a 20-yard penalty to register victory two minutes before the final whistle.

In fact, it wasn't Isipatana's day at all. They missed a glorious scoring opportunity when, in the first minute, centre A. de Silva tried to go through on his own instead of passing the ball out to left wing three-quarter V. P. Sepala, who was uncovered and was waiting for the pass.

Chang capitalised on this miss by scoring their try in the 18th. Sallay, for the first time, was in excellent kicking form, booting a 40-yard penalty to keep their opponents within reach.

Then came the best try of the match which many experts here have dubbed a "classic" of the tournament and it was Bowela who did it again.

He picked up a loose ball almost from the centre of the field, sliced through the opposing defence with his speed and when challenged by some three defenders left them standing with a sudden burst to score under the posts.

The whole stadium was on its feet cheering as Bowela walked back to his position. Sallay had no problem booting the under-the-post conversion and Isipatana led 9-4 with 20 minutes to go for the final whistle.

Chang Chung, launching an all out attack, reduced the lead to one point when their wing forward scored a disputed try, over which Lankan

assistant manager Mohammad Jamaldien protested after the contest.

In the opinion of the Lankan team the Chang Chung player had carried over the ball before scoring. But the protest was rejected later.

The score was 9-8 and Isipatana were fighting hard to stay in front and everything seemed set for a major upset in the tournament when, with only two minutes to go, Udayasiri committed the crime of pulling the ball from the scrum under the eyes of the referee.

At the end of the match many Lankans cried. They were so close yet so far, and the chances of finishing runners-up in the tournament faded away.

Nevertheless, with the splendid showing Isipatana have placed Sri Lanka on the rugby map in Asia, so much so everyone here is now talking about Lankan rugby and the exciting brand of play they produced in this competition.

There is no doubt that if Isipatana comes here next year they will be one of the seeded teams and what a pleasant change from what we saw last year when every team in the tournament defeated the Lankans.

It was also a great reward for the troubles Isipatana underwent prior to coming here. Firstly, they had to go round collecting the money for the trip. Secondly, they were stuck at the port for some eight hours, arriving here only hours before their opening match.

"After all, the hardships we underwent it was indeed a great relief to see the green wall", added an official of the team.

ISIPATANA BASH THE THOMIANS BLACK'N BLUE

Watch out, these rugger kids from Isipatana are kicking dust up again Coached by that former All Ceylon player, Ken de Joedt, Isipatana hit dashing form to bash the Thomian black 'n blue.

It was a 9—all draw, but indeed a moral victory for this school that was barely older in rugger than than the ball they played with yesterday at Havelock Park.

OLD GUSTO

If Isipatana's rugger was only 'bang-and-go' last year, yesterday they not only showed that old gusto but a thick streak of competent tactical play as well. The game was a bouncy forwards battle and the shades of open rugger was provided by Isipatana alone.

Take that first try of Isipatana for instance.

Stand-off Abdeen was quick to realise that an orthodox move just could not hit through the Thomian defence. So, he made a calculated punt ahead in the direction of winger Athula Wickremasinghe who pounced on the bobbing ball and dashed a good thirty yards, swaying and slipping away from tackles to score.

VIOLENT

In weight and size Isipatana conceded quite a bit to the burly Thomian pack. But they made-up amply

for this with their speed and quick rucking in the loose.

What really off-set the Thomians was Isipatana's violent tackling. Seldom or never could the Thomians complete a movement; each one being knocked to the dust by Isipatana's outsides and wing forward, M. T. Savanghan.

Savanghan was, perhaps, the best player out there yesterday. Not only did he nail the Thomian threes to a standstill, but he had the defence guessing with his sudden breakaways.

UNLUCKY

It was one such breakaway that helped Isipatana equalise.

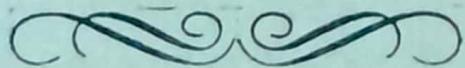
Intercepting a pass from the base of the Thomian scrum, he darted through and began a movement among the forwards for elder brother M. J. Savanghan to score behind the posts.

An easy conversion was fluffed and this deprived Isipatana of victory.

Gunasena put over a penalty for Isipatana, Wendell Flamer-Caldera converted all three penalties for the Thomians.

Mr. A. M. Cader refereed.

T.M.K.S.



Rugby revolution! Isipatana maul the Lions

Trinity went out black-eyed and bowed, their preserved prestige littered all over the floor. Even though the historic news is now second-hand, this simple statement of fact that Isipatana Maha Vidyalaya beat Trinity College, by 21 points to a mere two penalties continues to contain an oddity that makes the mind marvel and aghast at the same time. Isipatana beat Trinity, the mind thinks; and all that the tongue can say is: Phew!

But then minds do get boggled by thing unseen or unheard of before, and Isipatana's comprehensive and sensational effort last evening at Longdon Place was just that. Twelve years ago they did play Trinity, was annihilated and then kept waiting till the Celebration of Local Rugby's Hundredth Birthday began.

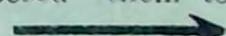
The time of waiting was spent on maturing their rugby, and Trinity, in contrast, had insulated themselves against the new kind of rugby that was being developed outside their traditional fixture list. Yesterday they were thrown to survive against this new young breed and sadly came away in virtual surrender. They looked the sleek yacht caught in the fury of a cruel sea.

And when Referee Daya Jayasundera pointed his hands to midfield to sound the long whistle, Longdon Place was suddenly transformed into a ocean of happy humanity as Isipatana's supporters, screaming, shouting and punching fists into the air, engulfed their heroes and shouldered them into the pavilion.

There was, however, an ugly side to the beauty of this Isipatana win. Ambition suppressed for a dozen years, arguably, one could have waived off more than a few late-tackles unleashed by Isipatana, particularly on Trinity's backs. But, there really was no excuse for trespassing over the line which separates hard rugby from dirty. Tragically Isipatana did so, when winger Bowela made a flying kick on a Trinitian at a time when play was 'dead'. There really was no reason for this outburst of temper, for Isipatana, by their rugby, had established commanding superiority and had built their final score when the unwarranted occurred.

To say Trinity lost because of Isipatana's bouts of dirty play is being cry-babish. The fact is that Trinity just could not withstand the fury and intensity of Isipatana's fence-breaking style of play. This became patently clear in the opening minutes, when Trinity ventured with their run-and-pass game, ran into tackling that was sheer mortar, and then quickly recoiled. Trinity's backs had ample and more of the ball particularly from the towering lock forward Ravi Ratnayake. But they got rid of the ball as if it was a time-bomb, so wasting possession. Isipatana's defence only took confidence from the respect given it by the Trinitians and as the game grew in time, the defence had stiffened to a point of being impregnable. Proof of that was in the unyielding — Trinity being incapable of scoring a single try.

Always there was a hesitation about Trinity that exposed them to



Rugby revolution!

rugby's misfortune. And when it did happen, Trinity's hesitancy, undefinable till then, became real. That was when Isipatana's fullback, Nanayakkara, succeeded in translating a failed drop-goal, from twentyfive yards out, into a goal. As the ball skittered along the ground and into the 'in-goal' area, there was Trinity's defence just watching. Then someone made a late effort, but could not press the ball to earth, and in charged Isipatana's centre Anura de Silva to touch down.

There was not the hand of luck in Isipatana's other tries, however. They made them possible through solid work, tremendous enthusiasm and a will born from the determination not to just win, but win well. All this mood was set early in the first half when they shook off their nerves and decided to run the ball. Number Eight Sally set the line moving on the 'blind' side. Bowela steamed down the wing and was bundled out to touch by the corner flag. Off the lineout prop Noordeen 'rhinoed' over the goal-line. Nanayakkara converted. Kiridena

fired across a penalty and Isipatana's Nanayakkara did the same soon after, so that the Colombo School had yet retained their sixpoint lead. But Kiridena again put over a penalty and kept Trinity in the game at least on the score board.

That was to be Trinity's last slice of success as Isipatana came at them with renewed fury. Then came that failed drop-goal which turned out to be a goal and finally, the piece-de-resistance, the stamp of superiority as it were. Number Eight Sally, as he did in the first try, again made a break from the base of a scrum thirty yards out and gave over to centre Anura de Silva, who weaved in the thick of Trinity's defence, and when it split, geared like an arrow to the goal-line.

Nanayakkara's conversion made it 21—6, and a rugby revolution had been completed; an 'Upstart' had gate-crashed into 'Exclusive' Company!

T.M.K.S.



"RUGGER"

By the Wife of a Touch — Judge

Rugger is a game played by men with queer shaped balls. I can't for the life of me understand why they do it. Would you give me a good reason why they do not use the round ball, the type of thing we are used to. I mean something like the one we use for netball.

Take the game itself. Here are thirty men sweating their lives out to do one thing. Guess what. Touch down under the posts with the ball. Oh dear! Could these chaps not do something better? Why in heavens name do they work the blind side of all sides when they want to do such a thing? Why are they shy of doing it on the side people could see? Look at the referee. He is intent on stopping the game on the slightest pretext of infringement. Take a forward pass for instance. What on earth is wrong with it? The moment I walk into the grounds wearing my new brassiere the entire male crowd present makes all types of passes at me, both at my forward and my rear. There are policemen all over the place but they do nothing at stopping it.

Take an "up and under" for instance. Is there any sense in that phrase? What goes up certainly comes down, but the ruddy thing does not have to come "under". Or should it? It should be called an "Up and Down."

What I like about rugger is scrumming. My husband always talks about the days he was the hooker and used to "heel" the ball out. Believe me, if girls play rugger I'll be an expert at that. But there is just one problem. The Scrum half must get the ball in. I mean, right in. No "second row" and that type of stuff. Keeping the ball in the pack is what I like. It leaves your opposite number guessing when its going to come out. It gives the pack especially the Number Eight plenty of time to "shove". And aint "showing" a pleasure.

There are times when the "short tap" certainly is a pleasure, but it's the "line out" that I like because you have to jump high for the ball.

I could go on and on about why I like rugger. I just adore "barging over" or "feet up" but what gives me my greatest thrill is to see the ball fly between the "upright" dead centre.

Beg your pardon gentlemen. I must stop. My husband is having far too many at the bar and I'll have to pay the "penalty". The referee who sees nothing of the game has blown the long whistle. I have never seen a referee with a short one, so till the next Seven-A-Side tourney here's a thing I hate saying. I'm "dropping out" for it's a "dead" ball.

Size didn't matter . . .

By Anosh Ahamath

As Isipatana sped to a glorious 15-6 win, the stark difference between them and S. Thomas' at Police Park yesterday, was not only the colour of their jerseys, but sheer contrast in size. While the Thomians looked every inch somebody from Goliath's commune, the Isipatanians in comparison resembled the Lilliputians in 'Gulliver's Travels'.

But the naked truth was that the Isipatanians, virtually deprived of possession in the linesout and scrums, had S. Thomas' groping throughout the match with a brilliant display in the loose. It was the sort of performance that defied nature for they not only lacked the weight to counter the Thomian pack, but also the height to hold their own in the linesout.

Trapped without supply, the Isipatana forwards chose the best course that lay open. They combined with their backs in the loose to win possession through an efficient operation in tackling. And once they brought down their opponents, they immediately switched to kick ahead tactics and the high ball created panic for a good part of the game inside the Thomians' 25'.

That they scored three fine tries and a drop goal reflects how effectively the Isipatana's ploys worked. Indeed it was the example set by their skipper and scrum-half Roger Rodrigo that paved the way for Isipatana to dominate the entire game.

Roger, made use of a hesitant Thomian scrum-half Janaka de Fonseka to boot the ball out from the base and instead of picking it up, he intelligently gained territorial advantage by his kick-and-chase methods. Seeing this was where the Thomians were vulnerable, the Isipatana pack comprising expert tacklers in flanker Janaka Alwis, second rower Neomal

Fernando and No. 8 Shabdeen Siddik, followed in their skipper's style as they opted to kick ahead.

The S. Thomas' pack, never would have known such rigorous punishment as yesterday's. They were subjected to precisely timed tackles by their counterparts, leaving their three-quarters bare-handed many times. But on the occasions their backs received the ball, they destroyed it through poor understanding and this merely eased things for the ravenous Isipatana 'threes'.

It was really in the second session that the Isipatanians ran amok. After a half-time 4-0 lead through a try by winger Gamini Senanayake, centre Mohamed Irshad collecting the pass off a move from a line-out outside '25', dropped a goal to give security to their lead.

Thereafter, the Isipatanians dared and their opponents despaired as hooker Inam Ahamat scored off a scrum near the goal-line midway in this half and then prop Naresh Wanigasinghe barged over from a loose maul near the goal-line to seal Isipatana's victory beyond doubt.

In between the scoring, skipper Rodrigo missed two penalties and the conversions. This is, in fact, an epidemic that is present in most schools, where they are unable to score more than they should, due to the absence of a reliable place-kicker.

But Rodrigo's misfortune proved to be of least importance in the end, as S. Thomas' skipper Gehan de Zovsa dived over to score the only try just before the final blast. Stand-off Asanga Seneviratne converted it but it had become impossible to prevent Isipatana achieving their first win since 1979.

Referee: Nimal Leuke

TRINITY BEATEN IN SPELL-BINDER

Isipatana's cup overflows

ISIPATANA 7

TRINITY 3

By T. B. Rahaman

Even the rain-clouds over Longden Place could not blanket the joy and roaring celebration of Isipatana's supporters who had just seen their team whip Trinity in their Schools Rugby Encounter.

Isipatana lived up to their reputation of being a mighty team as last evening they beat the Trinitians by seven points to three.

Both teams produced scintillating rugby and had the crowds spell-bound and tense throughout.

Late in the second half, Trinity were on the verge of scoring the equaliser when play was maintained close to the Isipatana goal-line for nearly ten minutes, after Isipatana had taken the lead. This increased the tension in the huge crowd that was treated to an evening of excellent rugby.

Trinity forwards held sway winning possession in the line-out nine out of ten times. They were a shade quicker in the loose and made good use of their weight in the set scrums.

But Isipatana hooker M. Faiz was quick to strike and won vital possession at crucial moments. There were also the Siddiq brothers, Shabeen and Sheham, and Gamin Senanayake, Sampath Wickremaratne, Janaka Alwis, M. Noordeen, and Ravindra Perera who fought like tigers in the loose.

The Isipatana pack was a shade better than the Trinity eight in rucking and were quicker to get to the ball.

Trinity skipper Byron Fernando was seen falling back in defence and this curbed his attacking potential. He spent most of the time in the back division to keep check on the Isipatana backs who were reputed runners, and to add some punch to their attack. However, Trinity's efforts to work the line after winning good ball, was spoilt by some smart close tackling. They hardly had a chance of running with the ball though they always had an extra man.

Shabeen and Sheham Siddiq were quick to cover defend and with centres Irshad and Uduwelagedera tackled the Trinity backs to a standstill.

Roshan Ratwatte, Dilip Adhettal, T. Seneviratne, V. Maheswaran and Channa Brodie were the Trinity forwards to play their hearts out.

The first half was filled with misfortunes for Isipatana. They missed as many as four penalties three by Ravindra Perera and one by Kamal Mahendra. Ravindra, who missed badly at the start kept improving and his last attempt in the first half hit the upright and rebounded.

Scrum half Roger Rodrigo also made many mistakes. He was far too slow in deciding the correct move and was often a spoiler to all the good work done by the pack. He kicked too often or tried selfish moves rather than attempting to set the strong backs in motion.



Isipatana's cup

Trinity scored first when Byron Fernando converted a 38-metre penalty for under-cutting in a line out. This happened in the 27th minute and Trinity held the lead until half time.

Isipatana then got down to business after switching ends. They drove in hard and penetrated into the Trinity territory with grim determination.

In the seventh minute, Isipatana won a scrum and Rodrigo ran on the blind side followed by Roshan Ratwatte who was slipped tripping his. Ravindra Perera made sure of the conversion and equalised at 3-all.

This inspired Isipatana to maintain the pressure on Trinity. Then came the move that really displayed the talent of their backs.

It began with a hack that led to a loose ruck and Isipatana were quick to heel. Dilroy Fernando passed over to Anura Uduwelegedera and went round to work a loop. But Anura dummmed himself into a gap and he dashed through 35 metres before passing out to Dilroy Fernando who went over by the corner flag. Ravindra failed with the conversion.

Trinity made a valiant attempt to cross the Isipatana goal line but the Isipatana defence was too good to be penetrated.

Jeffrey de Jong refereed.

Isipatana won the second fifteen game by seven points (a try, a drop goal) to nil.

Len Silva refereed.



Perseverance rewards Isipatana

The near miracle which occurred as the dust was descending on the Sugathadasa Stadium on the Wednesday before must be seen to be believed. The multitudes who had gathered there, some of whom had barely settled down comfortably to await the 'Big one', were suddenly left spell-bound. The fanatical Isipatana rugby supporters who had risen like one were driven into a frenzy of excitement; For, moments later a historic move was enacted from out of the 'green', which made the second Premadasa Trophy (Schools) Rugby Knock-out Final to be treasured like a classic.

Royal had safeguarded their second half try lead with an awe inspiring display as they had solidly defended their goal line in the entire first half. But their heart-breaking experience was fashioned by Isipatana even as referee Jeff de Jony seemed to take a final glance at his watch, when scrum half Mahes Abeysinghe sent out a pass off a scrum around the Royal '25'. Fly half Sudesh Abeysinghe was held but flicked the ball to full back Thushara Bandara, who appeared to run straight into the horde of forwards. But acting under some intuition he changed direction in a flash and flung out a long pass.

The rest was like a terrible nightmare for Royal. They had arrived so close, but found themselves yet so far from holding the Premadasa Trophy they richly deserved for their spirited and whole hearted display. Centre Nilantha Lakshmiwewa touched down, the conversion was missed immediately after which the long blast went after nearly 80 odd minutes of play with the agony for Royal's place kicker Lal Perera who mis-directed a penalty kick turned into ecstasy for the

Isipatanians a couple of minutes later when Aruna de Silva kicked well from nearly 40 metres out the match-winner to give Isipatana victory by 7 points to 4.

Selvin Sallay's 'green jerseyed' ruggerites had escaped from the jaws of defeat and crowned themselves with another 'triple' success. The arguments will rage on until the next final as to whether it was reasonable to decide the champion in extra time. Undoubtedly Royal deserved to at least share the trophy with Isipatana for their valiant effort.

Nevertheless none can grudge Isipatana the glory for this mind-boggling feat. They always had the flair, were more knowledgeable and above all displayed their immeasurable fighting qualities that day. To possess the nerve and energy (and luck!) to draw level with their only scoring effort in what turned out to be the final move during normal time, would fit in perfectly for a fiction story. But as Royal found out to their bewilderment, a match is never lost until it is over.

For this, the Isipatana XV unlike their predecessors in the mid-seventies were made of steel: perhaps hardened by the rickety turf on which they practice their skills. The school can ill-afford to own a lawn mower to keep the grass in an acceptable condition. This is looked after by the 100 odd enthusiastic youngsters who turn out for practice at the start of the season who 'cut' the overgrown grass in the playing field by way of a shramadana. The many potholes and uneven surfaces however seem to remain for ever, which invariably causes injuries to the ankle and knee. →

Perseverance

This handicap however does not in any way dampen their spirit or the relish to play an attacking brand of rugby. This is largely due to the dedicated and disciplined coaching of O. W. R. Perera, who was one of the 14 freshers in the Isipatana team of 1973 led by Nalin de Silva. Although their rugby was of a reasonable standard during the seventies, it was after he took over the mantle of coaching them from 1978, that they produced results with a consistency that is perhaps unparalleled and the envy of many a leading school.

That season under M. P. F. Sally, they lost in the finals of the Centenary Trophy Knock-out Tournament to S. Thomas' by 6—13. In 1979 after enjoying a good season led by K. D. Nanayakkara, they took part in the Asian School Rugby Football Championship in Bangkok. It was the

following year however that Isipatana led by Anuradha Bowela showed their mettle in this championship. When they were piped into third position Sri Lanka's brilliant lock forward Hishan Abdeen was a member of that team.

A team who was ranked as the weakest side in the tournament scored magnificent victories over Thailand's Pre-Armed Forces and Taiwan's champions Tan Chiang School, whilst losing very narrowly to the perennial winners of the Thai Schools title. Vajiravudh and defending champions Chang Chung High School. This is their best performance in this tournament, though they were to return under Dilroy Fernando's unbeaten side two years later and were dubbed as the team which played the most exciting rugger in the competition.



ISIPATANA'S CUP OF JOY

They managed to burst crackers in the rain, and it didn't matter that their heroes were caked in mud and dripped with sweat — the joy-mad fans embraced and kissed the returning gladiators. These were the happy scenes at Havelock Park last evening, where Isipatana MV wrote out a bit of history. Not since 1971 had they won against Royal, but yesterday they ended that wait in a way that made the nine-year pining all seemed worthwhile.



They were marvellously efficient as long as the Rain Gods allowed them to. Their backs moved with almost liquid grace and their forwards dug deep into things — and there wasn't a doubt that Isipatana would come out winners.



But in the opening ten minutes it was Royal who were dancing with joy. Contrary to expectations, they scored first, when from a forwards rush,

scrum-half Sukumar went over by the right corner flag.



But Royal's euphoria was short-lived. Isipatana came back in style, as their forwards won a line-out in Royal's 25, and the ball moved with superb timing down to the wing where Sepala ran straight and hard before the gathering defence could reach him. Nanayakkara put two more penalties and Isipatana led 10—4 at half time.



The prospect for running rugby was totally buried under gallons of water from above, but before the aged one more try; skipper, Bowela, on the wing, ran right across the field in Royal's 25, and when tackled there was that omnipresent Hisham Abdeen to pick up and go over.



The rest of the game was a mere formality, though Royal added a penalty through Martin.

Referee: Rodney Patternott.



NATIONAL PLAYERS OF ISIPATANA

- * Randy Pieterz
- * Thajone Savangham
- * Nalin de Silva
- * Sandy Hamid
- * Hafi Abdeen
- * H. K. Sisira
- * Bhartha Hegoda
- * Sriyantha Rajakaruna
- * Hisham Abdeen
- * A. S. B. Bowela
- * Leslie de Silva
- * Dilory Fernando
- * Aruna Uduwela Gedara
- * Roger Rodrigo
- * Hector Gunathilake
- * Chandana Deepthi
- * Nizam Jamaldeen
- * Pradeep Lakshantha
- * Nilantha Lakshmiwewa
- * Aruna de Silva

ISIPATANA'S WHO LED CLUB RUGBY

THAJONE SAVANGHAM	(Havelocks)
IURAGAN SAVANGHAM	(Police)
NALIN DE SILVA	(Air Force)
INDRAJITH ABEYWARDENA	(Army)
H. K. SISIRA	(Navy)
N. H. KARUNASENA	(CH & FC) (Havelocks)
2nd Player to Lead two Club in Sri Lanka	
HISHAM ABDEEN	(Havelocks)
M. P. F. SALLY	(Havelocks)
BHARTHA HEGODA	(CH & FC)
UPALI VIDANAGE	(Police)



ISIPATANA—the glamour boys of schools rugby

BY KENNETH HONTER

ISIPATANA Maha Vidyalaya, the glory guys of schools rugger have proved beyond any doubt that may have dwelt even in their most severe critics mind, that they were the best schools rugger team this season.

Along with Trinity, Isipatana emerged unbeaten this year, winning all their games, which in itself is commendable. But what makes it even more commendable is the fact that they have won almost every game convincingly, and in the game's in which they won by a small margin they proved that they possess that extra little bit to make them worthy holders of the title—Unofficial Champions of School Rugger for 1969.

The only other contenders for the title — Trinity College, Kandy —also emerged unbeaten but marred their successful season when they almost met their Waterloo against St. Peter's, with whom they only just managed to force a draw.

It was indeed a pity that the Maha Vidyalaya boys had to end their successful season on a sad note — not being granted fixtures against Royal and Trinity Colleges have certainly dampened their spirits. This however does not in any way disprove the fact that they are most worthy to bear the tag as champions.

After five years of rugger, this is the first year in which Isipatana have come into the limelight. This was possible only due to the selfless work by those who laid the foundation with their performances during the past few seasons.

Ananda Saranapala who represented Havelocks Sports Club, Nihal Club, Witaya Yapa and Davalu Perera Jayatileke of Kandy Rugby Football are a few of those to whom Isipatana owe their gratitude for the example

they set when they had in their turn represented their school during the first few rugger playing years.

Those were the years when the Havelock Town boys came into the school rugger scene with everything against them.

With no ground of their own, they had to depend on the Havelock Sports Club for space to practice. With very few facilities (the team pooled their money to buy their first rugger ball) and with little or no idea of rugger —most of them had not even watched a rugger match, leave alone play in one!

But now after five years of remaining the underdog, they rose above the ranks of all other schools — national and Public alike—to emerge the best, the most worthy to be unofficial champions of School Rugger.

This season they owe their superb performance in no small measure to the skipper of the side, Thajone Savinghan.

Others who brought honour to their school were — Hafi Abdeen, Horace Perera, Niyaz Doray, Rajakaruna, Rajab Chandralal Fernando and Mahinda Jayawardena. And last but most certainly not least, they owe much to their coach Frankie David.

The following are the results of the games played by Isipatana this season:

Beat St. Mary's: 22—0;
Beat St. Peter's: 26—8;
Beat St. Thomas': 8—5;
Beat Ananda: 26—3;
Beat Zahira: 6—0;
Beat St. Joseph's: 6—3;
Beat St. Benedict's: 27—3;
Beat St. Anthony's: 14—3;
Beat Thurstan: 17—0;
Beat Vidyarthi: 12—0;

Isipatana have an aggregate of 184 points scored for them and a paltry 25 against them—An average of 16.4 for and 2.5 against—(212).

**ISIPATANA RUGGER CAPTAINS AND COACHES FROM
1963 TO 1988**

Year	Captain	Coach
1963	Brian Ingram	Y. C. Chang
1964	Vijay Yapa	Y. C. Chang
1965	Ananda Saranapala	Maurice de Silva
1966	Sunil Wickramasooriya	Ken de Joodt
1967	Gunasena Wijeratne	Mike Davies
1968	Jurangan Savanghan	Frankie David
1969	Thajone Savanghan	" "
1970	Hafi Abdeen	" "
1971	Sriyantha Rajakaruna	" "
1972	Gamini Chandrasekara	" "
1973	Nalin de Silva	" "
1974	Nihal Mendis	Hafi Abdeen
1975	S. Godawela	" "
1976	Ginigalgoda	Dan Ratnam
1977	H. K. Sisira	Kamal Jayawardena
1978	Fashian Sally	Hazari Hamid/Tony Amit
1979	K D. Nanayakkara	O. W. R. Perera
1980	Anuradha Bowela	" "
1981	Leslie de Silva	" "
1982	Dilroy Fernando	" "
1983	Roger Rodrigo	" "
1984	Shabeen Siddik	" "
1985	Chandana Deepthi	" "
1986	Selvin Sallay	" "
1987	Nilantha Lakshmiwewa	" "
1988	Sudesh Abeysinghe	Sanath Martis/O. W. R. Perera

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