

CHAPTER 51 Reflections on the state of Muir hockey by Roger Hart as it approached the end of a coaching era. Evidence that hockey at Muir was in a healthy state is reflected in this excerpt from R.C.J. Hart’s analysis of his U/16 A and B sides’ 1995 season:



Last year’s report hoped that this U/16A team would come together this year. This has certainly been the case as last season’s U/15 players came of age and developed into a really good team. In fact, they can be rated one of the best ever and are thoroughly deserving of congratulation.

The team learned how to control a game – to keep to the game plan and to vary it when necessary. They learned the importance of skills – of practising the basics and learning new ones. They learnt to play with courage – showing guts and spirit and pride. They developed the will to win and the maturity to accept unfavourable decisions and their own failures. It was a pleasure to have coached them!

Lyndon Metembo worked hard at his game and deservedly filled the EP U/16C goalkeeper’s slot. Garrick Kunneke soon realised the discipline needed to be an effective sweeper and his mighty sixteens allowed us to play in our opponents’ half.

Our defenders, Regan Shreiber (EP U/16 C), Vincent Raepsaet (EP U/16B) and Paul Harding (EP U/16B) proved to be rock solid. This allowed the links to control the mid-field and to set up the attacks which led to goals. Morné Goosen (EP U/16A) was the chief playmaker at centre back, assisted by a tireless Dylan Halforty and a determined Ross Lange. Our forwards, Bilue Moolman, Marc Adams and Raymond

Walters (Most Promising Junior Award), were quick to strike and scored some good goals or set up penalty corners for an effective Moolman/Harding/Schreiber combination.

Two stalwarts of hockey coaching and organisation, Roger Hart and Andrew Todd, embarked on their last season for Muir in **1996**. The first team acquired two new playing 'strips' and the facilities for hockey continued to be of a high standard – a very different situation compared to the early nineteen-eighties. Seven players represented the school at U/18 and U/16 provincial level. An innovation in 1996 was the introduction of **mini-hockey** for the Standard 4 and 5 pupils. This would promote the early learning of hockey skills as well as provide an alternative winter sport to rugby and soccer. Peter ('Monkey') Biljon, an Old Muirite from the nineteen-sixties, provided six weeks of coaching in the basic skills, a prelude to the boys' participation in the mini-hockey tournament at Junior Collegiate in July. Mini-hockey was run by Mrs I McFarlane, of the primary teaching staff.