

School Sport - Newspaper Reports

1965-66 School Rugby 7s

**MITCHAM GRAMMAR
WIN SCHOOL SEVENS**

MITCHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL scored their first major rugby triumph on Wednesday last week when they won the Surrey Schools Canterbury Cup Sevens at Bec School.



M E Beckham B K Saunders A J Reed R L Gregory J I Vance
Headmaster W S Dawson (capt) Ron Bateman G A Crouch

Although they total only 400 boys—far smaller than most of the other schools involved—Mitcham were rarely extended, their toughest match being an 8-3 semi-final victory over Surbiton.

In the final they beat St. Joseph's College, Norwood, 16-5. In earlier rounds they had defeated Battersea Grammar 11-0, Selhurst Grammar 13-0 and Beverley 18-5.

Kicker Gregory was in fine form. But this was basically a team effort. Skipper Dawson, Reed, Beckham, Bance, Sanders and Crouch completed the squad.

This victory was some consolation for the school as injuries have somewhat hit the full XV this season.

Nevertheless, rugby is booming and they have just started their sixth side—an Under-12 XV. Fly-half Alfred Reed has played for Surrey Colts while hooker Bob Beckham goes to Oxford and Brian Lord and Richard Davies to Loughborough College in October.

STAR COACHES

Behind these successes are the school's rugby coaches under Ron Greenall, former London University and Streatham player.

Durham cap Ron Bateman (Rosslyn Park) looks after the colts team and both receive assistance from two other members of the teaching staff—Gwyn Thomas (ex-London Welsh) and H. J. Lidiard who is currently playing for the Old Boys.

1967-68 School Rugby 1st XV

Success for school at rugby



The Mitcham Grammar School rugby side that enjoyed its most successful season for several years. Left to right, back row : Dr. C. R. Bingham (Headmaster), B. C. Ansell, A. B. Armstrong, J. A. Currie, R. P. Arnold, J. R. Simmons, G. R. Carter, M. J. Phillips, G. B. Jones, R. Bateman (Master-in-charge). Front row : G. Rayner, B. T. Shaffee, J. F. Bance, N. S. Dawson (Capt.), G. A. Crouch, G. I. MacLeod, L. A. Jessup.

Success story for Mitcham schoolboys

THE 1967-68 season has been a highly successful one for Mitcham Grammar School's rugby teams. The First XV boasts a record of 16 victories from 25 games, the best for several years.

The success of the XV was due to the spirit and determination of an essentially young and vital, though inexperienced team, but those qualities that were lacking were well compensated for by determination and effort.

The side was even surpassed by that of the First VII who entered four tournaments, in three of which the team reached the final. In the Midland Bank Seven-a-Sides at Beckenham the team was "runner-up" to Tiffin; in the South-Eastern Counties competition at Warlingham, the team reached the final of the "Plate" competition losing to Bec and winning the runners-up trophy. Finally, in the Mitcham R.F.C. Tournament the VII won the final, beating the club First VII by 18 points to 6.

One member of the team, Crouch, the vice-captain, was chosen to play for the Surrey Schools and was also awarded his County Basketball colours this season. The teams were trained by Bob Bateman and Brian Richards, masters at the school and members of the Streatham Rugby Club.