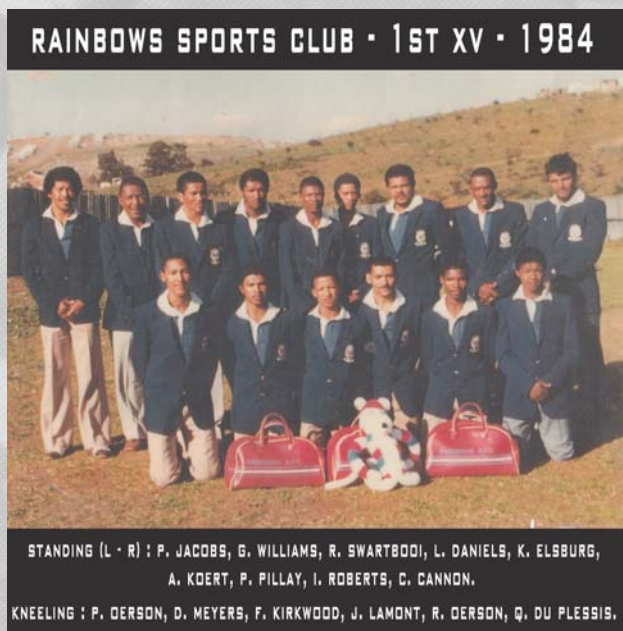
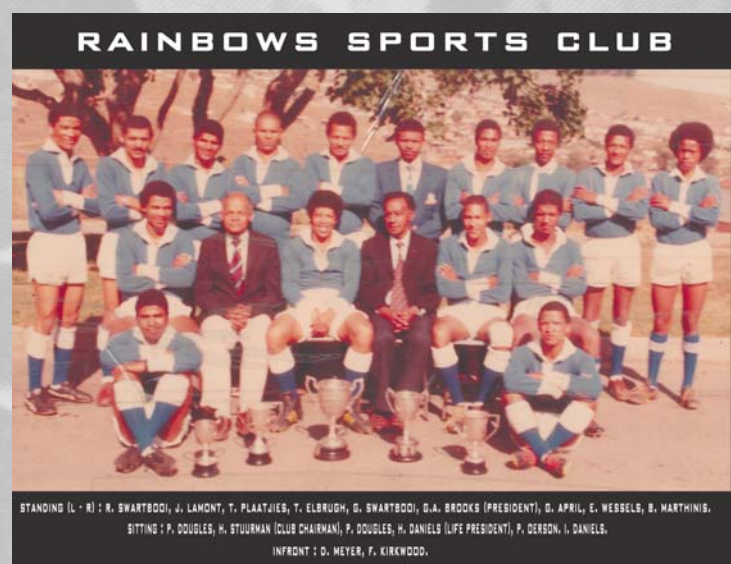
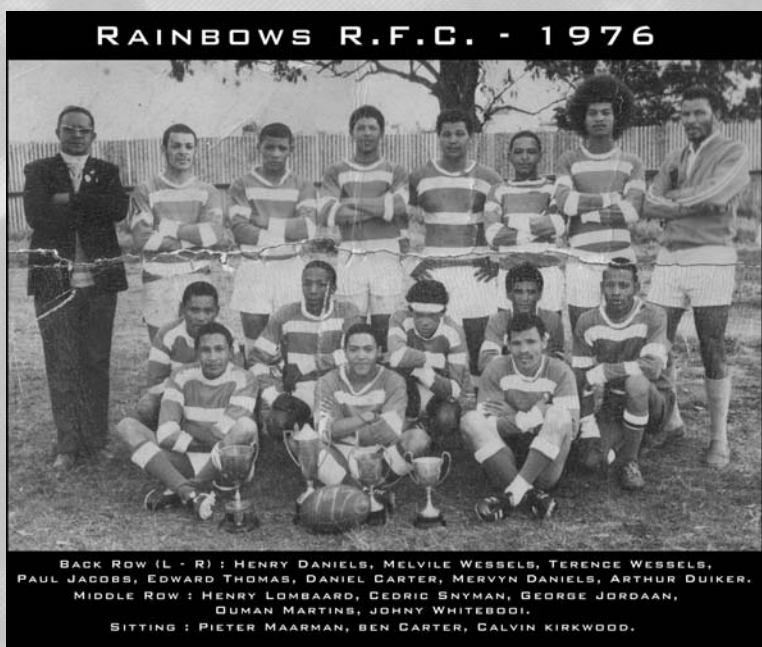


RAINBOWS

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



The executive of the Rugby Federation showing their rugby gear.
L - r: Basil Sais, Donald Oerson, James Meyer, Daniel Arries and ????? Smith

RAINBOWS

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

RAINBOWS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB 2ND XV
 WINNERS OF THE ALBANY CHALLENGE AND LEPPAN TROPHIES • SEASON 1952
 WINNERS OF THE CHAN HENRY TROPHY



CAPTION NEEDED

BUFFALOES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB • 1954
 WINNERS OF THE ALBANY, LINGHAM NELSON SHIELD, LAPAN, CHAN HENRY TROPHIES



TOP ROW : M. WILLIAMS, K. THOMAS, W. STEVENS, J. MENTOCK, J. TRUMPETTER.
 SECOND ROW : J. WILLIAMS (PRES.), P. TRUMPETTER, R. PHILLIPS, G. SPIERS, M. ABRAHAM, F. FISHER, C. HOPKINS (COACH).
 SITTING : F. JASON (ASST. SECRETARY), C. BIAS (CHAIRMAN), R. CAMPBELL (V. CAPT.), J. ISAACS (CAPT.),
 F. YOCKERDOT (SECRETARY), S. SHAYENS, R. MARTINUS.
 IN FRONT : N. CLARE AND P. MARTINUS.

RAINBOWS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB • 1969 CHAMPIONS



BACK ROW : T. SWARTBOODI, K. DANIELS.
 STANDING : G. LOUTZ, T. DU PLESSIS, W. STEVENS, H. STUURMAN, F. WILLIAMS, K. WINDVOGEL, K. MARTINS, A. COLVILLE.
 SEATED : C. KIRKWOOD, D. ARRIES, A. PETERSON (SECRETARY), S.D. DERSON (CAPT.), H.G. DANIELS (PRESIDENT),
 I. ROBERTS (V. CAPT.), D.H. STUURMAN (CHAIRMAN), D. STUURMAN, T. PLAATJIES.
 MASCOT : P.A. DERSON

RAINBOWS

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

One of the dominant clubs in Grahamstown, Rainbows was formed in the 1930s. Its management boasted of the greats of Grahamstown rugby administrators including Yank Stuurman and Baai Daniels and Arwie Peterson.

Rainbows rivalled Swallows and Universals for the distinction of the best team in town. The rivalry was so intense that it was not uncommon for their games to be marred by physical fighting among the players. The worst incident of fighting, which former players still recall to this day, occurred during a game against Swallows. It was sparked by Patrick Heemro's elbow tackle on Micky Plaatje.

Rainbows was more than just a rugby team, but it embodied a strong community spirit. The community got involved in the major tournaments that were often held over the long easter week-end. These involved teams from neighbouring towns such as Port Elizabeth, East London and Cradock. Residents opened up their homes to the visitors not only to stay, but also provided them with meals throughout the duration of the tournament. In the between the rugby, a dance was hosted on Saturday night, whose proceeds were donated towards the Rugby Board. The tournaments ended on a Monday after the final.

Though enjoying immense community support, the team, like most amateur teams, was in financial dire-straits. This made players and administrators vulnerable to outside financial offers, even to the detriment of the team. Offers of a new kit and money by a rival body – Federation – saw the team split into the two, leaving the original team tremendously weakened.

The split marked the beginning of the end for Rainbows. This was accelerated by a power-struggle between its ambitious and powerful administrators, Oerson and Gabriel. Both vied for the position of club president. This divided the team into two camps, in support of either contender. Some players simply stopped playing, whilst others left for more stable teams. The team eventually decided to merge with Universals to form the Universal Rainbows.