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CLEARING OUT: Queen's wing Ayathanda Mtyando passes the ball as he is challenged by Selborne defenders in their schools rugby match in Komani on Saturday. ***Picture: QUEEN'S PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY***

Queen's roar to victory over rivals Selborne

Queen's College were able to transform a titanic first-half battle into a comfortable 40-22 win in their King Price Derby Series match against arch-rivals Selborne College in Komani on Saturday.

The showdown saw the home team run away with the game in the second half after leading 15-14 at the break, enabling them to celebrate their 167th school reunion on a spectacular note.

With Thina Fenako prominent in midfield and Mveli Mqulo a threat from the back, Fenako and wing Ncutu Kepe each crossed for a brace of tries.

Selborne gave a gutsy performance and finished off the scoring with a try by prop Robert John-Osunkwo. The visitors had the better of the early exchanges and it was only determined defence by Queen's which stopped them crossing.

The home side were rewarded for a committed chase after they kicked ahead and quick work by their backs saw Fenako burst over for his first try. Selborne were rewarded when a forward charge saw Liam Hansen cross the line for their first points. After conceding a penalty, they went over for their second try, scored by Connor Maree, to lead for the only time in the match.

Queen's Mqulo then chipped ahead and gathered his own kick to score, making it 15-14 going into halftime. After the break, Queen's found their rhythm on attack, marked by a superb cross-kick from Mqulo which saw Kepe grab the ball and outpace the Selborne defence for his first try. They began to build scoreboard pressure with penalties by Mqulo and electrifying bursts by forwards Jeffrey Niland and Sambesiwe Vetman.

This put Queen's on the front foot, despite Selborne's persistence with their third try late in the game. — *SuperSportschools.com*

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