

A vital game for Rhodes against Old Selbornians

By Percy Owen

EAST LONDON — Rhodes University face their toughest hurdle in their quest for Border Cup rugby honours when they meet Old Selbornians in Grahams town this afternoon.

With Hamiltons virtually assured of two points at the expense of East London Police on the BRU Grounds this afternoon, Rhodes must beat Old Selbornians to stay in the hunt.

A win for Hamiltons will take them to 26 points. Rhodes, who have still to play five games, can claim a maximum of 27 points — provided they don't lose a match. Should Rhodes lose today and Hamiltons beat Police it will be over bar the shouting with Hamiltons then assured of the honours.

A win for Rhodes over Old Selbornians will clear the way for a relatively easy path to a final with Hamiltons on September 30. They meet Police on Wednesday night, Swifts next Saturday and Matola on September 23. Hamiltons, on the other hand, still have to play tenacious Cambridge on September 23.

For interest in the Border Cup competition to be prolonged to the last match of the season hinges on the outcome of the match between Rhodes and Old Selbornians today.

ROBIN PENNEFATHER

It is disturbing to learn that the Rhodes and Border centre, Robin Pennefather, is unlikely ever to play rugby again following an injury a week ago. Pennefather was in a serious condition with a locked jaw and concussion and, although recovering, has been advised to give up the game.

Rhodes will again use flank Alister Weakley in Pennefather's place at centre with John Yeld making a return on the flank. The Rhodes' front row has also been strengthened by the return of Gordon Fletcher at loose head.

Old Selbornians were having considerable trouble finalising their side. At least five players who took the field over the long

match and coach Neilen Locke said yesterday: "We know what is at stake and we will be trying our best to win this one and the remainder of our matches."

It is hardly uncharitable to say Police have hit their lowest ever ebb, despite a spirited comeback in the second half against Swifts on Monday.

BIG WIN

It is reasonable to predict a big win for Hamiltons, who will be without Rob Taylor on the wing and Sipo Wood at lock of their regular line-up. However, Koos Scholtz has proved a steady understudy on the wing for Taylor while Tinnie Vorster was Wood's regular partner before being injured and is back full of confidence.

The late game on the BRU Grounds here is between Cambridge and Transkei. Cambridge should have little trouble in winning to move to fourth position on the log.

Rhodes go down

GRAHAMSTOWN — Rhodes University, playing with only 14 men, put up a most commendable performance in their rugby match against the strong Free State University team when they lost by 31 points to 14 yesterday.

Rhodes did not deserve to lose by this margin.

The visitors were fit, having been on tour, while Rhodes have just returned from a month's holiday — and the team had no hard practice before the match.

Rhodes, however, rallied after half-time to dominate most of the game, but could not penetrate a solid line of UOF's players.

BARRY DODDS

Barry Dodds, the Rhodes' full-back, was injured a few minutes after the game started and left the field at half-time. Ally Weakley, the Rhodes' flanker, played a magnificent game as substitute full-back.

It is time this tigerish player was considered for a game in the Border side.

Even with only seven forwards in the scrum, the Rhodes' hooker, Ian Forbes, took most of the ball, and line-outs were an even battle.

The UOF's fly-half Van Der Walt, assisted ably by his centres and loose forwards, especially K.