

## History and Legacy of Peterite Basketball

### Early Beginnings

Basketball was introduced to St. Peter's College in 1955, making it one of the early adopters of the sport among Sri Lankan schools. A basketball court was constructed in the College playground that year, and Sam Chandrasena was appointed as the first team captain. This marked the beginning of an organised basketball programme at the College, aligned with the broader expansion of sports during the mid-20th century.

### Competitive Highlights and Championships

Peterite basketball rose to national prominence during the 1980s. One of the most notable achievements was winning the Under-19 All-Island Schools Basketball Championship in 1986. This success established St. Peter's College as a strong force in schools basketball. The momentum continued with the College emerging as All-Island Schools Basketball "A" Division Champions also in 1987 and 1988 securing the titles with dominance. Over the decades, Peterite teams have consistently reached finals and semifinals in major tournaments, maintaining a reputation for competitiveness and discipline.

### Rivalries and Regular Competitions

St. Peter's College basketball teams regularly compete against other leading Colombo schools such as St. Joseph's College and Royal College. These encounters have become key fixtures in the schools basketball calendar and are known for their intensity, skill, and strong supporter presence. Even in seasons without championship victories, Peterite teams remain consistent contenders.

### Infrastructure and Player Development

The College has invested significantly in sports infrastructure to support basketball development. The St. Peter's College Sports Centre Proposed a modern indoor basketball court that facilitates training and competitive matches. The basketball facilities have been refurbished over the years, particularly during milestone celebrations, ensuring players have access to high-quality training environments.

### Legacy and Cultural Impact

Basketball at St. Peter's College forms an integral part of the institution's sporting culture, alongside rugby, cricket, and athletics. The programme emphasizes discipline, teamwork, leadership, and character development in keeping with the College motto, *Virtus et Veritas*. Players are recognised annually at Colours Night, reinforcing pride and tradition within the sport.

## **Role of Alumni and Community**

The Old Peterites' Union and past players continue to play an active role in supporting basketball through coaching, mentorship, and sponsorship. Alumni involvement has helped preserve traditions, provide guidance to younger players, and strengthen the long-term sustainability of the programme.

## **Summary**

With a history spanning over seven decades, Peterite basketball stands as a respected and enduring part of Sri Lankan schools sports. From its introduction in 1955 to national championship successes and continued competitiveness today, basketball at St. Peter's College has contributed significantly to the sporting identity and legacy of the institution.

## **THE LEGACY: WHY ST. PETER'S?**

Partnering with St. Peter's College means aligning with a pioneer in Sri Lankan school sports.

- Origins: Basketball was introduced to the college in 1955 under the Rectorship of Rev. Fr. Basil Wiratunga.
- Innovation: In 1961, St. Peter's became the first school in Sri Lanka to install floodlights for basketball, shaping the modern game.
- Golden Era: The college has a history of dominance, notably the "Golden Era" (1986-1988) where we secured the A-Division Championship for three consecutive years.
- National Contribution: We have produced numerous national players, including legends like Sohan Wimalaratne and Mario Motha, Clifford Greig.

