

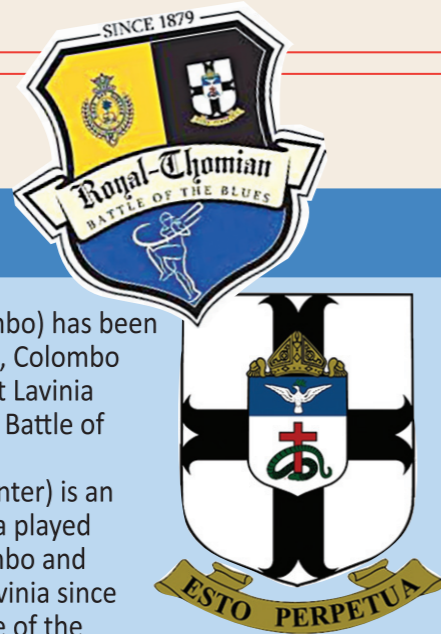
Current 'Big Matches'

Battle of the Blues (Colombo)



The Battle of the Blues (Colombo) has been played between Royal College, Colombo and S. Thomas College, Mount Lavinia since 1879, for 145 years. The Battle of the Blues (also known as the Royal-Thomian Cricket Encounter) is an annual 'Big Match' in Sri Lanka played between Royal College, Colombo and S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia since 1879. It is known as The Battle of the

Blues due to the colours of the two schools' flags, are blue, gold and blue of Royal College and the blue, black and blue of S. Thomas College. The original match was played between the Colombo Academy (as Royal College was known then) and S. Thomas' College, Mutwal in 1879, with schoolmasters and schoolboys participating. Ashley Walker captained the Colombo Academy while Rev. S. J. Meyrick, a member of the staff played for S. Thomas' College, Mutwal.



CRICKET BIG MATCH Fever



Come the 'Big Match' season in Sri Lanka, a thousand hearts will be beating for cricket and for their schools. The 'Big Matches' (also known as 'March Madness') are annual school cricket matches played between rival schools in Sri Lanka. These schools have played against one another for many years, some for over a century. 'Big Matches' have become an important part of modern Sri Lankan culture, with both schoolchildren and adults taking part in the activity. Most 'Big Matches' are played over two days. Three 'Big Matches', Battle of the Blues (Colombo), Battle of the Blues (Matara) and (Battle of the North) are played over three days.

Some of these encounters are very old, more than 100 years (Battle of the Blues (Colombo) - 145 years, Battle of the Blues (Matara) - 123 years, The Lovers Quarrel - 118 years.

As the teams battle on in whites, in the stands the atmosphere is jovial with much noise. The 'old boys', break into song, accompanied by joyful papare bands playing toe-tapping, hip shaking and arm waving baila music. Schoolboys join in the revelry, under the watchful eyes of their parents and teachers. The roads come alive with vehicle parades, where boys and men on crowded floats wave flags, sing to salute their school and hold out their hats for a generous collection. Cheering crowds usually invade the pitch to congratulate the winning team.

The oldest cricket match played between two schools in Sri Lanka is the 'Battle of the Blues' in Colombo between Royal College and S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. This year, it marks its 139th encounter. The match between St. Servatius College and St. Thomas's College in Matara takes place for the 117th time this year.

Other popular school cricket matches include the 'Battle of the Maroons' between age-old rivals in cricket, Ananda College and Nalanda College in Colombo now in its 88th year. The city will also come alive for the 83rd 'Battle of the Saints' between St. Joseph's College and St. Peter's College. More recent school 'Big Matches' are the 'Battle of the Brothers' between Isipathana and Thurstan Colleges as well as the two 'Battle of the Golds' in Colombo; Prince of Wales College vs St. Sebastian's College and the other D. S. Senanayake College vs Mahanama College. The rivalry goes on, but the spirit of the game unites all.

Battle of the Kingdoms



The Annual Big Match Cricket Encounter 'Battle of the Kingdoms' between Royal College Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura Central College was held for the first time on 2019 at the Royal College Polonnaruwa Cricket Ground.

Battle of the Blues (Matara)



The Battle of the Blues is an annual Big Match played between St. Thomas' College, Matara and St. Servatius' College, Matara since 1900. The Battle of the Blues (Matara) has been played between St. Thomas College, Matara and St. Servatius College Matara since 1900, for 123 years. It is the second oldest big match in the island.

'Battle of Golds'



Big Match between Jaffna College and St. Patrick's College, Jaffna played annually in Jaffna for 153 years.



Battle of the Blues (Ambalangoda)



The Battle of the Blues (also known as Sri Devananda-Dharmasoka cricket encounter) is an annual Big Match played between Dharmasoka College and Sri Devananda College, Ambalangoda since 1966 annually. This traditional 'Big Match' has been played, annually since 1966.

Battle of the Maroons (Kandy)



Annual cricket match between Dharmaraja College and Kingswood College, Kandy. The Dharmaraja-Kingswood

cricket encounter is between two of the largest government-run national boys schools in Kandy. It is the oldest cricket match series in the Central Province and the second oldest in Sri Lanka, having been played for 131 years. It is also known as the Battle of the Maroons, referring to the colours of the two schools. The first match was played in 1893, with the Dharmaraja team captained by Don Baron Jayatilaka, the then-incumbent principal of Dharmaraja College, and the Kingswood team was captained by A. E. Spencer. It was played at the Bogambara Stadium, which is no longer a cricket venue.

Battle of The Brothers



The 'Battle of The Brothers' is a schools' Big Match between Thurstan College and Isipathana College. The 'Battle of

the Brothers' commenced in 1964. Both schools compete for the 'Blackham Wijewardene Memorial Cup' and Isipathana College has won four times while Thurstan College has won it six times. This time they played for 61st Battle of the Brothers in the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground (SSC Ground).

Battle of the Maroons (Colombo)



Two leading Buddhist schools Ananda and Nalanda Colleges met in their 94th annual Battle of the Maroons cricket encounter on March 2-3 at the SSC ground.

Nalanda having come into existence as an off shoot of Ananda in 1924, a 'Big Match' was initiated between the two schools with the aim of building relations between students of the two institutions and developing their cricket. Thus, the

Battle of the Maroons was played between Ananda and Nalanda in 1924.

The inaugural cricket encounter between Ananda and Nalanda was played in 1924 and the Captains of Ananda and Nalanda were A.P. Rajakaruna and B.S.Perera. Throughout the long history of the Battle of the Maroons Ananda has emerged victorious on 12 occasions while Nalanda has recorded victories in 7 encounters.



The Battle of the Blues (The Trinity-Antonian cricket encounter)

The Trinity-Antonian cricket encounter is the leading annual school cricket 'Big Match' of the hill country which has been played between Trinity College, Kandy and St. Anthony's College, Kandy since 1914. It is considered to be one of the oldest annual school cricket encounters in Sri Lanka. The first encounter was played at the Bogambara Grounds in March 1914; the Antonians won this inaugural match. Trinity won the next match and a long, keenly

contested series has followed. Trinity College takes on hometown rivals St. Anthony's College in the 105th Upcountry Battle of the Blues.



Battle of the Saints



The Battle of the Saints is the annual Big Match between St. Joseph's College and St. Peter's College in Colombo.

Inaugurated in 1933 by the Rectors of both schools it has since become a highly anticipated event. The 90th Battle of the Saints encounter, both teams compete for the Reverend Father Maurice Legoc Trophy, named after the tournament's founder.

'Lovers Quarrel'

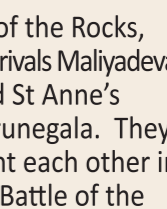
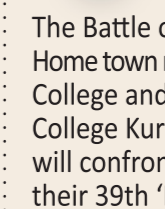


The Richmond-Mahinda cricket encounter, popularly referred to as the 'Lovers Quarrel', is an annual cricket big match played between

Richmond College and Mahinda College in Galle. It is one of the longest cricket encounters in Sri Lanka, having been played for over 119 years. The 'Lovers Quarrel' began in 1905, under the two principals, Rev. James Horne Darrel of Richmond College and Sir Frank Lee Woodward of Mahinda College. The Richmond - Mahinda big match was played for the first time at the Galle esplanade.

Battle of the Rocks

The Battle of the Rocks, Home town rivals Maliyadeva College and St Anne's College Kurunegala. They will confront each other in their 39th 'Battle of the Rocks' Cricket encounter in Kurunegala.



Battle of the North



The Battle of the North is a school Big Match between Jaffna Central College and St. John's College, Jaffna. This year they compete for 117th encounter in Jaffna.