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# Faith discovers story of her Springbok father from 1951

By MAIRÉAD NALLY

THE celebrated visit to Limerick by the South African rugby team in 1951 was remembered fondly this week by the daughter of one of the visiting Springboks.

Faith du Rand's father J "Salty" du Rand, played for the Springbok touring team that beat Munster on December 11, 1951 in Thomond Park.

The game was broadcast in both South Africa and Ireland on the day immediately before Ms du Rand's sixth birthday. She explained she always intended looking up the report of the game when she came to Limerick. "My father scored the final try," she said proudly. Sadly Salty du Rand, who was Rhodesian (Zimbabwean) by birth, died 10 years ago.

This visit, she stated will be the first of many. "I love it here, she said and I will definitely be coming back next year for my holidays."

She added she had heard a lot about Ireland and had watched many films about the country but she was amazed at the hospitality of the people.

Ms du Rand, who has five sisters, admitted she has a great love for the

game of rugby and attends as many games as she can at home in Capetown. She explained that her nephew continues the rugby playing tradition in the du Rand family. "He is very involved in the game in South Africa."

According to the report on the game in 1951 there was little between the Springbok team and the Munster team under captain Tom Clifford. The final score was 11-6. Honorary manager of the South African team, Colonel FW Mellish was quoted as saying "it was the toughest match, we had so far". Mr du Rand played an important part as a forward in the game, not only in scoring the winning try but in holding the team together. "Their pack became disorganised on a few occasions and were held together by the giant du Rand," the report stated.

A dinner was given that night by the Munster Branch, IRFU in Cruise's Hotel in honour of the visitors.

The South Africans were very pleased with the arrangements that had been made. There was one little hitch, and that was the playing of a South African folk song instead of the South African national anthem.

According to the report 'the magnificent display of our provincial team completely baffled the critics and very nearly baffled the



Faith du Rand receiving photocopies of the Limerick Leader reports on the 1951 Springbok v Munster game from Paddy Ryan, Garryowen F C, with Tom Creagh, Nenagh Ormonde RFC.

Springboks. The visitors played their usual game of exhibition football; well-nigh perfect scrummaging, lengthy tough finding and

the all-important breakthrough at centre which led to their tries.'

The Springbok team were taken on a tour of

Shannon Airport and the Limerick Golf Club at Ballyclough before leaving the country.

Ms du Rand returns to

Capetown next week happy in the knowledge that she has retraced her father's famous footsteps on the rugby pitches of Ireland.