

# Rowing to script

By PHIL MANGELSDORF

The script for the two main events for school-boy and schoolgirl rowing at the Head of the River at West Lakes was difficult to stick to in some ways but predictable in others.

The Walford girls, who were firm favorites for their event, stuck to the script and won by a commanding margin to take the title for the fourth time in a row.

Walford also broke the course record and, in so doing, became the first schoolgirl crew to race the 2000m under seven minutes.

The Walford crew has been unbeaten all season in SA and raced confidently in the perfect conditions at West Lakes to win by more than a boat length

from the Pembroke School, with Scotch College a close third.

The boys' race was won by St Peter's College in what was a much tighter competition. St Peter's is always the school to beat, something like Port Adelaide in local football.

It has won the Head of the River more than 30 times, or nearly half the number of times the event has been held.

This year Scotch College

has beaten St Peter's several times, including a win in the State championship two weeks ago, but all this seemed to do was make the St Peter's crew perform even better.

Scotch College took the early lead in the 2000m race and was leading at the halfway mark when both St Peter's and last year's winners, Prince Alfred College, began to turn the event into an exciting three-boat race.

Few supporters expected Prince Alfred to be even close to the other front-runners but it had its own script to write.

Only inexperienced showed at the end, when the very young Prince Alfred rowers just failed to catch St Peter's at the finish line as they swept past Scotch College.

The margins between each of the three crews was only a second each and the ferocity of the contest saw St Peter's break the course and race record times for the event and become the first Head of the River winner to break the six-minute barrier to take the Gosse Shield.

There was a huge crowd at West Lakes for the regatta and it saw a host of fine racing, with most of the competing schools winning events in the various underage and small-boat categories.

## England fights back

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad: England fought back encouragingly in the final session to restrict the West Indies to 7/227 on the first day of the Third Test at Queen's Park here. A dramatic middle-order collapse saw West Indies, poised at 1/158 soon after tea, lose four wickets for six runs and surrender the early initiative they had seized on a pitch helpful to bowlers. Richie Richardson, who made 63, was the only batsman to pass 50 as England seamers Chris Lewis and Angus Fraser shared five wickets to build on the initial work of leg-spinner Ian Salisbury.

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