

Walford aims for record row

The girls of Walford School plan to win a record fifth, successive Florence Eaton Cup at today's Head of the River rowing regatta at West Lakes.

Walford's eight has not been beaten in the 2000 m race since it entered in 1991.

Last year's crew, whose only continuing member is 1995 captain Carolyn Sladden, also won the schoolgirls eight at the national titles in Tasmania while the '95 rowers - the SA schoolgirls and third-grade women's eight champions - also have tasted national success. Early this month they won the school-

girls eight title at the Australian Henley Regatta on the Yarra.

"They are not as big a crew as we had last year but technically they are probably the best we have produced," said Walford director of rowing Geoff Perry, who guides the eight with SASI coach Fleur McIntyre. He said the strengthening Unley High crew would be Walford's strongest threat.

The boys first eight race for the Gosse Shield, is tipped to be much closer. Defending champion St Peters and State champion Scotch College, which has not won a shield since 1954, have been dicing for success this season and are tipped to fight out the title.

Prince Alfred beat Saints last week and also should take the race up to the leading pair. CBC, Pulteney Grammar, Pembroke and Unley High Schools make up the field. For the first time in 63 years, Adelaide High School will not compete. The 20-race program begins at 10.30 am with the boys and girls first eights from 2 pm.

- David Valente