

PAC heads to quinella

Prince Alfred College rowing eight is on target to seal an elusive quinella at West Lakes today by adding a prestigious Head of the River victory to its *The Advertiser* Shield State title.

The crew (as pictured from left) – Richard Jones, Ryan Thomas, Luke Vandeppeer, Bay Manuell, Ben Cox, James Ledgard, Daniel Polonka, Marcus Booth and cox Joseph DeMaria – won *The Advertiser* Shield, the schoolboys First VIII State championship, by less than a second to St Peters on March 2 and today will line up for the season highlight Head of the River.

The last time Princes won the *Tiser* Shield was in 1993 when they went on to take the coveted double and win the Goss Shield as well. Coach John Curtis hopes history will repeat itself.

“I’m looking at it as a good omen. This is also my third year (coaching rowing at PAC) and the first two crews finished second so maybe it’s third time lucky,” Curtis said. “But it’s going to be a very close race, there’s no clear-cut favorite this year.”

Last year’s winner Scotch College, Pulteney Grammar School, Pembroke and St Peters are all strong contenders for the championship.

Five members of PAC’s eight – Booth, Ledgard, Cox, Manuell and Jones – rowed First VIII last year when PAC was second to Scotch College.

Walford’s eight again will be the centre of attention in the schoolgirls racing as they strive for their sixth successive Florence Eaton Cup.

The crew, which has won the event every year since it has contested the Head of the River, has successfully tested its skills on a national level this month, winning silver at the national championships in Sydney, only 0.02 second behind the winner.

Pembroke and the much-improved Wilderness crew seem the only threats to continuing its winning run.

Racing starts at 10.15am at West Lakes and will conclude with the premier events, the boys’ First VIII at 1.55pm and the girls’ First VIII at 2.05pm.



ON TARGET . . . the Prince Alfred College rowing eight aiming for a Head of the River win.