

ROWING

Walford will be intent on replacing the Florence Eaton Cup in its familiar position in the school's trophy case today when it contests the schoolgirls' first VIII, one of the premier events of the Head of the River rowing carnival at West Lakes.

Ten of Adelaide's elite rowing schools, almost 200 rowers and more than 10,000 spectators will take part in the annual rowing spectacle from 10am today. Walford coach Geoff Perry considers the girls "the fastest Walford crew ever".

"We'll be going to nationals again in two weeks, and they're at Lake Barrington (in Tasmania) again, looking to win back the Australian title," Perry said.

Wilderness should be the only crew capable of threatening Walford among the five-boat field including Scotch College, Pembroke and Unley High School.

Prince Alfred College, winner of the past two *Advertiser* Shield State boys' VIII championships, is top contender to win the Gosse Shield and claim the elusive double despite an impressive field of contenders led by St Peter's College. Christian Brothers

College and Pembroke and Pulteney Grammar schools are the other main rivals in the eight-boat race. The highlights of the 22-race program include fours, quads and eights. The girls' first VIII will be raced at 2.10pm followed by the boys' race at 2.20pm.