

Saints rowers on roll

By EMMA KIBBLE

IT SEEMS there is nothing that can stop the St Peter's First VIII rowing team from winning regattas at the moment - nothing in the water that is.

The team, coached by David Bishop and captained by Jack Harbison, has enjoyed a highly successful start to the season, claiming titles in every major regatta it has competed in.

"So far they have had a very good season," Bishop said.

"I am very pleased that the boys have been able to do as well as they have, winning every major regatta that they could win."

Saints has claimed the

City of Adelaide Trophy, the Cornell Shield at the Port Adelaide Regatta and the first grade, second grade and third grade men's championships - a feat which has never before been accomplished by a schoolboy's crew.

Along with their recent victories, Saints are the reigning Head of the River title-holders and last week defeated arch-rival Prince Alfred College to claim *The Advertiser Shield*.

The shield, awarded to the winner of the State Schoolboy's Championship, was reclaimed by St Peter's for the first time since 1991.

According to Bishop, despite the accolades which have been bestowed upon the team thus far, the real test will be next weekend's

national championships at West Lakes.

St Peter's will represent South Australia in the youth VIII's competition.

"Seeing how we fare against the schoolboy crews at the Australian championships will be a true test for us," Bishop said.

"It will really let us see if we have narrowed the divide between us and the Eastern states."

After the nationals, St Peter's will defend its Head of the River title at West Lakes on March 27 before heading to England to compete in the schoolboy's race at the Henley Royal Regatta - famous for the annual Oxford/Cambridge grudge match - in July.



THAT WINNING FEELING: St Peter's headmaster Richard Burchnall and First VIII captain Jack Harbison with *The Advertiser Shield*. Looking on are, from left, John Walsh, Hugh MacGillivray, Angus Wood, Hugh Shannon (at back), Edward Scammell, William McLachlan, Jo Smit and James Arnold.
Picture: JO-ANNA ROBINSON.