



St Peter's boys rowing to victory.

## Saints' top crew wins regatta for 'perfect season'

■ **ROWING:** St Peter's College First VIII capped off a perfect season by winning the premier race of the prestigious Head of the River schools rowing regatta at West Lakes yesterday.

Saints' top crew went through the South Australian season undefeated, including winning the State championship, before they charged clear yesterday to win the Gosse Shield from Scotch College and last year's winner PAC.

The dominant eight also placed second in the national titles on the Olympic course at Penrith last month.

Proud stroke John Walsh said it was his crew's mental toughness that made sure they drew clear all the way to the line. "Last year (when they lost to PAC) I think we lay down a bit but this year we just kept going. We were powering on when we could have relaxed," he said.

And Scotch College's Girls VIII made its school's 75th anniversary of rowing something to remember by emphatically winning the race for the Florence Eaton Cup for the first time in 10 years.

Winning by three lengths from Wilderness and Walford, Scotch recorded the second-fastest time in the 13 years of the event, stopping the clock after 6min, 48.87seconds.

Coach Barnaby Eaton said the girls' strength lay in their height and their tremendous endurance. "They can almost maintain the same speed over 5km that they can over 2km," Eaton said.

St Peter's, which has dominated the boys competition with 12 Gosse Shield wins since 1977, showed the depth of its talent by also winning the Second VIII – again from Scotch and PAC – and the First IV, with Pembroke and PAC taking the placings.

The Second VIII victory extended Saints' winning streak in that event to five.

Walford was almost seven seconds clear of Wilderness for the girls Second VIII trophy while Unley had the edge over Walford and Pembroke in the First IV race.

- DAVID VALENTE.

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