



Scotch College girls after their win yesterday

PAC powers to triumph over old foe

■ **ROWING:** PRINCE Alfred College overcame arch rival St Peter's College to win the school boy first eight Head of The River at West Lakes yesterday.

PAC, which went into the race hot favourite, held off the hard-charging St Peter's crew to win the 2000m event by less than 2m.

Scotch College was third, more than five lengths behind.

The battle between the first two boats was intense from the start, but PAC managed to pull out a lead of a quarter boat length after the first 500m.

Its lead increased to a half length at the 1000m mark, before St Peter's drew back to within a quarter at 1500m.

The second-placed crew finished hard, increasing its stroke rating and gradually started to overhaul the race leader.

But PAC, urged on by the large and vocal crowd, found the strength to hold on to the lead and take the win.

The race was so intense it was completed in 5 minutes 55.1sec — just one second over record time.

The win topped a good day for PAC, which also won the first fours event.

St Peter's had success in other events, winning the main Year 9 and Year 10 events, as well as the second eight.

After trailing Walford for 1500m, Scotch College increased its pace to win the schoolgirls' first eight. The win — by nearly a boat length — came in record time of 6m48.72sec.

Walford just managed to hold out a hard-finishing Wilderness School for second, and Pembroke was right behind it.

Walford won the second eight and the main Year 9 and Year 10 events. Pembroke took out the girls' first fours.

The perfect conditions attracted a huge crowd to the West Lakes venue, and may have broken the previous record of 10,000.

- PHIL MANGELSDORF

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