

# North gone for sure

From **LIONEL BEALE**

**East Sydney, with its strong win over North Shore last Sunday became the team to beat for the 1981 pennant.**

Newtown had an easy victory over Balmain and remains with East Sydney on top of the Escort premiership ladder.

In the other important match with bearing on the finals, Western Suburbs reversed the decision in its last two encounters with Pennant Hills and won clearly by six goals.

The question now is Pennant Hills going to be the team to crumble after some fine mid-season form?

In the other games, the improvers in the Sydney competition, St. George had seven goals in hand at final siren

time after trailing by four points at half time.

North Shore now sit two games out of the top four which comprises Newtown and East Sydney on 52 points with Pennant Hills and Western Suburbs on 44 points each.

The Bears are fifth on 36 points and must just about win all their remaining five games starting with St. George this weekend.

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**Peter Ruscuklic, the East Sydney full forward kicked another 12 goals against North Shore to take his season's total to 134.**

**He is well on his way to breaking his 1980 record of 156.**

Ruscuklic will be seen playing in

the Easts-Wests curtain-raiser game at the Sydney Cricket Ground before the South Melbourne-Collingwood match on Sunday.

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**South Melbourne comes to Sydney!**

Well, at least for this Sunday's clash against Collingwood at the SCG and the Swans will be seeking revenge for their first round loss to the Magpies this year.

I hope the VFL conducts one of its famous studies at the SCG.

The survey asking Sydney people (repeat: Sydney people) about the proposal that South Melbourne plays home games, or away games, or Friday night under lights, or Sundays in the sun — and any other valid question.

The answers could be very interesting.



# N.S.W.

**The new recruit to Pennant Hills is Tony McGivern from Melbourne Football Club.**

Pennant Hills signed four other recruits before clearances closed, including former Dandenong (VFA) player Peter Smith and former Wagga backman Bill Darnell.

Other new Hills players are Mike Smith and rover Mark Foley.