

Shield in retrospect

From **LIONEL BEALE**

It was a sad day for NSW last Sunday, when it bowed out of contention for the Escort Shield, going down to the ACT 27.9 (171) to 17.15 (117), after a lack-lustre display.

This was the third defeat for NSW in the competition this year.

NSW had few good players, or, more accurately, few players allowed to give a good performance.

The ACT had a host of match-winners but, for mine, Mark Southwell, Kevin Neale and Keith Miller finished in a triple dead heat for best afield.

Easily best for NSW was the former Melbourne player, Gary Hardeman, who gave a top display.

Bill McBride, John Pilkington, Russell Morris and Jim Richardson all battled hard for NSW.

In the early game, the SFL team, comprising more than 50 percent under 19s players, defeated the Newcastle league 15.11 (101) to 10.9 (69).

fused to send an under 19s side for the early game last Sunday.

Best players for SFL were (another dead heat!) between Rod Podbury (Bankstown Sports) and St George's John McMahon, while Newcastle was best served by Alex Marton and Robert Byrnes.

Following the NSW defeat, the chairman of selectors, Mr John Armstrong, handled a host of inquiries regarding the state's future.

In answer to a question, Mr Armstrong told Inside Football that "the NSW league would love to see Sydney versus Riverina game — then pick the best for representation in the NSW team."

"It would be very costly because of the distance and we would only get six or seven players from the country."

Mr Armstrong does not believe Riverina players anyway, want to be involved.

But other NSW selectors quoted, Max Druse, Brian Quade and Greg Smith as players from the Riverina, who grabbed their chance to represent NSW and that, in turn, gave them a start to top football today.

team was selected from all of NSW, not just Sydney.

East Sydney forward, Geoff Spaulding, is the SFL's leading goalkicker so far.

A couple of weeks ago, he kicked 13 goals in one match, proving that he is in fine form.

Last year, Geoff was third on the goalkicking tally, with 72 majors to his credit.

His team-mate, Peter Ruscuklic, finished with 213 goals last season, which may have restricted Spaulding's chances somewhat!

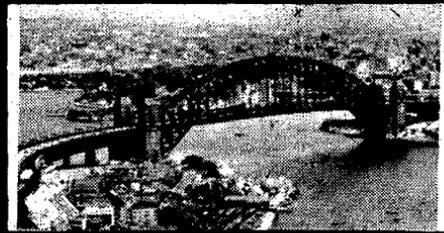
Pennant Hills forward, Steve Edwards, with St George's John Tuckwell, are Spaulding's nearest rivals for the leading goalkicker title this season.

But it looks odds-on that for the third season in a row, an East Sydney forward will head the goalkicking here, if Geoff Spaulding continues his great form.

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This weekend the action for NSW will be in Newcastle and Queensland.

NSW director of coaching, Graeme Hamilton, reported recently to Inside Football, on the Teal Cup squad in AL-



N.S.W.

Three Sydney boys, one from the Illawarra league and one from the South Coast league, all made the team to play in the Under 17 championships in Queensland.

The Sydney boys were Dean Brandt (Campbelltown), Peter Dedes (Bankstown) and Mark Robberds (St George).

The South Coast representative is A. Hilton and M. Milic comes from the Illawarra.

Also this weekend, the NSW country championships will be staged in Newcastle.

The leagues competing will be South Coast, Illawarra, Central Coast, New England and North Coast.

South Coast has held the title for