TAS school their rivals

SEVEN boys from The Armidale School’s First XI will go on to play for the North Coast Independent Schools squad after an undefeated performance at the NCIS championships played in Armidale yesterday.

Almost 200 primary and secondary boys and girls representing schools from the Tweed to Kempsey competed in the tournament, hosted by TAS for the second consecutive year. The top TAS team had convincing wins in all four matches, defeating Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School from Tweed Heads 1-0, Emmanuel Anglican College from Ballina 5-0, Bishop Druitt College from Coffs Harbour 3-0 and Kempsey Adventist College, 5-0.

Rory Spiers and Hadrian Wright had a cracker day kicking five goals each, while Spiers’ younger brother Euan booted a hatrick in one game.

"It was great to have a good hit out before the season officially starts," Spiers senior will be joined by teammates Alex Boulus, Saxon Hardingham, Luke O’Donoghue, Michael O’Sullivan, Dymon Ruba and Sam Zuill as part of the 15-man NCIS squad which will compete in the Combined Independent Schools championships later in the year.

“It was great to have a good hitout before the season officially starts, and get some games in,” said TAS football captain Saxon Hardingham, who will be an NCIS third timer. “We’ve got a reasonably new TAS opens team with a few younger boys coming up, and while we’ve had two trial games, it was a great opportunity to play a number of games on the one day.”

Bishop Druitt players made up the bulk of the remainder of the NCIS squad, and the school also took out the senior girls and both primary divisions, with the TAS team runners up in the junior boys.

CLASS ABOVE: Michael O’Sullivan from TAS fights for possession with a player from Bishop Druitt College. O’Sullivan and his teammates were far too good for the Coffs Harbour school running out 5-1 victors.