

ERREA KNOCKOUT FOOTBALL FINALS NIGHT ON THE SOUTH COAST

In an exciting end to the secondary football season, **South Coast Region** held their **regional knockout finals night** on Wednesday night, 19 October, 2007, at **Albion Park Football Club**.

The NSW Combined High Schools runs a knockout competition each year for all secondary schools in NSW called the Errea Cup (boys) and Errea Trophy (girls). This year over 350 school teams were entered in each of the competitions, so to reach the final 16 teams in the state, as these schools did, is a fantastic achievement.

In the girls' fixture, local school **Albion Park HS** played **Moss Vale HS** in what turned out to be a game of changing fortunes. Moss Vale went ahead after only 5 minutes and looked threatening before Albion Park first equalised then went ahead with only 15 minutes to go. But with 1 minute left on the clock Moss Vale somehow sneaked their second to make the final score 2-2 and send the game into extra time.

Both teams were weary and it was going to be a case of last player standing as play shifted from end to end, but it was Moss Vale who conjured up the winner in the first period of extra time to take the game 3-2 and engrave their name on the South Coast winners trophy for the first time ever.

The boys' game was a fast and furious affair with some real quality football being displayed by both teams. Finalists **Warilla HS** and **Mulwaree HS** were both looking to play bright attacking football and the large crowd was kept entertained throughout the evening. Chances came at both ends before Warilla finally opened the scoring before half time. A one goal lead however was looking decidedly fragile as Mulwaree came close several times.

The second half was no different as both teams looked to crack the other's defence. As time wore on Mulwaree threw caution to the wind and sent players forward, resulting in chances for both teams that all were unsuccessful. Supporters were on their feet as full time approached, encouraging their teams to the end. With the score still at 1-0 the final whistle blew and Warilla players and fans celebrated an historic victory for the school.

Special thanks go to the Albion Park Football Club for hosting a great night's football and supporting our young players. Errea's involvement and financial support for the statewide competition is greatly valued and our own South Coast Schools Sports Unit has again provided individual players medals for the two winning teams.

A great end to the season and plenty to look forward to next year!