

Nowra scrap metal dealer Phil Olsen has taken the lead in The Mercury Illawarra Rugby Union Player of the Year award.

Olsen, the Shoalhaven club prop, took the three-point major award for his performance against Goulburn at the weekend.

The award took him to five points after his two point effort against Waratahs in the first match of the season.

Olsen came to Shoalhaven in 1978 after the club advertised for players in New Zealand. He missed last season and returned to the club this year.

He prefers to play hooker and in that position represented Hawkes Bay and Wai-kato.

Other third round major award winners were Tony Elrlington (Weerona), Grant Hunt (Teachers College), Peter Dunster (Kiama) and Justin Brown (Bowral).

Olsen holds a one point lead over Kiama halfback Nick Saphin, Tech College second rower Gary Hussy and Camden five-eight Bill Clifton.

Saphin now has three point allocations from as many matches, and leads the race for The Mercury's Most Consistent Player award.

The points allocations and the judges reasons for giving them were:

### SHOALHAVEN v GOULBURN

Judge: John Ryan

- 3—PHIL OLSEN (S'haven prop): The dominant forward in a dominant pack.
- 2—Keith Jones (S'haven hooker): Won every scrum except one.
- 1—John Horton (S'haven

winger): Strong defensive game.

### TECH COLLEGE v WEERONA

Judge: Lou Pogson

- 3—TONY ELRLINGTON (Weerona b'away): Good mobility. Set up possession from rucks and mauls.

2—Alex Zelenki (Tech winger): Very fast. Scored try and ran down Weerona attackers from behind.

1—Gary Hussy (Tech second rower): Strong lineout jumping.

### TEACHERS COL'GE v GOULBURN CAE

Judge: Bill Chapman

3—GRANT HUNT (Teachers second row): Top all round performance, especially in tight and line-outs.

2—Greg McDonald (GCAE No. 8): Held team together well, good positional play.

3—Dennis Wann (Teachers No. 8): Prominent in attack and defence.

### KIAMA v CAMDEN

Judge: Pat Kearney

3—PETER DUNSTER (Kiama second row): Tigerish in tight. Quick to the breakdown.

2—Bill Clifton (Camden five eight): Tactical kicking got forwards past advantage line.

1—Nick Saphin (Kiama half): Service sound. Sharp in attack, solid in defence.

# OLSEN LEAPS TO THE LEAD



● NICK SAPHIN



● PETER WOODS

### PORT KEMBLA v BOWRAL

Judge: Ken Rose

3—JUSTIN BROWN (Bowral b'away): Strong in defence. Drove his pack.

2—John Hulbert (PK five-eight): Directed play well. Defence good.

1—Rod Kuhn (PK half): Inspiration in attack. Scored try.

● Progress points in the award are:

5—PHIL OLSEN (S'haven).

4—N. Saphin (K), G. Hussy (Tech), B. Clifton (C'den)

3—K. McCarthy (V), B. Lecorni (Tech.), K. Mungovan (S'rocks), N. Sverdloff (S'haven), C. Delaney (V), F. Cutifani (S'rocks), N. Yates (Teachers), P. Southwell (GCAE), L. Hulbert (PK), T. Tytle (G), T. Elrlington (W), G. Hunt (Teachers), P. Dunster (K), J. Brown (Bow.).

2—P. Woods (V), S. Armstrong (Teachers), R. Ryan (S'rocks), F. White-

man (C'den), C. Mercer (S'rocks), J. Rangatawa (W), J. Campbell (S'haven), S. Delaundre (W'tahs), K. Jones (S'haven), A. Zelenki (Tech), G. McDonald (GCAE), J. Hulbert (PK).

1—R. Nolan (Tech), P. Robinson (W), S. Bauleh (S'rocks), M. Hotchkis (W'tahs), B. Peacock (C'den), N. Davis (Bow), J. Ireland (K), S. Balcomb (GCAE), P. Emery (S'haven), Greg Brims (G), J. Horton (S'haven), D. Wann (Teachers), R. Kuhn (PK).

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