

SIX STILL IN SEMIS RACE

Six teams are left to fight out the Illawarra rugby union semi-final berths with six games to go — and only two can be considered certainties.

Vikings and Goulburn, the co-competition leaders with 27 points, are likely to contest the major semi-final.

This leaves four teams, Kiama, Technical College, Teachers-Uni and Camden to fight out the last two semi positions.

Kiama were considered home and hosed but consecutive draws against Goulburn and, on Saturday, against Tech College have brought them back to the field.

They are still clear third on 22 points, leaving the other three teams on 20 points.

The pressure on the quartet will mount week by week, with Camden and Kiama to clash next week and Teachers-Uni to tackle Goulburn the same day.

In Saturday's round 16 games, Vikings beat Port Kembla 29-0 at Reid Park, Dapto, Tech College drew 7-all with Kiama at Kiama Showground (see story this page), Shamrocks accounted for Weerona 19-13 at Nicholson Park, Goulburn ran away from Waratahs 30-10 at Keira Oval, Camden defeated Bowral 14-6 at Erridge Park and Teachers-Uni whipped Shoalhaven 32-9 at Shoalhaven Rugby Park.

The full competition table reads: Goulburn and Vikings 27, Kiama 22, Camden, Tech College and Teachers-Uni 20, Shoalhaven 15, Shamrocks and Port Kembla 13, Waratahs 6, Bowral and Weerona 4.

Shoalhaven's loss saw their last chances of making the final four slip away.

With the absence of Nick Sverdlhoff and Glen Armstrong in the backs compounding the Shoals' mounting injury list, the home team were powerless to stop Teachers-Uni running in seven tries to one.

Armstrong and Sverdlhoff were away with the Navy Colts side, as were four of the club's top second graders.

Teachers-Uni's second rower Grant Hunt led the charge with two tries with the backs scoring the other five.

Half Steve Armstrong, centre Graham Irvin, wingers Ken Wright and Brad Sewell and fullback Steve Audsley all crossed for tries while Audsley was successful with two conversions.

Shoalhaven were able to counter with only a try by Gerard Krelle while Cranston Dixon, who re-

placed Glen Armstrong at five-eighths, landed a penalty goal and a conversion.

After Camden's slow start to the season, they are maintaining their charge towards the semis.

They scored three tries to one in their 14-6 local derby win against Bowral, all through the forwards.

Country firsts prop Fred Whiteman, No 8 forward Brett Riley and breakaway Brian Peacock

crossed with five-eighth Jim McDonald landing a solitary conversion.

At Keira Oval, Goulburn were held to an 11-6 lead at half-time by a determined Waratahs side which led 3-0 early and 6-3 mid-way through the first 40 minutes.

Goulburn's goalkicking winger Gary Brims made it 14-6 early in the second half, but Waratahs hit back with a try to Kosta

By
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Delimahalis from an up and under.

Gene Ross, the Waratahs fullback, missed an easy conversion, one of the few blotches on his copybook during the match.

This was as close as the 'Tahs were to get, as Goulburn finished on strongly to run out winners 30-10.

Vikings ran up a half-time lead of 21-0 against

Port Kembla in their clash at Dapto.

No 8 forward Rob Dawson, breakaway Peter Woods and prop Dave Higgins were in for first half tries, all converted by five-eighth David Laming, who also kicked a penalty to start the scoring.

Backs Matthew Sherring and Tony Detourette crossed in the second half, both wide out. Laming missed both difficult kicks.

At Nicholson Park, Shamrocks returned to the winners' list with a 19-13 result against Weerona.

The trusty boot of Rod Mercer swung the game for the 'Rocks after both sides had scored two tries.

Mercer kicked three penalty goals and converted one of five-eighth Peter Pilcher's two tries.

Dave Orook and Geoff Crocker were in for Weerona's tries, and Andy McClure raised the flags with one conversion and a penalty goal.