ROWING

St Augustine's schools rivals

Jon Geddes

ST AUGUSTINE'S College at Brookvale muscled in on the traditional territory of GPS Schools when the 1st IV rowing crew won the NSW Schoolboys Championships at the International Rowing Regatta at Penrith.

The talented crew of Sean Murphy, Will Grisewood, Zac Von Appen, Jack Bray and cox Finnigan Mitchell covered the 2000m course on Saturday in a time of 6 min 43 sec.

They have qualified for the Australian Championships in Penrith in March.

Coach and former German Olympic rower Matthias Ungemach said they had come a long way in the past three years.

"I got them pretty young in Year 8 and Year 9 and they have done really well," Ungemach said.

"We have been building up towards this, every year they have improved."

In three years at the state championships, they finished fourth, third and now first. He said while St Augustine's had a smaller program than the tradition rowing schools, they could reach the same quality.

Later that day they competed in the NSW Under-19 regatta against many club rowers and won a silver medal.

Ungemach played down his role in the success.

"The boys worked really hard. I am just the facilitator," he said.

The St Augustine's first IV crew celebrate their big win.