

Noel's cancer role has focus on higher goal

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE

By JOEL RITCHIE

HIS side faces a mighty challenge in the form of leaders Albion Park today, but Dapto player-coach Noel Spencer is on the frontline of a bigger battle - the one against cancer.

A-League, NSL and local championship winner Spencer is the Illawarra ambassador for the Cancer Council's Call to Arms campaign, which will raise funds for men's cancer research, prevention, information and support services.

An official World Cup match ball signed by Spencer's national ambassadorial counterpart - Socceroo Tim Cahill - is the centrepiece of the local effort.

Spencer threw his weight behind the push after discovering half of Australian men would be diagnosed with cancer by 85.

"Knowing that one-in-three cancers are preventable, I advocate that all males cut their cancer risk by not smoking, reducing alcohol intake, eating healthily and exercising," Spencer said.

"Raising the awareness of cancer is extremely important and I encourage all footballers and fans to support the campaign."

Players will wear yellow armbands this weekend, while clubs are invited to raise funds throughout July.

Last year, more than 3700 sports teams throughout NSW took part in the



Worthy cause: Noel Spencer takes time out from a kids' coaching clinic this week to show off the Tim Cahill-autographed World Cup football that will be auctioned to raise money for the Cancer Council.

Picture: MELANIE RUSSELL

fundraiser, and helped raise more than \$350,000 across Australia.

Illawarra Football Association manager David Naylor is running a silent auction of an adidas Jabulani football signed by Cahill. Bids should be emailed to

david@footballillawarra.asn.au. The auction closes on Friday, July 30.

Also today, Tarrawanna play Dandaloo at Tarrawanna Oval, Picton travel to Balls Paddock to face Bulli and Port Kembla host Woonona at Wetherall Park.

Tomorrow, Fernhill play Cringila at Crehan Park and Wollongong United face South Coast United at McLennan Park.

District League side Warilla travel to Tarrawanna for a Bampton Cup quarter-final.