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FIGHT FOR DAL SANTO

ROOS AFL SNUB



THE simmering tension between the Sydney Swans and the AFL erupted yesterday when the league reluctantly cancelled a planning weekend in Sydney from Friday.

The stunning decision came after Sydney coach Paul Roos withdrew from his scheduled appointment as a keynote speaker to league executives on Friday.

Roos, angered by AFL chief executive Andrew Demetriou's refusal to apologise for public criticism of the Sydney style of play, pulled out of his commitment to address an estimated 25 AFL officials, including Demetriou, on the



Mike SHEAHAN

EXCLUSIVE

state of the game in New South Wales.

The AFL party was to spend Friday and Saturday in Syd-

ney, taking in Saturday's Swans-Essendon encounter at Telstra Stadium.

Sydney chairman Richard Colless last night confirmed Roos' decision to snub the AFL visit.

"I think Paul feels seriously that he's a major supporter of the AFL in this market, and I think he feels this (the Demetriou criticism) was entirely inappropriate and unfair," Colless said.

He said Roos had made the decision without consultation, but added: "I'm prepared for him to make the decision. He feels his reputation has been sullied."

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Swan dive: Paul Roos was angered by the comments of Andrew Demetriou (above left).

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