



swas south west academy of sport

Hickert revels in Asian influence

SOUTH West Academy of Sport basketballer Tyler Hickert has returned from China with new insight into the Asian style of playing the game after attending the Nike All Asia Camp.

"It's more free-flowing and a lot of three-point shooting," he said.

The up-and-coming basketballer spent a week in Beijing where he participated in skills sessions and games and also benefited from training by top coaches.

A rising star in junior basketball, Hickert's selection for the camp is the latest in a long list of

achievements for the Bunbury teenager who was noted for his strong performance at this year's Under-18 Australian Basketball Championships in Terrigal, New South Wales.

He was invited to attend the 2010 National Development Camp at the Australian Institute of Sport on the back of his efforts at the nationals.

It was the second year in a row the talented basketballer was chosen to attend.

Hickert is the inaugural winner of the 2009 SWAS Basketball Athlete of the Year Award.



South West Academy of Sport basketballer Tyler Hickert with his under-18s teammates.

Footballers get high profile help

FOOTBALLERS from around the region benefited when AFL great and WAFC high performance coach Rob Wiley took charge of a recent South West Academy of Sport training session.

Wiley, who was joined by WAFC high performance manager Craig Starcevich, put the up-and-coming talents to the test at Busselton's Sir Stewart Bovell Park.

The focus of the training session was on skills development, with SWAS players put through drills normally seen at a higher level of competition.

SWAS chief executive Bernice Butlion said it was a fantastic opportunity for the athletes to learn from top level coaches. "We at SWAS are so lucky to have Rob offering us his coaching expertise," she said.

Cash injection boosts programs

THE South West Academy of Sport received a major boost with the announcement of \$796,000 in funding from Royalties for Regions through the State Government and South West Development Commission.

The not-for-profit organisation was allocated \$220,000 for 2009-10, \$220,000 in 2010-11 and \$220,000 in 2011-12 through the strategic projects

component of the Royalties for Regions grants scheme.

The funding announced last week is on top of the \$136,000 it received in the 2008-09 round of Royalties for Regions.

SWAS chief executive officer Bernice Butlion said the financial injection would provide a boost for its

high performance programs, which had been successful in nurturing young sports men and women.

"We thank the South West Development Commission and State Government for their support of the academy," she said.

"We look forward to working with all parties to ensure that young people

in this rapidly-growing South West region have opportunities to achieve their sporting dreams with help from training programs in their own backyard."

Butlion said regional areas had a history of producing sporting legends and provided a role in building strong communities.

"The academy will continue to encourage young people to seek excellence through sport and train tomorrow's leaders," she said.

"We are very grateful for the generous support and vision of the South West Development Commission to build better communities through youth development."

Off to the nationals

THE South West Academy of Sport continues to produce amazing young soccer players, with Rachel Thomson the latest talent from the prestigious organisation to be selected for a State team.

The 15-year-old from Australind will run onto the field for Western Australia at the FFA Girl's National Youth Championships at Coffs Harbour later this month.

The event attracts Australia's finest junior soccer players and gives participants an opportunity to impress FFA coaches.

It is no surprise Thomson has been hard at work preparing for the tournament and has been travelling to Perth three times a week for training.

"I don't mind doing the training and putting in the effort because I love the game," she said.

Which is just as well because there will be little time for rest when the talented athlete returns home from Coffs Harbour.

In October, Thomson will head to Singapore to play matches as part of an under-17s team.

"I'm really looking forward to playing the game over in Singapore," she said.



SWAS soccer player Rachel Thomson will represent Western Australia at the FFA Girl's National Youth Championships at Coffs Harbour this month.

Netballer helps State to shine

SOUTH West Academy of Sport netballer Ingrid Colyer's slick on-court skills helped the West Australian team secure a top four finish at the recent Under-17 National Netball Championship.

The 16-year-old travelled to Adelaide as part of the State side and her impressive performance proved she could mix it with netball's brightest junior stars.

Although Victoria won the race to the national title in the end, Colyer said she was pleased with her team's placing.

"To finish fourth at a national competition was a great achievement," she said.

"One of the great aspects of the championship was that everyone was there for the same reason — a love of the game.

"Everyone was so friendly, making the experience even better."

Colyer is one of 20 up-and-coming athletes benefiting from the SWAS individual scholarship program.

Proudly Sponsored by

Foundation Partner

THE GRIFFIN GROUP
Worsley Alumina

WIN TELEVISION

SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

South Western Times
The region's leading newspaper

bhpbilliton
inspiring the future

Department of Sport and Recreation

The South West Academy of Sport would like to thank The Griffin Group for its generous support over the past two years. Griffin's sponsorship has been instrumental in getting the academy off the starting line.

Thanks to its contribution, many young South West sports men and women are achieving excellence in sport.

swas south west academy of sport

Is Proudly Supported by: