



Up-and-coming track talent Thomas Quaife is busy preparing for his first big meet of the 2010-11 year.

Top young athlete set to impress

YOUNG athletes usually have to juggle sport and school, but an upcoming event is set to give a South West Academy of Sport scholarship holder the perfect opportunity to combine the two.

Sixteen-year-old Thomas Quaife will be among the hundreds of aspiring track and field stars who will represent their schools at the WA All Schools Athletics Championship.

The event will see up to 500 talented students compete at the WA Athletics Stadium in Perth from October 29 to 31.

Quaife, who attends Australind Senior High School, will compete in 400m and 800m events - and if past achievements are any indication, he is set to impress.

The young gun is the State champion for Under 18s senior athletics in both the 400m and 800m events, has represented Western Australia at the Under 20 Australian Athletics Championships in Sydney, and been selected for a talent development squad conducted by Athletics WA in conjunction with WAIS.

Hockey teen plays for WA at nationals

WITH school holidays under way, Eaton teenager Candyce Peacock could be forgiven for putting her feet up - but instead of relaxing, she is putting herself to the test at a national hockey tournament.

The talented 14-year-old travelled to Darwin on Friday September 24 as part of the State team competing in the Australian Women's Under 15 Hockey Championship.

Held annually, the event pits some of Australia's brightest junior hockey players against each other as they pursue national title honours.

It is the South West Academy of Sport athlete's second appearance in a State side,

having competed in the Australian Women's Under 12 Hockey Championship in 2008.

"That was my first national tournament - it was exciting and challenging coming up against the better players," she said.

Before heading to the Northern Territory, Peacock said she was looking forward to her second time in the black-and-gold State uniform.

"Hopefully it will help me take my hockey game to the next level," she said.

The Australian Women's Under 15 Hockey Championship ran from September 25 to October 3.



Candyce Peacock played for WA at the Australian Women's Under 15 Hockey Championship in Darwin.



Cyclist Bradley Linfield headed to New Zealand recently to compete in the Yunca Junior Tour of Southland.

Wheel talent for NZ tour

SOUTH West Academy of Sport scholarship holder Bradley Linfield's cycling talents have taken him overseas.

This month, the champion rider is competing in the Yunca Junior Tour of Southland, New Zealand's premier multi-stage road cycling tour for junior cyclists.

Now in its 26th year, the event has seen past participants including Glenn McLeay, Matt Randall and Glen Thomson go on to achieve at the Commonwealth and Olympic Games.

Linfield said he was looking forward to racing against some of the top junior cyclists from New Zealand and Australia.

No stranger to international competition, the 16-year-old speedster achieved second place at this year's Junior Canberra Tour, a race that also attracted competitors from both Australia and New Zealand.

With his focus now on the Yunca Junior Tour of Southland, Linfield has been putting in up to 20 hours of training a week.

"It's all worth it when you get the results," he said.

Linfield has enjoyed a successful year of cycling which has included winning three State titles. Last month, the Dalvellup resident was triumphant in his first mountain bike race.



Hockey ace Elliot Barton.

Stick skills led to elite side

WESTERN Australia's push to claim victory at the Australian Men's Under 15 Hockey Championship in Tasmania will be aided by local ace Elliot Barton.

The gifted 13-year-old, known for his slick stick skills on the hockey field, has been picked up for the West Australian team that will compete at the event.

Held annually, the championship brings

together some of the finest young hockey players in Australia.

No stranger to national-level competition, the South West Academy of Sport athlete was part of the State side that contested the Australian Men's Under 12 Hockey Championship two years ago.

The 2010 Australian Men's Under 15 Hockey Championships began on October 2, and run until this Saturday.

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