



South West Academy of Sport football player Luke Hutchins has been honoured with early selection to the WA State Academy program.

Hutchins named in State squad

THE year has ended on a high note for South West Academy of Sport football player Luke Hutchins who has received early selection to a State development squad.

The 15-year-old recently received news he had been named in the WA 16s State Academy's first intake of players.

Designed to develop up-and-coming footballers who have the potential to progress into WAFL senior football and even the AFL, the program will see some of Western Australia's brightest young players participate in special training in Perth.

Hutchins, a student at Busselton Senior High School, said he was looking forward to being part of the State Academy program.

"I'm pretty excited," he said.

"Being part of this program will give me the chance to learn from new coaches and become a better footballer."

SWAS football head coach Jamie Douse congratulated Hutchins on his early selection into the WA State Academy program.

"We're really rapt for Luke to have earned early selection in the WA State Academy program — he's a talented young footballer and a great kid," he said.

"Luke has earned his selection following outstanding performances at the recent WAFL 15s carnival.

"He gives 100 per cent effort in games and at training, and has the wow factor."

Academy banks on corporate support

WESTPAC has proven to be an organisation the South West Academy of Sport can bank on.

After sponsoring the academy for the past year, Westpac South West and Great Southern have once again signed on to support the not-for-profit organisation and its athletes.

It's a partnership both Westpac and SWAS are proud of.

"Through our sponsorship with SWAS we believe that in

some small way we are continuing to help aspiring athletes reach their full potential," head of Westpac South West commercial and agribusiness Graeme Docker said.

"Our relationship with SWAS is much deeper than a simple financial sponsorship.

"The partnership between Westpac and SWAS has opened up an array of opportunities for each other's organisations and

has the feel of a deep friendship with both parties working together to assist the other wherever possible.

"Westpac would like to acknowledge and thank Bernice and her team at SWAS for the great work that they do promoting and developing tomorrow's champions."

SWAS chief executive officer Bernice Butlion welcomed the opportunity to continue growing

the partnership between SWAS and Westpac.

"Westpac has been a great supporter of our organisation," Ms Butlion said.

"Westpac staff actively participate in the SWAS golf days and annual dinner and awards nights.

"We have been very happy with the service and advice provided to SWAS as a not-for-profit organisation to maximise our funding capabilities."



Westpac's Graeme Docker and Paul Keenan with Bernice Butlion from SWAS.

Players test skills against the nations

SOUTH West Academy of Sport hockey players had a chance to put their skills to the test against some of the brightest young hockey players from Malaysia and Japan as part of the recent FHE Cup.

The international hockey event, held this year between November 25 and 27, has been a fixture on the Perth sporting calendar since 2007 and attracts teams from overseas as well as around Australia.

This year, SWAS teams took to the field for matches against WA U15, WA U16, NSW U16, Japan U16 and Malaysia U16 sides.

SWAS hockey head coach Matt Mellor said it was enjoyable seeing the SWAS athletes play so well together as a team, with both the boys and girls teams finishing the tournament in fourth place.

"We don't play many games together as a group, so to be able to

perform as we did off a short build up against State and international teams was very encouraging," he said.

"One of the highlights for us was being able to get Kookaburras players Tristan Clemons and Simon Orchard as well as Hockeyroos player Jayde Taylor to come down and help coach the kids for a couple of games.

"They were fantastic with giv-

ing up their time and knowledge to pass on to our players."

Mellor said the FHE Cup was a good opportunity for SWAS hockey players to see how they measured up against the best State and international players in their age group.

"From playing they can see where they compare to State players and what is required to play at the next level," he said.

SWAS south west academy of sport

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