

# swas south west academy of sport



Ashlee Bailie, left, earned a silver medal at the ITU Junior Triathlon World Championship in Beijing, China.

## Silver medal win thrills rising star

ASHLEE Bailie finished the recent world championship in the best possible way — on the podium.

The rising star was presented with a silver medal at the ITU Junior Triathlon World Championship in Beijing after crossing the finish line in second place, just two seconds behind New Zealand's Mikayla Nielsen.

"It was easily one of the proudest moments in my sporting career so far," Bailie said.

"Being on the podium was such an amazing feeling.

"Seeing the Aussie flag being raised and knowing that you just won yourself and your country a silver medal was thrilling."

The rising star's awe-inspiring journey to the podium saw her battle wet weather to complete a 750m swim, 20km bike ride and 5km run.

Despite racing against more than 50 of the world's top junior female triathletes in challenging conditions, Bailie's focus was on herself.

"I actually never really went into the race with a specific goal," she said.

"I never even looked at the start list to work out who I was racing against.

"Not that I did not care, it was a

simple case of the only person I was racing that day was myself.

"I wanted to make sure that I had a strong swim, ride and run and whatever the outcome, I would be happy with it.

"Thankfully everything fell into place and I had the race of my life.

"I am never, ever going to forget the journey and the experience of my 2011 triathlon season."

Currently in Orlando, Florida where she is preparing for the upcoming Huatulco ITU Triathlon World Cup, Bailie thanked the South West Academy of Sport for the support she received from the prestigious not-for-profit organisation as a scholarship holder.

"SWAS helped me out as a South West athlete through the support and encouragement that they give all their athletes," she said.

"Being a country athlete was tough but SWAS enabled me to reach my goals through the opportunities they provided.

"I owe a great deal to them and I am forever grateful for the support I received."

## Hard work pays off for players

AFTER months of hard work fine-tuning their skills, South West Academy of Sport basketball players have officially graduated from the 2010/2011 program.

A graduation ceremony was held at the Eaton Recreation Centre on Saturday, September 10 to mark the occasion.

The event was attended by the graduates and members of their families, as well as coaches and administration staff.

The SWAS basketball program is one of seven run by the South West Academy of Sport.

The not-for-profit organisation also runs partner sport programs in Australian Rules football, cricket, hockey, netball, soccer and tennis.

## Authority proud to continue support



South West Academy of Sport chief executive officer Bernice Butlion, far right, thanks Kylie Astbury and Kevin Schellack for the Bunbury Port Authority's continued support of SWAS.

ONE of the South West Academy of Sport's original sponsors has renewed its sponsorship of the not-for-profit organisation.

The Bunbury Port Authority recently signed on to support the academy and its athletes for another three years.

SWAS chief executive officer Bernice Butlion said the sponsorship made BPA one of the academy's longest-running supporters.

"Bunbury Port Authority was there for SWAS when it first got off the starting blocks more than three years ago and this sponsorship deal means they will be with us in the future," she said.

"It's because of sponsors like the Bunbury Port Authority that we are able to assist talented teenagers in the South West to reach their potential — both on and off the sports field.

"We are proud to say that SWAS produces not only young champions, but good citizens as well."

BPA chief executive officer Kevin Schellack said the Port Authority was proud to support the talent development of teenagers in the South West.

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