



swas south west academy of sport

Boxer hopes dream leads to London



Teenage boxing sensation and South West Academy of Sport scholarship holder Nathaniel May's campaign for Olympic selection continues in Tasmania this week.

IT is an Olympic year, and come July all eyes will be on London as the wonder, excitement and competitive spirit of the Games captures the imaginations of millions around the globe.

And if South West Academy of Sport scholarship holder Nathaniel May gets his wish, he will be among the green and gold-clad athletes at the centre of the action as the athletic spectacle unfolds.

With less than six months to go before the Olympic cauldron is lit, we take a look at how this South West athlete is working towards his dream of representing Australia at the biggest sporting event in the world.

When Nathaniel May steps into the ring for his bouts at the Australian Amateur Boxing Championships in Hobart this week, he won't only be gunning for a national title, he'll also be fighting for the chance to qualify for Olympic selection.

The national tournament is a gateway to Olympic selection

trials, and the 16-year-old Bunbury resident will be aiming to impress each time he puts on his gloves at Aurora Stadium.

So far, the South West Academy of Sport scholarship holder has shown he has what it takes to triumph in boxing circles.

In just over two years since taking up the sport to improve his strength and fitness for football, the talented teenager has risen through the ranks of Australian boxing at remarkable speed.

Currently ranked number one in Australia and number 10 in the world in his category, his achievements include winning an Australian title last year and representing the country at the 2011 AIBA Junior World Boxing Championships.

Most recently, he claimed the State title in the youth 56kg category at Perth in December — a win which paved the way for his second consecutive appearance at the Australian championships.

"I don't really think about it,

but when you do look back at what you've achieved, you do feel proud," he said.

May's success is well-deserved. With a combination of raw talent, hard work and determination, the Newton Moore Senior High School and South West Football Academy (Clontarf Foundation) student juggles study with sport, rising early in the mornings to attend up to five training sessions per day.

May says a poster on his bedroom wall helps to remind him of what he's working toward.

"It's a poster of Muhammad Ali — I want to be like him," he said.

"It's what I look at, it keeps me going."

His advice for young people wanting to pursue a career in sport?

"Just follow your dream."



Dayna Fimmano, Maddy Sayer and Marnie Johnstone are enthused about the South West Academy of Sport's 2012 basketball program.

New faces keen as basketball gets started

THE South West Academy of Sport's basketball program is underway for 2012 with a mixture of new and familiar faces seen at the year's first training sessions.

Among those wearing a SWAS uniform for the first time when training began for the year was 14-year-old Marnie Johnstone, an up-and-coming player from Manjilup.

Having made the squad after two years of trying out, she said she was looking forward to fine-tuning her skills through the opportunities provided by the academy.

"I'm excited to be part of the program and see how it goes," she said.

Meanwhile, returning players Dayna Fimmano and Maddy Sayer are proof that being part of the high performance program does bring its rewards.

Both Harvey girls have been selected to wear the black and gold colours of Western Australia at the upcoming Australian Under 18 Basketball Championships.

The annual championships, this year being held in Perth in April, gives some of the country's most promising basketballers the chance to shine on the national stage.

It is the first time Fimmano and Sayer, both 15, have been chosen to represent Western Australia — and their feat has been made all the more remarkable by the fact they will be younger than many of their peers in the tournament.

For Fimmano, being selected to a State team is a dream come true.

"Nationals was my goal and next year I want to make the team again," she said.

"Being selected shows that hard work pays off."



Bronte Macaulay has been selected to the Australian junior surfing team, along with fellow SWAS scholarship holders Creed McTaggart and Jacob Willcox.

Trio wins national surfing honours

SOUTH West Academy of Sport scholarship holders Creed McTaggart, Jacob Willcox and Bronte Macaulay have proven to be among the rising stars of Australian surfing, with all three named in the national junior team.

The trio was selected to the

2012 TravelSIM Australian Junior Surfing Team after attending a special camp at Surfing Australia's high performance centre in New South Wales late last year.

Their performance at the camp, combined with their 2011 events results, qualified them for entry

into the Australian team. The only Western Australians selected to the Australian junior surfing team, they will jet to Panama later this year to contest the International Surfing Association World Junior Championships.

The event will be held in Playa Venao from April 14 to 22 and see

the world's best young surfers battle it out on the waves for global supremacy. SWAS chief executive officer Bernice Butlion congratulated all three athletes on their achievements.

"We are very proud of the three surfers and wish them all the best," she said.

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