



South West Academy of Sport
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Ric Charlesworth speaks at a SWAS breakfast in Bunbury last week.

Supercoach shares stories

AUSTRALIAN hockey legend, cricketer and supercoach Ric Charlesworth was the guest of honour at a South West Academy of Sport breakfast in Bunbury last Thursday.

The newly-appointed Kookaburras coach entertained a sold-out crowd at the Parade Hotel with stories from a diverse career that has ranged from sports to medicine and politics.

During his speech, Charlesworth conceded that he had earned a reputation for being a reasonably slow runner during his cricket career.

Following his retirement from cric-

ket, Charlesworth was commentating a match next to Dennis Cometti when off-air, he commented on how boring the game was.

Cometti replied: "You think it's boring this year, you should have been here when you were playing last year."

The SWAS fundraising event, which saw a Kookaburras singlet signed by the bronze medal team auctioned for \$650 and signed hockey stick sold for \$600, coincided with a pre-season tour that saw the Kookaburras and Netherlands clash in

matches at Bunbury and Busselton.

The series was the first time the teams had met since the Kookaburras triumphed 6-2 in the bronze medal match of the 2008 Beijing Olympics and was Charlesworth's first at the helm.

The Hall of Fame coach and player spoke at the breakfast following a game in Bunbury on Wednesday, which saw the Australian men's hockey team beat the Netherlands 4-2 - his first victory at the helm of the Kookaburras.

All-Star visits academy

MAKING the most of a short break from the National Basketball League before taking on the Melbourne Tigers on Australia Day, South West Academy of Sport basketball patron Mark Worthington dropped in to a recent academy training session.

The South Dragons forward, who was named in the NBL's All-Star starting five playing for the Sydney Kings last season, met young athletes eager to follow in his footsteps.

Worthington, who also made a cameo appearance for the Slammers in the State Basketball League last year, offered tips and advice to SWAS basketballers and familiarised himself with the program.

He also took the first steps in his new role as SWAS patron, with the visit providing a prelude to training sessions the Olympian will coach this year as the SWAS basketball program gears up.

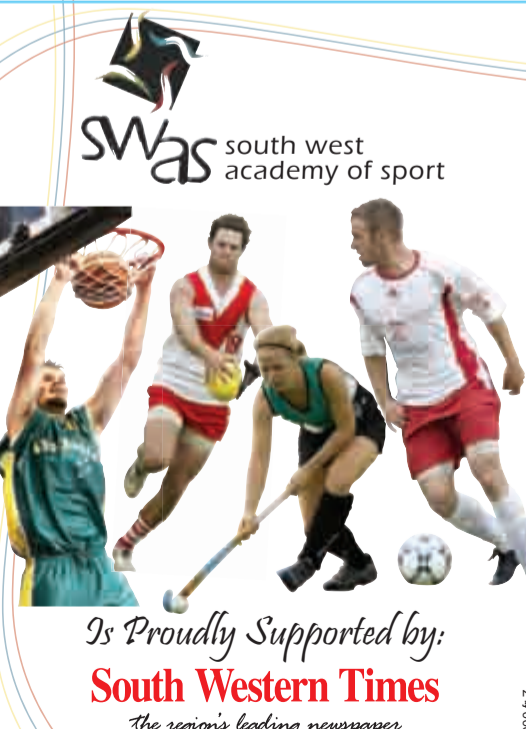
Worthington, who grew up in Australind, made his way through the Slammers ranks before entering the NBL and representing Australia at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The Boomer said he felt honoured to have been given the role at the academy and hoped it would pave the way for more South West basketball players to represent their country.

"Hopefully I will be somebody younger kids can look up to and inspire them to achieve their goals," he said.



Home-grown basketball star Mark Worthington met South West Academy of Sport basketball squad members Cory Richardson and Jarrad Watson at the Eaton Recreation Centre during a recent trip back home.



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Hockey tips from the world's best

THE Kookaburras took time out from their highly anticipated Summer Series schedule in the South West last week to help sharpen the skills of future hockey stars.

In Bunbury and Busselton for their clashes against Beijing Olympic rivals the Netherlands, the Kookaburras conducted a

clinic for South West Academy of Sport hockey players as part of a Hook in 2 Hockey Superclinic at Bunbury Hockey Stadium last Monday.

They also gave SWAS athletes the opportunity to play in a curtain-raiser match against a Hockey WA team before the Kookaburras and Netherlands

clashed in Bunbury last Wednesday night.

SWAS chief executive Bernice Butlion said the visit was a great opportunity for athletes to interact with one of the world's top hockey teams.

"No doubt it further inspired our athletes to achieve their own dreams," she said.



Kookaburra Russell Ford watches SWAS player Hayley Bywaters.

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