



Former South West Striker and new SWAS hockey coach Matt Mellor.

First coach appointed

FORMER South West Strikers hockey captain Matt Mellor is the first coach to be appointed at the South West Academy of Sport as preparations are finalised for the program to commence.

SWAS chief executive Bernice Butlion said Mellor, from Bunbury, was well equipped to coach the academy's hockey squad.

"Matt brings to the role a love of the game and a passion for developing young hockey talents," she said.

"We look forward to seeing him equip members of our hockey squad

with the skills they require to compete at the next level of competition."

Mellor spent 12 years playing for the Strikers at classic league level and toured overseas with the Hotspurs Invitational Hockey Team in 2002 and 2005.

In the past couple of years he has taken on coaching roles which have included assistant for the South West Strikers in 2006 and head coach in 2007.

He was a trainer at development coaching sessions at the WA Institute of Sport this year and a coach for the

WA U/16 women's team bound for the 2008 FHE Cup.

Mellor said he was looking forward to being part of the academy program and would be selecting players for the squad during trials this week.

"Players have registered for the trials being held in Bunbury over October 30 and 31," he said.

"From there, with the help of representatives from WAIS, we will select 20 boys and 20 girls for the academy squad."

South West Hockey Association

hockey development officer Megan Pollard said the squad would begin training soon after the trials.

The appointment of a hockey coach is the latest milestone for the academy.

Recent developments include the appointment of a chief executive officer, the donation of a car to the academy and the filming of a television commercial in Perth.

Work is now being done in preparation for the official opening of the South West Academy of Sport's administration centre at the South West Sports Centre in Bunbury.

Academy can hit the road

THE South West Academy of Sport now has a car to help it reach gifted athletes across the region, thanks to the generosity of local businesses.

Cristal Global recently teamed up with Bunbury Holden and the City of Bunbury to donate a 2008 VE Holden Omega Sportwagon to the academy.

"Cristal Global is proud to support the South West Academy of Sport in its inaugural year," Cristal Global Asia Pacific human resource manager Liz Baggetta said.

"It's exciting that the many talented young sports people in our region will now be able to access professional coaching and support through the academy.

"Cristal is pleased to donate a vehicle to assist the South West Academy of Sport."

Bunbury Holden general manager Gavin Billington said the dealership was a proud supporter of sport in the region.

"We are pleased to give the support up-and-coming sports people in the South West need to become champions of tomorrow," he said.

South West Academy of Sport board chairman Don Punch welcomed the donation and thanked the businesses involved.



South Western Times editor and SWAS board member Wayne Vitali, Liz Baggetta from Cristal Global, Bunbury Holden's Gavin Billington and SWAS chief executive Bernice Butlion with the new car donated to the academy. PICTURE: NORMAN BAILEY

Basketball talent selected for development

THE South West Academy of Sport's inaugural intake of basketball talent was announced last Friday when 28 young players were inducted during a function at the South West Sports Centre.

The athletes will now participate in talent development training in Bunbury and Busselton, with group sessions for both junior and senior members of the squad.

Academy chief executive Bernice Butlion said the arrangement would give the athletes an opportunity to excel in their sport and compete with others of a similar skill level.

"The program builds on a current development program over-

seen by Basketball South West and will continue to provide opportunities for talented young basketball players to achieve excellence in sport," she said.

The program will be coordinated by Basketball South West administrator Kathy Hawkins.

The squad includes: Paris Duffield, Rikki Cameron, Connor

Bradbury, Carey Watkins, Nathan Berryman, Ellie Deighton, Dena English, Damien Lee, Jarrad Watson, Jess Cameron, Bianca Donovan, Nardia Klem, Shannon McRobert, Tom Fossati, Sam Fossati, James Goodlad, Tyler Hickert, Corey Richardson, Amy Chinnery, Zoe Keller, Rebecca Preston, Mitchell Bradbury, Tim Davis, Luke Deighton, Anton Fimmano, Brent Latch, Jeremy Paull and Ryan Smith.

swas south west academy of sport

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