

# Olympic hopefuls selected

STEVE TUOHEY

FOUR athletes from the South West are preparing to launch their assault on the 2008 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games after being selected to represent Australia.

Australind basketball product Mark Worthington and Collie hockey star Kobie McGurk have both been named in Australia's Olympic team, while Donnybrook equestrian competitor Sharon Jarvis and middle distance runner Brad Scott from Eaton will wear green and gold at the Paralympics.

Worthington, who is at a Boomers training camp on the Gold Coast, said it was a great honour to be named in the Australian team, which was finalised last Friday.

"Obviously I am pretty happy and very honoured to be named in the team," he said.

"I know we have a chance to do something special — I think it's the best chance Australia's had to medal."

Worthington, who was named as an NBL All-Star playing for the Sydney Kings last season, already has a Commonwealth Games gold medal in his trophy cabinet and would dearly love to add an Olympic medal.

Likewise, Collie-born hockey player Kobie McGurk is aiming for Olympic glory when she travels to Beijing with the Hockeyroos.

The 22-year-old has also won

Commonwealth gold since leaving Collie to study at university and then attend the Australian Institute of Sport.

She formerly played for Rovers in the Collie Hockey Association, where she won back-to-back premierships with mum Robyn as coach. McGurk's grandmother Louisa Holmes also represented Australia on the hockey field.

Following the Beijing Olympics from August 8 to 24, the Paralympics get under way on September 6, with another pair of South West athletes set to represent Australia.

Sharon Jarvis was named in Australia's Paralympic Equestrian team on Tuesday as one of five riders selected to compete at the Olympic venue in Hong Kong and said she was thrilled to receive the honour.

"I am really excited and ecstatic about making the Australian team. I'm extremely proud to be an Australian and show the world where I'm from," she said.

"We have an absolutely fantastic team and a great group of horses so I'm really looking forward to the Games in a couple of months.

"My goals for Beijing are to produce the best performance that I can. I'm going for gold so I will be riding my heart out."

Brad Scott is also aiming for gold when he represents Australia in the 800m and said he wouldn't trade anything in the world for the chance to run for his country.



Mark Worthington



Kobie McGurk