

Academy draws a crowd

By LEIGH RITCHIE

SPORT ACADEMY: There was a high level of interest and enthusiasm from Bunbury sporting associations to be among the inaugural four housed by the South West Academy of Sport.

SWAS received enquiries from 20 different sports and 10 official submissions were made by local basketball, Australian Rules Football, soccer, netball, roller skating, hockey, surf lifesaving, rowing, cricket and tennis.

SWAS board member Tom Busher said a date is still being determined to announce the four sports accepted.

"There were some very strong applications among the submissions, which has made it challenging for the selection panel to come up with a shortlist," Busher said.

"The positive aspect of the academy is that even

sports that miss out on being part of the inaugural program will be eligible for up to 50 scholarships for individual athletes.

Busher said at least 300 athletes will benefit directly from the Academy, but sport in general will benefit from the increased knowledge, skills and professionalism that SWAS will bring to this region.

"And as the academy grows, more sports will be inducted into its program, similar to the WA Institute of Sport," he said.

Busher said the SWAS will provide specialist skills training by top tier coaches at a local level and other top level training in areas such as nutrition and time management, injury prevention and movement coaching, life skills and career counselling.

"Previously, rising athletes had to travel to the metropolitan area to advance their skills in these areas," he said.