



South West Academy of Sport scholarship holder Jacob Whiteaker will spend a season playing cricket in England.

Dreams lead talented youth to England

FROM the sunny South West to shores of the motherland, talented Bunbury cricket player Jacob Whiteaker is chasing his dream.

The teenage prodigy and scholarship holder at the prestigious South West Academy of Sport flew to England last week to spend six months with a Chichester cricket club.

A rising star of the pitch, Whiteaker has notched up a number of achieve-

ments over the past few years including selection to Under 17 and Under 19 State teams.

But despite a career unfolding rapidly in front of him, the 18-year-old sensation looks back fondly on where it all began, right here in the South West.

"Some of my best memories were representing Bunbury and the South West in various competitions over the

years and I particularly enjoyed Country Weeks," he said.

The top-order batsman and promising offspin bowler was one of 20 outstanding young athletes granted a SWAS scholarship earlier this year and praised the role that the organisation had on his development.

"It was very important," he said.

"It gives a variety of different sports people the opportunity to not only de-

velop their skills but to promote their particular sport.

"They provided me the opportunity to access a variety of services to better my skills to prepare me for my time in England like sport psychology service, physiotherapy and gym."

Whiteaker identified smaller grounds, increased ball movement and inclement weather as some of the biggest challenges he will face in England.