

Cory's on his way up

Awards top off a champion year for young basketball star

RILEY STUART

EMERGING Bunbury basketballer Cory Richardson has capped off his stellar 2010 in style, after claiming a pair of prestigious accolades recently.

Richardson, 17, last Friday received both the Sports Star of the Year award and the Basketball Athlete of the Year award at a gala dinner in Bunbury.

This year, Richardson starred for WA and represented Australia.

The young tyro caught the eye of national selectors while playing for the State country side at the National Championships in Terrigal, New South Wales. At that tournament he averaged 14 points, five assists and four rebounds a game.

On the back of that form he was selected to play for Australia Under 17s team at the World Championships in Germany.

"It's an honour winning it (the award), and being the best athlete they have is really good," Richardson said.

"This is my second year involved in SWAS; they teach me about nutrition and a lot of training."

Richardson confirmed that he will play in the State Basketball League next year with local franchise South West Slammers, but also said he had plans to enter the competitive American college basketball system.

"College is my main plan," he said.

"I should be leaving about August next year. I've got a signing deadline which is April, so I still have a while to decide where to go."

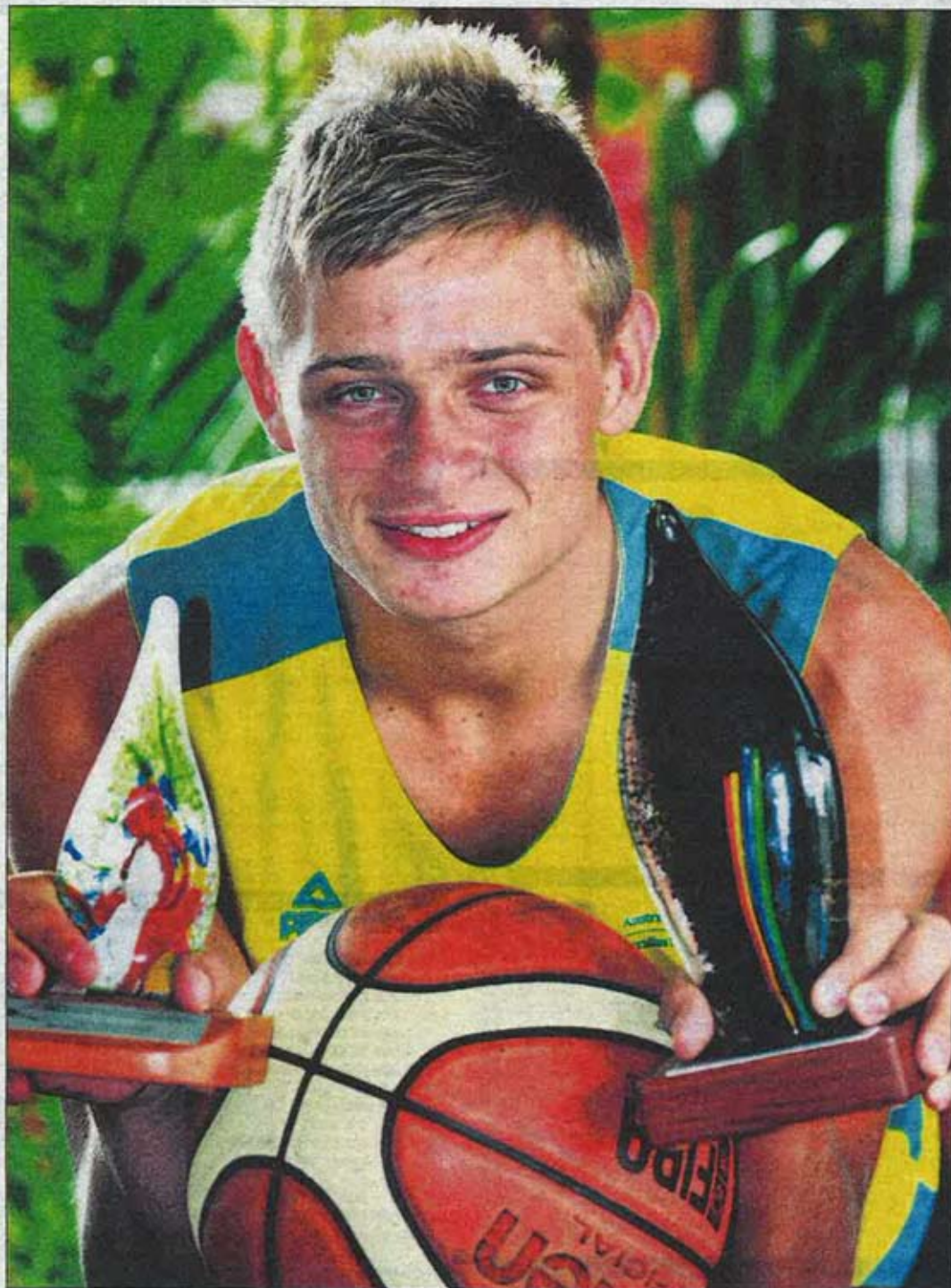
Held annually, the SWAS awards dinner celebrates the achievements of South West people involved in sport.

In 2010, the function was staged at the Sanctuary Golf Resort, and was attended by a number of special guests including Sport and Recreation Minister Terry Waldron.

Busselton talent Jamie Williamson won both the Hockey Athlete of the Year Award and the Emerging Star Award.

Manjimup's Beau Chatley was named the Football Athlete of the Year Award, while up-and-coming Australind soccer player Callum Richardson took home the same award for his sport.

Hard-working netball coach Michelle Willsher won the inaugural Wally Foreman Award, which was introduced this year to honour a community member for their contribution to sport.



Cory Richardson has iced his sporting year after receiving the SWAS Sports Star of the Year award, and the Basketball Athlete of the Year Award. PICTURE: DAVID BAILEY