

Top award crowns big year

ANNIFORDHAM

MANJIMUP footballer Beau Chatley was named 2010 Football Athlete of the Year at the South West Academy of Sport's annual awards dinner earlier in Bunbury this month.

The award tops off an outstanding year for the 15-year-old who recently represented the State and won Best and Fairest at his local club, Manjimup Tigers.

The strapping Manjimup Senior High School student said he was excited to be recognised at the prestigious event.

"I'm pretty stoked," a modest Chatley said.

Chatley was selected in the first Under-15 State schoolboys team which represented WA at the national championships earlier in the year, beating Victoria to win the title.

SWAS AFL program manager Jamie Douse said Chatley was a deserving winner who worked hard on and off the field.

"He's trained really hard to get to this point," Douse said.

"To make it into the top 25 players in the State really is an awesome achievement."

Parents Olivia and Brett Chatley were unmistakably delighted with their son's progress.

"We're very proud of Beau's achievements," Ms Chatley said.

"He's very deserving because of all the hard work he puts in."

Chatley, who cites Hawthorn's Luke Hodge as his favourite AFL player, agreed the award was a step in the right direction.

"I'm really excited and happy to be recognised," he said.

Chatley said his ultimate dream was to play in the AFL, but for now he was "taking things one step at a time" and his next challenge was to make the State Under-16 side.



Manjimup footballer Beau Chatley, 15, is enjoying the spotlight after being named Football Athlete of the Year at the South West Academy of Sport's annual awards this month.