



Cory Richardson impressed national selectors while captaining the State country team and is set to debut for Australia against the world's best young players in Germany.

Young basketballer to represent Australia

By LEIGH RITCHIE

BASKETBALL: Cory Richardson's hard work to improve his game has paid off handsomely and he will hit the court in green and gold for the first time in Germany at the inaugural 17 years and under FIBA World Championship.

Richardson earned his Australian debut following a stellar performance at the under 18 championships in New South Wales.

The South West Academy of Sport scholar said he was thrilled to have played well at the nationals and impress Australian selectors.

"It felt great - really happy to be there and to play for my country is even better," he said.

"I'm really excited to go there and a little bit nervous but hopefully we will play well and make people proud."

Playing at point guard in the State country team, which he captained, Richardson averaged 14 points, five assists and four rebounds against the best in Australia.

Very few defenders could stop him from scoring and exerting his influence on the game as either point guard or shooting guard.

His top score was 24 points and the team finished sixth, its highest placing in the past decade.

Following a near Australian selection last year, Richardson worked harder than ever and beefed up his defensive game and three point radar with plenty of

early morning sessions.

Australian coach Guy Molloy said Richardson had attracted attention very late in the selection process.

"So it is full credit to him, his team mates, and his coaches that he was able to beat out a number of other guards who had been in the squad for longer," he said.

"We think his shooting and defensive ability will really assist the Australian team just selected to play its best," he said.

SWAS development and State country coach Steve Hawkins said Richardson had developed into a very exciting prospect.

"His ability to understand the game and to perform all basic skills very well, due to his

hard work in and out of regular team training sessions, has produced a fine young player," he said.

"Cory deserves all the accolades for his very hard work to achieve this fantastic achievement."

Hawkins also gave tribute to local development coaches for their continuing development of players to international level.

Richardson joins an elite group of local basketballers who have made Australian squads, including Mark and Trent Worthington, Ben Smith, Cam Gliddon, Sam Sopolinski and Tyler Hickert.

He thanked all of his past coaches and his family for their support to reach his goal.