

Charlotte joins academy program

BUSSELTON'S Charlotte Donovan is a step closer to securing a spot in the State under 17s netball team for a second consecutive year after being named in the 2010/11 Netball WA State Academy.

The talented 16-year-old was one of 25 girls selected for a first tier spot in the academy training program following selection trials in Perth.

The Netball WA State Academy prepares up-and-coming netball talents for selection to State teams through intensive skills development sessions and involves training in Perth twice a week.

Donovan said she was hoping to secure a position in the 2011 under 17s State side, having received a taste of success at this year's nationals.

The South West Academy of Sport scholarship holder was part of the Western Australian team which secured an impressive top four finish at the 2010 Under 17s National Netball Championship held in Adelaide in April.

The championship pits the nation's brightest junior netballers against each other for a

chance at the coveted title, as well as a spot on the under 17s Australian squad.

"It was my first time at nationals and it was good to play at that level of competition," Donovan said.

The teenager is on track to again represent Western Australia at nationals, having enjoyed a successful year on the court.

Her highlights of 2010 include being part of the Griffin Souwest Jets State League under 18s team which competed in this year's grand final and earning a South West Academy of Sport scholarship.

In addition, Donovan was named as the Griffin Souwest Jets Fairest and Best player in the under 18s division for the season at South West Netball's annual awards dinner on September 10.

And at Netball WA's annual awards dinner at the Burswood Entertainment Complex on September 17, Donovan was named the Fairest and Best Player for the State League competition in the under 18s division.



A heavy study load has not prevented netball talent Charlotte Donovan from lighting up the court.