



Jamie Maiolo shows off the 2009-2010 AHG Sprintcar Series trophy.



Steve Suttie, who announced his retirement from the South West Phoenix in January.



Trey Clarkson finally gets to show what he can do for the South West Slammers.

JANUARY

THE sporting year gets off to a high-profile opening in the South West when the Australian Kookaburras train with SWAS athletes on the Bunbury Hockey Stadium in preparation for the World Cup in Delhi.

REJUVENATED gelding Coronate scores his first feature win under new trainer Simon Miller on Australia Day in the \$50,000 We Love Our Lamb Cronshaws Cup (1690m).

ALSO, South West Phoenix legend Steve Suttie announces his retirement.

TO cap off a brilliant month a record field of 480 people compete in the Australia Day Fun Run.

FEBRUARY

BUNBURY Speedway sensation Brad Blake notches his ninth State title in the late model sedans championship after a stellar race at the Manjimup Speedway.

IN martial arts action Muay Thai fighter Jason Lea is named the South Western Times AJ (Tood) Buswell Sports Star of the Year at a function at the City of Bunbury on Wednesday, February 24.

MARCH

THE South West Games get underway with hundreds of athletes competing in over 40 sports during three weeks of action.

IT might have been out of season, but the football never stops with former Geelong captain and South Fremantle great Mark Bairstow inducted into the West Australian Football Hall of Fame as one of nine acceptances for 2010. Although Bairstow spent the

majority of his footballing career in Victoria and Perth, the former Sandover Medal winner has called Bunbury home for the last decade.

SPEAKING of the horses, Perth-based jockey Daniel Staeck made it back-to-back Bunbury Cups when he took out the \$130,000 feature on Thursday, March 11 with Whipsaw. The year earlier Staeck had ridden Wicklow Hills to victory at Bunbury.

THE South West Slammers 2010 season got off to a disastrous start before a game had even been played when high-profile Canadian coach David Petroziello resigned on the eve of the opening round. His signing had been heralded as a coup for the struggling club.

IN football, another cellar-dweller did pull off a significant coup when star Subiaco spearhead and four-time Bernie Naylor medallist Brad Smith signed a deal with the Harvey Bulls.

APRIL

HUSKY American recruit Trey Clarkson is barred from playing for the South West Slammers after unprecedented delays in his sports visa application. Six games into the season his paperwork is eventually rushed through immigration.

REIGNING SWFL champions Carey Park's run of 23 consecutive victories comes to an end at the hands of arch rivals South Bunbury 12.8 (80) to 10.9 (69) on the Anzac Day public holiday.

IN another football milestone, Donnybrook league utility Tyrie Howlett makes a comeback with the club less than a year after having his arm severed in a car accident.

MAY

DISGRUNTLED former coach David Petroziello and South West Slammers legend James Fitch criticise the club in the *South Western Times*, saying the organisation had become a league laughing stock.

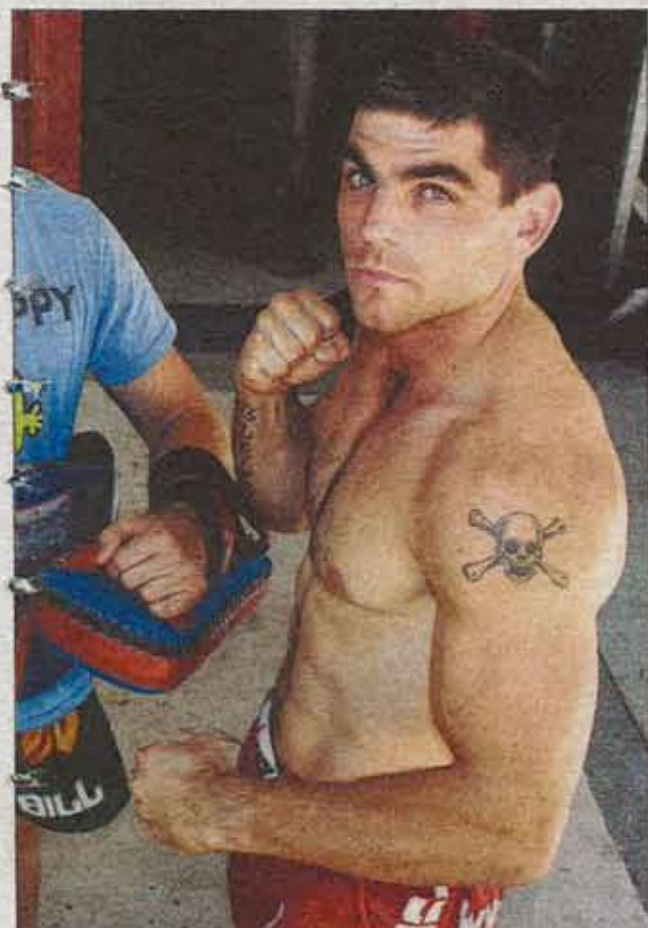
FLEDGING soccer franchise Bunbury Forum Force's star import Dexter Ravenhill deserts the club in secret after spending just over one month in Australia. He returns to Bunbury a fortnight later, only to abandon the organisation again.

JUNE

TWENTY-five-year-old Victorian Andrew Martin held on to win the South West Open over the Foundation Day long weekend, finishing 11-under-par despite some inclement weather. On a tense final day, Martin saw off a brave challenge from WA luminaries Lincoln Reemeyer and Craig Mann.

BRITISH motocross champion Brad Anderson rode a borrowed Honda CRF450 to victory in the Manjimup 15,000. On Sunday, June 6 Anderson claimed the All-Star class by just one point after being pushed by West Australian Louis Calvin in a duel that was a treat for the healthy Cosy Creek crowd.

IN other motorsport achievements, June was a first-class month for Myalup sprintcar driver Jamie Maiolo, who claimed an overwhelming triumph in the 2009-10 AHG Sprintcar series. Maiolo, a five-time winner of the series finished on 3655 points, 282 clear of second placegetter David Ellement.



Jason Lea was named the 2009 Sports Star of the Year

News breaks that Dexter Ravenhill has deserted the Force, again.



Daniel Staeck celebrates back-to-back Bunbury Cups.