

Nathaniel puts on the gloves and paves the way for glory

Nathaniel May travelled to Hobart to compete at the Australian Amateur Boxing Championships last week, where he was gunning for a national title and the chance to be a part of the Olympic team.

The national tournament acts as something of a gateway to Olympic selection trials, something the 16-year-old Bunbury resident was keenly aware of each time he put the gloves on.

But the teen from Bunbury is not easily intimidated, so far the South West Academy of Sport scholarship holder has shown he has what it takes to triumph in boxing circles.

In just over two years since taking up the sport to improve his strength and fitness for football, the talented teenager has risen through the ranks of Australian boxing at remarkable speed.

Currently ranked number one in Australia and number 10 in the world in his category, his achievements include winning an Australian title last year and representing the country at the 2011 AIBA Junior World Boxing Championships.

Most recently, he claimed the State title in the youth 56kg category at Perth in December, a win which paved the way for his second consecutive appearance at the Australian championships.

'I don't really think about it, but when you do look back at what you've achieved, you do feel proud,' he said.

Nathaniel's success is well-deserved.

With a combination of raw talent, hard work and determination, the Newton Moore Senior High School and South West Football Academy (Clontarf Foundation) student juggles study with sport, rising early in the mornings to attend up to five training sessions per day.

Nathaniel says a poster on his bedroom wall helps to remind him of what he's working toward.

'It's a poster of Muhammad Ali - I want to be like him,' he said.

'It's what I look at, it keeps me going.'

His advice for young people wanting to pursue a career in sport?



Teenage boxing sensation and South West Academy of Sport scholarship holder Nathaniel May...