

State selection a dream come true

By HANNELORE HEPBURN

NEW and familiar faces could be seen at the first training session of the South West Academy of Sport's basketball program recently.

Returning players Dayna Fimmano and Maddy Sayer, both of Harvey, are proof that being part of the high performance program does bring its rewards.

Both girls won selection to wear the black and gold colours of Western Australia at the Australian under-18 Basketball Championships in April.

The annual championships, this year held in Perth, gives some of the country's most promising basketballers a chance to shine on the national stage.

It is the first time Fimmano and Sayer, both 15 years old, have been chosen to represent WA.

Their achievement is all the more remarkable because they will be younger than many of their peers in the tournament.

For Fimmano, being selected into a State team is a dream come true.

"Nationals was my goal and

next year I want to make the team again," she said.

"Being selected shows that hard work pays off."

Among those wearing a SWAS uniform for the first time when training began for the year was 14-year-old Marnie Johnstone, of Manjimup.

Having made the squad after two years of trying out, she said she was looking forward to fine-tuning her skills through the opportunities provided by the academy.



Dayna Fimmano and Maddy Sayer, both of Harvey, and Marnie Johnstone, of Manjimup, are keen to be part of the South West Academy of Sport's 2012 basketball program.