

Jess jets out for basketball

THE South West Academy of Sport will have a strong representation at this month's U18 Australian Basketball Championships being held in Gawler, South Australia.

Sixteen of the 20 players from the two WA Country U18s teams competing in the upcoming national competition have scholarships with the academy.

Margaret River's Jess Cameron is one of seven girls representing the South West in the under-18 women's team.

Jess is no stranger to state selection, she had previously played two years in the WA under 16's side.

She said her South West Academy of Sport scholarship meant regular training sessions in Perth, but had been a worthwhile commitment.

"It's fun and you meet lots of people, it's good for fitness," she said.

The interstate competition would see the athletes go head-to-head with teams from around Australia for national championship honours.

But even before the contest kicks off on Saturday, the players had already achieved a great deal, according to academy basketball administrator Kathy Hawkins.

"The WA Country U18 men's team contains an unprecedented nine out of 10 players from the South West," she said.

"Meanwhile, the WA Country U18 women's team is comprised of seven out of 10 players from the region."

Mrs Hawkins said the talented group of players had been involved with the Diammers teams in the Junior State League for many years and had all progressed through the regional basketball academy.

Their efforts were recognised last year when they were all awarded basketball scholarships with the South West Academy of Sport.

"The strong representation of South West talent in the U18 Australian Basketball Championships shows that the programs in the South West are really paying off," Mrs Hawkins said.



Jess Cameron in action. PICTURE: DEBEN POOL.