

BMX star top in academy award

By HANNELORE HEPBURN

TWO local athletes took centre stage at the inaugural South West Academy of Sport's awards held at the Sanctuary Golf Resort recently.

Clifton Park 18-year-old BMX talent Lauren Reynolds took out the top award, the South West Academy of Sports 2009 Sports Star of the Year Award while Australind soccer player Callum Richardson won the Football (Soccer) Athlete of the Year Award.

Reynolds finished on seventh place at the highly competitive 2009 UCI BMX Supercross World Cup and is off to Queensland after Christmas to ride in the third round of the 2009-10 Probi-kx/Champbiks National Series.

Reynolds, currently back in Clifton Park and in fulltime training after a fantastic year, said winning the inaugural academy's Sports Star of the Year Award meant a lot to her.

"Considering how many great athletes are in the academy, it is a great honour," she said.

"This will be my first year in elite women where I have to compete against older and more experienced riders and it will be a hard task.

"My goal for this season is to do the whole World Cup series, the World Championship in South Africa and compete more internationally with the aim of placing in the top three."

Callum Richardson, 13, was one of the youngest of the award winners. He demonstrated his ability when he represented WA in the under-14s team of the 2009 FFA National Youth Championships.

The football award was a reward for his talent and determination to follow his dream of playing soccer for Australia.



BMX star Lauren Reynolds has won the South West Academy of Sports Sports Star of the Year Award.



Australind's Callum Richardson took out the Academy's Football (Soccer) Athlete of the year.