

# Defying all the odds

by Tim Carrier

tim.bdmail@ruralpress.com

WHEN Lachlan Micale was five he was diagnosed with a life threatening brain tumour.

This month he travels to Maroochydore, Queensland, to represent our State and our community in the WA under-15 schoolboy side at the School Sport Australia Football Championships.

Selection for the state side is the latest triumph for Lachlan, who has beaten the odds to become one of the most talented young footballers in WA.

After getting a scan for some headaches he was having, Lachlan's family was shocked to discover that he had a brain tumour.

They were told the outcome for this tumour, an astrocytoma of cerebellum, was not great, as the survival rate was extremely low, especially in children, even with the help of a great surgeon.

If Lachlan was to survive, he was not predicted to live a normal life, with his coordination being one area greatly affected.

Lachlan defied expectations by surviving his surgery which turned out to be a complete success.

Once he recovered his family settled down in Yallingup and encouraged him to play Auskick.

His mother said: "Lockie has always lived a very normal life and has had success in most sports he has played."

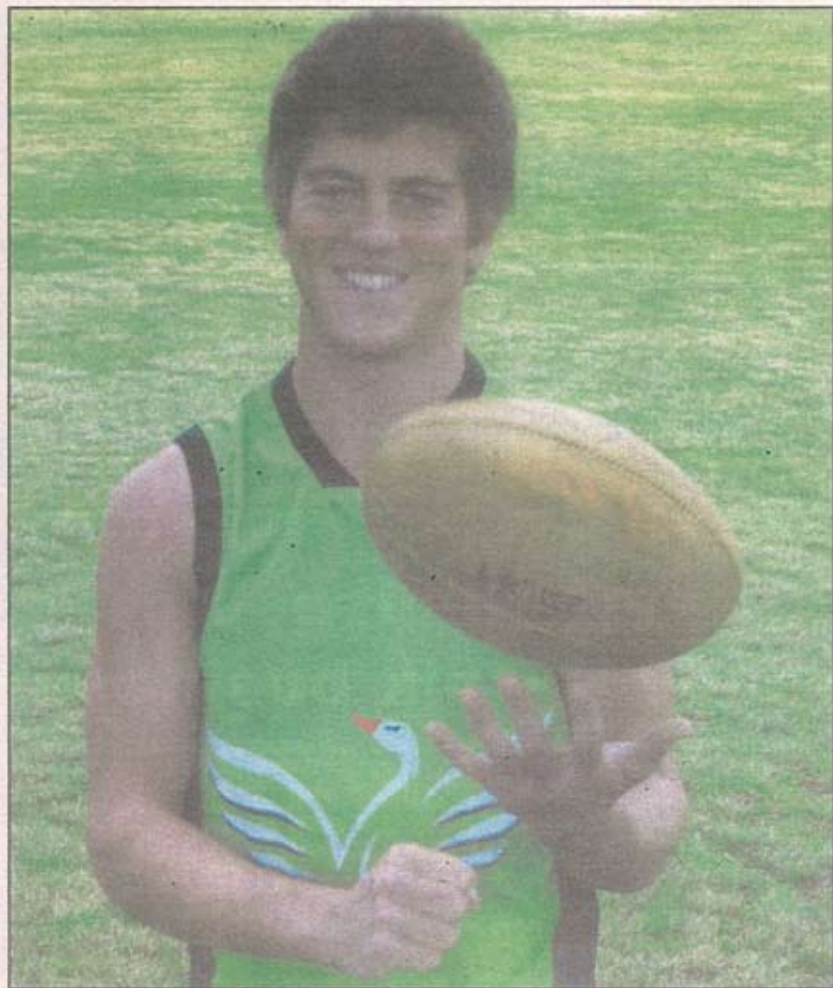
From the start of his footballing career it was clear that not only was Lachlan very coordinated, but he was talented as well.

He has never had trouble with his coordination, and backed by supportive parents and coaches, Lachlan has developed a natural sporting talent.

Uncle and current East Perth coach Tony Micale said he hoped to be in the position to coach Lachlan one day.

As well as playing for his local Dunsborough side, Lachlan has been selected for the South West Academy of Sport and is also part of the East Perth Junior WAFL side.

His parents are just as dedicated to their son's football as he is.



"It's a lot of driving up and back to Perth every week to get him to training, but Lockie has met a lot of great kids and is improving all the time," they said.

Most recently he attended the State training camp and he has been working harder than ever at his football, so running out on the field for the State side on July 25 is a fitting reward.

Since learning of his

selection his friends and family have been extremely helpful in helping him raise money for his trip.

The Micale family would like to thank Warren and Margaret Dean from Dunsborough Football Club and the local Dunsborough community for all their help with fundraising for his trip.

Lachlan is a remarkable young man who

has defied the odds to become one of the State's most gifted midfielders.

"I just love football; my dream is to play in the AFL one day. When I'm not playing I also love to go for a surf," said Lachlan.

He sounds just like every Australian kid and if he continues to apply himself then there is no doubt that one day we will see him turn his dream into a reality.