

Academy a winner in first year

THE South West Academy of Sport has emerged as an important training ground for young athletes throughout the region since the launch of its partner sports programs on July 4 last year.

Talent development pathways have been set up, visiting sports stars have lent their support and athletes have achieved accolades at State, national and international levels.

SWAS board chairman Don Punch said it was exciting to see the academy develop and there would be plenty to celebrate when the candles on the academy's first birthday cake were blown out next month.

"The academy has helped 147 athletes pursue their sporting dreams in its first year," he said.

"This is an outstanding effort and a reflection of the hard work of the athletes, coaches and program coordinators, as well as the generous sponsorship from local groups and businesses."

SWAS chief executive Bernice Butlion said there was much to look forward to as the academy moved into its second year of operation, including an inaugural awards night to recognise the achievements of SWAS athletes.