

Social Club

Worsley basketball families boost the SWAS

The South West's newest elite athlete's training organisation has a real Worsley flavour with Production Supervisor Greg Worthington involved as a basketball coach and Technical Spares Coordinator Peter Latch's son training with the basketball squad.

BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina is a major sponsor of the South West Academy of Sport (SWAS), of which basketball is one of four chosen sports – the others are hockey, netball and football.

Peter Latch who has worked at Worsley for 28 years, is proud of his son Brent who has been selected as one of the lucky athletes involved in the SWAS training program.

He said Brent has also been

selected in the under 18 men's WA State Country Team for the National Championships held in South Australia.

Peter is team manager of the Under 18 Slammers team in the WA Premier League – and Greg Worthington, who notched up 25 years of service with Worsley in January, has spent nearly 40 years playing and coaching basketball.

As the former coach of the Slammers and WA State basketball coach, Greg shares this love of the sport with his family. His wife Treena coaches Brent in the Under 18 Slammers team, their son Trent plays for the Slammers men's team, daughter Kate plays for the Slammers women's team and son Mark played for Australia at the 2006 Commonwealth Games

and in last year's Beijing Olympic Games. Mark continues to play in the NBL and this year has joined former rivals the Melbourne Tigers as co-captain.

"You could say we are a family of slammers!" Greg said.

"Worsley has been very good to me over the years, giving me special leave to coach at a senior level."

Greg spent about 20 years working in Area 4 (Calcination) before taking up his present role and says things have changed a lot.

He remembers when the calciners were run on oil, instead of the gas used today, which made them harder to operate and less environmentally friendly.

He also recalls the days before the introduction of safety programs.



Technical Spares Coordinator Peter Latch with his son Brent who is training at the South West Academy of Sport.

"We would hand over a bit of the plant and people just went in and worked in it," he said.

"Now there is much greater awareness of what is safe."