

Local basketballers impress national selectors at champs

BASKETBALL: Tyler Hickert and Cory Richardson's strong performances at the under 18 Basketball Championships last month has led to further opportunities to play at the highest level.

The South West Academy of Sport scholarship holders attracted the attention of Australian under 17 coach Guy Molloy.

For Hickert, who averaged 16 points and 10 rebounds per game, the reward was an invitation to join the 24 other top national players in his age group at the Australian Institute of

Sport in June.

If he impresses at the camp he could make an appearance at the FIBA Oceanic Championship to be held in Brisbane in August.

SWAS Development and championships coach Steve Hawkins said that Hickert was a very exciting prospect.

"His ability to understand the game and to perform all basic skills very well, due to his hard work in and out of training sessions, has produced a fine young player," Hawkins said.

Richardson's exceptional performance at the

championships earned him selection to the 40 player national squad but he narrowly missed the cut.

Hawkins said he has nee told his development will be closely monitored for future camps.

At the championships Richardson showed maturity beyond his years and averaged six points, two rebounds and three assists.

Coach Hawkins said South West basketball had a strong foundation provided by SWAS through Basketball SW and more would likely feature at a State and National level.