

Academy selection for budding stars

TEN local footballers have been selected to join the South West Academy of Sport after they competed in the West Australian Football League Carnival held in Perth over the October school holidays.

The 14-year-old boys from Manjimup, Pemberton, Bridgetown and Greenbushes will be exposed to an elite level of coaching and training techniques in the program that will run for a year.

The academy's talent and coaching coordinator and football program head coach Mark Skehan said the boys would receive valuable coaching from experts in the program.

"It gives the kids that level of expertise without having to travel huge distances," Mr Skehan said.

The boys will be put through the paces with testing by sports physiologist that will include speed, agility, stamina, vertical leap and core strength.

They will also learn life and mental skills such as concentration, focus, self belief and also learn about nutrition.

Mr Skehan said the 41 boys in the program had shown potential and the academy would give them a leg up in the talent pathway of football.

"They have been recognised as going further," Mr Skehan said.

Lower South West coach Wayne Barnden said the selection was a great result compared with last year in which only four boys joined the academy.

"It is a good sign that junior football in the Lower South West is thriving," Mr Barnden said.

The boys are Beau Chatley and Christopher Dalgish (Tigers), Trent Fox and Leigh Scaini (Southerners), Jordan Lowe and Matt Wheatley (Bridgetown), Jake Ryan, Taine Wilson and Marty Zambotto (Imperials) and Patrick Towerton (Deanmill).