

# UK tour for youngsters

## Soccer

LOCAL boys Carlo Chiellini (15) and Daniel Kearney (14) recently travelled to the United Kingdom to participate in an under 15s Football West UK Tour.

The tour is held every two years and this year there were 19 players on the squad, along with two coaches and two managers.

Kearney and Chiellini left for the UK on November 29 and arrived back home in time for Christmas after playing a variety of English teams. They won a game against a Scottish team, drew with West London Academy and lost two other games.

While on tour, the boys watched Premier League teams Manchester and Liverpool play and participated in a coaching clinic with Tottenham Hotspur, which were trip highlights.

They also travelled around the UK and visited places such as Birmingham and Edinburgh.

Both Chiellini and Kearney are members of the South West Phoenix Football club.

Typical training sessions in preparation for the tour involved ball work, sprints, running and shooting.

Both started playing soccer when they were six years old

and Chiellini represented Collie at country week three times.

Kearney and Chiellini were both selected to attend a country week camp earlier this year, from which Chiellini was then invited to trial for the State team in April.

For Chiellini, it was his third appearance at country week camp. However it was the first time for Kearney.

The boys were part of the South West Football West Development Academy which consisted of players from Geraldton, Albany, Bunbury and Collie.

Participation in this academy allowed the boys to be nominated for a place in the 2008 touring team.

Kearney attributes his success to his mentor and primary school soccer coach, Domenic Italiano, who he said helped him with his skills. Chiellini said that he did not have a specific mentor, although he believes he has learnt a lot from a lot of different people.

Tour coach Perry Krakowczyk, commenting on the boy's performance while they were away, said both were "very good players. They were also well behaved and performed very well."



**Back home:** Collie's UK touring soccer players Daniel Kearney and Carlo Chiellini back home after touring the United Kingdom.