

# Big future awaits for young basketballer

By HANNELORE HEPBURN

AUSTRALIND teenager Jarrad Watson has taken another step forward in his sporting ambitions after being selected in the inaugural basketball squad of the South West Academy of Sport.

A promising athlete since primary school where he collected a number of titles as the year champion in the athletics carnivals, the 14-year-old Australind Senior High School student has been playing basketball for the past four years.

He started off with the Australind Basketball Association, but now also plays for the Bunbury Aces in the under-18 team and joined the junior Slammers last season.

Jarrad has been part of Country Week teams and will try out for the State team this year for the first time.

With his height of 175cm and more growth to come and dedication to his chosen sport, Jarrad has a bright basketball future ahead.

The nomination in the squad as one of 28 athletes from the South West is a big commitment for Jarrad and his parents, who are happy to drive him to early training at 6am before school and to games and coaching on evenings and weekends.

The individual and group sessions with the academy will provide the young athletes with the opportunity to advance their skills and achieve a higher level.

"I am really excited about making it into the squad," Jarrad said.

"I want to try out for the State team this year, continue with the junior Slammers and aim for the National Basketball League in the future."



Jarrad Watson is excited about being part of the South West Academy of Sport's first basketball squad.