

Basketballer picked in academy squad

By KEN UTTING

HARVEY'S Anton Fimmano was one of 28 athletes from around the region to become part of South West Academy of Sport history recently when he was named in the academy's first basketball squad.

The promising basketball players were officially inducted into the high performance program during a function at the South West Sports Centre and will now participate in talent development training.

The 16-year-old has an impressive record in junior ranks at Harvey, Bunbury and with the Slammers.

At the age of nine he played in his first under-13s Country Week carnival under coach Russell Upton who is now a national coach.

He represented Harvey in Country Week from the under-13s through to the under-18s and has been selected in the All Stars sides in all but one carnival and his teams have won several grand finals.

In Bunbury, he was selected in the academy side in 2007 and 2008.

He has been a member of the Slammers under-14, 16 and 18 sides with two grand finals appearances.

At State level, Anton has represented WA country in the Country Cup at Albury-Wodonga in the under-16s and in the Nationals in both the 16s and 18s grades.

Academy chief executive Bernice Butlion said training would take place in Bunbury and Busselton, with individual and group sessions for both junior and senior members of the squad.

"This arrangement will give the athletes a real opportunity to excel in



Anton Fimmano has a bright future in basketball.

their sport and compete with others of a similar skill level," she said.

"The program builds on a current development program overseen by Basketball South West and will continue to provide opportunities for talented young basketball players to achieve excellence in sport."

Ms Butlion said the program would be coordinated by Basketball South West administrator Kathy Hawkins, who will liaise with coaches to ensure the best outcomes for athletes.

"Athletes involved in the program will receive training by specialist coaches as well as tuition in areas such as strength development and life skills," she said.