

Soccer in full flight

BENPAPALIA

NEWLY appointed South West Academy of Sport soccer coach Perry Krakowczyk has wasted no time in his new role, taking 19 lucky players on an educational trip to England.

Nine players from the South West and 10 soccer gurus from Geraldton made the trip, which saw the group attend professional training sessions, as well as Premier League and Champions League matches.

"It was an educational trip for them and something they'll remember the rest of their lives," Krakowczyk said.

"We wanted to do something for our regional players, and this gives them an insight into what being a professional player is all about.

"Obviously these young guys are on the right pathway to a bright future, and by them seeing the atmosphere of soccer in England, it will further encourage them."

Players attended four matches while on tour including Manchester United's Champions League tie with Aalborg at Old Trafford, Liverpool verse Blackburn Rovers in the Premier League, and Reading take on Southampton in the Championship Division.

Krakowczyk said he was looking forward to further developing the talents of the region's gifted young soccer players through SWAS.

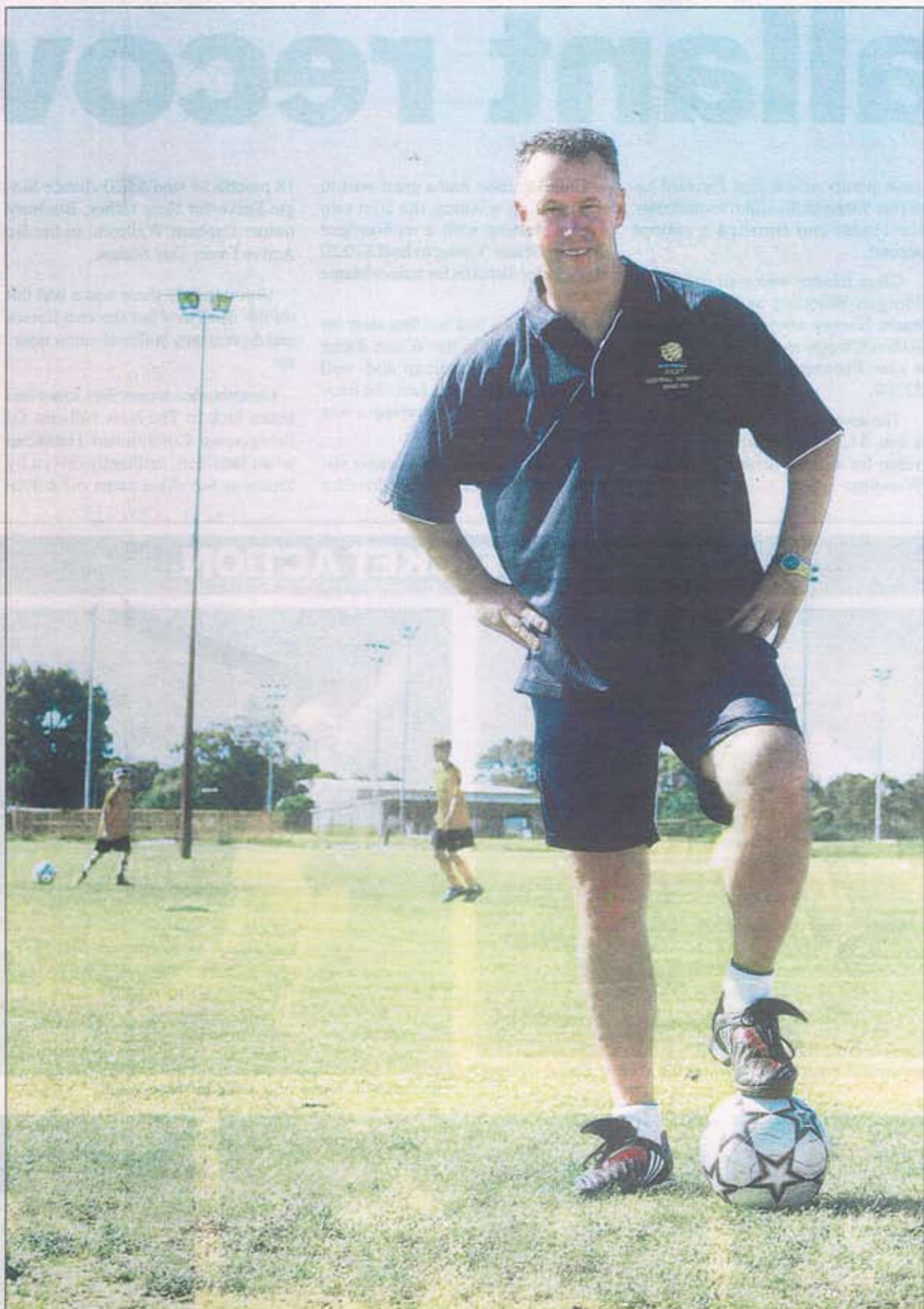
"It's going to be an excellent program for the South West region," Krakowczyk said.

"Previously, soccer players living in the region and competing at this level had to follow an extensive training program in Perth, but the academy means they will be able to train in Bunbury.

A total of 17 local soccer players earned a spot in SWAS this month.

They were chosen for the squad from hundreds of hopefuls who participated in try-outs hosted by Football West.

Members of the squad include: Dominique Fedele (Harvey), Tash Rigby, Declan Flaherty, Jackson Darnell (Margaret River), Kim McCarty, Callum Richardson, Corey Utterson (Australind), Eric Deas, Steven Byrne (Busselton), Ruben Gelmi (Dunsborough), Liam Reeves (Eaton) and Jason Murray (Bunbury). Associate squad: Ryan May, Benjamin Cross (Busselton), Ashley Smith (Manjimup), Caleb Axisa (Bunbury) and Callum Dobbs (Boyanup).



South West Academy of Sport soccer coach Perry Krakowczyk kicked off his new role by taking a group of emerging soccer talents on a trip to England last week.