



South West Cricket Academy athlete Alison Overton, 12, has been selected to play cricket for WA. PICTURE: DAVID BAILEY

Rising star selected for State team

GEORGE GOODWIN

THE Perdaman South West Cricket Academy's success is spreading with 12-year-old Alison Overton the latest member to be selected for a State team.

A telephone call out of the blue to academy coach Greg Overton, offering his daughter a lifeline to the State country under-15 team to play in the three-day womens' premier league carnival in Perth, saw Capel schoolgirl Alison take her place in the country team for the carnival.

One of her country under-15 colleagues Hannah Merrett withdrew from the carnival because of soccer duties and Alison was chosen to take her place in the country team, according to her proud dad Greg.

She performed so well with both bat and ball that she was selected for the final trial and subsequently the WA under-15 team which travels to Sydney for the national titles in December.

Alison cut her teeth in the South West junior competition playing for Capel before venturing to Perth this season for club cricket, fol-

lowing the footsteps of Chloe Piparo and Gemma Triscari who were both recipients of the Wendy Chalenor Scholarship in recent seasons.

Alison trains at the Perdaman Academy twice a week.

She is the baby of a sporting family with siblings all involved in sport — oldest brother Paul, 25, plays Classic League hockey for Peel, 17-year-old Lachie is a rising hockey star with State Under-15 selection behind him and then there is emerging soccer darts Duncan, 14.

"Ally's selection is another example of a country-based junior making it into a State team without having to go through the Perth grades like in the past," head coach of the South West Cricket Academy Andy Cottam said.

"The South West program is just about complete now with our three regional development areas under top coaches.

"The local fare is just about as good as it gets and the powers that be like the WACA are starting to take notice."