

SPORT

Bailie represents WA

STEVE TUOHEY

BUNBURY triathlon star Ryan Bailie is continuing his rapid rise to elite level with selection in the State Triathlon Excellence Program for the second consecutive year.

Bailie, 17, made the State squad last year after winning the State School Championships and performing brilliantly in the National Cross Country Championships, where he was placed in the top 20.

He also won the South Western Times Surf to Surf Fun Run 10km event in 2007 and this year, took out the short course event at the Bun-Berri Triathlon, while sister Ashlee won the women's event.

Mother Kerry Bailie made it a real family affair with a third place finish in the Open women's division for the Olympic distance course, showing where Ashlee and Bailie get their competitive genes.

Triathlon WA development officer

Brian Kempson said both of the Bailie siblings were exciting talents and congratulated Ryan on his selection in the State Excellence program.

"It's a big step for Ryan but the experience will be invaluable for him," Kempson said.

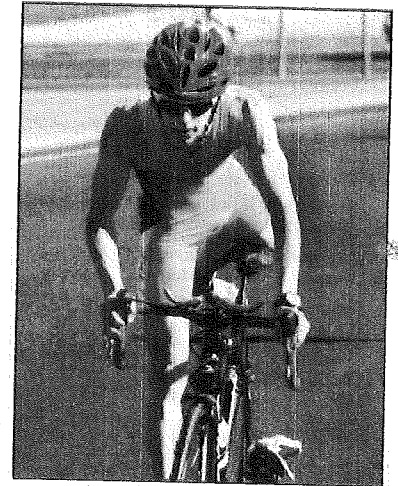
"Ashlee is also a very talented triathlete and could also break into the squad later this year."

Ryan competed as part of the State squad at the National Junior Series in

Queensland at the weekend as one of two WA competitors, taking part in four short distance events over three days at Runaway Bay on the Gold Coast.

Results will also count towards selection for the 2009 Australian Youth Olympics in Sydney, with 75 juniors vying for positions.

The series was followed by a three-day high performance camp, with Bailie invited to join 45 triathletes for specialist tuition from 20 coaches.



Ryan Bailie