

# western sport

## Very modern girl

WEMBLEY Downs athlete Deane Whitehead is not afraid of a challenge, but as a young modern pentathlon competitor she has found herself with five of them.

The competition is a five-discipline, one-day event which includes air pistol shooting, fencing, 200m freestyle swim, show jumping and cross country running.

Deane's mother and Modern Pentathlon WA president Cathy Whitehead said it was not only a physically challenging event but was also a feat of mental endurance.

Deane recently made history by coming ninth in the women's Epee in the Australian Fencing Open National Circuit, the best result for a 14-year-old girl in recent history.

That milestone is not the only one Deane has to show off however. Involved in modern pentathlon for only 18 months, the teenager won the youth female national title in January this year.

In April Deane flew to New Caledonia to compete in the Oceania Cadet Under 17 International Fencing Championships.



Deane Whitehead. Picture: Bruce Hunt

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Thirteen at the time, Deane was the youngest fencer to represent Australia and certainly the youngest fencer at the competition. She finished sixth in her first international and second in the teams competition.

Her goal for 2008 is to represent Australia in modern pentathlon at youth or junior level on the way to her ultimate dream of being a pentathlete at the Olympics and win a gold medal.