



Pentathlete Deane Whitehead (14) is aiming for the London Olympics.

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Teenager takes aim at London Olympics

WEMBLEY DOWNS resident Deane Whitehead is WA's leading female modern pentathlete.

The 14-year-old won a silver medal at the 2008 Baltic Youth International Championships in Sweden recently, and on Friday qualified for the World Championships in Bulgaria to be held in September.

The modern pentathlon involves swimming, fencing, shooting, horse riding and running.

She said fencing was her favourite event. "It's fun to do; I've enjoyed it ever since I picked up a foil," she said.

It was Deane's first international competition and she elected to compete in the under-18 category.

Unfortunately, she was suffering from asthma at the time.

"I got a cold before I left and on the plane it got worse and when I got to Sweden it was really cold and I got really sick," she said.

Despite the set back Deane said was very pleased with her success.

"I was really happy because I went up an age group," she said.

The teenager trains for hours each day, before and after school and on the weekends, she does her homework in the car on the way to training and spends little time socialising with friends, instead preferring to concentrate on her sport.

"I'm used to it," she said. "It's not hard or anything so I put up with it."

Deane now plans to keep training and competing.

"I'm aiming for world championships in four months and I'm training for that," she said.

"My big goal is to go to the London Olympics."