

Sport

SOCCER

Young Strikers' cup quest

PENINSULA Strikers' under 12A soccer team is putting the finishing touches on preparations for the McDonald's Kangaroo Cup in Canberra next month, where they are hoping to improve on last year's third place.

The Kanga Cup is the largest junior soccer tournament in the southern hemisphere, with 223 teams from across Australia competing in last year's event.

Coach Cameron McLean, a former professional, has a couple of impressive assistants in former Chelsea FC player Jimmy Smart and Lampton Brima, a one-time international for Sierra Leone.

McLean says the boys are ready to take the next step and will have a real tilt at the 2010 championship.

"The boys have had a top year this season, sitting undefeated on top of the ladder," he said.

"Importantly for the task ahead, they've produced some very polished soccer skills and teamwork along the way.

"Last year was a first for the boys and though they put in a pretty good effort, they also learnt a hell of a lot from competing at that level.

"They now take with them the experience gained from last year and have a better grip on what it takes to beat the best at this level."



Capital bound: The Peninsula Strikers under 12A side is heading to the Kanga Cup.

The team is: Zachary Athanasopoulos, Jaiden Madafferi, Ryan McLean, Charlie Kane Bentley, Emmanuel Brima, Thomas Ewing, James Foster, Thomas Jackson, Jodishira Jagatheson, Solomon Joseph.

Jason Gillick