

Moody on board to help nurture young rising stars

RILEY STUART

AUSTRALIAN cricketing icon Tom Moody has joined the South West Cricket Academy in what is a major coup for the infantile organisation.

The academy, which began operations in October 2009, had its future assured last week with news that major sponsor Perdaman Industries had committed for a further two years.

As part of the deal Moody, a former international cricketer and coach who is also a corporate adviser for Perdaman, will support program director Andy Cottam in mentoring talented youth from around the region.

"There's a huge amount of potential in the South West, everyone knows that there's so many great sportspeople that are produced out of this region," Moody said.

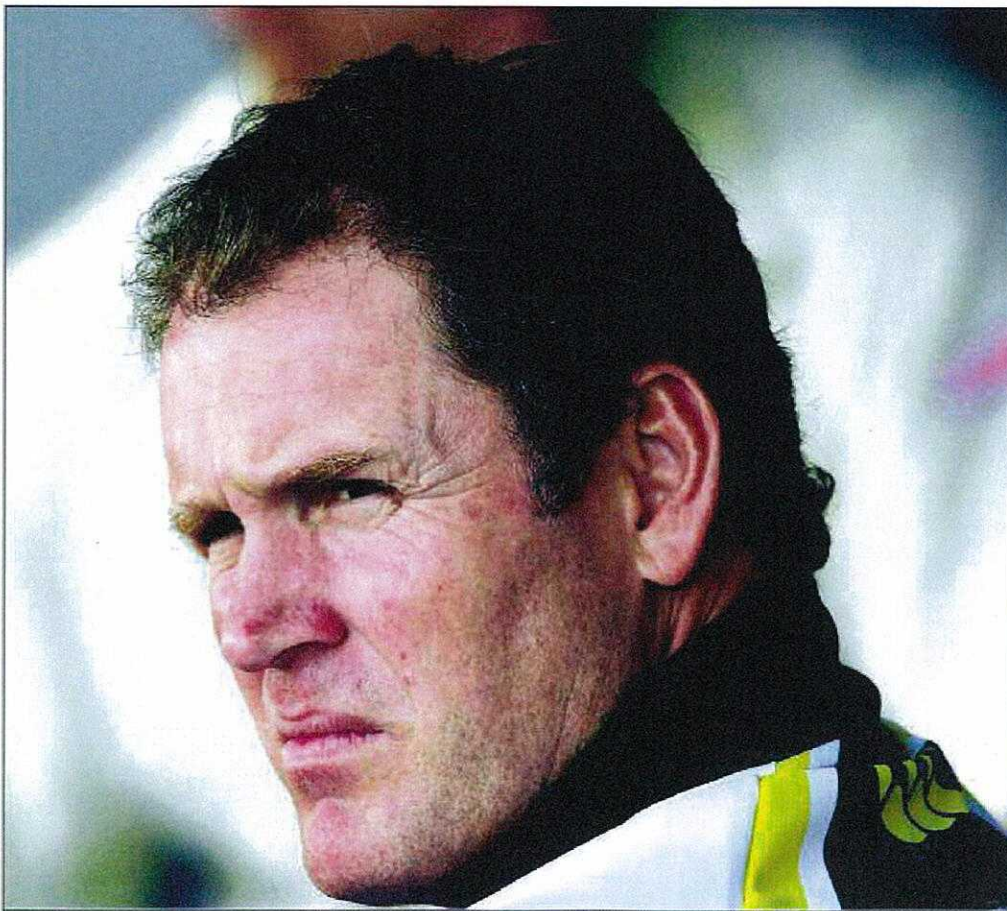
"Hopefully we'll see them walking out at the WACA as a (Western) Warrior, or even better, playing for Australia."

Moody brings an impressive coaching CV to the academy, having previously been at the helm of Sri Lanka internationally and, until he resigned last summer, WA, the side he captained to various domestic trophies in the 1980s.

He is currently coaching Kings Punjab XI in the lucrative Indian Premier League competition, and while that squad includes high-profile international names like Kumar Sangakkara, Simon Katich and Shaun Marsh, Moody appears just as happy to spend time nurturing more local talent in the South West.

"I hope to spend quite a bit of time down here, I love the region," he said.

"I intend to come down here on a regular basis to see how the program is running and help out."



Australian cricketing icon Tom Moody has joined the South West Cricket Academy as a coach. PICTURE: GETTY IMAGES