



Basketballer and Box Hill Senior Secondary College student Dylan Donnelly travels three hours a day for his sport.

Picture: NATHAN DYER

Hard work on basketball court set to pay off for Dylan

TRAVELLING three hours to school every day epitomises Dylan Donnelly's commitment to becoming a professional basketballer.

The Berwick resident is a jack of all trades – player, coach and referee – who hopes to one day land a lucrative contract like fellow Australian basketballer, Dante Exum.

Dylan catches the train to Box Hill Senior Secondary College middle school sports campus from his Berwick home every weekday.

“I'm trying to obtain a college basketball scholarship over in the states and really try to take my basketball as far as I can,” Dylan said.

“In the meantime, I've got to train hard in the gym and

on the court to improve my game.

“If you look at Dante, a really good player who worked really hard to get where he is today ... and that's what I have to do.”

The 14-year-old point guard plays with the Melbourne Tigers' junior league team, coaches the Oatlander Outlaws Basketball Club

and referees at Dandenong Stadium.

Although Dylan has a passion to play, becoming a referee has changed the way he views not only the game, but the refs.

“I respect the umpires a lot more now, and I can understand why they make certain decisions now when I'm playing,” Dylan said.

“I think it's a great idea for all players to do a ref course and understand the intricacies of the game.”

Dylan is this week's *Berwick Leader* Junior Sports Star nominee.

To nominate a junior sports star, which is presented by Sportsmart, visit leadernews.com.au/sportsstar