

Memory of late dad keeps Alex on track



Sprinter Alex Condello recently won two bronze medals at the national junior championships and won a gold medal at an event in the US. Picture: TAIT SCHMAAL

CHAMPION SA UNDER-16 SPRINTER DREAMS OF RUNNING IN OLYMPIC GAMES

Nicolas Jungfer

WHEN teenage sprinter Alex Condello is racing towards the finish line, the memory of his late father Vince spurs him on.

Vince Condello died of stomach cancer 18 months ago. Alex, 14, has since won bronze medals in the 4x100m and 4x200m relays at the Australian Athletics Junior Championships in Sydney in March this year.

“Before the race I just stayed normal, didn’t get too worried about it, didn’t think about it too much. When I found out (about winning), I was so happy

- Alex Condello

“Just to know that he’s there, always watching, you always want to do better,” Alex said.

“It just gives you that extra little bit to make the distance.”

The Immanuel College

student and state under-16 100m champion took up running seriously after entering a school competition.

It led him to train under coach Rick Wilson at Saints Athletics Club.

Wilson invited Alex to

compete at the Ventura Country Track and Field Championships in California in April, where he won gold in the under-15 100m sprint in a photo finish.

“I was really intimidated because the boys were

massive ... Before the race I just stayed normal, didn’t get too worried about it, didn’t think about it too much.

“When I found out (about winning), I was so happy.

“I felt like it was good trip, and all worthwhile.”

Alex has now turned his attention to next year’s national titles.

Beyond that, he hopes to be selected for a world championships or Olympics.