

Stenson set to take the next step up



LOOKING FOR A LIFT: Dylan Stenson, the runner-up in last year's Camden Classic, before training. Picture: DYLAN COKER

REECE HOMFRAY ATHLETICS

DRIVEN by the pain of finishing second last year and with the Rio Olympic trials on the horizon, Adelaide runner Dylan Stenson looms as a major threat in tomorrow's Camden Classic.

Although 400m might be a tad short for him given he is targeting the 800m at next month's national championships, Stenson believes he still has the top-end speed to chal-

lenge for the title. Last year he ran off a handicap of 12m and finished second to Clay Watkins and, 12 months on, he's off an even tighter mark of 10m.

"It was a close one and it hurt a little bit but it's all fire in the belly for this year," Stenson said.

"I've upped the mileage this season but the speed is still there.

"I ran a 400m PB last month so, while it might not be my best event, I still think I'm a good chance."

The 27-year-old only turned to athletics two years ago from a soccer background and continues to show improvement.

His 800m PB of 1:47.73 is just over one second outside the 1:46 required for him to be considered for selection for the Rio Olympics in August.

After this weekend's Camden Classic he shifts his focus to the Adelaide Track Classic on February 20

From there it's on to the national championships and

Olympic trials in Sydney in March.

The Camden Classic will be held at Camden Oval tomorrow. The women's final is set for 5.55pm and the men's at 6.10pm.

Defending champion Watkins is starting off scratch while Bryce Watkins is the next runner behind Stenson off 15m. Bridgid Connolly is the backmarker in the women's race, in which she will start off 19m.

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