

# Jake has right move



STAR: Jake Dornford, 16, of O'Sullivan Beach, has been selected to represent Australia at the Oceania Wrestling Championships in Samoa.

Picture: Stephen Laffer H0334290

## Even dislocated thumb can't stop his title charge

**WRESTLING** | DUANE SCHULTZ

A DISLOCATED thumb and throbbing pain did not stop O'Sullivan Beach's **Jake Dornford** winning gold at the last month's Oceania wrestling titles.

Dornford, 16, was crowned 63kg champion wrestler in the section for 15- to 17-year-olds, despite injuring his right thumb in the opening

seconds of his first bout of the competition.

"I got thrown to the mat and I looked down at my hand and my thumb was dislocated so I popped it back in and used my left side for the rest of the bout," the Marcellin Technical College student says.

"I had to adjust as I hadn't trained a lot on my left side.

"After the first bout I got it (the

injured thumb) wrapped up and continued on in the competition where I got the gold.

"I know now I'll have to train more on my left side so if it happens again, I'll be prepared."

Dornford turned to the sport as a way to get fit three years ago and quickly progressed through the ranks to earn a spot on the Australian team for the competition, which

was held in Samoa last month. "When I first started I didn't have much idea about wrestling," Dornford says.

"I was pretty happy to be picked, it was my first international meet."

He also competed in the 66kg category for 18 to 20 year olds at the Oceania titles, held on February 24 to 27, but failed to progress to the final.

Dornford aims to make the 2016 Australian Olympic team but first wants to represent the country at world championship level.

His next major meet will be the Martinetti Cup in Switzerland in July.

"If I do well in Switzerland I will get to go to Hungary for the Cadet World Championships (later this year)," he says.