



Daniel Pritchard was recently named the Victorian Blind Cricket Association's rookie of the year 2008-09.

Picture: STEVE TANNER N39FP102

Sports-keen Daniel takes to blind cricket

TECOMA schoolboy Daniel Pritchard is hitting blind cricket for six.

The Upwey High School student has played the sport for only one season, but was recently named the Victorian Blind Cricket Association's rookie of the year for 2008-09.

The 14-year-old was born with X-linked retinosis, a hereditary eye disease causing perma-



nent retinal detachment and subsequent vision loss. He lost all vision in his left eye in 2007 but still has some in his right eye. Daniel's dad, Rod Pritchard, said the award had capped off a fantastic

first year in the sport for his son, which included a man-of-the-match award during a social match.

"He loves the sport and he was excited to win," Mr Pritchard said.

Daniel has previously played four seasons of various sports with Upwey Ferntree Gully Baseball Club but had to stop playing because of his failing eyesight.

He now plays with St

Paul's Blind Cricket Club.

"Daniel has come to really develop his skills and to love and enjoy both playing the game and the friendships of other players in the competition," Mr Pritchard said.

■ Daniel is a *Free Press Leader* junior Sports Star nominee of the week. To nominate a Sports Star, email us at freepress@leadernews.com.au