Sloane scores scholarship

Harrison Tippet

CANTERBURY'S Phoebe Sloane will throw herself into American college life this week.

The 19-year-old discus champion flew to Memphis, Tennessee last weekend to begin a “full ride” athletics scholarship with the University of Memphis.

For Sloane, a former Strathcona student, the prized scholarship will include four years of study, board and high-performance athletics coaching.

“I took a trip over to America last year with mum to have a look at all my college options,” Sloane said.

“They’re called ‘official’ or ‘unofficial’ visits, where the colleges can sort of pay a little bit for you to come over and talk to them and they try to recruit you to put them on your roster.”

The University of Maine pushed the close-knit nature of their team, organising for Sloane to bunk with a friendly teammate for a night, while the University of Vermont presented itself as a prestigious school with a strong academic program.

“Then I went down to Memphis,” Sloane said.

“They had all these amazing facilities, and this brand new $40 million athletics track that they’d just laid down.

“What made me gravitate towards Memphis the most was that really friendly and welcoming culture they have down there.”

Sloane won her first international gold medal for Australia this year at the 2014 Oceania Area Championships.