

COLLEGE SPORT



Gabe Armstrong-Scott was named last week in the New Zealand team to compete in the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi. She tells **Linda Wood** about her likes and dislikes.

Q: What was the reaction at school after the announcement of your selection in the team for the Commonwealth Games team to New Delhi?

A: When I walked into St Catherine's everyone was calling out congratulations to me and just came up to me to give me a hug. The teachers all congratulated me. It was good.

Q: What has been the reaction from your friends?

A: It has been absolutely crazy, my phone has not stopped ringing. The amount of support I get from everybody is just incredible – I'm so lucky to have such a fantastic support network behind me.

Q: Your best subject at school?

A: Music.

Q: If music is your best subject, and that is perhaps not too surprising since both your parents have been in the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and you, when time allows it, busk on your violin in Wellington streets to help with your costs, what then is your worst subject at school, or the one you like the least?

A: I don't have one... (just in case the teachers read this!!)

Q: What has been the most embarrassing moment you have had when diving?

A: I had a huge splat off the 10m diving platform one training session when there was a huge crowd watching me!

Q: The saying is 'You are what you eat' and it is said that your schoolbag can sometimes look like a supermarket basket, what could we always find in your fridge at home?

A: Eggs, milk, salad, bacon and cheese.

Q: So what then is your favourite food?

A: Burritos.

Q: Who has had the biggest



Feeling game: Gabe Armstrong-Scott.

influence on your diving career to date?

A: My coach, Steven Zhu, because I have learnt so much from him. (A top Chinese coach, Zhu arrived in Wellington three years ago and recruited Armstrong-Scott for his high performance squad. Since then, she has improved and he has made her realise her potential.)

Q: You were at the movies watching *Karate Kid* when you learnt of your selection in the team to attend the Commonwealth Games, so what is the best movie you have seen?

A: *The Colour Purple*.

Q: We know that swimmers have early wake-up calls each morning, so what about divers. Are their alarms also set early?

A: Mine is at 5.30am.

Q: We know athletes need food for fuel, so can you cook?

A: It's not my strongest point.

Q: We also know teenagers have to do work around home, so what's your least-liked task in the Armstrong-Scott house?

A: Cooking.

Young Hurricanes in hunt for national school squad selection

Linda Wood
RUGBY

DESPITE losing their national schools rugby title, Hurricanes coach Darren Larsen is hopeful that several of his players will get the nod when the national secondary school squad is named.

"I'm not 100 per cent sure when it will be named. I know that there is a grouping of 50 players to be named and it is probably getting collated over the next few weeks," Larsen said.

Among the Wellington players who Larsen believes to be contenders for that squad are Ope Paleasuma (St Pat's Silverstream), Tupou

Sapoaga and Joe Latta (Wellington College).

"They come to mind and are pretty highly regarded," Larsen said.

Paleasuma was a member of the national secondary school team last year while Sapoaga and Latta if selected would be newcomers to that level.

For Larsen individual success of his players will go some way toward making up for the disappointment of the Hurricanes' side not winning their fourth consecutive title at St Paul's Collegiate in Hamilton. The side was beaten 33-16 by the Blues in the final last Thursday.

"We came up against a big powerful team and they got away to a flier

really," Larsen said. The Blues were ahead 10-0 after as many minutes.

However, one player who made the most of his opportunities for the Hurricanes was midfielder Paleasuma, who scored both his side's tries. For his first try, he used his strength to cross the line and took with him three would-be Blues tacklers.

For his second he made the initial break and then scored from a set scrum move which helped the Hurricanes go into the halftime break ahead 16-13.

"We were pretty happy with the way we did fight back," Larsen said.

"We had not had a lot of possession though so the effort that had

gone into the defence was starting to have an impact on us."

The second half started off similar to the first with the Blues scoring 14 points in as many minutes.

"There was some critical decision-making that compounded on us and we were chasing the game." While not offering it as an excuse, the final was the second toughest game in three days for the Hurricanes side.

Two days earlier, the team had beaten their Chiefs counterparts 27-17 in a replay of the 2009 final. In contrast the Blues beat fourth seed Southern 24-8.

"No excuses though. We performed well on the Tuesday and our

defence was not up to it [on the Thursday]," Larsen said.

"We just made some bad decisions and got caught up with the big boys. They are a very big powerful side and we put plenty of numbers against them and we got a bit skinny on the outside."

While unable to continue the unbeaten run for the team, Larsen is keen to be back at the helm for next year's tournament.

"It was initially a two-year appointment and I am focused on following that through," he said.

From this year's team Larsen has just six players eligible for selection.

"They will be back, providing they perform."

Love has another goal in his sights

Linda Wood
FOOTBALL

DELIVERING the ball into the back of the goal is all too familiar this winter for Alex Love.

However, there is one delivery the Tawa College first XI footballer is eagerly awaiting and it will come from New Zealand Football advising him whether or not he has made the national under-17 training squad.

Love, 15, was among several Wellington players who attended the regional national under-17 trials during the school holidays. With similar trials also held in Auckland and Christchurch, the boys are waiting to see if they have made the initial, 30-player training squad which will be based in Auckland.

From that squad will come the team to play in the Oceania qualifying tournament, which will be held in Auckland in January.

The winners of this competition will book their place in the under-17 World Cup planned for Mexico next July.

"They [national coaches] have said they will contact us as soon as possible by letter," Love said.

"If I made it, I have to move up to Auckland but I would give up [Wellington] and do that."

Love, in his first year with the Tawa College first XI, has wasted no

'For me, the main aim is to get us [Tawa College] through the semifinal and into the final.'

ALEX LOVE

time in making a name for himself in the premier youth grade.

Going into last Saturday's round of games, he had scored seven goals in as many matches and was level with St Pat's Silverstream's Hamish Watson in the race for the premier youth golden boot award.

However, Watson scored twice on Saturday to help his side to a 5-0 win over Hutt International Boys, while Love and his Tawa College team went scoreless in their drawn match against Wellington College.

For the year 11 student, the golden boot award is secondary.

"I sometimes check [the goal scoring tally] and it would be good if I was up there," he said.

"I like being up there and I like to split them [the St Pat's Silverstream] players up. It would be a perk if I did get it."

Currently three of the top four goalscorers in the grade are from St Pat's Silverstream with Watson having scored nine, Sam Dean – who is third behind Love – six, and James Vernon five.

"For me, the main aim is to get us through the semifinal and into the final."

After last Saturday's games, Tawa College and Wellington College have the same points (nine), but Tawa are in second place because of a better goal difference.

St Pat's Silverstream lead the competition with the maximum 21 points.

While Love took a keen interest in the recent Fifa World Cup, he is



Fingers crossed: Tawa College striker Alex Love is anxiously waiting for mail from New Zealand Football which he hopes will say that he has been included in the national under-17 training squad.

Photo: ROSS GIBLIN

now looking forward to the commencement of the A-League.

And he will be monitoring the performance of the Wellington Phoenix – not to mention the opportunity to watch a particular player in action.

"He is really good. He holds the ball up and he is a good link player.

He is the one I watch the most when I am watching the Wellington Phoenix."

Teamwork pays off for Wellington

NETBALL

PLAYING as a team rather than individuals helped the Wellington under-17 netball side finish second at the national championship in Auckland.

The side lost 32-31 to Auckland Waitakere, the second time in as many years that the Wellington centre side has been beaten in the final.

"We had a team that worked very hard and we certainly weren't relying on anyone in particular," coach Waimarama Taumaunu said. "The team as a team came through."

Though Taumaunu had set the team the goal of reaching the final, she had not been sure if it could be achievable with only a handful of players back from last year's side.

"We had lost a lot of experienced players," she said. "I was unsure, rather than lacking in confidence."

However, those doubts were put aside once the tournament began.

"The team really played well and did what was asked of them," she said.

From the side, Olivia Dunn, Crystal Lawrence and Emma Mayo were selected in the tournament team.

"That was a good indication of the quality and how the players worked hard as a team, Taumaunu said.

"It is very good effort and it showed last year wasn't a fluke."

The Wellington under-17 team was: Olivia Dunn, Brooke Watt, Crystal Lawrence, Karāhi Peina, Maggie Bone, Victoria Miller (all Wellington East Girls), Hannah Sullivan (Onslow), Alisha Akavi (captain), Emma Mayo, Kathryn Kinivg (St Mary's).

Barnetts continue to shine on court

Success on the squash court has continued for Rebecca Barnett. The Hutt Valley High year 11 student won the South Island under-17 title in Christchurch at the beginning of the month and then a week later added the North Island title to her growing collection in Napier. Her twin brother, Jonny, was runner-up in his competition at both championships. The Barnetts were not the only Wellington players to feature in the finals at the North and South Island championships. Scott Galloway won both the under-15 titles and Paris Dalrymple-Mortleman (Paraparaumu College) was runner-up in both the under-15 events.

Orienteers excel

Wellington orienteers were among the winners at the national secondary schools championships held in Woodhill Forest, Auckland. Laura Robertson (Chilton Saint James) won the senior girls event, while the intermediate girls' championship was won by Lauren Turner (Samuel Marsden). The senior boys' event was won by Nick Hann (Onslow College). In the teams events, the Chilton Saint James trio of Pippa Halliday, Robertson and Julia McMillan won the senior girls' title while Onslow College's Shamus Morrison, Matthew Turner and Hann won the boys' intermediate title.