

Students Sports Spotlight Feature

This week we feature Year 13 1st XI Girls Football player Charlotte Tinsley. She has been nominated by the team's captain Samara Dullabh. Charlotte has a positive attitude and is always willing to help her teammates. She does a lot of the off-field tasks such as fundraising for tournaments and led the team culture sessions during the lockdown period. Her coach Miss Inwood says she is one of the hardest working players in the team and is a role model to the younger players. "MAGS football is lucky to have her"



We asked Charlotte a few questions about her football journey and the lockdown period:

1. How did you get into playing football?

I was influenced by my brother and my dad into playing football. When I was younger I went to all my brothers football games watching him and his team play each weekend. I idolised my brother as a kid and wanted to follow in his footsteps so I started playing football when I was 7 years old.

2. What do you like best about playing sport for MAGS?

I like the pride and the sporting culture that MAGS has. Each time you put on and wear the lion you feel like you're a part of something big and special. Mount Albert Grammar School is renowned for the sporting history so to be able to play a part in it is awesome. The lion is a symbol for strength, courage, honour, power and many others. When you play you feel pride in the symbol of the lion of MAGS and it encourages you to show resilience, hunger, respect, and strength.

3. Who has been your biggest influence and why?

The legacy of MAGS girls football and the older girls I had played alongside as a junior player. As a junior player you come into the first XI knowing you have something to prove. For me, when I came into the first XI as a junior player, I knew I had big shoes to fill and there were high expectations around the level of performance. I felt like I needed to prove and show myself to the older girls that I was worthy and deserving of making the team. I also felt like I owed it to them to play at the standards and level that both them and the players before them had set. With the history of MAGS girls football being so strong, it created the motivation and determination to continue the legacy that the past players had created. Now being a senior player, I hope that the younger girls look up to some of the standards that the senior players have set and want to align themselves with the same standards and level of performance as well.

4. How did you stay active during the lockdown period?

By focusing on the fact that lockdown was temporary and eventually the season would resume. This meant that keeping active would be essential to stay fit in order to compete at a competitive level once returning. I felt like I owed it to both myself and my team mates to make sure my fitness would be adequate to be able to execute quality performances. It was very important mentally. Being inside the majority of the day without having social interactions outside of your bubble became repetitive and demotivating. Therefore being active and getting outside was essential for me to keep sane and stay motivated as well as decluttering my mind and paying attention to what I was doing and my goals.

5. What was the hardest challenge about the lockdown period?

The hardest challenge during the lockdown period was not being able to see your teammates. With trainings and games your seeing each other about 3-4 times a week in which you build many strong friendships and relationships. Due to lockdown restricting social interactions it meant you couldn't interact with the people that you had spent so much time with. Trainings became lonely and it was hard not having anyone to train with or compete with. It was solely up to you to push yourself and you had to hold yourself accountable to maintain and improve your fitness and skill.

6. What have you looked forward to the most after the lockdown period?

Getting back into the season and for games to start up again. All the hard work of pre-season and lockdown will be worth it by getting back into the momentum of trainings and games. Also being able to reunite with team mates and friends, and being able to train with them again is exciting as the social side of sport is awesome and plays a big role in the enjoyment of sport.

7. What are your personal goals for the remainder of 2020?

My personal goals for the remainder of 2020 are to take and make the most of the opportunities I am given. And to also believe in and back myself more.