

Student Sports Spotlight

This week we feature Year 12 student Hannah Jordan who represents Mount Albert Grammar in the sport of Archery as well as football.

We asked Hannah a few questions about doing archery and some of the challenges she faced not being able to shoot arrows during the recent lockdown:



1. How did you get into the sport/s you currently play?

My friend (Louise Clarke) and I decided to give archery a go through the MAGS beginners line in year 9. We joined the Mountain Green Archery Club on Mt Albert mountain. We thought a unique and new sport like archery would be quite interesting to try. From the beginner's line, we have progressed over the years to the youth line for Mountain Green Archery Club and have entered several competitions for different types of archery such as target, field and clout. We have won several awards and badges. We have also represented MAGS in several competitions over the years. I also play football. I joined because it was a sport I have previously played socially and competitively.

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

I like the thrill of the competition for archery, as competitions are a chance to participate as a group and score as a group (even while using your individual skills), as well as something to work towards and progress in skill level.

3. Who has been your biggest influence and why?

Our manager Jan Lees, who is always so lovely and kind towards all of us. She is always supporting us and managing so well to get us to the competitions on time. She always believes in our skill more than ourselves too and is someone I am very glad to have as the manager,

4. To date, what has been your biggest highlight in your chosen sport/s?

Either learning field archery (shooting at paper animal targets from a range of heights while using different techniques) and exploring different types of archery through club competitions, which are fun to try. For school, getting as far as the quarter finals in a match play competition.

5. How did you feel when you heard the news of the season being cut short and tournament week being cancelled?

I was very disappointed, as there are few archery competitions throughout the year, and it is so nice to meet up with the MAGS archers again and test the techniques I've been learning over the past year. Also, I knew it would be hard to maintain archery skills over lockdown and was disappointed about that too.

6. How have you managed to stay active during the lockdown period?

I am not allowed to shoot arrows at a target in my backyard because my mum is worried about them going over the fence, so with the range closed I couldn't shoot. However, over lockdown I practiced skills daily in holding my bow at full draw for a selected time as an exercise to maintain muscle strength over lockdown.

7. What has been the hardest challenge during the lockdown period?

Not being able to shoot as I love archery and it is so disappointing that it is such a hard sport to practice at home!

8. What are you looking forward to the most after the lockdown period?

Going back to archery with my friend again, entering competitions, and gaining more skill with coaches who can help correct my technique. I have already started shooting again in a bubble on the range which is so nice to do after so long.

9. What are your personal goals for the remainder of 2021 and beyond?

To improve my technique and skills in archery to the best that I can and to enter as many competitions as I can. I know that archery will be a sport I will continue until I am very old!