

University and College Case Study Robyn Love, Napier University



Overview

Robyn Love's basketball journey began when she arrived at Napier University to study Biomedical Sciences in 2009. She joined the running basketball team during Fresher's Fair and was immediately hooked, becoming Captain of the team in her third and fourth years. Following graduation, Robyn gained a full time job within the Napier Students Association as President of Sports & Societies.

The model

Robyn's physical effects of her condition were starting to adversely affect her performance in running basketball, and in November 2013, Robyn had her first taste of wheelchair basketball at a **basketballscotland** 'come and try' session.

Robyn was immediately identified as showing talent for the sport, and started undertaking daily individualised fundamental training sessions as well as joining Lothian Phoenix Wheelchair Basketball Club. Whilst playing for the Angels of the North team in British Wheelchair Basketball's Women's League, Robyn was further scouted by the GB Women's Head Coach, having her first training session with team GB in April 2014, travelling and staying in Worcester, which Napier University were happy to fund. Following this, despite not having had a lot of game experience, Robyn was selected for the GB Future's training camp programme. In February this year Robyn was selected to represent GB for the Osaka Cup, in Japan, where the squad achieved the silver medal.

In addition to her strict training routine and full time job, Robyn has gained a level 1 coaching qualification in wheelchair basketball and is a great role model, dedicating time to host come & try events at Napier University, assisting at **basketballscotland** wheelchair basketball development days, and giving inspirational talks to aspiring young athletes. Helping to raising the profile of the sport within Scotland is important to Robyn, and setting up a Napier University wheelchair basketball team was high on her priorities. After a couple of training sessions a team was selected to compete in the first Scottish Student Sport Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, which saw Napier University coming away with the gold medal, and Robyn being selected to Captain the SSS squad in the British Universities Wheelchair Basketball Championships in March, where the squad achieved 5th place.

The result

Robyn has now moved to Worcester and is training with the GB squad and has her sights firmly set on the Paralympic Games in Rio 2016.

The model worked because:

- Support from the institution
- Talent identified quickly and support given
- Drive and ambition from the athlete