

Auckland's Young guns make NHL debut

Up close and personal with Auckland's IASP member **Danielle Sutherland**



Danni with IASP young guns, Julia King and Sarah Matthews – ready for another hill at Saint Kent's College.

When did you start playing hockey?

I started playing when I was 6.

Who do you play your other hockey for?

I play in the Dio 1st XI and for Roskill Eden.

What's the major strength in your game?

I read the game quite well so I am able to anticipate and intercept passes.

What are you working hard to improve on the most at the moment?

I am working on my fitness but also my tackling technique to ensure I have full control of what the opposition does with the ball.

What's the most important thing you've learnt about your hockey in the last 6 months?

That you have to be fit and you should always try to improve every time you get on the field.

What does it mean to you to make your NHL debut at such a young age?

It is very important to me, and I am proud to be representing Auckland. Coming across the best players in New Zealand is a challenge that I am going to look forward to as well as seeing how I match up to the older, more experienced players.

How is your U18s preparation going and how are you managing all of the commitments you have on at the moment?

I have a very busy preparation period leading up to U18's and NHL, which has meant I have not been able to play some of my U18 games, as NHL is my current priority. I have had to cut down on the amount of training I have been doing.

Although I do not train with the girls I make sure I stay in touch and go to as many games as I can to support them.

What are your career goals with your hockey?

I want to make the Blacksticks as soon as possible as I would like to play against the best players from around the world.

Who's your favorite player in world hockey?

Luciana Aymar

What do you love about Auckland's new playing style?

I like it because it is different to the style of play I have played before and it means I get to experience different styles of hockey that I may face in my future and adds another element to my game.