

Clonduff's All Ireland Dual Star – Paula Gribben



Sixteen year old Paula Gribben is one of a few athletes in the country, who has won two All Ireland medals within the space of a few weeks in two different Gaelic sports. On 3rd September she collected an All Ireland Minor B Camogie medal in Casement Park when Down defeated Antrim by a single point. On 16th September she played a pivotal role at centre half back for the Down team who defeated Roscommon by three points in Navan in the U16 B Final. She played every minute of every game in both sports! In between the two All Ireland titles she won a Down Senior Football medal picking up the 'Player of the Match' award in the final, and then went on to collect Down County Camogie Minor medals in both Championship

and League

The following questions were put to Paula by Anita Brannigan and Guinevra McGilligan in October 2006 to find out a little bit about 'Paula the Young Lady'.

What is your date of birth?

22nd June 1990

You have just completed your GCSEs Paula. What was your favourite subject?

GCSE PE

What was your least favourite compulsory subject?

Science

What are you doing now? Which subject do you like best?

A Levels – ICT, Business and Sociology – I like ICT the best

What school do you attend now?

I'm still at St Mark's Warrenpoint where I did my GCSEs

What sports do you play there?

Camogie and Football – unfortunately there are no team sports for 6th years

What Primary School did you attend?

St Patrick's Hilltown

What did you like best at Primary School?

School Dinners – I'm really serious about that – they were lovely!

Away from sport what are your ambitions for the future?

In the long term I want an easy job that pays good money. Before that I want to go to University

What is your favourite music/group/singer?

Scissor Sisters

What is the best film you have ever seen?

Remember the Titans

What is your favourite programme on television?

Eight Simple Rules (Sky ABC 1)

What is your favourite place of entertainment?

The Relic or Laceys

What if they see your photo and realise your age?

I'll wear different clothes and have my hair different

What is the best holiday you have ever been on?

I went skiing a couple of years ago. It was brilliant even though I did spend most of the time on the ground!

What age were you when you started playing Gaelic Games? And what position did you play?

Camogie at 7 – I played midfield in the U8 Parish League

Football at 11 – Football only started then and I got on the Junior team as a sub at corner forward

You have achieved a lot in sport. Who has been the biggest influence on your sporting career?

My sister Karen – but don't tell her that!

How many brothers and sisters do you have and are any of them involved in sport? What?

I have 4 brothers and 3 sisters. I'm the youngest of the girls (and am the prettiest and the smartest) and 3rd

youngest in the family. Two of my sisters play Camogie and Football and my two wee brothers also play football.

Who has been your toughest opponent in Camogie?

Racquel McGarry (Loughgeil)

Who is the toughest you have encountered in Football?

Mary Cunningham – centre half forward in Fermanagh. But Colleen McShane the Clonduff full back, at training,

is really the toughest person to get past that I have met all year?

Who is your favourite player in Camogie?

Our Karen

In Football?

Aoibheann Downey

What is your favourite ground in Down?

Clonduff Park

In Ireland?

Croke Park

You have had many great sporting moments in your life but what have been the most disappointing?

Losing the Ulster Senior Club Football Semi Final in 2006

Losing the U16 Ulster Camogie Final in Clones 2005

What are your sporting ambitions for the future?

Would love to win Down Senior Camogie Championship with Clonduff

Win another Down Senior title in Football

Play in All Ireland Camogie and Football Finals in Croke Park with Down

Did you find it difficult dividing your time between Camogie and Football?

No the managers looked after me very well at Club and County level

What advice would you give to other young dual players in the County?

If you think positive and believe in yourself anything is possible. It is possible – another player in Down was on the two panels with me. Just stick with it and enjoy playing the games Paula, with your studies and your sports you have a fairly full life. Have you time for anything else. If so, what?

Yea, I still have plenty of time to go out with my friends and have a bit of craic and also for my part time job