

The photo shows Natasha (Tash) hard at work for the Swedish Post Office, ready to go out on her bicycle to deliver the mail. It all helps towards keeping those fitness levels up!

Tash came to Sweden to play Floorball. It means tough training and opposition to in order to cement her place in the Australian National Team.

In the beginning it was a choice between Sweden and Switzerland. "The Australian head coach is from Switzerland, so he wanted me to go there".

But Natasha met her love in Singapore during last years World champs. And this love, who is also from Australia had already been living in Sweden for the past 6 years.

So, It wasn't a hard choice for Natasha who arrived just before summer to Järfälla IBK, who are in the 2nd highest league. As yet she hasn't played in the A-team but hopes it will soon be time. "It is a really good team with nice girls and a good chance to win", says the forward.

After work, she has training in Jakobsbergshallen, and then it will take an hour for her to get home to Bandhagen, where she lives. "I go to bed around 12:30 most nights and the alarm rings again at 5:30am!!"

She likes her job, even though she thought it was hard in the beginning with the language. "I met another Australian here who can speak Swedish, so he helped me. I spend some of my time helping my new Swedish friends to improve their English", she jokes.

As a floorball player Tash is a fighter. Technically maybe not the best, but she has only played for 3 years. "I started field hockey when I was 7, so that's why I'm a 'righty' unlike most others".

On the court she is already an expert at picking up loose balls and using them, so that's why she is called 'Seagull' (which is 'Fiskmas' in Swedish.)

Soon Natasha hopes to be given the chance to show her Aussie fighting spirit in Järfällas A-team.

Name of your new Club: Järfälla IBK

Playing position: Forward

What Division are you playing in: Division 1

What year did you start in Europe: 2006

How many training sessions per week:

3 trainings

Are there any things you especially miss from home:

My family and my dog

What things in your new club, can't you find at home:

Experience! Most of the girls I play with have been playing for a while... they know where to be for good play.

What have you already learnt from playing/training in Europe:

Its a lot more physical than home, coming from a hockey background we tend to let the other team get control of the ball before tackling. That never happens here.

What shoes are you wearing (on court):

I'm actually looking for a new pair right now as I have worn mine into the ground so looking at the PUMA Accelerate.

What stick are you using:

Fatpipe Wiz 27

What are your plans for staying in Europe:

Not sure at least for another 6 months or so.

Is/was there any other reason to come overseas besides floorball, ie: any other motivating factors:

Yeah... I suppose my boyfriend living here is a motivating factor ;-)

What are your short term goals for floorball:

To score as many points as possible.

What are your long term goals for floorball:

I would like to get the girls going in Aus, starting them from juniors.

What is your favourite food in your new city:

Meatballs, pepparkakor.

What is your favourite activity - other than floorball - in your new city:

Swedish Kareoke... nah most of the time they sing English songs.

Have you learnt (or begun learning) the language:

Ja... I'm better at understanding than speaking but I give it a go sometimes.

How has the support been from your club:

My fellow team mates are brilliant and the coach is always supportive.

Have you had time to travel around at all:

Not much unfortunately but I've been a few places and have plans to go to a few more

Have you been able to see the sights:

Around Stockholm... hell yes!!

Any advice for someone considering coming to live (and play floorball) in Europe:

It gets cold... wear warm clothing and be ready to face good and bad times.

Any advice for someone starting to play floorball:

Always have fun and try new things even if you mess up it's the way you discover new things

Lastly, do you want to say something to everyone back home:

Everyone has something that they can teach you, even if they just picked up a stick... never stop trying new things and I miss you all!!!

Our roving reporter on the ground in Perth, Leith "Tomma" Woods, has this update from Tash and Jill in Sweden...

"After speaking to Tash and Skip (Jill), and knowing they won't ever talk it up, I thought I'd let ya know they had their first game together in Sweden. And good news for us is that they did really well. Their team won 12-2, Skip got 1 goal, 3 assists, and Tash 2 goals, 1 assist. So now girls you can talk it up and tell us all about it...

“Well its been a action packed first week (January) for Skip in Sweden, We began with our own training on Tuesday - building up those muscles, or just making then hurt. Wednesday we went to training with the team, it was a good one to start as they have just come back from the Christmas holidays it was a long game - but the scoring began!!

“Thursday back at training again this time to warm up in the snow (crazy) but fun. Usual training drills and a game at the end - and the scoring continued!! Friday, we took it easy and on Saturday we did our own training again. Sunday, we went to watch some Swedish mens elite, which was freakin’ brilliant!!

“Monday, as Leith said, was our game. For starters, we had brand new red shoes which always help. (Adidas had a sale). We played full pressure except not behind the goal line. Skip tried out the first post drill, but unfortunately our centre wasn’t expecting it. Our team hit the score board first and then the Aussies got a goal!! I put one in off a great pass from Skip. Then the goals just keep coming.

“In the second period, high pressure paid off as some pressure from Skip gave me a nice ball in front of the goal. In the third period, Skip was in great position for Tash to give a pass and we put in our third. Then in the dying minutes Skip passed behind the goal and our centre put in one from a tight angle. Final score 12-2.

“Nice one girls, you’re doing the WA contingent proud!” - “Tomma”.

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