

A huge congratulations goes to Saints Girls, Matilda Paterson (Year 9) and Phoebe Lucas (Year 8), for making the U15 State Hockey Team! The team will be travelling to Darwin between 15 - 21 April. I had a chat with the girls about the new selection process and their experience with hockey both individually and at Saints.

How did you get into hockey?

Phoebe: My sister started hockey when she was in Year 2, and I saw her playing and really wanted to play too. I then started with the *Hookin2Hockey* program at my primary school.

Matilda: My mum used to play hockey, so I have been around hockey since I was young.

What do you like most about school hockey?

Phoebe: I really love the environment at school hockey. All the girls are really nice and encourage each other to play.

Who is your hockey hero?

Matilda: Rosie Malone and Jane Claxton

NOTE: Both Rosie Malone and Jane Claxton could be examples of Superwomen, inspiring younger girls to get involved and play hockey. Jane is originally from Adelaide and has captained the Australian Women's Hockey team – the Hockeyroos. Hence, she is a local superwoman that many South Australian and Australian girls can look up to when on the hockey pitch.

What did the new selection process involve for the U15 squad?

Matilda and Phoebe: We had a zones tournament and from this, the selectors chose a squad of 40 girls. Then, we had an identification camp in Port Pirie which was quite challenging due to the harsh weather conditions. There was more selection after this camp. There was another camp, held in the city at the Gepps Cross stadium. After this camp, they announced the final team of 17, with some reserves.

What do you like about this training?

Matilda: We train three times a week which has allowed us to get to know the girls more, setting us up for success as compared to previous years where we trained once every two weeks.

What are you most looking forward to?

Phoebe: Playing with the team, getting to know each other's playing styles and learning new skills from each other.

Matilda: Playing at a really high level but still within my age group because, in Adelaide, playing at a higher-level means playing with people outside of our age group and with seniors. However, when we're away it will be with our age group and will give me more confidence.

A great achievement girls, we wish you the best of luck!

Bridgette Leach
Hockey Captain

