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NEWS

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## Beyond the Bronze:

*Speaking Soccer & Scholarships with Desiree Scott*



“It’s a huge splash of emotions. You step out on the field, you’re waiting for that whistle to blow, you’re all nerves. Then you settle in and throw that first big tackle. Suddenly you realize, ‘I’m playing on the biggest stage in the world!’” - Desiree “The Destroyer” Scott on playing in the Olympics

If you follow soccer – and even if you don’t – you’ve probably heard of Desiree Scott.

She was thrust into the international spotlight when, as part of the Canadian Women’s Soccer Team, she defended the goal line at a critical moment in a game against France. That game? The one that won Canada

a Bronze Medal at the 2012 Olympics; the first time Canada has won a medal in a traditional team sport since 1936.

If you think things have slowed down for Scott since then, think again. In addition to continuing to train with and play for the national team (with an eye on the next Olympic games), Scott coaches at the University of Manitoba

and will be playing professionally with FC Kansas City in the newly formed National Women’s Soccer League.

“It’s been go-go-go, never really stopping,” says Scott. “But it’s really been exciting. I’m kind of a homebody so the move to Kansas City is going to be really different for me.”

“Fortunately, it’s only about a twelve hour drive so my family can come and visit a lot. I’m just really excited to be able to have this new experience.”

Her enthusiasm and love of the game has been propelling Scott forward since she first began playing soccer at age eight.

“My brother and I are really close and I always went to his games,” recalls Scott. “I think that’s where my love of the game started, watching him and wanting to play. I started playing and I happened to have a talent for it. I tried other sports but soccer was the one for me.”

Her talent was recognized and encouraged by many over the years, including the four years she played on the team at West Kildonan Collegiate.

“I had one coach named Mr. Prime. He was the high school soccer coach and a substitute gym teacher. He saw something in me and really encouraged me to develop my professional edge, to push myself to get to the next level.”

“He still calls me to check in, offer his congrats and see where I am in the soccer world, saving all the newspaper clippings!”

Her coach wasn’t the only one who recognized her abilities. At her high school graduation, Scott was awarded the Vince Leah Scholarship; a scholarship named after the beloved Winnipeg sportswriter and well-known supporter of community sports.

That same year, the University of Manitoba Bisons awarded Scott the Winnipeg Women’s Soccer League Award and the Archie Nunn Award, both of which furthered her options when it came to her education and her soccer career.

“For soccer, you usually have to go to the states for scholarships – and like

I said, I’m kind of a homebody,” she says. “But that year, the University of Manitoba Bisons team awarded me a CIS (Canadian Interuniversity Sports) award that allowed me to get my education locally. That meant a lot to me. It was perfect for me.”

Scholarships and awards are something Scott feels very strongly about.

“When you’re striving for a scholarship, it’s not just about the sport. You need the grades to get a scholarship. And that scholarship can help you get the highest quality education.”

“Students should look at the information that is available, because scholarships and grants give you so many opportunities.”

For Scott, it’s all about how hard work pays off – a message she shares with those she coaches.

“I take what I’ve learned over the years from my experiences and I try to pass that knowledge along to others. I may not be the most technical player. I may not be the fastest player. But

I’m a hard-worker and I can tell them for a fact that hard work always pays off.”

Though she’s won numerous accolades over the years, the Olympics – perhaps not surprisingly – remain a personal highlight in her career to date.

“Personally, the Olympics meant a lot to me, the way we came together after our loss. Even though we were battered and bruised, we still brought ourselves together and came back after that... I’m so lucky to be part of such a special team.”

“I am truly blessed and appreciate all my experiences. But this is just a beginning, just a taste of what’s coming up next.”



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For more information on Canada’s soccer teams, visit [www.canadasoccer.com](http://www.canadasoccer.com)

And to follow Desiree’s career, check out [www.fckansascity.com](http://www.fckansascity.com)  
Or, better still, keep up with Desiree’s journey with the woman herself by following her via [@msdscott11](https://twitter.com/msdscott11) on Twitter.