



Epsom Girls
Grammar School

Media Release

29 July 2013

Footballer says sport offers women options and opportunities

Three Kings United footballer, Annalie Longo, says that sport in school is essential for young women's development.

Longo, an Epsom Girls Grammar School (EGGS) Old Girl, is supportive of the school's Leading Women in Sport campaign to raise \$7 million to build a world-class sports complex for both the students and the community.

She says sport teaches young women to be competitive and to go after big goals; that participating in sport gave her opportunities she otherwise might not have had. "I was able to travel the world and see amazing places while essentially playing with my friends." Playing football also helped Longo gain a scholarship to university.

The majority of the school's current sports facilities do not meet the need or demand of the 2200 students who participate in over 40 sports and physical education classes. Longo says that a professional field can make the difference between having and not having a game. "It will really make a difference. Sometimes our games were cancelled; if it rained it was like playing on a paddock."

The school hopes that the sports complex will provide much-needed facilities for the students. But the initiative will also benefit the residents of the Albert-Eden-Roskill community and the surrounding area who will have access to training and sports facilities. It will also be available to top sporting teams and athletes who currently travel outside of the area to train and compete.

Longo believes that others would be as keen as she is. "These days I have to travel to the North Shore to train – I know people would appreciate another alternative that would be open to the top sports women and men."

EGGS is challenging the community to help increase the number of women involved in sport and to provide a first-rate sporting complex to encourage those women to stay in sport.

Longo says: "It's ultimately about looking at the future of our kids. We need something that is better or at least on the same level as the private schools. We need a facility that will have multi-use so that we can try to help as many kids at the school as possible."

To donate go to: www.eggs.school.nz/foundation/sports-complex

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MEDIA NOTES

Annalie Longo has played in more FIFA tournaments than any other New Zealander. Germany 2011 was her sixth age-group or full World Cup. A veteran of three U-20 and one U-17 Women's World Cups as well as the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup in China, Longo's games at the 2012 London Olympics allowed her to complete the 'set', the first in the world to do so. Longo made her full New Zealand debut aged just 15 years old (and 136 days), setting a new record as the youngest ever Football Fern. Her appearance against Denmark in the 2007 World Cup made her the second youngest player, of either gender, to play at a senior World Cup (she was 16 years and 76 days old). An accomplished tap dancer, the former Epsom Girls Grammar student has won national age-group titles in her 'other' sport, something she credits for helping her on field footwork.

Sports Centre

Designed and inspired with longevity and sustainability in mind, when completed, the Sports Complex will include an Indoor Arena with two full-sized multi-use courts for netball, basketball, volleyball, badminton, dance and physical education; an all-weather multi-use turf covered Outdoor Arena and three competition tennis courts and more. Epsom Girls Grammar School hopes to showcase Sports Complex at their Centenary in 2017.

Two full sized netball courts (also for basketball, badminton and volleyball) which can be reconfigured to one main international size court with spectator seating

Dance studio
Health and well-being suite
Mezzanine and viewing gallery
Fitness Centre
Lecture and study room
Offices

Sports Arena

Multi-use covered all-weather turf

Courts

3 new competition tennis courts
Multi-use courts for hockey, netball, basketball, football, lacrosse and physical education