

Poppy James has a winning rugby moment

DHS year 11 student and keen rugby player Poppy James had an experience to remember during the Christmas holidays after winning the DHL rugby moment of the month award. She had the opportunity to not only attend the #BigGame11 Harlequins v Wasps game at Twickenham, but to go on the pitch before the game to retrieve the match ball and place it on the podium.

Poppy has been playing rugby for Worthing Rugby Club for the past 3 years and is currently a key player in their U18 team. It was during a match against Trojans, which they won 20 -15, that Poppy scored an amazing try (one of a hat-trick) that won her the coveted DHL moment of the month prize. Poppy's mum sent in the video of Poppy's try and it was selected by a judging panel as one of three to play on the big screen at the #BigGame11 and Harlequin's player Luke Wallace chose Poppy as the winner – a amazing achievement to have her skills recognised by a professional rugby player.

Going out in front of 80,000 people is a scary prospect for a 15 year old but Poppy said 'at first it was petrifying but I actually really enjoyed it. It was fun.'

Poppy was also the youngest player to be selected for trials at Harlequins last year and, although she didn't make it, she is keen to try again this year, with another year of experience under her belt. Her main ambition is to become a forensic pathologist, but she plans to keep her rugby running alongside, and if that becomes her career she would be very pleased.

Well done Poppy on such a fantastic achievement and experience.

Poppy plays alongside 6 other Durrington High students at Worthing Rugby club and would encourage any girls keen on rugby to come along. They train every Tuesday 6:30pm-8pm and Sunday 10:30 am -12pm. Open to girls aged 10-18. Contact Nigel Dewey (chairman) on nigel.dewey@icloud.com or via Twitter @WRFC_girls

