



Photo by Richard Spranger



Lachlan and Davon Woods-Davidson

Football - all in the family for Lachlan

Lachlan Woods-Davidson is a natural footballer. But more than that, this 12 year old Pukekohe Intermediate student knows the importance of playing as part of a team. His aim for every game is to win the ball then control and place it where it is most likely to finish in the back of the net. He doesn't mind who takes the goal, as long as it is set up.

Lachlan plays in Pukekohe Association Football Club's Division One 12th grade team. He started as an enthusiastic five year old in Midget team the Orange Roughies "because they were rough and wore bright orange shirts". His current team is the Spartans which better reflects his team's ages and growing status.

"I started soccer because my older brother Brogan played. My little sister Devon, who is 7, plays too. I play forward or attacking midfielder, sometimes striker. I've been goalie as well."

Lachlan's family has a major focus on football. Dad Ian is a longtime coach, while mother Kathryn manages. Family weekends revolve around four teams, the 8th (Devon), 11th Girls, 12th (Lachlan) and 17th Girls - and they somehow fits in Brogan's motocross.

Lachlan says he doesn't think much while he's playing: "I just do stuff, I don't really know how I do it. I'll outrun the defenders, or pass the ball to someone who can score. It's pretty cool paying

for Pukekohe. Heaps of people come to support us, mums and dads and grandparents. Until this year when we were graded I played with the same friends who had been in my team since I was small. The team also takes part in the inaugural Pukekohe Football Academy, training hard for the rep trials."

Earlier this year Lachlan and team mate Logan Buchanan were the only two Pukekohe AFC 12th grade boys selected from trials for the Auckland Football Development Squad- a challenge that involved seven weeks of intensive training.

He enjoys and participates in lots of sports. Cricket takes centre stage during summer and Lachlan swims all year. It's excellent fitness training, as well as competitive. Last year, he competed in the New Zealand Junior Swimming Nationals, favourite stokes freestyle and butterfly. But over winter, football is the dominating passion. Lachlan is a mine of soccer information, can quote statistics for the world's biggest players and clubs, is a Manchester United supporter and was thrilled to walk within a metre of David Beckham when he came to play in Auckland. Lifting his game to become an All White is one of Lachlan's goals. But right now, he looks forward to the weekends, warming up with his team and enjoying the games - with his family right behind him.