

Ruby Carrion competes at Tottenham Hotspur Academy

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Only a few people in middle school have scored eight goals in one football game. One of these people who has completed this tremendous achievement is Ruby Carrion, who is in eighth grade and a Tottenham Hotspur Academy player. Even though she plays right-center back, it doesn't stop her from accomplishing this mission—one goal flashes by—then two, then eight. It is extraordinarily hard to score eight goals in one game, but it can be done. Ruby Carrion did this in Los Angeles before she moved to London and joined the middle school this year.

No matter how many goals she scored, in every game since, she kept pushing. This summer, she took a giant step closer to her dreams. She was accepted into the Tottenham Hotspur Academy, a training ground for future professional football players.

Since she was three years old, playing football has been Carrion's main hobby and focus. After moving from the US, she spent numerous hours a day, by herself, and with her team. This was all towards playing for Tottenham, her favorite professional football team. This also happened to her sister. Inspired by Ruby, sixth-grader Esther Carrion committed to joining Tottenham.

Both have experienced times when they felt they couldn't keep going, like the change of play from LA to here. But still, hard work, determination, and dedication will eventually cause exceptional benefits and success but it will take time and effort.

After Ruby was accepted into the Tottenham Academy this summer, she finally realized how challenging it is to stay at this level of competition. "Well, definitely, I mean, it is such a high competition, and this is the road to playing pro, so if you don't have the commitment and want to stay at this level, a player needs to have that mentality to survive at this level of competition."

Carrion explained that it takes a lot of effort and dedication to get to this Academy level and stay at it. According to Carrion, it is not luck, but determination and how much you are willing to put into these academies. Carrion considers herself lucky. Many football players around the globe only dream of getting to this stage, and going pro is the next level.

There will be bumps in the journey for Carrion, especial-

ly moving from LA to London. Even if it is a different style of play, the technicality of players here is much more advanced, she has to be on her toes. "Well, it is definitely a different style of play over in Los Angeles. I'm not used to the technical ability but more of the aggression."

It has been a tough challenge for Carrion, but she never gave up. She stuck with it, and she is ready to adapt. "I am ready to stay committed and try my hardest, even when it gets challenging."

This is the hardest part of these football academies: sticking with it when the time is worst is hardest, and the benefits are most significant. Although Carrion is confident in her abilities and dreams of becoming a future professional footballer, she is also realistic about how difficult that is, how challenging it will be, and how much more it will take. Or will she continue with her personal life?

"When I am 17, I will have the chance to go pro, or move on with my life."



Photo courtesy of Carrion family

Ruby Carrion competes for her California team LA Breakers during the 2021-22 season. When Ruby moved to England in the summer of 2022, she joined Tottenham Hotspur. Ruby started playing football at age 3 and has been a committed athlete since.

Photo courtesy of Carrion family

Ruby Carrion plays during a competition in California. Ruby commented that football seems to be more technical than physical in London, and compared to the USA. "Well, it is definitely a different style of play over in Los Angeles. I'm not used to the technical ability but more of the aggression," she said.