

Brodie Smith

Aussie Belles Paralympian



One of the Belles' newest and youngest team members - at 23 years of age, but Brodie has already experienced a life-changing experience. She has overcome her early negative views about sport, completing a full turn to positively and passionately embrace it. As a young girl, Brodie did not believe she could play sport due to her vision impairment (retinitis pigmentosa), and consequently didn't enjoy it.

A self-confessed coach potato, Brodie was introduced to goalball as a teenager at a Braille Camp. Finding a team sport specifically designed for vision impairment was a game changer for Brodie, and from there, her journey to the Paralympics began. She joined a youth team, and the lure of travel enticed her to commit to train harder and earn selection for an international competition.

Travelling to Hungary, Brodie was Captain of the winning Aussie Glow World Cup Youth Goalball team competing in Hungary in 2017, where she also won the leading goal scorer award in that tournament. She went on to compete and win the NSW goalball state championships which saw her selected in 2018 to play with the Aussie Belles team. That year Brodie also travelled with the team to compete in the 2018 Senior Goalball World Cup in Sweden, where Australia made the quarter finals for the first time in women's history.

Brodie currently balances her training schedule with a busy study workload at Newcastle University where she is in her final year of her Bachelor of Education, aiming to become a drama and art teacher.



Blind Sports Australia ABN 68008621252

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Homegrown Heroes

Brodie Smith



Nickname:

Brodes/Birdie

Sport:

Goalball (Aussie Belles)

How did you get involved in your sport?

Braille camp, my old youth coach gave a demonstration and enticed me to get involved. Travel was a major focus and my love for the sport has developed over time.

What do you love most about your sport?

I love playing games and celebrating everything as a team. Being part of a sporting team is like having another family, which is great to have as a support network in life.

What have been your major highlights?

In 2017 I participated in the World Youth Championships in Hungary, and as the underdogs we took home gold. I also won the highest goal scorer of that tournament which was unexpected. The first time making the Aussie Belles squad in 2018, heading to the World Champs in Sweden. Being selected for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic team!

What would be your one superpower?

Shape Shifting

Who has inspired you across your journey?

My dad has encouraged me and pushed me to be a better person and player. Having his support and guidance has helped me to develop as a person and player.

What three words would best describe you?

Bubbly, Hardworking and Supportive.

If you could have dinner with any 3 people (past or present, famous or not), who would they be? Michael Jackson, Ed Sheeran, Chris Prat.

Favourite meal or place to eat:

Pasta in any shape, colour or form!

What is your favourite holiday destination?

Italy – for the pasta and its heritage.

First thing you would buy if you won the lottery?

Pay off Mum and Dads' house, and then go on an around-the-world vacation.

What is some advice for a VI person wanting to be a part of a sporting club?

If you are wanting to be a part of it, see what is available through Blind Sports Australia. Find a sport that is accessible, and try something that suits you and your personality. It will open up doors you haven't dreamt of.



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