

Kentucky Youth Soccer Interview with Liverpool Ladies Goalkeeper Libby Stout

1. Have you always wanted to be a goalkeeper? Why did you stick with that position?

I have not always wanted to be a keeper. I actually started out playing as a striker, but around age 12 I moved to the position when my club team was in need of one. After I changed positions I never looked back and really enjoyed playing goalkeeper.

2. What is your favorite part about being a goalkeeper?

My favorite thing about being a keeper is the pressure. I really enjoy having the pressure of not making a mistake. I also like being the person who has that pressure on them, so that I can take that burden away from my teammates. Also, the leadership that the position demands has always been appealing to me and suits my personality well.

3. Who was your inspiration growing up?

My inspiration growing up was specifically Brianna Scurry, but also the whole 1999 World Cup US Women's team. That group of women really paved the way for today's generations of women's soccer.

4. What impact have coaches had on your development throughout your career?

Coaches have had huge impacts on me. I have learned really everything I know about my position and the sport from my coaches. I have also been lucky enough to have coaches that not only care about my growth as an athlete, but also, more importantly, have cared about my growth as an individual. You can only play a sport for a relatively short period of time in your life, so it's important to learn as much as you can on the field so as to be a better person off of it.

5. What are some differences between playing in Europe versus the US?

I think the game in Europe is just a bit quicker than the soccer I have played in the US. However, we have a much larger emphasis on weight training here in the States, which helps with strength and power.

6. What does it feel like to sign a pro contract?

Signing my first professional contract in France was truly one of the best moments I have had in my life. It is an amazing feeling to realize a dream and to have all my hard work and perseverance payoff.

7. What are you most excited about with this step in your career?

I am most excited to be playing with the reigning champions of the WSL and to have the opportunity to play in the Champions League for the first time. I have very much enjoyed living and playing in France and Germany, but I am very excited to be living in an English speaking country. This way I can really contribute as a leader and communicator from day one.

8. What advice do you have for youth players who aspire to play at the highest level?

My advice for young players is to set goals and write them down on paper. Set a long-term goal for yourself, and then set short-term goals that allow you to work towards the bigger picture. A big thing too, is just to follow your dreams and to not take "no" for an answer. I've found that the road less traveled can be scary, but it tends to be the most rewarding.