**Izzy Marsh**

**(Dan Lewis)**

Women’s hockey goalkeeper Izzy Marsh is hoping to capture success on the field with Glamorgan in order to keep her dream of representing Wales and Great Britain alive.

The photography student, who played a key part in Glam’s promotion on the field this season, is hopeful of picking up her first cap at U -21 level following game time for her country in the Four Nations tournament.

With success for both her university and club side Newport, Marsh believes now is the perfect time to push on, though it hasn’t been an easy journey.

Talking to *GlamSport,* Marsh said: “I joined the Wales squad at U -16 level but didn’t get selected for the first couple of years, before moving up to U -18 level where I got to represent the country in my final year in that age category.

“It was hard at times because I had to do a lot of training, and was left thinking at times ‘what’s the point, I’m not going to get selected’, but I kept training and got selected to represent Wales in Edinburgh in the Four Nations tournament, picking up two caps.

“I have been pushing on to try and get some caps at the next age category – U21 – or even a full senior cap, but it’s a case of waiting and seeing if they want me to train with them.

“Winning the league with Glamorgan was really good. I was also lucky enough to win the league with my club side as well, which again was nice as well because we set some records along the way – I hope to push on from that.

“Winning the league with Newport was brilliant. We were playing in the Second Division, but we’ve now been promoted for just the second time.

“The last time the side reached that level they came straight back down, but hopefully now I can help keep them there. We scored the most goals, the most points and I conceded fewer goals than any other ‘keeper which was nice.

It was certainly a season to remember for the student photographer, though a recurring injury – first picked up last season – came back to haunt the goalkeeper, meaning a lack of training for both Glamorgan and Newport.

“My season was good, though I did pick up an injury which was frustrating,” Marsh said.

“I pulled a muscle in my thigh which meant I had to have a lot of physiotherapy, meaning I wasn’t able to train, though I could play matches as there was less pressure on my legs. Apart from that my season has gone really well.

“I picked up my injury whilst playing for my club side during a cup game. It was a really cold day and pouring down with rain, when at the start of the second half I lunged to save the ball and felt my leg go.

“I didn’t have to do much up until that point so I was pretty cold and just felt something straight away. It was really painful and I had to have it taped up every week, though thankfully I could still play games for both sides.”

Like many Sports Scholars, Marsh has to balance her love for sport alongside academic study, though her love for photography certainly makes it easier.

It is a line of work that the first year student is hoping to move into in the future, though the recently held Olympic Games have given her a taste for success on a different front.

She said: “Photography is something I’m really interested in, but I’m going to stick with hockey as well and see where it takes me.

“I’d like to still be doing both in the future, and would particularly love to take part in an Olympic Games – though I’m not sure that will happen.

“I watched hockey at last summer’s Olympics where Britain picked up a bronze medal – this inspired me a lot and it something I would love to do myself one day. That is the top ambition.

“Realistically I will be focusing more on the photography side, but still playing hockey as well.

“I came second in a Newport City Council photography competition for adults when I was just 15, so that made me proud – it was the same sort of feeling as pulling off a save in hockey.

It’s a long journey ahead, though as Marsh has shown this season with both Glamorgan and Newport, she has every right to aim high in terms of caps for Wales and Olympic joy with Great Britain.