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## Of one thing there can be no doubt. When talents were handed out Tunet Trumpie was standing in front.

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Words: Wilhelm de Swardt

**N**ame the sport, and chances are good that the 13-year-old Trumpie from Hoërskool Menlopark will have excelled in it. And what's more, her talents are not restricted only to activities that get the heart racing. Academically she averages 80%.

**"It's important for me to lead a balanced life. I just love to participate in sports but I have to be realistic. You never know when your sports career could be curtailed by an injury and you may need something to fall back on. This is why my studies are just as important,"** Trumpie smiles.

However, having said this, Trumpie wasted no time making an impact in her first season as a high school athlete.

In the space of only about six weeks she raked in the awards. At Menlo's inter-house meeting she received the Junior Victrix Ludorum award and the same happened at the 27th Menlo Invitation Meeting. At the Florida Prestige Meeting she received the award for best junior athlete and at the Inter-High A-School Athletics Meetings she set a new meeting record of 13.47 s in the 90 m hurdles.

And these are just a few of her highlights. Trumpie is not one to boast about her sports achievements, but after having been inundated with questions, she admitted that she had not been beaten once this season in the 100 m, 200 m and the 90 m hurdles. Roughly estimated this means that she had won about 15 races on the trot. It is not surprising, therefore, that she considers the Aussie and Olympian 100 m hurdles champion, Sally Pearson, to be >>

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*Photo by Anike Stander*

# TRUMPIE

her hero. In the build-up to the 2012 Olympic Games in London Pearson won 32 out of 34 races.

Trumpie realistically points out that there are no shortcuts to sporting success.

**“If you want to keep on winning, you simply have to put in the hours and make the sacrifices. I am very grateful for the help and support I receive from my coaches, Riana Raath and Wimpie Nel.”**



Nel emphasised that, notwithstanding Trumpie’s success in athletics, it is still early days for her.

**“Tunet is without any doubt very talented, but all of us who are involved with her should remember that she is still young and that much could change during the next few years. It is certainly too early to tell whether she will eventually be a hurdler or a sprinter,”** Nel continued. **“What excites me about her is her explosive power.”**

It could be said that, for a short while, Trumpie has finished running, but actually this will not be quite true. Although she will still run, her challenge will not be the stopwatch, but rather to get hold of the hockey ball before one of the other players does. As a defender in hockey she will certainly be up to it.

Trumpie proudly tells that she and many of her hockey teammates have been playing sport together ever since they were in Grade 4 at Laerskool Menlopark.

**“We played netball and hockey. As a netball team we were never beaten in the three years leading up to Grade 7. Last year we also never lost a hockey game.”**

**“The wonderful thing about our team is that we are all still good friends and most of us will be playing in the same hockey team.”**

Trumpie was selected to play for the Northerns Under-13 hockey team last year.



Photo by Bernard van Tonder