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# Impairment Will Not Slow Down Anna Kulíšková's Life Between School and Ski Slopes

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**While many college students are busy enough studying, Anna Kulíšková wins medals on the side. She brought a bronze one from this year's Paralympics in Vancouver, and even a gold from Turin four years ago. On top of that, she has won Crystal Globes in both downhill and Super G.**

Anna Kulíšková races in the B2 visual impairment category (visual field of 4 degrees), as she lacks peripheral vision. At the Charles University Faculty of Social Sciences, you can meet her accompanied by a guide dog, a female Labrador, but otherwise she is not relieved of any work at school.

**Three weeks ago, you returned from the Paralympics in Vancouver. How did you prepare for the event?**

This year's season was very specific, we spent a lot of time training. In the Autumn, we were training on an iceberg. My sighted guide Míša has a regular job, so it wasn't easy for her either. She had to take leave of absence.

**For how long have you been working with your guide, and how long does it take before you are "in sync" with each other?**

This was our second season together. We are always perfecting our collaboration. Each race provides new experience and we keep learning from each other. But I think that we had synced during the last season and this year we could focus on further improvements.

**What are your impressions and experiences of Vancouver?**

In terms of sport, at first I was disappointed, because I kept failing at races. I fell in the downhill race that I thought would be most hopeful. Then, fortunately, I won a medal in Super G. Also, bearing a flag during the opening ceremony was a very emotional experience.

**Did you have time to look around the city?**

We were rather busy and only managed to look around on the last day.

**Is this the end of the season for you?**

This weekend, I packed my winter equipment, so the season is officially over for me. I can breathe out at last.



**Is it hard to combine sport and college?**

This year's exams were quite difficult. I was busy training and didn't have enough time to prepare for the exams. But I managed. And now it can only get better.

**You have studied music at a conservatory – concert flute and guitar. Didn't you consider continuing with music?**

I did, for a while, but if I went on to study music at college, I would have to focus on music fully and wouldn't have had time for sport. And I did not want that. I didn't want to give up skiing.

**In the end, you started studying journalism. Why didn't you choose the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports?**

I would have had many problems because of my impairment. They do many sports that I cannot, like gymnastics or ball games. I became interested in journalism when I came back from Turin and was being interviewed. I figured out that I might enjoy that job. In the future, I would like to focus on the topic of students with impairments and disabilities.

**What are your plans for next year?**

The world cup in Italy is drawing nearer, which will take place on the Olympic slopes. I would definitely want to go there. But for now, I want to focus on school more, because I have to start working on my Bachelor's thesis.

(Lucie Kettnerová)