

Case Vignette: Billy

Background Information

Name: Billy

Age: 19 years old

Gender: Male

Sport: Rugby Union

Level of Competition: Age Range International – Under 20s – For Wales.

Position: Scrum Half

Primary Goal: To play professionally and represent Wales at Senior Level.

Case Study.

Billy has always been considered a prestigious talent. Blessed with speed, athleticism and a sporting IQ that surpasses his years it always seemed a matter of when, not if, Billy would be given a lucrative professional contract. At just 15 years of age, Billy was the youngest ever player to play for Wales under 20s yet when you looked at Billy at this age, he looked both in terms of sporting IQ and physically the most mature player in the team. At 16 years of age, he became the captain of the Wales under 20s team which was again the youngest ever in the history of the sport and he was awarded the player of the tournament at that year's under 20s Six Nations Championship which Wales won. Billy still talks so fondly of holding up the Six Nations Championship Cup. He was the talk of the Rugby world and the number of followers on his tik tok account increased from 1,000 followers to 1.5 million followers during that tournament. At only 16, he could not sign for a professional club and is contracted to his local village team until he is 20 years old which only employ a part-time coach. At 17, he was voted "best looking" young athlete by the Daily Mail and he started dating the winner of "The Voice". There was a notable decline in both his and Wales' under 20's performance in the following championship and he was stripped of his captaincy of Wales, with his Wales coach citing "discipline issues". Whilst he is still considered a prestigious player, he seems to be more in the papers for being drunk in nightclubs than playing well. Currently, now aged 19, while he is still in the squad for the Wales Under 20 team, he has lost his starting position, and his coach has commented that he seems to have lost focus for the game.

When speaking to Billy, he still talks about his love of the game and how much he wants to become a professional player. However, he seems to have lost his motivation and is more focused on the celebrity lifestyle. He mentions that whilst his parents are

supportive, they have no knowledge of Rugby or sport in general. Likewise, he finds playing and training for his local club boring but he still gets a buzz when he comes on for Wales and wishes he could get back to how he was.