

Roselle's career leaves dynamic legacy

Bound for Old Dominion on ROTC scholarship

By JOSE ORTIZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WEST CALDWELL – At first glance, Gabby Roselle doesn't look like the most imposing figure on the field. But once the whistle blows and the competition begins, she's more than most opponents can handle. Great speed and quickness combined with a strong work ethic, natural athleticism and military training led to an outstanding season and career for Roselle at James Caldwell High School.

Her top sport was on the pitch, where she led the girls soccer team in goals in each of the last two seasons. This year she helped guide the Lady Chiefs to their first sectional championship since 2008, with a stand-out postseason performance.

The girls entered the tournament as a No. 6 seed, playing three of their final five postseason games on the road. During that stretch, Roselle caught fire, scoring eight goals in the first four games, including a goal and

an assist on the road in the North 2 Group 2 final against top seeded Bernards.

"I think when the final whistle blew, with all of the hard work we put it, we just got chills," Roselle said, reflecting on the championship. "Being in that dog pile was one of the most amazing experiences in all of our high school careers."

Considering that Roselle was coming off of a 25-goal season the year before, and anyone who paid even the slightest attention knew she was Caldwell's top scoring option this fall, what she was able to do was even more impressive. She actually topped last season's mark by one goal.

"In soccer, she was always the go to person. She had 25 goals last year, so she was definitely a marked person this season," said head coach Mike Teshkoyan. "For her to duplicate that as our headliner, it was remarkable. She definitely carried us."

Teshkoyan, who has been patrolling the JCHS sidelines for nearly 30 years in both girls soc-

cer and softball, went as far as saying that Roselle was not just one of the top 10 girls soccer players in school history, she's one of the 10 best ever, male or female.

"She always was a natural forward. She would always know where to put it. Her shots were always so powerful because of her strong work ethic," said teammate and fellow captain, Carleigh Trivino. "She was so fast and so tough and so determined to get that goal."

The thing that was also amazing is that she was often giving up size to defenders. Most players in that situation could get bodied off of the ball, but Trivino said that it didn't matter at all, because Roselle was as tough as they came.

"Gabby, because of her navy training, was really strong. We would do pushup competitions and of course she would always win," Trivino said. "Defenders always underestimated her."

"I never was afraid of that, I never thought of it as a disad-



Photo by Jose Ortiz

Gabby Roselle was a first team all-Group 2 soccer player for James Caldwell High School and is looking forward for new challenges in the fall at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.

vantage or anything like that," Roselle said of her size.

For her efforts last fall, Roselle was named to the first team all-Group 2 and second team all-Essex County soccer squads.

If soccer was her top sport, then softball was an extremely close second.

Roselle started at second base and bat leadoff often times for the Lady Chiefs. This season, she batted .376 with 14 RBI. She finished her softball career with 134 hits, and with a sectional championship to her name, won during her sophomore year.

Roselle's most celebrated sports, she was still a vital member to a Caldwell girls basketball team which won 29 games over the last two seasons, and may have had deeper playoff runs, had they not been stuck in the same section as Shabazz, a perennial national powerhouse.

Basketball head coach Ryuichi Saito, couldn't stop talking about her importance to the team, and the things she brought on an everyday basis.

"She would often guard the other teams' best ball handlers. It was a lot of the little things she

who will get it done because she knows it needs to get done," Saito said. "She just steps up and meets the challenge."

Sports have always been a large priority in Roselle's life, but they began taking a back seat in the seventh grade. After watching "The Guardian," a movie about the U.S. Coast Guard starring Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher, she became inspired. Roselle did a quick search online and found the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and decided she wanted to do something different than just sports.

Since then, she has sacrificed three weeks of her summer each year to get various types of training, including medical training, boot camp and leadership training.

She has had a dream of going to United States Naval Academy for quite some time. Things did not go in that direction for Roselle, but she did receive and ROTC scholarship to attend Old Dominion University, along with an academic scholarship from the university.

Upon graduation from Old Dominion, she will be a fully commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy, and will serve at least four years. She said she is primarily interested in surface warfare, commanding ship operations and aviation.

Playing three sports, while being a part of the Spanish and interact clubs, as well as attending to her junior cadet commitments, dominated most of her time and didn't allow for much else.

"I think for any high school

Produced by the New Jersey Youth Theatre & Bickford Theatre

