

## **Athlete Spotlight – Rebecca Hasek by Staff Writer**

1. I understand that you play soccer and softball for Stamford High. Are there any sports you enjoy playing, whether it be for school, a league, or just for recreation?

Soccer and softball have always been my two favorite sports. I have always been the most committed to them. I also really enjoy playing basketball, although I was forced to stop playing for SHS to commit more to soccer, for college showcases and whatnot. Also, I really enjoy gymnastics. I did this until I was 12, but was forced to stop because the commitment was too much. If I stuck with that I would have only been able to do gymnastics and I would have had to stop playing everything else I played.

2. How long have you been playing soccer? How about softball?

I've been playing soccer since I was about four, started travel when I was 7, and played at the premier level at 12. I've been playing softball since I was six, and started playing on a travel team at the age of 12.

3. What position do you play for both sports?

In soccer for SHS I play center -mid, and for my premier team I play right-mid. I have played these positions my whole life. In softball, I played 2nd base all the way until high school. When I got to high school my coach thought I was fast and tracked the ball well, so he moved me to outfield.

4. What colleges are you interested in and do you plan on playing in college (even if it's for a club team)?

A lot of division III schools have contacted me about playing such as Tufts, Connecticut College, and Western New England. I really enjoy soccer, and I have a lot of heart for the sport, but I don't plan on playing for the colleges team. I do hope, however to play club. Its not as big of a commitment, but I'd still get to play the sport I love, meet new people, and travel.

5. Has playing sports changed you in any way? (any life lessons learned, has it made you more focused, determined etc.)

I have learned a lot from playing sports. I have meet a lot of people, and learned many new things from them. I think the best thing playing sports has done for me is getting to meet new people. Learning to play for your teammates, and not just yourself is something that is vital to ones life everyday. Playing sports has given me drive, and has taught me to focus on what I want and get there.

6. What was the best moment in your high school sports career?

So far I have two best moment in my high school sports career. They both happened during last years softball season. The first was hitting a homerun in the bottom of the 7th against Trinity to tie the game. My teammates jumped on my as I crossed home plate, and we ended up winning the game in extra innings. My second big moment came when we played Westhill for the City Championships. We were winning the game, but it was the 7th inning and the home team was up. Two outs, girls on base... one run ties it, two runs win the game. The girl at the plate hit the ball to left field and I made a diving catch to get the final out of the game.

7. Do you have any goals for this season? (Individual or team)

For my senior seasons, I just really want to have fun. It sounds cliché, but at this point that's the only reason I'm doing what I do, and if I happen to have some good games here and there, so be it. I mean, I'm no Khairi Fort!

8. How did you grow as a player? (moving up in position/rank)

I think I have grown most in softball. I came to high school and was forced to play a position I had never played. Growing up, I always thought outfield was easy, but once I was put there I realized it was not at all. It took me my first two seasons to really grow and get comfortable with the position. Last year, I definitely improved and it showed with my performance. But I am no where near perfect; I'm still going to need a lot more work!

9. What made you interested in these sports?

Growing up with two older brothers, four older boy cousins, and being the only girl in my entire family, I was always playing sports. That's what really made me interested in sports, I wanted to be like my brothers. When I was younger, I played many sports at the same time. I played soccer, basketball, softball, tennis, gymnastics, and ballet. I was always running from one thing to the next, but I loved it. As I grew older, I was forced to commit more time to individual sports, and had to lessen my load. I stuck with softball, soccer, and basketball because they were all in different seasons and I enjoyed them the most.

10. How do you feel about your coaches?

My coaches are great. They all have a love for the game and would do anything for the team.

11. What other clubs are you part of?

I am a part of Student Consul, Interact, and SHS Gives Back.

12. What are some of your interests outside sports?

I love my friends and family. If I'm not playing sports, I'm usually doing something with them. I also really enjoy music. I love going to concerts, and right now I am in the process of learning how to play the guitar... not too great at it though!

13. Are a lot of your friends on your team? Or do you prefer to socialize outside of sports?

The best friends I have now came from teams I have been on over the years. And I have many friends on the teams I'm on now. That's the best thing about playing on different teams. It gives you an opportunity to go outside the normal group of kids you hang out with, and experience new personalities, and hopefully get something out of it.

14. What is the soccer team's record? How do you feel about this? Could the team be doing better?

Right now we are 0-5-1. Its definitely frustrating not having a win, but it is what it is. I definitely think we could have pulled through to win a few of those games, and our record definitely does not show our ability. We started off our season playing a lot of tough teams with some really good players. Even with our poor record, our team gets along really well, and we have a lot of fun. At this point, that's what we need to make sure we can't lose sight of. Although we might not have to record to prove it, our team has class, works hard, and always puts up a good fight, which makes it all worthwhile.

15. What awards/achievements have you reached as a player and/or team?

I am the captain of all three of the teams I am on (SHS soccer, SHS softball, Stamford FC). For SHS Soccer, I was honored with scholar athlete and all-city. For SHS softball I was honored with All-city and All-FCIAC. Our team also won the city championship last year.