

Som a special player at Greater Lowell Tech

Junior stars in basketball, soccer



Aliza Som, shown here playing for her club basketball team, is a junior basketball and soccer standout at Greater Lowell Tech. (COURTESY ALIZA SOM)

By [JAMES ALBERT](#) |

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Statistically speaking, Aliza Som's numbers are off the charts.

The Greater Lowell Tech junior has played five combined seasons of varsity soccer and basketball, has been a five-time Commonwealth Athletic Conference All-Star, a league MVP, and a five-time team MVP.

In soccer she has 59 goals and nine assists in 45 games, and in basketball she has scored 573 points in 41 games.

At 5-foot-4, she can score with the best of them, and does it in spite of having asthma. Yet, she hardly ever comes off the field or court. Her athleticism is second to none, and she plans on playing volleyball during the Fall II season and possibly lacrosse for the first time in the spring.

On top of it all, the intangibles she brings each and every day are top-notch.

"One of the things that impresses me a lot is no matter how tired she is or no matter at what point in the game, or no matter in what gymnasium, or whoever is screaming and yelling, she can process mobile information and new information and apply it to that game, really more than a lot of players I have coached," said Brian Martin, who coaches Som in both basketball and soccer.

"There have been times when teams have gone to a box-and-one against Aliza, so we'll call a timeout and say 'scratch what we're doing, and do this instead,' and no matter how tired she is, she can take that new information and apply it. It's so valuable to a team to have someone who can do that and to compete like that.

"Sometimes you see in practice that kids take it easy because they don't want to make their friends look bad, but Aliza wants to be the first in the sprints, the jogging, the planks and during the competitive drills, because she wants to win. She is funny, she's friendly, she is someone who can crack the team up laughing when we need it, but she can also get that serious look on her face and her teammates say 'oh wait, we need to bare down.'"

Som plays point guard on the basketball court. She has averaged 13.9 points, four rebounds, four steals and 1.7 assists per game over her first two years.

“She has played just two years of basketball and her teammates know that she is the best player on the team and the opposing teams know that she is our best player,” said Martin.

Som gets tips from her father, Chet, who played high school ball at Northampton.

“My dad introduced me and he’s helped push me and love the sport so much,” she said, while noting that she has two older siblings, Audrianna and Andre, both former soccer players. “He records every game. He has me watch the games to see the mistakes that I’ve made. He always tells me the things that I did bad and helps me actually learn from my mistakes. He pushes me through all of that and makes me a better player.”

In each of her first two years on the court, Greater Lowell has qualified for the state tournament, finishing with an 11-9 record last year and a 14-8 record the year before.

“The last half of last year, we really saw a concerted effort from opposing teams to try to slow Aliza down, whether it was a box-and-one, or putting a bigger player on her,” said Martin. “She’s willing to adapt, but it also helps that we have other good players around her.

“Her shooting has improved every year. Her ball handling is excellent. Her anticipation of what is coming next in all sports is as good as I have seen from anybody.”

In soccer, Som scored 21 goals as a freshman, 27 as a sophomore and added 11 more this past fall season.

Despite the obstacles that the high school athletes had to endure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Som said she tried her best to keep everyone smiling and laughing.

“I’m a very goofy, fun person,” she said. “I love putting people into a good mood. I see people are nervous during games so I just want them to feel comfortable around us.”