

Caroline Chesterman
Soccer, Basketball, Lacrosse
Class of 2009

A highly-talented athlete can do a lot of damage in sports, but a highly-talented athlete with a burning drive to succeed can reach far greater heights. Nyack High was very fortunate to have one of those athletes in Caroline Chesterman. A fierce competitive spirit combined with a team-first attitude made her and her the teams she played for forces to be reckoned with.

Chesterman was a four-year starter in both basketball and soccer. Even though basketball was her “weakest” sport, she managed to twice earn All-Section honors and garner respect as one of the better players in the area. In soccer she accrued All-League, All-County, All-Section, and Team MVP honors. But it was in the spring that Caroline made her most enduring impact.

Chesterman started her lacrosse career strong as a freshman. Playing alongside senior star Stephanie Hopkins (NHS AHOF '19), Caroline earned All-League, All-County, and All-Section honors. She helped Nyack reach the section semifinals, where they lost by one goal scored with 27 seconds left. Chesterman's sophomore season brought the same accolades but also another brutal one-goal semifinal loss, this time to archrival Nanuet. As a junior, Caroline scored a prolific 70 goals and earned Honorable Mention All-American honors, but the team fell in the quarterfinals. The spring of her senior year provided Chesterman one last chance to win a title with Nyack, and she wasn't going to let anything stop her this time.

A broken right hand from basketball would have stopped a lot of athletes, but not Caroline. Chesterman had her greatest season at NHS, earning Rockland of the Season and All-American honors. She scored 69 goals, but also had 36 assists, more than her three previous seasons combined. A senior on a team full of younger players, Caroline's leadership and unselfish attitude helped the team

grow into a title contender. After cruising in the first two rounds, Chesterman and Nyack found themselves up against top-seeded title favorites Nanuet once again in the semis. Nyack got revenge this time, with Caroline scoring a crucial goal late to tie the score. But the win also brought another hurdle: Chesterman had sprained her ankle. She came to the section final against Rye on crutches, but no force on heaven or earth was going to keep her off that field when her team needed her. As Caroline was barely able to move, her teammates fought valiantly in a thriller that went to triple overtime. With the title on the line, the hobbled Chesterman rose to the occasion, delivering the deciding goal to clinch the championship for Nyack.

Instead of a more established program, Caroline chose to join the brand new women's lacrosse team at the University of Florida. Her leadership and tenacity helped turn the Gators into contenders overnight. Within a few years the young program won multiple conference titles and made runs to the NCAA Tournament quarters and semis. Caroline also continued her excellent academic record, never missing the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

Chesterman's teammates and coaches can attest to the value she brought beyond the box score. The multi-sport captain embraced leadership roles, finding ways to push her teammates and comfort them when they needed it. Caroline was a role model with her unselfishness, relentless work ethic, and her enjoyment in playing the sports she loved as she brought herself and her teams to new heights.