

## COLLEEN STRACHAN

Colleen Strachan '08 was an old-school student-athlete at Bedford High, moving seamlessly at the highest level of excellence from season to season to season.

As a senior, she was a first-team Dual County League all-star in soccer, basketball and lacrosse, and a captain of all three.

As a student at Merrimack College in North Andover, her resume narrowed down to lacrosse, for which she will long be remembered. When she graduated in 2012, Colleen, the senior team captain, was the fifth all-time leader in career points (182) and goals (132) and sixth all-time in assists.

Colleen said she became interested in competitive sports at a very young age. "I loved hearing stories about my mom, who was a three-sport athlete at Burlington High," she said. "My mom was definitely my inspiration and someone I admire. When I was in eighth grade she was inducted into her high school athletic hall of fame. I knew one day I wanted to receive that same achievement."

"I inherited her competitiveness, so she definitely played a huge role in my athletic success. My family was and still is my biggest fans. Without their constant support I don't think I would be receiving this honor."

Colleen said she also was inspired by her uncle Steven Strachan, who played football with Doug Flutie at Boston College and went on to play professionally with the Los Angeles Raiders. Steve Strachan, also a Burlington High graduate, was a BC teammate of Bedford Hall of Famer Todd Russell '80.

"I loved Bedford travel soccer and just playing sports in the yard with my family. Those were my first and probably some of the best memories I have as a kid," Colleen said.

Colleen was a DCL and *Lowell Sun* lacrosse all-star as a BHS junior and senior, totaling 136 goals and 56 assists. She won similar two-year all-star honors in basketball, averaging more than 11 points and almost 10 rebounds per game as a junior and 121.5 points and eight rebounds as a senior.

"Colleen was a varsity basketball player who excelled in the fast-paced game," said her coach on the Lady Bucs, John Cody. "She led our team in assists in her final two years and in steals with over 200 in each category. She also led the team in scoring. We made the States in all four of her years and in her senior we won the DCL Small Division. She was a demon on defense and with her tenacity personally made our presses feared throughout the league."

Sophomore year at Merrimack, Colleen won the Division II Unsung Hero award presented by womenslacrosse.com. Then as a junior she was female scholar-athlete of the year at the college and a member of the Northeast-10 Conference all-academic team.

Senior year she was a finalist for female athlete-of-the-year and female scholar-athlete of the year, leading the Warriors in goals and assists for the second straight season.

Colleen is still very much involved with lacrosse, in summer adult leagues and as a coach and mentor with Storm Lacrosse, a program that introduces athletes to the sport and builds their playing skills.

“I have been with the program for almost three years now and I love being able to coach young athletes,” Colleen said. “Sports will always remain a huge part of my life so I try to stay involved.”