

October 10, 2011

[From Island to Island, Weiser keeps it up in college](#)

By Nate Beutel [Niagara Gazette](#)

When Allie Weiser first arrived on the C.W. Post campus she was shy and unassuming. As soon as coach Mark Dawson inserted the freshman in goal, though, Weiser busted out of her shell.

“That game (a 1-0 overtime shutout of conference rival Adelphi) changed everything on and off the field for me,” Weiser said. “As a freshman, you have to earn respect and that is very difficult to do when you’re not playing. But right after this game (the rest of the team) knew me. It didn’t matter that I was a freshman anymore. After that it was like I had played goalie with them my entire life.”

Since that point, the former Grand Island standout has put together four stellar seasons in net for the Pioneers. The two-time East Coast Conference Goalkeeper of the Year has also developed into a team leader, according to Dawson.

“Over here four years here, her personality has really shined through,” he said. “She’s our voice now. She’s our leader. Over the last four years she has grown into that role and excelled at it.”

Weiser was recruited out of high school to attend the Division II school on Long Island. While admittedly not the same as Grand Island, Weiser felt right at home upon arriving on campus.

“I love it here,” she said. “The campus itself is enclosed and has a very homey feel. It’s also really close to the city — about a 30-minute train ride — and there’s always something to do. I’ve met a lot of great people, soccer is great and school is great, too.”

On the soccer pitch, Weiser and the Pioneers have become powers in the ECC, winning conference titles in 2008 and 2010. Last fall, Weiser went 13-2-4 with 89 saves, an .899 save percentage and nine shutouts as Post advanced to the Sweet 16. Prior to this, her senior, season, Weiser was named the ECC Preseason Defensive Player of the Year.

“Allie is one of the best goalkeepers in the region for sure,” Dawson said. “She is a great shot stopper — she’s really good with balls in the air. She also understands the game and is a very good presence in net where she does an exceptional job directing a very young team in front of her.”

The Pioneers got off to a rough start with seven of their first eight games on the road, but

since then Post has settled in nicely with a 6-4 overall record. Most importantly, the Pioneers are now 2-2 in the ECC with most of the teams ahead of them in the standings still on the schedule.

“Awards are not really my goal and they don’t drive me to play, winning does,” Weiser said. “I want to make it back to the NCAA Tournament again. To do that we need to play angry, play with heart and fight for our respect back.”

Weiser, who will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in secondary english education (grades 7 to 12) after student teaching this spring, plans to stay in the New York City-area as she searches for employment. She’d also like to stay involved in soccer, perhaps at Post.

“This is her program as much as it is mine and she has done so much for it,” Dawson said. “We haven’t had conversations about her coaching quite yet, but if we can work it out where Allie stays here, our program is going to be better for it that’s for sure.”