

ALONG MIDDLE PATH

ANATOMY OF AN ATHLETE

Shirts, straws, and spirit

In an effort to strengthen team cohesiveness, Kenyon players have recently made a tradition of exchanging gifts before home games. The gifts are often motivational or artistic. Some are humorous and others are just blatantly nonsensical. Durrett has acquired everything from a bounty of drinking straws to a Cookie Monster T-shirt that reads "Caddie Monster" on the back.

Strong ties

Three things—Kenyon, soccer, and history—are intrinsic to the Durrett family bond. Caddie's great-grandfather was Frank Bailey, a legendary past history professor, dean of students, and interim president at Kenyon. He and his wife, Carolyn, for whom Caddie is named, are buried in the Kenyon cemetery. Caddie's parents, Mac '81 and Amy '84, are not only alums, but both played soccer at Kenyon. Amy, like Caddie, was a history major and learned from some of the same professors who now quiz her daughter. Caddie hopes to keep the cycle going. Her post-graduation plans are to teach history and coach soccer at the high school level.

Goal Getter

A two-time, first-team, all-conference honoree, senior Caddie Durrett has led the Kenyon women's soccer team in scoring for the past two years. With her final season of play now under way, she's poised to pen her name on the program's list of top-ten all-time leading scorers. Goals are her goal, but it's not always about the numbers. Durrett has a true passion for her sport—one that can be traced back to the first goal she ever scored. "I was five and I was terrible . . . just tripping over my own shorts. But I'll never forget the feeling after it happened. My coach picked me up, put me on his shoulders, and just started twirling me around."

From that point on, the love affair blossomed and Durrett surmised that soccer was "better than ballet or Girl Scouts." Over the years, she sharpened her skills, ran through rough spots, and kicked out a path that eventually led to Gambier. Along the way, she shaped herself not only as a strong soccer player but as a shrewd individual. Here's a sampling of her experiences.

The bigger they are...

Durrett stands just a sliver over five feet, a stature that certainly doesn't assist in winning aerial balls. She doesn't mind, though. In fact, she says she plays better against taller opponents because she feels she has to prove herself. She relies on her quickness, but also plays to the "kindheartedness" of the referee. "I can get away with more tugging and pulling against bigger opponents. Nine times out of ten, when a foul is called the referee gives me the benefit of the doubt."

Two better than nine

Bummed after finding out her Kenyon jersey would not be number nine, the numeral worn by superstar Mia Hamm, Durrett settled for eleven, which she later found out was the same worn by Olympic and World Cup heroine Julie Foudy. Curious, Durrett strolled to the library and discovered there was a lot to like about Foudy, an advocate for women's and children's rights, a past president of the Women's Sports Foundation, and the first American to win FIFA's Fair Play Award. Needless to say, Durrett still proudly dons the double ones.

Sideline suffering

During her sophomore year in high school, Durrett tore both her anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments. She underwent nine strenuous months of rehabilitation, but that's not what bothered her most. While sidelined, she agonized over the fact that someone else was taking her spot on the field. "Being away for that long gave me a new appreciation for soccer, and once I recovered, I was pretty much obsessed with the sport. In hindsight, I'm glad it happened."

